

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

TELECONFERENCE - Alaska
March 17, 2020
9:09 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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1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2
3 (Teleconference - 3/17/2020)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 MS. PATTON: Good morning everyone.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Good morning,
10 Eva.
11
12 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Council and
13 everyone that's joined us here this morning.
14
15 Alissa, if we can do roll call so we
16 know we have all our Council members on line.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That'd be greatly
19 appreciated. I'll go ahead and call this meeting to
20 order at 9:09 a.m.
21
22 Eva, can you please do roll call for us
23 this morning.
24
25 MS. PATTON: Sure. John Andrew,
26 Kwethluk.
27
28 MR. ANDREW: Present.
29
30 MS. PATTON: Thomas Alstrom, Alakanuk.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 MS. PATTON: I know Thomas was on
35 earlier this morning. Remember to push star 6 so you
36 can speak.
37
38 Thomas Alstrom.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 MS. PATTON: We'll come back around to
43 Thomas, I know he was on earlier this morning.
44
45 James Landlord.
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 MS. PATTON: Okay. I'll give James a
50

1 call and see if he's able to join us.
2
3 Phillip Peter, Sr.
4
5 (No comments)
6
7 MS. PATTON: Hi, who just joined us on
8 teleconference?
9
10 MS. HOOPER: Hi, Eva. It's Jennifer
11 Hooper, AVCP.
12
13 MS. PATTON: Hi, Jennifer, good
14 morning.
15
16 MS. HOOPER: Good morning.
17
18 MS. PATTON: Okay. So I'll give
19 Phillip Peter a call and James Landlord a call. Do we
20 have Carl Maxie, Sr., on line.
21
22 MR. MAXIE: Good morning, Carl Maxie.
23
24 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Carl,
25 welcome.
26
27 Ray Oney.
28
29 MR. ONEY: Good morning, Eva. Boy,
30 we're getting a really bad echo and background noise.
31
32 MS. PATTON: Okay. So what you're
33 hearing there's an echo?
34
35 MR. ONEY: Yes.
36
37 MS. PATTON: Okay. We'll see if
38 there's anything we can do on this end, sometimes it's
39 the local lines. We'll just check with our court
40 reporter, is there anything we can do with an echo or
41 is that the background lines.
42
43 Okay, and then Richard Slats.
44
45 MR. SLATS: Richard is here.
46
47 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Richard.
48 And Bob Aloysius is excused. Our best wishes to Bob as
49 he's getting better.
50

1 We'll come back around, did James
2 Landlord join us yet?
3
4 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, good morning.
5 Here.
6
7 MS. PATTON: Hi, good morning, James.
8
9 Phillip Peter, Sr.
10
11
12 (No comments)
13
14 MS. PATTON: Alissa Nadine Rogers.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Present.
17
18 MS. PATTON: Okay. So we have eight of
19 -- I'm sorry, seven of our nine Council members, one
20 excused and I will give Peter Phillip a call and see if
21 he's able to join us and we can start. I think -- did
22 we get everybody covered with the welcome and
23 introductions on teleconference.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Maybe we'll just
26 give you five minutes to call Phillip Peter since it's
27 the Kuskokwim topics this morning, it's greatly
28 appreciated that we have our Kuskokwim folks on line.
29
30 MS. PATTON: Thank you, will do. Just
31 one moment and I'll check in with Phillip, thank you.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, folks,
34 we're just going to standby while Eva calls Phillip to
35 see if he can join us.
36
37 (Pause)
38
39 MS. PATTON: Okay, good morning
40 everyone, this is Eva. I just talked with Phillip
41 and.....
42
43 MR. WILLIAMS: James Nicolai and Bobbie
44 Williams, along with me.
45
46 Thank you.
47
48 MS. PATTON: Great, thank you Mike.
49 And welcome Bobbie and James.
50

1 MR. BUSTER: Gabriel Buster from
2 Alakanuk, good morning.

3
4 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Gabriel.

5
6 MR. CASSOLE: Paul Cassole from
7 Alakanuk.

8
9 MS. PATTON: Can you please repeat your
10 name, sorry I didn't quite hear that.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MS. PATTON: Anyone else that's joined
15 us on teleconference this morning.

16
17 MR. ALEXIE: Steven Alexie, Calista
18 Corporation, Bethel.

19
20 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Steven.

21
22 (Pause)

23
24 MS. PATTON: Okay, good morning,
25 everyone. And maybe Madame Chair Rogers, while we're
26 waiting for Phillip to join us at the tribal council
27 office, if we could maybe just touch base on the agenda
28 and kind of strategize how we're going to proceed this
29 morning. We were going to cover all the Kuskokwim
30 fisheries discussions this morning. And then have the
31 presentation on the special action request, so that the
32 Council receives all of the Kusko fisheries information
33 prior to making recommendations on that special action
34 request.

35
36 (Pause)

37
38 MS. PATTON: And if our Chair and
39 Council can confirm what we had discussed yesterday for
40 the agenda this morning, was to continue under agency
41 reports with our tribal governments. We had both the
42 Native Community of Akiak and Kwethluk that had wanted
43 to address the Council. And.....

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Eva, with this
46 morning, can we start the morning off with public
47 testimony before we get into the Kuskokwim River
48 fisheries stuff?

49
50

1 MS. PATTON: Absolutely we can do that.
2 I just wanted to give folks a sense of the agenda so
3 that we know where we're going.
4

5 So this morning we'll have public and
6 tribal comment on non-agenda items and then we'll be
7 going into the agency reports for the Kuskokwim
8 fisheries.
9

10 Can we just confirm for everyone the
11 agenda and then we'll start our morning off with public
12 and tribal comments on non-agenda items.
13

14 (Pause)
15

16 MR. SLATS: Madame Chair.
17

18 MS. PATTON: Go ahead, Ray. I'm sorry,
19 I'll let Alissa speak -- go ahead, Alissa.
20

21 MR. SLATS: This is Richard. As we're
22 doing and reviewing the agenda, before we continue, can
23 I request for a quick recap of what we did yesterday
24 because I have a hard time doing those, so if we could
25 do that before we move on with any agency reports or,
26 you know, before we continue.
27

28 (Pause)
29

30 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, would you
31 like for me to provide a brief recap of yesterday?
32

33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Sorry, Eva, I got
34 this -- yes, we would greatly appreciate it.
35

36 MS. PATTON: Okay. This is Eva Patton,
37 Council coordinator with the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta
38 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. So at the
39 request of the Council we're just going to provide a
40 brief recap of yesterday and then we'll just reconfirm
41 our agenda moving forward for the day and then we will
42 open up first with public and tribal comment on non-
43 agenda items.
44

45 And so yesterday we had all our Council
46 members participating. Our thoughts are with Bob
47 Aloysius, he's back at home with his daughter
48 recovering from a hospital stay so blessings to Bob.
49 And we have our new Council member, Thomas Alstrom, who
50

1 was just recently appointed in March by the Secretary
2 of the Interior to serve on the YKDelta RAC. He's a
3 sport/commercial representative and a subsistence
4 representative.

5

6 We had election of officers.

7

8 Alissa Rogers was elected Chair.

9

10 Phillip Peter, Sr., was elected Vice
11 Chair.

12

13 Ray Oney was elected Secretary.

14

15 And congratulations, again, to all for
16 your good work on the Council.

17

18 The Council did review and approve the
19 previous meeting minutes, which are in the book on Page
20 5 and approved the minutes as written, no edits noted.

21

22 We did have a recognition for Harry
23 Wilde, Sr., our long time Council member and Council
24 Chair starting from the beginning of the Council in
25 1993. Harry just passed away recently and our thoughts
26 are with his family and the Council made a motion to
27 have formal recognition for Harry Wilde and his
28 lifetime of service and commitment to both the Council
29 and subsistence in the YKDelta region.

30

31 We had Council member reports. Each of
32 the Council members provided an update on subsistence
33 and observations in their community and the region.

34

35 And then we did have public and tribal
36 comment on non-agenda items. And we had several folks
37 addressing the Council, interests and concerns for
38 their community in subsistence.

39

40 We had our Fisheries Resource
41 Monitoring Program updates from Pippa Kenner. The
42 Council formed a working group, or elected folks on the
43 Council to participate in developing research
44 priorities for both the Yukon and the Kuskokwim Rivers
45 and the coastal regions. Subsistence Fisheries
46 Research.

47

48 And the call for Federal fish and
49 shellfish proposals. So the call for Federal

50

1 subsistence proposals is open now and is open until
2 April 20th and that is open to both the Council and all
3 the public, tribes, anyone, agencies, communities to
4 submit proposals to change fish and shellfish
5 regulations. And the OSM Staff are available for
6 anyone who would like assistance with developing
7 fisheries proposals. And, again, that deadline is
8 April 20th.

9
10 And the Council reviewed and approved
11 its fiscal year 2019 annual report with several
12 modifications and additions, and that report was on
13 Page 18. The Council did want to add additional
14 discussion on making sure that there's balanced
15 representation on the Council from all regions within
16 the YKDelta. Also wanted to add additional requests to
17 address sunken barges and effects on the fisheries on
18 the Kuskokwim River.

19
20 And the Council also wanted to add a
21 letter to the North Pacific Fisheries Management
22 Council addressing salmon bycatch.

23
24 And we did have a report from AVCP,
25 from Jennifer Hooper, last night, at the end of the
26 day.

27
28 And then the Council broke for dinner
29 and attended the public hearing last night for the
30 fisheries special actions.

31
32 And so that brings us back down to
33 agency reports today. Our plan was to continue on with
34 agency reports to cover all of the Kuskokwim River
35 tribes and communities and agencies for reports
36 regarding fisheries. So we had under tribal
37 governments, Native Community of Akiak, and also
38 Kwethluk, that wanted to address the Council under
39 tribal governments. We do have ONC on line that'll be
40 providing updates both on the Partners for Fisheries
41 Monitoring Program, and ONC natural resources. I think
42 we'll have Dan Gillikin on from Native Village of
43 Napiamute.

44
45 MR. ALSTROM: Hello, Eva.

46
47 MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead.

48
49 MR. ALSTROM: This is Thomas Alstrom

50

1 from the community of Alakanuk and.....
2

3 MS. PATTON: Yes, good morning Thomas.
4

5 MR. ALSTROM: Good morning. We had a
6 little -- I got lots of backfeed on my phone but it's
7 kind of distracting but yesterday the -- they said that
8 the RAC community -- or the RACs are supposed to write
9 a letter of recommendation to the community about a
10 proposal to cut the bycatch of.....
11

12 MS. PATTON: Yes, that's.....
13

14 MR. ALSTROM:of 35,000 down to
15 17,000 and there was a motion made and it was seconded
16 on and I was trying to make a comment but with this
17 backfeed I can't -- I -- I wasn't able to, you know,
18 oppose or make a recommendation so I come all the way
19 from Alakanuk so.....
20

21 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Thomas.
22 Yeah.....
23

24 MR. ALSTROM:yeah, so.....
25

26 MS. PATTON: So we are -- we are -- we
27 have our technical support folks for the teleconference
28 that are working on that right now to see if they can
29 fix that backfeed. And, understandably, if you're
30 getting a lot of echo it'll be difficult to participate
31 fully and we want to make sure people are able to
32 participate fully. We will be reviewing that fisheries
33 special action request after hearing all the Kuskokwim
34 fisheries reports, and so want to make sure the Council
35 is able to fully deliberate on that.
36

37 So thanks for letting us know that
38 feedback is making it really difficult to participate.
39

40 We got our technical folks working on
41 that right now.
42

43 Okay.
44

45 MR. ALSTROM: It's not the Kuskokwim,
46 it's the Yukon, the Yukon region, so it's.....
47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Tommy, the
49 letters that -- this is Alissa. The letter that you're
50

1 talking about is going to the North Pacific Management
2 Council for trawling bycatch.

3
4 MR. ALSTROM: Okay. And it's -- they
5 should put it to 20,000 or 20-plus thousand instead of
6 17,000 because it is -- because it's 37,000 that they
7 gave us and then we should, you know, be deliberate and
8 be respectful and ask for a reasonable response with,
9 you know, with the 20,000 instead of asking for
10 something that's probably not going to be -- that's
11 probably going to piss them off in the long run.

12
13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Point of order.

14
15 MR. ALSTROM: So it's -- we got to ask
16 for a reasonable response from them.

17
18 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Thomas. This
19 is Eva. And I will be drafting up that letter after
20 the meeting based on the Council's comments. We have
21 an opportunity to work with the Council to include more
22 detail in that request.

23
24 Again that.....

25
26 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: They ask for the
27 fish to migrate into the tributaries allowing for more
28 fish to migrate up into the places where they spawn so
29 that the fish population can increase if there's any
30 method or way that they're able to allow for more fish
31 to migrate, you might have a better chance of having
32 increased populations in future fish if you schedule
33 your openings to allow for those things to occur.

34
35 That was my comment yesterday as well
36 too.

37
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you guys.
40 I'm going to call a point of order. We're totally off
41 subject of our agenda and we haven't finished this
42 morning's session and since we are on a time limit and
43 we only have -- today's our last day to have this
44 teleconference I want to make sure we get through our
45 agenda and hit all the items that we need to hit in our
46 agenda.

47
48 I understand that this is a topic
49 that's up for discussion later on. We can talk about
50

1 this later in the agenda but I do want to keep to our
2 agenda and make sure that we get through this first.

3
4 The first session -- we're already 38
5 minutes into our session today and we have not gotten
6 to our public testimony yet. So at this time we'll go
7 ahead and go to public testimony for those that called
8 in this morning, we'll go ahead and hear your voices
9 today. We'd like to have your first name, your last
10 name and your affiliation and who you're representing.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MR. ALSTROM: Madame Chair.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Bill.

17
18 MR. ALSTROM: Yeah, what is this
19 testimony about. Is it on one specific topic?

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: No, every morning
22 we give the public timeframe before we begin our
23 meeting to allow people to speak pretty much about
24 anything and everything you want. There's no specific
25 topic, there's no specific direction on the public
26 testimony.

27
28 MR. ALSTROM: Okay, thank you.

29
30 MS. PELTOLA: Madame Chair.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: First name, last
33 name.

34
35 MS. PELTOLA: Mary Peltola.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Good morning,
38 Mary, go ahead.

39
40 MS. PELTOLA: Thank you. I was just
41 wondering if you guys, you know, the -- you and Eva and
42 others who are managing the teleconference, would
43 consider if, you know, if we're put on hold again today
44 for hours, if you would consider everyone hanging up
45 and calling back in again. I was just surprised at how
46 long we were on hold yesterday.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We had technical
49 difficulties with the Anchorage office chiming in

50

1 yesterday morning. It took us about almost 30 minutes
2 to get Eva and her crew connected into the
3 teleconference and we didn't want to lose that line.
4 So, Eva, are you guys a little more situated today to
5 see if that's a possibility?
6

7 MS. PATTON: Yes, good morning,
8 everyone. Yeah, there was a problem with the actual
9 phone line at the office here and that got fixed
10 yesterday. So we'll put out a reminder to everyone
11 that's on teleconference to remember to please star 6
12 your phone, mute your phone, and then most importantly
13 and often this is agency folks inadvertently, if you
14 get a call while on teleconference, please disconnect
15 from the teleconference line. We either get Muzak or
16 loud beeping that is very distracting for people to be
17 able to participate. I think our phone line is secure
18 enough now that we could disconnect and reconnect so we
19 will do that if we do get put on hold today. So,
20 thanks, everyone, for hanging in there, I know it's
21 challenging to participate by teleconference. So --
22 but I think our line is a little more secure today that
23 we'll disconnect if we get into that situation.
24

25 But just remember, everyone, if you get
26 an incoming call, you have to disconnect from the
27 teleconference.
28

29 Thanks so much.
30

31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
32 That's really great news to hear if we're having those
33 capabilities back.
34

35 All right, if there's nothing further,
36 we'll go ahead and continue on with public testimony.
37

38 MR. ALSTROM: Madame Chair.
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Bill.
41

42 MR. ALSTROM: Yes, this is Bill
43 Alstrom. I'm with -- well, I'm with nobody right now,
44 I'm with myself. I just got a -- I don't know if it's
45 a question or a comment or maybe a concern, and we all
46 know what's going on at the present time, you know, we
47 got this epidemic or pandemic going on with the
48 Coronavirus, how is that going to affect future
49 meetings. I know we got teleconference abilities.
50

1 But, you know, like the Department of Fish and Game and
2 their people out there, are they going to be able to
3 travel to villages or do their job because we don't
4 know, you know, this is a new thing, we don't know
5 exactly anything, how long it's going to last, is it
6 reoccurring or, so that's a big question there. I'm
7 just wondering about the Department of Fish and Game
8 and other fishing entities, you know, how they're going
9 to go about this problem.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
14 So as far as for the.....

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Eva.

17

18 MS. PATTON:Regional Advisory
19 Councils, we will continue to meet by teleconference in
20 the immediate future right here. We're anticipating by
21 the time the fall RAC meetings come up that we will be
22 back to traveling again and we'll keep everyone posted
23 on that. You'd have to check in with the other
24 agencies directly to know their strategies. But I
25 think right now most folks are meeting by
26 teleconference in the near future here.

27

28 MR. BORN: Madame Chair, this is Ray
29 Born at the Refuge.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Good morning,
32 Ray, go ahead.

33

34 MR. BORN: Good morning. Yeah, right
35 now the Fish and Wildlife Service has suspended
36 operations like we normally do and we're still trying
37 to figure out what the way forward will be. Right now
38 we have very limited travel, just for emergency use
39 only, so we will continue to go forward with trying to
40 do things via teleconference. But we're getting
41 updates on a regular basis. So as soon as we know more
42 I will let everybody know.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.

47

48 Any more public testimony.

49

50

1 MR. ALSTROM: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

4

5 MR. ALSTROM: Yeah, I just have one
6 more concern here about the -- you know we had a pretty
7 hard winter this winter, with all the snow and the
8 pretty extreme temperatures we had. I'm thinking about
9 mostly the moose population and the influx of
10 predators, mostly wolves, you know, getting into this
11 moose population. We see a lot of carcasses of moose
12 that have died up during the extreme cold and deep
13 snow. And I don't know if this is in our area but it
14 might be, about the wood bison that they transplanted
15 around Shageluk a few years ago. And I don't know how
16 are they -- how are they faring, I know they're up
17 there in that country where they had really a lot of
18 deep snow. Has the Department, or Fish and Game or
19 Fish and Wildlife Service, have they made any
20 observations on this species -- on the wood bison.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Bill.
25 Great question. That was lingering in the back of my
26 head too.

27

28 Agency folks, do you guys have a
29 response on wood bison?

30

31 MR. ALSTROM: What was that?

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I was asking the
34 agency folks, any agency people who might have
35 information on the wood bison.

36

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do we have any
41 Alaska Department of Fish and Game?

42

43 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair.

44

45 MR. JONES: Hi, Alissa, it's Patrick in
46 Bethel.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, Patrick, go
49 ahead.

50

1 MR. JONES: I don't have the most up to
2 date wood bison stuff, that's not my unit, but I did
3 see a presentation on them not too long ago. Last
4 winter was pretty hard on them, they were in an area up
5 there by Holy Cross and Shageluk that had a lot of deep
6 snow and the wolves got into them a little bit. So the
7 population got knocked down a little bit. Just under
8 100. Then it sounded like they had a lot of calves this
9 spring so they're getting close up to 130 animals again
10 and that's where -- that's the number of animals that
11 were released in the starting point, so it sounds like
12 they're holding their own overall. I guess we'll see
13 what this spring brings.

14
15 Kind of optimistic for this spring
16 because we released a lot of young animals. And those
17 cow bison don't start reproducing until they're five or
18 six years old. And this spring a lot of those animals
19 really should be five and six years old and having
20 their first calf so there's potential to have a bunch
21 of calves this spring.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Any
24 further questions, Bill.

25
26 MR. ALSTROM: Thank you.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, we'll
29 go ahead and continue on with any further public
30 testimony.

31
32 MR. ALSTROM: I have one more thing
33 here, Madame Chair.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Bill.
36 Go ahead, Bill.

37
38 MR. ALSTROM: Okay. I was just -- this
39 could be out for information purposes only. The -- on
40 the lower river co-Chair for the YRDFA, Yukon River
41 Drainage Fisheries Association and we are having our
42 annual meeting next month in April, and it most likely
43 will be telephonically and it starts on the 28th and
44 29th for the YRDFA Board meeting. And then on the
45 30th, on Wednesday, April 30th, we will be having the
46 preseason outlook for 2020, and that's -- and most
47 likely this will also be a meeting that's held
48 telephonically. So if anybody wants to listen in on
49 the -- especially on the Yukon side, for the forecast,
50

1 like we usually do ever spring, they can get a hold of
2 YRDFA and get the numbers so they can participate in
3 the meeting.
4

5 Thank you.
6

7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Bill.
8 You want to give people your phone number so they can
9 call you if they have any questions or need more
10 information?
11

12 MR. ALSTROM: Okay, they can call me
13 direct or YRDFA IS 27 -- wait a minute, I'm going to
14 have to look this up, I think they have an 800 number
15 and later on during the meeting when I find the
16 appropriate number I'll pass it on.
17

18 Thank you.
19

20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, thank
21 you, Bill, greatly appreciate it.
22

23 All right, is there any more public
24 testimony.
25

26 (No comments)
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Any more public
29 testimony.
30

31 (No comments)
32

33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Last call for
34 public testimony.
35

36 (No comments)
37

38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Alrighty folks,
39 let's go ahead and move on to our agenda.
40

41 Kuskokwim agency reports. It looks
42 like we have the Alaska Department of Fish and Game up.
43

44 MR. SMITH: Madame Chair.
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hello.
47

48 MR. SMITH: Madame Chair, this is Nick
49 Smith with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I
50

1 can give the Kuskokwim River 2019 season summary and
2 2020 preseason outlook.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Alrighty, Nick,
5 thank you for joining us.

6
7 MR. SMITH: Yep. Okay, so I'll get
8 started. Can everybody hear me just fine?

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MR. SMITH: I'll take silence as you
13 can all hear me.

14
15 So my name is Nicholas Smith. I am the
16 Kuskokwim area management biologist for commercial
17 fisheries with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
18 And I just wanted to give everybody a quick 2019 season
19 summary, so what happened last year, along with the
20 results of our chinook salmon run construction model,
21 and then dive into our 2020 preseason outlook, and then
22 also giving a preliminary management strategy that I
23 intend to present to the Kuskokwim River Salmon
24 Management Working Group here in the early part of May
25 so we can start our management discussions.

26
27 So for 2019 season recap, chum, coho,
28 and sockeye salmon all had -- well, chum and sockeye,
29 specifically, had average to above average runs, coho
30 was a below average run but the over arching
31 escapements for all these species were that we exceeded
32 or met all of the escapement goals we have set for
33 these species. So chum, coho and sockeye were all
34 doing great. For chinook salmon, we met or exceeded
35 all drainage-wide and tributary based escapement goals
36 in 2019.

37
38 So that's kind of an update on where
39 everything kind of fell out. So overall it was a great
40 season for escapement. We know that for chinook salmon
41 harvest we were definitely below with the restrictions
42 that were taking place.

43
44 And so then for the 2019, for the
45 chinook reconstruction models. Run reconstruction
46 models incorporates all harvest and escapement
47 information throughout the drainage so we can come up
48 with a number that tells us how many chinook salmon
49 return to the Kuskokwim River, we have the total run

50

1 and then we have the total escapement.

2

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted)

5

6 MR. SMITH: We just recently finished
7 analyzing those data and the total run size for the
8 Kuskokwim River last season was right at 227,000 fish.
9 To put that into perspective we've got data going back
10 to 1976. The long term average back to 1976 was
11 215,000. So we really had kind of an average run,
12 which was encouraging to see after the period of low
13 run sizes, you know, since 2010. Total escapement last
14 year was 188,000 fish so it was well above the upper
15 end of the drainage-wide escapement goal, so for
16 reference the upper end of the drainage-wide escapement
17 goal is 120,000 fish. So we were about 60,000 fish
18 above the upper end of the escapement goal. Total
19 harvest from the post-season subsistence harvest
20 surveys was right around 38,000 fish. So I guess to
21 put a little more near term memory on the total run
22 size, the 2019, so that 227,000 fish, this was the
23 largest run we've seen since 20.....

24

25 MS. PATTON: Nick. Nick. Nick, this is
26 Eva, sorry to interject. We've had a couple of Council
27 members that just got cut off briefly, they're trying
28 to call back in.

29

30 MR. SMITH: Okay.

31

32 MS. PATTON: If you could just hold for
33 a second so they can come back on line.

34

35 (Pause)

36

37 MS. PATTON: It sounded like we had
38 Council members joining us again.

39

40 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, and maybe he
41 could come closer to the mic.

42

43 (Pause)

44

45 MS. PATTON: It sounded like we had
46 Council members coming back on line and a request, if
47 you could get a little closer to the mic, Nick, and
48 speak a little louder, that might be helpful for folks.

49

50

1 (Pause)
2
3 MS. PATTON: It looks like Alissa got
4 cut off, too. Are you back on Alissa.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 (Pause)
9
10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)
12
13 MS. PATTON: Alissa, were you able to
14 join us back on line.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 (Pause)
19
20 MS. PATTON: Do we have anybody on line
21 at the moment, we just heard some beeping here.
22
23 MOSES: Moses from Bethel is on line.
24
25 MS. PELTOLA: Mary's on line.
26
27 MR. NICOLAI: Kwethluk here.
28
29 MS. PATTON: Okay, great, thanks.
30 There was some loud beeping and it sounded like we got
31 cut off there for a moment.
32
33 (Pause)
34
35 MOSES: Eva, the internet on our side
36 is like going down, I think that's why they're getting
37 kicked off maybe.
38
39 MS. PATTON: Okay.
40
41 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, I think the
42 internet in Bethel is going down.
43
44 MOSES: Yeah, my cell phone just lost
45 all bars.
46
47 MS. PATTON: Okay, great, thanks for
48 the feedback everybody. I'm just going to touch base
49 and see which of our Council members we still have on
50

1 teleconference here.

2

3 So whoever just said their cell phone
4 lost all bars, you were coming through loud and clear,
5 are you on a landline?

6

7 MOSES: No, my -- I'm on a landline,
8 but my cell phone, that's probably the reason for
9 everybody getting cut off, is the cell phone line went
10 down.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Okay, yeah.

13

14 MOSES: But my bars just came all back
15 just now so they should be calling in shortly.

16

17 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you everyone.
18 Apologies for the technical difficulties. I know each
19 community out there has.....

20

21 MS. DAMBERG: Hey, Eva, this is Carol.

22

23 MS. PATTON: Yeah, go ahead, Carol.

24

25 MS. DAMBERG: I was just going to say
26 maybe take a roll call of the Board members also.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Yeah, that's -- yep,
29 that's what I'm working on, I'm just checking in with
30 some other folks here to see on the reception. So it
31 sounded like locally the cell phones were down but the
32 bars were coming back up. So let me just check on line
33 and see what Council members we still have with us on
34 teleconference.

35

36 John Andrew, are you there.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MOSES: Eva.

41

42 MS. PATTON: John Andrew, is that you?

43

44 MOSES: No, it's Moses, I'm sorry. All
45 bars are gone again so you know.

46

47 MS. PATTON: Okay, thanks. I know we
48 have some Council members that are calling in from
49 their tribal council office or a land line, so we'll

50

1 check and see who we've got with us still.
2
3 Thomas Alstrom.
4
5 (No comments)
6
7 MS. PATTON: James Landlord.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MS. PATTON: Phillip Peter.
12
13 MR. PETER: Here.
14
15 MS. PATTON: Okay, great, Phillip. And
16 you're calling in from your tribal council office,
17 right.
18
19 MR. PETER: The corporation office.
20
21 MS. PATTON: Or the corporation office,
22 okay, great, thank you. Yeah, so I think land lines
23 are good but we might have lost a number folks on their
24 cell phones.
25
26 And folks are using wifi to text that
27 they don't have any cell phone coverage.
28
29 (Pause)
30
31 MR. DECOSSAS: I still have -- hey,
32 Eva, this is Gary. I still have service on my cell
33 phone and that's what I'm calling from, but I'm using
34 Verizon though, it might be GCI.
35
36 MS. PATTON: Yeah, it might be GCI.
37
38 Is Carl Maxie on.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 MS. ESQUIBLE: Hey, Eva.
43
44 MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead.
45
46 MS. ESQUIBLE: This is Janessa here. I
47 just wanted to let you know that -- I don't know if
48 you're already aware but there's some issues with GCI
49 and it seems like the land lines are the only ones that
50

1 are able to maintain the call here.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Great. Thank you for that
4 update.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 MS. PATTON: Let me see if we can get
9 our Council members to a land line. Let me just
10 doublecheck if we have anybody else from our Council on
11 line.

12

13 Carl Maxie.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MS. PATTON: Raymond Oney.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MS. PATTON: Richard Slats.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MS. PATTON: Okay. I think most of our
26 Council members were calling in by cell phone.
27 Janessa, I'm wondering if you might be able to help us
28 out by a call to GCI and see if they have a status
29 report.

30

31 MS. ESQUIBLE: Okay. Sure. Yeah, and
32 we have -- I mean if anyone is here in Bethel, I
33 checked with Alissa, and if you know of anyone else, we
34 have additional phone lines we can allow people to use,
35 and I'll call GCI now.

36

37 MS. PATTON: Okay. Great, thank you.
38 And we'll try to see if we can get through by text and
39 see if Council members are able to call in on land line
40 from tribal council office. So we'll just need to
41 standby one moment here folks, we'll get back to you in
42 just a minute.

43

44 (Pause)

45

46 MS. PATTON: Okay. Good morning
47 everyone. We're having difficulties getting through
48 even by text. I think our best option here is to take a
49 15 minute break so that we can try to get our Council

50

1 members reconvened at a land line in order to continue
2 with participation in the meeting.

3
4 Do we have folks in Kwethluk there on
5 line by teleconference still?

6
7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, we're still
8 here.

9
10 MS. PATTON: Okay, wonderful.
11 Hopefully John Andrew could join you there. I tried
12 texting him but I think texts aren't even going through
13 GCI. Would it be possible for John Andrew to come join
14 you by land line there?

15
16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah. Yeah. I
17 tried to text him to come here.

18
19 MS. PATTON: Okay, good.

20
21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, we'll let
22 you know when he comes.

23
24 MS. PATTON: Okay. Wonderful, thank
25 you so much. But if folks need to relax a little bit,
26 I think we're going to take a 15 minute break here and
27 try to connect our Council members on land lines and
28 we'll check back in at 10:20 here -- 10:25.

29
30 (Off record)

31
32 (On record)

33
34 MR. RISDAHL: Hi, this is Greg at OSM,
35 may I ask who else has just come on.

36
37 MR. SLATS: Richard Slats, I'm on.

38
39 MR. RISDAHL: Thank you, Richard.
40 We're still waiting for a few more Council members to
41 show up so just hang tough. Thank you much.

42
43 (Pause)

44
45 MR. ADERMAN: Hello, this is Andy from
46 Dillingham, is anybody on?

47
48 MR. RISDAHL: Hi, Andy. This is Greg
49 at OSM. Glad to hear you made it on, we are still

50

1 waiting for a few more folks from the Council to call
2 in. So if you just got on, please let us know. Thank
3 you much.

4

5 (Pause)

6

7 (Off record)

8

9 (On record)

10

11 MS. PATTON: Okay, greetings everyone
12 this afternoon. We do have a quorum with Council now
13 and we'll do roll call here in a bit to reconfirm that.
14 But so far we've got at least six Council members on
15 teleconference. So I think we will be able to
16 reconvene our meeting this afternoon and proceed from
17 where we left off.

18

19 Madame Chair. Would you like me to do
20 roll call.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MS. PATTON: I think -- do we have
25 Alissa Rogers on line?

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, Eva, yes, I'm
28 here.

29

30 MS. PATTON: Okay, wonderful. Would
31 you like me to do roll call.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, please.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Okay, great. We'll start
36 out at the top with John Andrew.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MS. PATTON: John, are you able to hear
41 us on line.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MS. PATTON: Okay. We did have John
46 Andrew call in a little bit ago so we'll come back
47 around there.

48

49 Thomas Alstrom.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 MS. PATTON: We hadn't yet heard from
4 Thomas so we'll come back around to Thomas.
5
6 James Landlord.
7
8 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, I'm here.
9
10 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you,
11 James.
12
13 Carl Maxie, Sr.
14
15 MR. MAXIE: I'm here, present.
16
17 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you,
18 Carl.
19
20 Raymond Oney.
21
22 MR. ONEY: Hi Eva.
23
24 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon. Thank you
25 for joining us.
26
27 Richard Slats.
28
29 MR. SLATS: Richard is here.
30
31 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you
32 Richard.
33
34 And we'll go back up to John Andrew.
35
36 MR. ANDREW: I'm here.
37
38 MS. PATTON: Wonderful.....
39
40 MR. ANDREW: At the corporation office.
41
42 MS. PATTON:great, thank you
43 John.
44
45 And do we have Thomas Alstrom on line.
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 MS. PATTON: Still haven't been able to
50

1 connect with Thomas.

2

3 Phillip Peter did indicate that he had
4 to head in with family to a hospital appointment in
5 Bethel this afternoon and was likely not going to be
6 able to join us on teleconference. I just want to
7 check and see if Phillip Peter is on line.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MS. PATTON: So most likely we won't
12 have Phillip this afternoon, unfortunately. So he will
13 be excused for medical appointments there.

14

15 So.....

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do we have a
18 quorum, Eva?

19

20 MS. PATTON: And we have Alissa Rogers
21 on line, so we have six Council members, we do have
22 quorum.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, thank
25 you, Eva. Let's go ahead and continue on with the
26 Kuskokwim report. I know we got cut off right there at
27 the beginning of it, so if they don't mind to regive
28 their Kuskokwim reports for ADF&G; is that okay, ADF&G,
29 Fish and Game, Nick.

30

31 MR. SMITH: Hi, Alissa, this is Nick.
32 Yeah, does starting at the beginning work for you; is
33 that what I heard?

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MR. SMITH: This is Nick Smith with the
38 Department of Fish and Game again. I'll just start at
39 the beginning of my presentation because I don't really
40 remember where everybody got cut off at.

41

42 So for 2019 season summary and then I'm
43 going to jump into the 2020 preseason outlook and my
44 preliminary management strategy that I'm going to
45 present to the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management
46 Working Group here in early May.

47

48 So for the 2019 recap, when we look at
49 chum, and sockeye salmon, we had above average runs for

50

1 them and we exceeded all tributary escapement goals
2 that we assessed last year. Coho salmon was a below
3 average run but we still met and exceeded the two
4 tributary goals that were assessed for coho. So there
5 was nothing of concern there. And then for chinook
6 salmon, from an escapement perspective we met or
7 exceeded all of the tributary and drainage-wide
8 escapement goals. As everybody knows there was
9 restrictions on the subsistence fisheries so there was
10 -- we didn't meet ANS there, so there was sacrifices
11 made to meet those tributary goals.
12

13 We just finished up recently with our
14 drainage-wide Kuskokwim River chinook salmon run
15 reconstruction model. And our total run size for 2019
16 was 227,000 fish with a drainage-wide escapement of
17 188,000 fish. Total harvest from the post-season
18 subsistence harvest surveys ended up being right around
19 38,000 king salmon drainage-wide. So I guess to put
20 our total number run number in perspective, we haven't
21 seen a run size this large since 2009. As everybody is
22 well aware, between 2010 and 2018 we've had below
23 average run sizes. And if we look back to 1976, so
24 that's the length of our run reconstruction data set,
25 our average total run for the Kuskokwim River is
26 215,000 fish. So a total run of 227,000 fish in 2019,
27 we were hovering just above the longterm average, so
28 that was encouraging to see last year.
29

30 Moving on to our 2020 Kuskokwim River
31 management outlook, you know, I'm going to preface this
32 and say this is what I intend and have developed to
33 present to the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management
34 Working Group at our spring working group meeting so we
35 can discuss the management strategy that we're going to
36 take. So this is definitely not set in stone and this
37 is kind of what I developed over the last month that I
38 see as a reasonable management strategy going into the
39 season.
40

41 So I guess what decided the decisions
42 that I'm going to present here.
43

44 Well, the first thing is we meet with
45 the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group,
46 that is our advisory body for the state. And we have a
47 preseason meeting and an in-season meeting to discuss
48 management options and management strategies, that's
49 first and foremost. The second thing, we have a
50

1 drainage-wide escapement goal. That drainage-wide
2 escapement goal is 65,000 to 120,000 chinook salmon.
3 Our management plan, which is developed through the
4 Board of Fish process over the last, you know, several
5 cycles, and then we have a chinook salmon, ANS, so
6 amounts necessary of 67,000 to approximately 110,000
7 really is what it boils down to.

8
9 So thee are the things that are
10 starting to guide, you know, where we're going to head
11 for management.

12
13 Well, right now, the one thing that I
14 do have also is a forecast. The forecast for the
15 Kuskokwim River for 2020 is for a total run of 193,000
16 fish to 261,000 fish. So with all of that information
17 and the forecast you can start to develop, you know,
18 what you would like to see for a preseason.....

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Sorry, this is
21 Alissa real quick.

22
23 MR. SMITH: Yep.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We kind of didn't
26 hear you very much after the ANS goal. Could you
27 repeat that, I apologize.

28
29 MR. SMITH: No, that's fine. Can you
30 hear me now?

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, much
33 better, much better. Thanks.

34
35 MR. SMITH: Okay. So what I was saying
36 after the ANS is that we have a forecast that was
37 recently completed, and our forecast for king salmon
38 returning to the Kuskokwim River in 2020 is 193,000 to
39 261,000. So these are kind of the things that are
40 guiding my thoughts for a preseason management
41 strategy.

42
43 Within the Kuskokwim, as everybody as
44 well aware, we've had the front end closure for a
45 number of years now. So kind of how I'm going to break
46 this apart is that we've got really two distinct time
47 periods with respect to management. We've got the time
48 during the front end closure and then the time after
49 the front end closure.

50

1 So to start, I'm going to start with
2 that time period for the front end closure.

3
4 That front end closure is in effect
5 until June 11th with a start date that will be
6 determined at the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management
7 Work Group meeting in early May. And what I'm going to
8 plan to present to the working group is really a
9 similar strategy that we've been doing.

10
11 So the river would be closed to
12 gillnets and we'd roll that gillnet closure up river
13 like we've done the last couple of years.

14
15 (Teleconference interference - phones
16 not muted - lines dropping)

17
18 MR. SMITH: It sounds like people are
19 beeping in or beeping out. Can I just stop for a
20 second and make sure everybody's still on line.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That would be
23 great.

24
25 For those folks that have come in, do
26 we have any of our Council members that were missing
27 earlier. Eva, can you just check in really quick.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MR. SMITH: Alissa, I just got a text
32 from Gary on his Verizon phone and he said service went
33 out again.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Oh, great. Well,
36 everything is up and going over here at ONC. Land
37 lines. Eva Patton, do we have you Eva Patton.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Copy. Copy.

42
43 MS. PATTON: We're on line here.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: There you are.

46
47 MS. PATTON: Let me just check back in
48 with our Council members. We had most of them calling
49 back in from land lines but I believe we had one person

50

1 still on a cell phone so let me just check back in and
2 make sure we still have all our Council members.

3
4 John Andrew.

5
6 MR. ANDREW: Here.

7
8 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you.

9
10 James Landlord.

11
12 MR. LANDLORD: Yes. Here.

13
14 MS. PATTON: Okay. Wonderful, thank
15 you, James.

16
17 Carl Maxie.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MS. PATTON: Yeah, I think Carl was on
22 his cell phone still. Carl, are you with us, Carl
23 Maxie.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MS. PATTON: And how about Raymond
28 Oney.

29
30 MR. ONEY: Hi Eva.

31
32 MS. PATTON: Hi Raymond. Are you on a
33 land line in your community there in Alakanuk.

34
35 MR. ONEY: No, I'm using my cell phone.

36
37 MS. PATTON: Okay, but you're able to
38 get connected there.

39
40 MR. ONEY: Yes.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you. And
43 Richard Slats.

44
45 MR. SLATS: Richard is here.

46
47 MS. PATTON: Okay. Wonderful, Richard.
48 And remind me, again, Richard, are you on a land line
49 or on your cell phone.

50

1 MR. SLATS: I'm on a land line.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Land line, okay, great,
4 thank you.

5

6 I think Carl was on his cell phone and
7 may have gotten cut off.

8

9 Carl Maxie.

10

11 MR. MAXIE: I'm here.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Oh, there you are. Are
14 you on your cell phone, Carl.

15

16 MR. MAXIE: Yeah, I'm waiting until 1:00
17 o'clock for the tribal office to open.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Okay, that's right, you're
20 heading back over there at 1:00. Okay, great. Just
21 wanted to make sure you were still on. Yeah, and that
22 would be wonderful if you're able to join them at the
23 tribal office on a land line. I think we'd be able to
24 get through clearly through the day with everybody on a
25 land line.

26

27 Okay, so we've got everybody back on
28 line again at this time, and we'll go ahead and Mr.
29 Smith can proceed, and we'll just speak clearly --
30 thanks, Nick.

31

32 MR. SMITH: Yeah, thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. Go
35 ahead, Nick.

36

37 MR. SMITH: Go ahead?

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I was just going
40 to say if you want to back track to where you were
41 starting to talk about what your -- right after your
42 forecast you were talking about the prior front end
43 closure on a start date to be determined by Kuskokwim
44 River Salmon Management Working Group until the June
45 11th, and that's where we stopped.

46

47 MR. SMITH: Okay, sounds great, yeah,
48 so I'll pick up back there.

49

50

1 The time period during the front end
2 closure, so, yeah, the start date, we're going to be
3 determining at that first Kuskokwim River Salmon
4 Management Working Group meeting, and then for a
5 starting point for the strategy is going to be
6 following -- you know, presenting to follow similar to
7 what we've done in previous years. So that would
8 include closing the main stem river to gillnets, and
9 then we'd be rolling that closure up river, you know,
10 on a three to four day basis. During the front end
11 closure, you know, we're mandated through our
12 management plan, to have once weekly step gillnet
13 fishing periods. And recently at the Board of Fish
14 meeting that was held here a week ago, there was a
15 proposal that was submitted by Kwethluk that was
16 accepted for this meeting, and through that meeting
17 kind of a compromise was developed through all the AC
18 members there and what that did was add the ability to
19 use six inch mesh set nets, as long as we're in that
20 top tier of the management plan. So when we're
21 projecting to be above the drainage-wide escapement
22 goal, which is where we're at, so we'd be having once
23 weekly six inch set gillnet fishing period with the
24 time and the dates to be specified at that working
25 group meeting. And then also in the main stem we'd
26 allow the legal other methods, so drift -- or not
27 drift, dipnet, beach seines, fishwheels, you know,
28 these selective gear types to still be legally used but
29 we would have to return kings to the water. So there'd
30 be no retention of king salmon. So there would still
31 be opportunity to go fishing with those other selective
32 gear types, just not drift gillnet.

33
34 So Lower Kuskokwim River tributaries,
35 they would be closed to gillnets and then all other
36 selective methods would still remain open but kings
37 would need to be returned to the water.

38
39 And then like we've done the last
40 couple years, the non-spawning tributaries would be
41 closed to subsistence fishing with gillnets up stream
42 -- 100 yards up stream from the confluence of the
43 Kuskokwim River.

44
45 So that's what I plan to roll out to
46 the working group for kind of a management strategy for
47 the front end closure.

48
49 And then we've got the time period
50

1 after the front end closure.

2

3 So with our current forecast, you know,
4 be at the low bound, 193,000 fish, it's definitely a
5 lot better than what we've been seeing in the recent
6 years, so at this point I've been thinking through what
7 -- and I know Fish and Wildlife Service did this last
8 year by, you know, preannouncing openers and what they
9 were going to do based on their level of risk and where
10 the forecast was sitting, so I plan to roll out kind of
11 a similar type strategy so people are well aware of
12 what they can expect going into the season so it's not
13 just, you know, we're going to meet one day during the
14 week and then kind of throw it on people's plate to
15 get ready for the season.

16

17 So what I'm planning to roll out here,
18 is, so I'm going to break this -- after the front end
19 closure period into two parts, tributaries and main
20 stem.

21

22 For the tributaries, after the front
23 end closure, I would like to allow retention of kings
24 with rod and reel in the tributaries. So loosening up
25 restrictions a little bit and allowing retention of
26 kings in the tributaries with rod and reel. And that
27 would be the only change that would be made to
28 tributaries. They still couldn't use drift gillnets in
29 the tributaries. And then in the main stem, after June
30 12th, I'd be looking to do a 24 hour drift gillnet
31 period in the main stem every other day between June
32 12th and June 20th in subsistence sections one and two.
33 So that portion of the river from the mouth all the way
34 up to Tuluksak, subsistence sections one and two. And
35 nets would be six inch mesh, 25 fathoms in length. And
36 then subsistence sections three through five would be
37 open until further notice with six inch nets, 25
38 fathoms in length. So from just above Tuluksak up to
39 the headwaters would then be open and this is what we'd
40 -- we've done it from Aniak up the last couple of years
41 because there's been a Federal special action in place,
42 so we've managed Aniak -- this year, if we're the
43 managers, I would see opening from Tuluksak up until
44 further notice. Within the Aniak area, I would still
45 institute the Aniak box and that would be in effect for
46 gillnet, selective legal methods, so fishwheels,
47 dipnets, beach seines would still be allowed, and kings
48 would need to be returned to the water until June 23rd.
49 After June 23rd then kings would be allowed --

50

1 retention of kings would be allowed within the Aniak
2 box. And that kind of -- so that sums up what would
3 happen in the Aniak box. And then within the general
4 main stem, outside the Aniak box, all other gear types,
5 so during the front end closure we wouldn't allow
6 retention of king salmon with, you know, dipnets, beach
7 seines, rod and reel and then after the front end
8 closure we would allow retention of kings with those
9 selective gear types.

10

11 Later on in the month of June, once
12 chum and sockeye become the dominant species, we'd
13 switch management focus to those species.

14

15 You know, I've listened to a number of
16 meetings the last handful of weeks, and it sound like
17 there's been -- at least the rumor mill going on what
18 the State will and won't do with the upcoming season,
19 so hopefully this helps to clarify and hopefully make
20 those rumors disappear now that we're getting the word
21 out on kind of what we would plan on doing going into
22 this season, and it wouldn't be, you know, just wide
23 open fishing as I've heard.

24

25 For specific projects that the State's
26 going to be operating next year, starting in the lower
27 river. We're going to be operating the Bethel Test
28 Fishery, and then the sonar, and the sonar actually is
29 going to be running longer than what we've been doing
30 the last handful of years, we just received funding
31 from OSM to operate the sonar through coho season, so
32 we'll be operating that sonar until the August this
33 year.

34

35 Moving up into the middle river, the
36 Aniak Test Fishery is going to operate again. And then
37 for weir projects, the Department's going to operate
38 the weirs on the George, Kugrugaluk, Telaqwana, and
39 Salmon Pitka Fork Rivers.

40

41 And then later in July we'll be flying
42 aerial surveys again.

43

44 So that's the extent of my
45 presentation. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi. Nick, can
48 you please repeat your projects again really quick so
49 we can make sure that we have them down. I didn't get

50

1 a couple of them. Sorry about that.

2

3 MR. SMITH: Yep, sure thing, Alissa.
4 So starting in the lower river we're going to be
5 operating the Bethel Test Fishery and the sonar. And
6 the sonar just received extra funding to operate
7 through coho season so we'll be operating until the end
8 of August for that sonar project.

9

10 Middle River, Dan Gillikin's group is
11 going to be operating the Aniak Test Fishery.

12

13 And then for State run weir projects
14 we're going to be operating the George, Kugrugaluk,
15 Telaqwana, and Salmon Pitka Fork weirs.

16

17 And then in late July we'll be flying
18 the aerial surveys.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Nick.

21

22 All right, do we have any comments, or
23 does anyone have any comments or questions for Nick at
24 this time?

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do we have
29 anybody from the public that had any comments or
30 questions for Nick.

31

32 (Teleconference interference - phones
33 not muted - background noise)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I'm sorry we're
36 getting some background noise and I don't know if
37 everyone can hear me. Please star six to mute your
38 phone or press mute on your phone, we're hearing some
39 breathing in the background.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: So Nick just got
42 done giving his review for the Kuskokwim River, do we
43 have any questions or comments in regards to the
44 Kuskokwim River.

45

46 MS. KENNER: Alissa, this is Pippa
47 Kenner with OSM.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi Pippa.

50

1 MR. KENNER: Hi. John Chythlook was on
2 line earlier, I'm wondering if he's on line now. He's
3 with ADF&G sportfish and might be able to give us an
4 overview of what the plan is for sportfishing on the
5 Kuskokwim.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa.
8 Mr. Chythlook, are you on.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Does
13 anyone want to shoot him a text or send him an email
14 and let him know if he wants to -- or ask him if he
15 wants to give us an overview for sportsfish.

16
17 (Pause)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Well, if there's
20 no more further questions or comments for Nick, we'll
21 go ahead and see if U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is
22 on line.

23
24 MR. BORN: Good afternoon, Madame
25 Chair, this is Ray Born, I'm on line.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.
28 Go ahead.

29
30 MR. BORN: Okay. I'll go ahead with
31 what I have. This is Ray Born. I'm the Acting Refuge
32 Manager at Yukon Delta Refuge and the Federal in-season
33 manager for the Kuskokwim River.

34
35 For this year we've already started our
36 preseason meetings on March 13th and we talked about
37 basically where we think we're going on the Kuskokwim
38 River along with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

39
40 The run size, as Nick mentioned, the
41 average is 227,000. So that's kind of one of the
42 metrics I use to figure out whether Federal management
43 is going to be needed or not. We've identified the
44 escapement objective of 110,000 similar to what we've
45 done in the last couple of years. And that would leave
46 a harvest objective of 117,000 chinook. And, you know,
47 and ANS, as Nick pointed out, is between 67 and
48 110,000, so 117 is over the top end of that ANS number
49 so that indicates, from a Federal perspective, very,

50

1 very few restrictions would be needed.
2

3 Again, as Nick talked about pre-season
4 closures would be decided by the Kuskokwim River Salmon
5 Management Working Group and the closure ends on June
6 11th.
7

8 So based upon those numbers with a
9 harvest target of 117,000, at this time I don't see a
10 nexus for Federal management, however, we will continue
11 to support harvest reporting and working together with
12 ONC, Alaska Department of Fish and Game and other folks
13 to provide ongoing harvest estimates, as well we'll
14 continue to have in-season meetings to inform all of
15 the partners to what that harvest level looks like and
16 continue to pay attention to that.
17

18
19 Additionally we have a chinook egg
20 study going on, just talk about number of eggs by size
21 of fish, one of the studies, to answer that question of
22 what the productivity is of this particular run this
23 year. So that's kind of it for that.
24

25 I want to talk about the Kwethluk weir
26 just a little bit. Of course, the weir will be
27 operating. We'll try to set that up the third week of
28 April. And this year we've gone more and more to --
29 Kwethluk will be actually hiring four technicians and a
30 crew leader. We won't have anybody from Fish and
31 Wildlife Service there. And, again, as we talked about
32 yesterday, I think, a little bit, we're going to
33 continue to work on that 2020/2023 proposal and
34 transition Kwethluk to more responsibility and project
35 ownership on the Kwethluk weir. Again, the end goal is
36 to increase capacity of Kwethluk to take over the weir
37 operations in the future.
38

39 So that kind of wraps up my report on
40 Kuskokwim River.
41

42 Any questions for me.
43

44 MR. NICOLAI: This is Evan Nicolai from
45 Kwethluk. What does that word that you said that the
46 Kwethluk will take over the project entail, what
47 details can you say in that regard, taking over means
48 that the Federal funding will be given to the tribe or
49 what -- what happens there?
50

1 MR. BORN: Yeah, Evan, that's a good
2 question. Kind of the intent is that by 2023 we
3 transition completely to the tribe running that weir
4 and at that point in time, again, through the summer
5 responsibility for the weir to the tribe but Fish and
6 Wildlife Service will continue to be available to
7 advise and provide technical support. But by that time
8 we hope to have the people from your village and tribe
9 fully trained and capable of running that weir.

10

11 Did that answer your question?

12

13 MR. NICOLAI: We'll probably have to
14 work out the details probably but in general it does,
15 thank you.

16

17 MR. BORN: Thank you.

18

19 MR. ALBERTSON: Madame Chair.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Lamont.

22

23 MR. ALBERTSON: I was wondering, Ray,
24 when you accept those numbers from the State of Alaska,
25 their projections, does your Staff take into account
26 the fact that the salmon are probably less than half
27 the size they were, you know, back in the day?

28

29 MR. BORN: Well, Lamont, that's a good
30 question. And I know Pippa Kenner talked about
31 identifying the weight, to kind of figure that out and
32 I haven't heard back on that. So based on the best
33 science I have available right now, these are the best
34 numbers we have. So that's kind of what I have to use
35 to go forward. As more science is done and it's better
36 developed, we'll definitely take that into account and
37 taking a look at it. And, again, we'll have -- this
38 will be an ongoing process as it is every year to
39 continue to work together to get -- to take care of
40 salmon and ensure we have salmon for future
41 generations. But that discussion of what that ANS
42 value should be is definitely underway.

43

44 MR. ALBERTSON: Yeah, thank you. And a
45 followup if I may, Madame Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go right ahead
48 Lamont.

49

50

1 MR. ALBERTSON: You know my concern is
2 and I'm sure you've heard other biologists voice this
3 concern also is that the quality of the eggs that are
4 going into the gravel now are not what they were in
5 years gone by, there's less of a lipid content or a fat
6 content, and I think tentative research conclusions
7 based on what Katie Howard did over in the mouth of the
8 Yukon and I don't know what's happening on the
9 Kuskokwim yet, I haven't heard anything recently, but
10 the health of those salmon, once they hit the salt
11 water out there has a lot to do with whether they come
12 back and the size of those salmon. And it just seems
13 like that that's something that we ought to look at and
14 we ought to take considerably -- I think the people
15 certainly notice and there's certainly -- when we talk
16 about meeting subsistence needs we're meeting
17 subsistence needs as they have been kind of ground down
18 through the years by getting smaller and smaller
19 salmon. And I think that -- every year I think that
20 becomes a more important consideration for us, but it
21 seems like it doesn't, doesn't get its proper -- the
22 proper attention I think that it should receive.

23
24 And my next question is, that, I think
25 the numbers or the calculations that the State is
26 using, if I'm interpreting what I'm reading on line
27 correctly is that their numbers and takes their best on
28 just the last seven years; is that correct?

29
30 MR. BORN: Well, Lamont, I'll refer
31 that back to Nick Smith from ADF&G, he's better
32 qualified to answer that than I am.

33
34 Nick.

35
36 MR. SMITH: Lamont, if I heard your
37 answer [sic] correctly, you're asking if we're getting
38 a range around our forecast using the last seven years
39 of information; is that correct?

40
41 MR. ALBERTSON: Yes. Yeah, that's what
42 I was talking about, that it was just the last -- or
43 that's what my interpretation of what I read on line
44 was.

45
46 MR. SMITH: No, your interpretation is
47 correct and you've been at the working group meetings
48 and these preseason meetings where we discuss how we
49 developed our forecasting method. We take the -- the
50

1 difference between what was forecasted and what
2 actually came back during the last seven years to
3 develop how much error we have around our forecasting
4 method. And it, as you know, too, it has performed
5 quite well over the last, you know, seven years, mostly
6 because those run sizes have been (indiscernible - cuts
7 out) so far, and we've also developed additional
8 forecasting tools and evaluated them and in the mean
9 time, and our current method still seems to be the
10 best. And I know that one concern that I'm hearing
11 from you is that, you know, the range of forecast is
12 too narrow, and as USFish and Wildlife Service
13 personnel, along with some input from Fish and Game and
14 the InterTribal Fish Commission, we.....

15
16 (Teleconference interference - phones
17 not muted - lines dropping - background noise)

18
19 MR. SMITH:our model so that risk
20 assessment tool and that incorporates the entire risk
21 probability from the forecast. And that's one of the
22 tools that's relied upon by managers in season when
23 we're developing our management strategies. So
24 hopefully that answers your question.

25
26 MR. ALBERTSON: Yeah, I don't have so
27 much questions about methodology, it just seems to me
28 like the prognostications, the predications we take out
29 of, so all that information would be more accurate, the
30 perspective would be entirely different if we went back
31 more than the seven years, if we went back 30 years. I
32 mean we're talking about doing a lot of value, and a
33 lot of talking this summer about we're going to have a
34 strong run but that's a strong run just based on latter
35 day -- latter day observations. But most people at
36 this meeting who have been on the Kuskokwim at any
37 length of time just know that even if the numbers come
38 back, that the State is predicting will come back,
39 they're going to be entirely different fishing, and
40 consequently entirely different availability of
41 galleries (ph), food, et cetera, for the subsistence
42 users on the Kuskokwim. And I just -- that just
43 concerns me.

44
45 MR. BORN: Thank you, Lamont. Yeah, I
46 talked with Gary DeCossas on that, had him look back
47 over the last 30 years, using the current system, what
48 that would look like, Gary, are you on line, can you
49 talk about that a little bit.

50

1 MR. DECOSSAS: Yeah I am on line. So
2 kind of, Nick, was referring to, we do have other
3 forecasts available to us, we have the State's prior
4 year methodology that Nick kind of discussed, we also
5 have the PStarforecast methodology, which does take
6 into account all of the uncertainty in the year by year
7 run sizes. As long as you don't have a high risk
8 tolerance -- a low risk tolerance, I mean, the results
9 from the State's forecast versus a forecast that takes
10 into account all of the uncertainty in the time series,
11 those management strategies aren't going to be
12 developed very much different.

13
14 The other thing to consider, and I know
15 the RAC and others don't have a picture of the run size
16 graphs in front of them, but you can go back in time
17 and visually look and see that, at least here recently,
18 there hasn't been a large year to year drop in run size
19 going back to 1976. Usually you go through these
20 periods of one or two, three years of low abundance and
21 then you go back up. It's the natural cycle. So
22 everything's really telling us the same thing.

23
24 MR. SMITH: Yeah, that's a good way to
25 do that.

26
27 MR. ALBERTSON: So your natural cycle
28 you're saying is not in effect now?

29
30 MR. DECOSSAS: If you can look back at
31 the run reconstruction results and the run sizes, we
32 are now, it appears, coming out of this era of low
33 productivity, the productivity of the stocks of the
34 cohorts, the groups of fish that have come back since
35 2011, I believe, are above one to one recruit per
36 spawners, so there is some indication that hopefully we
37 are coming out of this low productivity cycle.

38
39 MR. ALBERTSON: And so you're just
40 talking about a numeric assignment, you're just a
41 number assign, but not the quality of the fish?

42
43 MR. DECOSSAS: Well, the one thing to
44 consider with the quality of fish is that the six inch
45 gear restrictions, which do protect the larger and
46 older fish, at least from what the State has stated,
47 earlier, during their presentation, those restrictions,
48 the mesh sizes would still be in effect, so we would be
49 protecting the escapement quality by using smaller inch

50

1 gear that will allow the escapement of older larger
2 more female fish.

3
4 MR. ALBERTSON: Yeah. Yeah, I just -- I
5 think probably everybody's getting the drift of my
6 questions here. It just seems while we're talking
7 about -- we just mainly talk about numbers of salmon
8 that are coming back, these are just different salmon
9 that are coming back, and anybody that's been on the
10 Kuskokwim any length of time knows exactly what I'm
11 talking about and I just wondered how we can calculate
12 that into our predictions.

13
14 MR. BORN: Thanks Lamont. Yeah, again,
15 Pippa Kenner has offered to kind of take a look at
16 that, to kind of figure out what the weight is of
17 salmon, you know, but kind of as Gary talked to, we're
18 not using eight inch gear anymore so we're not catching
19 the really large salmon so the six inch gear, as a
20 conservation measure, allows, you know, for basically
21 the average catch size of the salmon to go down. So
22 that's one of the factors in this. But definitely want
23 to see more science on what that weight is, you know,
24 that Pippa had talked about at the preseason meeting on
25 March 13th, so that's kind of another bit of science
26 we're waiting on, and when we get that we'll definitely
27 factor that into that so that will be considered.

28
29 I appreciate the question.

30
31 Anything else, Lamont?

32
33 MR. ALBERTSON: Well, again, I'm just
34 kind of concerned, you know, I remember the 2013 year,
35 you know, when the Department recommended that we take
36 their recommendations to the -- on the Kuskokwim River
37 Salmon Management Working Group, and, we, in fact, did
38 take that recommendation and then, in fact, it went
39 south on us, it went south on everybody on the
40 Kuskokwim and we did get an official apology out of the
41 Department of Fish and Game, and the explanation was,
42 it was just a tragedy of the commons rather than being
43 a tragedy of administration and the management. And
44 I'm just very concerned that we may be setting the
45 stage for that again. And then the fact that, you
46 know, it seems to me like we're not taking into
47 consideration the quality of the fish that are
48 returning to the degree that we should, and the eight
49 inch mesh, six inch mesh, that explanation just doesn't
50

1 get it. If you've been drifting for decades on the
2 Kuskokwim, I think everybody knows exactly what I'm
3 talking about. So I'm assuming that, like in 2013, we
4 weren't -- there was no ability apparently on the part
5 of anyone to check the State's keeping that season
6 open, if there's a check built in to the system this
7 year, to make sure that we don't have that "tragedy of
8 the commons" again.

9

10 MR. BORN: Thanks, Lamont. Yeah, kind
11 of like I articulated earlier, we'll continue to do
12 harvest monitoring and ongoing meetings with folks as
13 part of the working group and, again, as part of the
14 in-season meetings of managers, I know you're a part of
15 that, or you have been a part of that as a working
16 group representative so you can definitely voice your
17 -- but maybe you talk about your decades of experience
18 of gillnetting, can you tell me a little bit about your
19 experience 2004 and 2005, what that was like, when they
20 had the really big runs?

21

22 MR. ALBERTSON: Well, we caught a lot
23 of -- 2004 and 2005 you're talking about?

24

25 MR. BORN: Yeah, as I'm looking at the
26 graph of the numbers, I'm saying, were you guys using
27 six inch mesh back then or eight inch mesh back then?

28

29 MR. ALBERTSON: I always have used the
30 six inch mesh, other people may have been using an
31 eight inch mesh net, just six inch mesh always met my
32 needs and in six inch mesh net I was able to catch some
33 humongous king salmon. And so I consequently just
34 didn't need any more and then there's the expense of an
35 eight inch mesh net also to consider.

36

37 But I just am very concerned, I think,
38 you can see, generally by the line of my questioning
39 here that there's some sort of check built into this
40 thing so that we're not facing something like we faced
41 in 2013, and that we don't try to do anything about it
42 until after the fact.

43

44 And, you know, Ray, if you can tell me
45 the Federal government is there and they're going to be
46 watching this very closely and shutting things down, if
47 things need to be shut down, I can be somewhat assured,
48 but there's got to be some sort of check built into
49 this thing so that we don't duplicate again what

50

1 happened in 2013.

2

3 MR. BORN: Thanks, Lamont, I appreciate
4 it. As I assured at the preseason meeting with
5 everybody, that we will continue to monitor, we'll
6 continue to do the harvest monitoring and working
7 together on that and I think we both, ADF&G and Fish
8 and Wildlife Service learned a lot from 2013, so we'll
9 be able to go forward with lessons learned as to how to
10 do a better job working together on that. And, again,
11 the InterTribal Fish Commission is a key part of that
12 as well as the other stakeholders on the river. So I
13 think we have a good system in place right now to do
14 that.

15

16 So, again, yeah, I want to reassure you
17 that, yes, we're paying attention this year and, yes,
18 we'll be doing harvest monitoring and working together
19 with ADF&G and the InterTribal Fish Commission, OSM,
20 and the other -- and the RACs to do a good job of
21 monitoring this year as well as ensure effective
22 management.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MR. ALBERTSON: Yeah, thank you, Ray.
27 Thanks, Nick. And, thank you, Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
30 Lamont. Do we have any further comments or questions
31 for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Alaska Department
32 of Fish and Game in regards to 2020 fisheries
33 management plan?

34

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
39 hearing none, we're going to move on to.....

40

41 MR. MAXIE: Madame Chair.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Oh, go ahead, who
44 is this?

45

46 MR. MAXIE: Carl, Napaskiak. Is
47 there.....

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Carl.

50

1 MR. MAXIE: Hello.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, go ahead,
4 Carl.

5

6 MR. MAXIE: Yeah, I kind of recommend
7 that Nick and his agency to meet with Kwethluk
8 officials before they take over the project and briefly
9 describe the operation and maintenance and reporting
10 the fish and where the funding is, where it comes from
11 and where they would report their -- before they take
12 over the project.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
17 Maxie. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, you got that.

18

19 MR. BORN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
20 Yes, Carl, thank you for your comment. We do have
21 that, it's part of the transition process, is working
22 together with Kwethluk and figure out how the best way
23 to do the reporting and ensure that numbers will
24 continue to contribute to successful management of the
25 chinook on the Kuskokwim River.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.
30 Any further comments or questions for salmon management
31 for 2020 for the Kuskokwim River?

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thanks folks.

36

37 (Teleconference interference - phones
38 not muted - background noise)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: For those of you
41 on line please star six to mute your phone or press
42 mute on your phone, we're getting background noise and
43 background conversations. We want to be as respectful
44 as possible to those that are speaking.

45

46 MR. MAXIE: (In Yup'ik)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: (In Yup'ik) Star
49 six to mute your phone please.

50

1 Star six to mute your phone or press
2 mute on your cell phone.

3
4 (Pause)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Quyana.

7
8 Okay, let's go ahead and move on to the
9 tribal governments for the Kuskokwim River. Did
10 you.....

11
12 MS. PATTON: Yes, Madame Chair, we had
13 both Native Community of Akiak that had requested to be
14 on the agenda to address the Council, and also
15 Kwethluk, and Kwethluk, Inc.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. We'll go
18 ahead and have -- here's my line down for tribes.
19 We'll have ONC going, and then Napiamute, and then we
20 have Akiak, you said Kwethluk, you said Kwethluk, Inc
21 -- Eva, did I hear you correctly.

22
23 MR. NICOLAI: No, you did not. This is
24 Evan from Kwethluk. It's the organized village of
25 Kwethluk -- thank you.

26
27 MR. JORDAN: Hi, Alissa, this is Moses
28 Jordan, can you hear me?

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MR. NICOLAI: Madame Chair.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MR. NICOLAI: Madame Chair.

37
38 MOSES: Hello.

39
40 MR. NICOLAI: Madame Chair, this is
41 Evan from Kwethluk.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Evan. We
44 had a request from Kwethluk, Inc., earlier too and also
45 the Organized Village of Kwethluk, so you are on the
46 agenda.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

1 MR. NICOLAI: Okay. Please consider me
2 as first. We have a Covid-19 strategy meeting in our
3 village, we need to address that at a later time today,
4 please consider me as first.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 MR. JORDAN: This is Moses Jordan with
9 ONC, if he needs to go before me he can. If you're
10 fine with it and he needs to make it to a Covid-19
11 meeting for his village, that's probably important.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Standby Jordan,
14 thanks for letting me know.

15

16 Eva, did I hear you correctly that we
17 had these following tribal members for fisheries.

18

19 ONC Fishery.

20

21 Napiamute Fishery.

22

23 Akiak wants to speak on the Kuskokwim
24 Fishery.

25

26 Kwethluk wants to speak on the Fishery.

27

28 And Kwethluk, Inc.

29

30 Is that all the villages?

31

32 MS. PATTON: Correct, Madame Chair.
33 That was who we had heard from in advance of the
34 meeting and confirmation from the villages.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
39 Okay. The only one I haven't heard from was Akiak and
40 Napiamute, are you guys okay with Kwethluk going in
41 front of you?

42

43 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. Akiak, yes.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Akiak.
46 Napiamute, are you on line?

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

1 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, I haven't
2 been able to get through to Dan Gillikin at Native
3 Village of Napiamute this morning yet, but I'm not sure
4 of the phone connectivity and the internet connectivity
5 up there is having some challenges.
6

7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, that
8 sounds good.
9

10 MS. PATTON: So I haven't been able to
11 get a hold.....
12

13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We'll go ahead
14 and put them near the end and we'll just call them
15 until they can call in.
16

17 All right. Organized Village of
18 Kwethluk, you have the floor.
19

20 MR. NICOLAI: Thank you, Madame Chair.
21 This is Evan Nicolai under the Organized Village of
22 Kwethluk. We have made comments in regards to the
23 needs for the community here in Kwethluk as well as
24 making statements to the fact that many of our
25 communities, members in our village have concerns
26 regarding closures and the dwindling numbers of salmon
27 and especially being able to gather the king salmon
28 which are vital to our nutritional needs, and we would
29 like to see that the government, which is the Federal
30 government, take management of.....
31

32 (Teleconference interference - loud
33 echo - participants not muted)
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, sorry about
36 that.
37

38 MR. NICOLAI:management of.....
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Sorry. Eva, we
41 had a huge background weird noise. Apologize for that.
42

43 The last thing that I heard was prior
44 to management, if you don't mind, rewinding just a
45 little bit so that we can hear you adequately. Sorry
46 about that, for the interference, go ahead.
47

48 MR. NICOLAI: Okay. The concern is
49 that we would like the Federal management to continue
50

1 their process of managing the waters in this area so
2 that we're seeing the larger government from which to
3 manage the fish populations so that our communities are
4 able to gather their harvests in a proper way they have
5 been doing traditionally, with customary standards that
6 they have had in their way of life, which is taking as
7 much as they need and then stopping at points where
8 their racks are filled. And that the gathering
9 includes being able to stock up in their freezers for
10 an ability to feed themselves throughout the whole
11 season, the whole season includes the summer, the fall,
12 the winter, and the next spring, which allows for
13 families to feed themselves. This is the main concern
14 that indigenous peoples have had regarding how they're
15 feeding their families and we would like to see as best
16 as we could, the capacity of the government to allow
17 for those traditional things to occur.

18
19 That's the end of my comment and thank
20 you very much for allowing me to do that.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Evan,
23 for participating with us and good luck to you and your
24 community on your guys' meeting, all blessings to you
25 guys all out there.

26
27 Do we have any more further comments or
28 questions for Evan at this time?

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, thank
33 you Evan. Going on to ONC Fisheries.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Is Moses on the
38 line?

39
40 MR. JORDAN: Yes, I'm on the line.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.

43
44 MR. JORDAN: Yeah, Janessa.

45
46 MS. ESQUIBLE: Yeah.

47
48 MR. JORDAN: Did you want to go ahead
49 and talk about fisheries.

50

1 MS. ESQUIBLE: Okay. Sure. All right,
2 thanks everyone for having me here today and giving me
3 time to give you an update of our program. So my
4 name's Janessa Esquible, but now I'm Janessa Esquible-
5 Hushin, for those that don't know, and I'm the ONC
6 Partners Biologist and I've been here for about four
7 years.

8
9 So this year we've already began
10 preseason planning for our in-season harvest monitoring
11 projects, which is a partnership project with Fish and
12 Game. I've hired three undergraduate students from the
13 Kuskokwim to work on -- to work for us this summer, one
14 of which is an ANSEP student. It looks like we're also
15 going to receive some support from the Office of
16 Subsistence Management for an ANSEP summer bridge
17 student. We're planning to continue conducting the
18 subsistence harvest surveys, also attempting to elevate
19 the concerns of local fishers at Bethel area fish
20 camps, continuing data presence at the Kuskokwim River
21 Salmon Management Working Group and providing weekly
22 reports throughout the months of June and July. We may
23 be conducting harvest surveys at the Bethel boat
24 harbor, depending on fisheries management needs and
25 we'll continue our chinook salmon age, sex, length
26 sampling program, we'll continue to recruit, train and
27 pay interested Bethel area fishers and sampling their
28 catch, so depending on kind of how things play out with
29 this Covid-19 public health concern, we may or may not
30 be able to host public trainings to recruit ASL
31 samplers again this season. So we'll kind of see what
32 happens there.

33
34 And then later in July we also work
35 with BNC to conduct fish camp surveys for them.

36
37 It looks like we'll be able to help
38 University of Washington and Fish and Game with the
39 chinook salmon otolith sampling and we dissect the
40 otoliths from chinook salmon caught from Bethel Test
41 Fishery which we'll then plan to distribute to local
42 elders, disabled and widows in Bethel, throughout the
43 month of June.

44
45 I've also started planning for our
46 annual 2020 science and cultural camp, also referred to
47 as the Natural Resource Career Exploration Program. So
48 this upcoming summer we've developed a new partnership
49 with the Kuskokwim Campus and University of Alaska-

50

1 Fairbanks and so this is going to allows us to provide
2 eligible students -- or allow students to receive two
3 credits in environmental studies 150 that can be
4 applied toward a university certificate or a degree
5 program. so this is really exciting and we'll be
6 recruiting up to (cuts out) Lower Kuskokwim School
7 Districts to participate in the program. The program
8 will take place July 19th through July 30th. And I've
9 already reached out to many of you who are probably on
10 line today to see if folks want to be involved in our
11 program as instructors, as youth/peer mentors, and just
12 so you all know the application is on our ONC Fisheries
13 Facebook page so go ahead and please spread the word if
14 you can, or if you have any young ones, eligible high
15 school Lower Kuskokwim School District students who
16 want to participate in the program.

17
18 And we also recently heard back from
19 the Office of Subsistence Management, as Nick
20 mentioned, the sonar will extend operations into
21 August. And so this is a new partnership project that
22 we have with the State, which will allow tribal
23 involvement on the project in August. This is exciting
24 and we're really grateful for the funding to be
25 involved in this work because ONC Council and committee
26 members have continued to stress the importance of
27 having tribes directly involved with salmon counting,
28 outside of simply conducting these harvest surveys.

29
30 And so, in addition, and quite
31 different from the sonar project, we're continuing our
32 work on the indigenizing salmon science and management
33 project. We'll probably -- or we anticipate on doing
34 some surveys this spring, but now there's a lot of --
35 we're unable to travel -- so we hope to continue this
36 work in the fall. Thus far we've conducted 14
37 interviews with 27 individuals in Kong, Bethel,
38 Oscarville and McGrath, so we'll continue this work
39 into 2020 and 2021 and have continued funding from the
40 University to do this important work and if you're
41 interested in participating in the project, if you're
42 in a community within the Kuskokwim please let me know
43 and keep in mind that all participants are compensated
44 for their time, knowledge and wisdom that's shared with
45 us on this project.

46
47 Other news we received is that we're
48 going to be able to support a JV/AmeriCorps for our
49 Natural Resource Department and we expect that

50

1 individual to come out in mid-August and work with us
2 for a year.

3

4 And then lastly we'll continue working
5 with the State on the post-season project come
6 falltime.

7

8 But I think those are all of the
9 updates that I have for now, if anyone has any
10 questions, or if Moses, you want to continue.

11

12 MR. JORDAN: I believe that would be
13 it. I believe we'll have the tribal organizations
14 after FEIS (ph), so I think that'll be it for fisheries
15 for ONC.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, thank
18 you. We'll get back to agency reports right after we
19 get done with the fisheries. I don't want to jump too
20 much around in different subjects, so since we're
21 talking about fisheries we'll keep all the fisheries
22 together.

23

24 The next tribal on fisheries that we
25 have up is Akiak. Akiak, you have a fisheries report?

26

27 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, good afternoon
28 everyone. This is Mike Williams, currently.....

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thanks, Mike.

31

32 MR. WILLIAMS:Chief of the Akiak
33 Native Community. I really appreciate this time to
34 address the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta RAC members. Welcome
35 to the new members.

36

37 I believe both in the Kuskokwim River
38 and the Yukon River, we have been managing our fish and
39 wildlife in our environment for 20,000 years, and it's
40 a pretty good track record that we've been able to have
41 that information shared with our tribal government and
42 with the people here in Akiak. They've been generous
43 enough to share with us how we manage our fisheries for
44 so long and have done a very good job. And in recent
45 times we have seen the decline of the chinook. And we
46 have seen that every year. And ever since I was a
47 child, some 60 years -- over 60 years and seen the
48 continued challenges on our fishery and that at one
49 time we had a chum crash and there was a lot of fingers

50

1 pointed to Area M. But that was a time when we -- that
2 the river was Federalized and we could not fish for
3 chum salmon and that was hurtful. You know we couldn't
4 gather enough for our dog food and so -- so I think
5 we're -- all of these years and in recent times, the
6 State of Alaska started, you know, collecting data as
7 well as the Fish and Wildlife Service, and we began to
8 see those collective numbers. And we have witnessed
9 the formation of the Kuskokwim River Management Working
10 Group and the reason for that was to monitor our
11 fishery when commercial fishing happens.

12
13 So we haven't had any commercial
14 fishing since 1992. There was focus shifted over to
15 the subsistence fishery with the working group. And
16 since we have not had a commercial fishery, you know,
17 that -- those numbers were then monitored over the
18 years, the chinook were monitored since 1984 and we
19 have seen continuous challenges, the spikes and it went
20 down. It kept going down. So from 2011, '12, 2013,
21 '14, '15, '16, '17, '18, '19, we have seen a real drop
22 in the chinook population. And that is when we seen
23 that in 2014, after the 2013 crash of the chinook, we
24 -- we seen -- were allocated thr (cuts out).....

25
26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted)

28
29 MR. WILLIAMS:so extreme
30 restrictions were placed on the Kuskokwim River and all
31 of the communities from Nikolai down to the mouth of
32 the Kuskokwim River were affected, so we were allocated
33 part of the fish for the community of Akiak in 2014.
34 And in 2015 we were allocated, after negotiations with
35 the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge regional
36 manager we came up with 7,000 king salmon could be
37 harvested among the tribes.

38
39 So I think that's the example, and we
40 had that fishery, after negotiations for 30 days, and
41 it was open but that allocation was set per the 20 year
42 average of each community, Akiak had 300 kings that
43 year that we fished, that can get inside 30 days. So
44 that was most form of our continued viability. But the
45 people had trouble with the designated fishermen but I
46 think that -- that was pretty close to how we
47 traditionally fished, but with that number.

48
49 And -- but then we started seeing

50

1 windows, over the years window openers and rolling
2 closures and all of those that we've witnessed on the
3 Kuskokwim River. So the past seven years we've had
4 extreme restrictions on the river and we applaud all of
5 the families that sacrificed and our sacrifice for our
6 chinook is working. And those numbers that we are
7 seeing now is what we sacrificed for and to rebuild, to
8 make sure that the future generations have the kings,
9 chinook to eat, and to rebuild that and so far we have
10 seen those numbers come up. And since 2015 -- 2014,
11 '15 -- we've been able to meet the escapement goals.
12 And that has been a goal.

13
14 And I think the overall goal that Akiak
15 has is to get out of restrictions down the road, in the
16 end but right now we've been submitting this special
17 action request every year for the last four years and
18 this is our fifth special action request because we are
19 still concerned about the returns and we would like for
20 the Federally-recognized -- I mean Federally-qualified
21 users to have the first shot for this summer because of
22 the uncertainties that we continue to see and we have
23 seen Lamont Albertson's special action request that
24 justifies this action. And we support that special
25 action request as well as Organized Village of
26 Kwethluk's special action. And I think waiting and not
27 making that jump right now because of uncertainties,
28 you know, we're going to be looking, observing this
29 summer on how things work out. But I think we all need
30 to be prepared and I know that it is tempting to have
31 -- to really loosen the restrictions, but I think we
32 need to be really careful in making sure that our
33 investment with all of our families up and down the
34 river, that we continue to work hard, both with the
35 Federal government and also Alaska Department of Fish
36 and Game.

37
38 So all of us are in it together.

39
40 And I think we have, again, in
41 mentioning the 33 tribes that organized themselves to
42 be on the table needs to be continued and it needs to
43 be respected, and once we get involved, the moose, the
44 caribou, then we have a lot of work to do on caribou
45 and the fish and other species -- once we all work
46 together, I think we will achieve a lot of those.

47
48 So my request to the YKRAC is to
49 support our SARs at this time and to really make sure

50

1 that we don't put our chinook salmon at risk once
2 again. And I think, you know, with those numbers that
3 keep climbing every year from 3,000 to 7,000 to 16,000
4 to 22,000 and then we can -- you know, right now.....

5
6 (Teleconference interference -
7 participants not muted)

8
9 MR. WILLIAMS:know we got 37,000.
10 So we continued an upwards spiral and we need to
11 continue that until such time that we are ready to get
12 back to where we used to fish. So those are my
13 comments.

14
15 I think we have -- I have more comments
16 to make but that's our observation and we need to,
17 again, work, to continue to rebuild our chinook and we
18 have had our young people with the wellness program
19 going and they've been fishing and spending time with
20 our elders on how we used to fish because of those
21 sacrifices that we just got through the last five years
22 and we have been able to spend a lot of time with our
23 young people educating them about fishing and putting
24 up fish and smoking and preparing and storing.

25
26 So those are my comments and I will
27 answer any questions if there are any.

28
29 And, again, I would welcome the support
30 of the Kuskokwim River RAC members and also our
31 brothers and sisters up in the Yukon because we're all
32 interrelated and we need to work together and support
33 each other for the best interest of the health of our
34 people and the health of our fish.

35
36 Those are my comments, Alissa -- Madame
37 Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mike.
40 I greatly appreciate it. Would you do me a favor,
41 really quick, and ask for a quick statement -- what
42 you're requesting from our Board -- or our Council --
43 sorry.

44
45 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, we submitted a
46 special action request to Federal Subsistence Board to
47 close the public waters of the Kuskokwim drainage to
48 the harvest of chinook salmon except by Federally-
49 qualified subsistence users possessing community

50

1 harvest permit between June 1 and July 1, 2020. Reduce
2 the pool of eligible harvesters within the Kuskokwim
3 River drainage based on ANILCA Section .804 subsistence
4 user prioritization that was implemented in 2017. And
5 also consult with 33 Federally-recognized Kuskokwim
6 River tribes named in 2014 OSM .804 analysis to
7 establish an appropriate harvest allocation of chinook
8 salmon to be distributed among named tribes in the
9 Kuskokwim River drainage.

10
11 So those are -- that's our special
12 action request, but, again, in my statement that what
13 we did in 2015, you know, I can explain that further
14 and -- but that's what occurred in our river before.
15 But I think we can refine that, we can strengthen that
16 but, again, our request is for YKRAC to support our SAR
17 and also support Lamont Albertson's SAR and Organized
18 Village of Kwethluk SAR in unison, and that would give
19 us at least to have a say in how we manage the river
20 together in partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife
21 Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game. It's
22 time for that.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, thank you,
25 Mike.

26
27 If there's no questions for Mike -- do
28 we have any questions for Mike.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. Do we
33 have Napiamute -- Eva, were you able to get a hold of
34 Napiamute?

35
36 MS. PATTON: Hello, Madame Chair. I
37 was able to just get a text back from Dan, they did
38 have phone and internet difficulties up in Napiamute,
39 but it sounds like he might be able to get through in a
40 little bit. He was heading over to the office. So he
41 thought he might be able to get on line in a little bit
42 but I don't hear from him right now so he might not be
43 on at the moment. If we're able to jump back to him
44 after the next presenter, likely he would be able to
45 join us at that time.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, great.
48 We're going to go ahead and move on to the Kuskokwim
49 River InterTribal Fish Commission. Mary Peltola, are
50

1 you on line?

2

3

MS. PELTOLA: Yes, I am.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mary.

6

Go ahead, you have the floor.

7

8

MS. PELTOLA: All right. I just wanted to give a little bit of background on the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission because there are still a number of people who are learning about us.

9

10

11

12

13

So as background, the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission is a tribal agency representing 33 Federally-recognized tribal governments interests in sustainable fisheries management on the Kuskokwim River.

14

15

16

17

18

19

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

20

21

22

MS. PELTOLA: Can you still hear me?

23

24

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, Mary, standby, I apologize for that.

25

26

27

For those of you that are chiming in, please star 6 and mute your phone or press mute on your telephone and if you have to take a call please hang up and call us back. We are getting some background noise and we want to be respectful to those that are speaking and to those that are listening. I'm sorry we are doing a teleconference and I greatly apologize for the inconvenience, but could you please star six to mute your phone so that we can be able to hear who's our current presenter.

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

Thank you.

38

39

40

Go ahead, Mary, you have the floor.

41

42

MS. PELTOLA: All right, thanks. The Commission consists of one commissioner from each authorizing member tribe. The commission is operated by a seven member executive council representing seven different geographical units on the 900 mile Kuskokwim water shed. The Chair revolves between the upper, middle land lower portions of the river with a new Chair elected every two years.

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

1 The 40 year historical average
2 subsistence harvest of chinook salmon is 85,500 chinook
3 per year with the highest recorded harvest of 110,000.
4 Since 2010 the total run average has estimated at
5 150,000 chinook with allowable river-wide harvest of
6 around 40,000.

7
8 In 2012 when the State of Alaska
9 Department of Fish and Game implemented restrictions
10 and closures tribal members responded by protest
11 fishing, resulting in dozens of court convictions.

12
13 In 2013 there was no fishing -- there
14 were no fishing restrictions and escapement goals were
15 not met. Only about 38,000 chinooks spawned that year.
16 Since our organization's establishment in 2015 the four
17 elected fish commissioners who are in-season managers
18 have successfully worked to meet both escapement and
19 harvest goals with the involvement of respected local
20 leaders, compliance with closures has been maintained
21 and escapement goals have been achieved.

22
23 2017 was the first time in-season
24 community harvest data was collected by the Bering Sea
25 Fishermen's Association in the lower river communities,
26 and ONC -- Orutsaramiut Native Council's harvest
27 surveys have been collected around Bethel since 1999.
28 These realtime salmon harvest surveys are used in
29 allocation decisions, which has dramatically changed
30 in-season management of harvest and allocation on the
31 Kuskokwim. Because this data is critical to in-season
32 management, the fish commission -- the Kuskokwim Fish
33 Commission plans to continue Bering Sea Fishermen
34 Association's community based harvest monitoring
35 program.

36
37 The Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish
38 Commission's' goals are to rebuild and sustainably
39 manage healthy chinook salmon and other fish
40 populations within the Kuskokwim River water shed, and
41 provide for present and future customary and
42 traditional subsistence harvest and uses.

43
44 I should note that the annual meeting
45 for 2020 is set for April 15th and 16th in Bethel at
46 the Moravian Seminary. No decisions have yet been made
47 as to whether or not that meeting will continue in
48 person or if that will need to be a teleconference as
49 well.

50

1 In 2019 the Chairmanship changed to
2 represent the lowest part of the river. Our current
3 Chairperson is Sharlene Eric from Chefornak, she
4 represents Unit 7. Our Vice Chair is Mike Williams,
5 Sr., from Akiak, who you just heard from. The
6 Secretary/Treasurer is Jonathan Samuelson, he's the
7 commissioner from Georgetown and represents Unit 2.
8 Unit 1 is represented by Joe Protruska from Nikolai.
9 Unit 3 is Gerald Kameroff from Upper Kalskag. Unit 5
10 is Robert Lekander from Bethel. Unit 6 is Golda
11 Fredrick from Nunapitchuk. The 2019 in-season managers
12 that were elected in 2019 continuing their in-season
13 management were James Nicori from Kwethluk, Robert
14 Lekander from Bethel and two new in-season managers
15 were chosen, Megan Leary, she's a commissioner from
16 Napiamute and she lives in Aniak, and Jackie Cleveland
17 from Quinhagak was the lowest river in-season manager.
18 The elder advisor is a new position that was created
19 last year and James Charles is the elder advisor, and
20 he has been with the Fish Commission since its
21 beginning and has been an in-season manager since 2015.

22
23 With that I'd like to read the
24 resolution that the Fish Commission has sent to the
25 RAC, the YKDelta RAC. It's been signed by all of the
26 executive council members, as well as all of the in-
27 season managers.

28
29 Madame Chair, may I read the
30 resolution?

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, please.

33
34 MS. PELTOLA: Okay. And I sent this to
35 Eva, so hopefully the Board members, the YKDelta RAC
36 members also have this resolution.

37
38 It's KRITFC Resolution 2020-01.

39
40 Was there a question?

41
42 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
43 Thank you, Mary. Yes, I just received your email at
44 the end of the day yesterday so I did forward that on
45 to the Council members. I know we've had a lot of
46 connectivity problems, so, since nobody's meeting in
47 person I'm not sure if anybody was able to open and
48 download those files. But they were sent to Council
49 members with email.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. PELTOLA: Okay, thank you. And
4 I'll read it for everyone's benefit.

5

6 Resolution of the Kuskokwim River
7 InterTribal Fishery Commission supporting Federal
8 Subsistence Board Special Action Request 20-01, 20-02
9 and 20-03.

10

11 Whereas, the Kuskokwim River
12 InterTribal Fish Commission represents 33 Federally-
13 recognized tribes along the Kuskokwim watershed, 26
14 Federally-recognized tribes have submitted authorizing
15 resolutions officially joining the Fish Commission;

16

17 Whereas, KRITFC is committed to rebuild
18 and conserve the declining chinook salmon run and
19 provide for traditional uses of Kuskokwim River salmon
20 and the way of life and wellbeing of the tribes and
21 people that depend on healthy fisheries;

22

23 Whereas, Kuskokwim chinook salmon
24 populations have suffered a multi-year period of very
25 low productivity and abundance resulting in subsistence
26 harvest of chinook salmon have fallen well below the
27 long-term average harvest level every year since 2011;

28

29 Whereas, the Federal Subsistence
30 Management Program has co-managed the Kuskokwim chinook
31 salmon subsistence fishery with the Fish Commission for
32 the past five consecutive season with the aim of
33 rebuilding the stocks through conservative management
34 approach, while allowing a prudent level of subsistence
35 harvest;

36

37 Whereas, there are a number of
38 documented risk factors that continue to threaten the
39 recovery of the Kuskokwim chinook salmon population
40 including, risks to stock diversity from high harvest
41 rates, a significant decline in body size and caloric
42 value of chinook salmon, impact of climate driven heat
43 stress on migrating salmon;

44

45 Whereas, due to a.....

46

47 (Teleconference interference -
48 participants not muted)

49

50

1 MS. PELTOLA: Is there a question.

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I thought it was
4 like GCI, yeah, uh-huh.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Standby Mary.

7

8 For those of you that are on
9 teleconference, please star six to mute your phones,
10 again, star six to mute your phones. We are getting
11 background noise and side conversations, something
12 about GCI.

13

14 (Teleconference interference -
15 participants not muted)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi. For those of
18 you that are talking about being in an office and GCI,
19 could you please star six to mute your phone or press
20 the mute button on your phone, we're getting your
21 background -- we could hear your guys' conversations.

22

23 (Pause)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, Mary,
26 go ahead.

27

28 MS. PELTOLA: Thank you, Alissa.

29

30 Whereas, due to its high degree of
31 uncertainty, use of the 2019 total run estimate by the
32 Federal Subsistence Management Program to justify 2020
33 preseason or any in-season harvest management decisions
34 poses unacceptably high risks to the viability of the
35 chinook stock;

36

37 Whereas, the Akiak Native Community,
38 the Organized Village of Kwethluk, and Lamont Albertson
39 have each submitted special action requests asking the
40 Federal Subsistence Board to uphold the conservation
41 and priority consumptive uses provisions under Title
42 III and VIII of ANILCA by closing Federal public waters
43 of the Kuskokwim River drainage to the harvest of
44 chinook salmon except by Federally-qualified
45 subsistence users at the beginning of the 2020
46 Kuskokwim chinook salmon run;

47

48 Whereas, Special Action Request 20-03
49 submitted by Lamont Albertson identifies new biological

50

1 information about the cumulative effects of several
2 risk factors which have not been previously reviewed by
3 the Federal Subsistence Board and are not accounted for
4 in existing chinook salmon management metrics, and
5 reference points used by the Federal Subsistence
6 Management Program during the past six years;

7
8 Whereas, the burden of proof rests on
9 the Federal Subsistence Management Program to provide
10 reasonable evidence based assurance to Federally-
11 qualified users, that any direct or delegated
12 management actions taken by the Federal Subsistence
13 Management Program are consistent with Title III and
14 Title VIII of ANILCA.

15
16 And, again, this was signed by 11
17 commissioners of the 33 tribes that we represent.
18 Chefnak, Akiak, Georgetown, Nikolai, Upper Kalskag,
19 Bethel, Nunapitchuk, Tuntutuliak, Kwethluk, Quinhagak
20 and Napiamute commissioners all signed this, so it
21 shows a broad level of support from the headwaters to
22 the mouth for each of these three special action
23 requests.

24
25 In last night's public meeting, there
26 was a statement saying that, you know, the State of
27 Alaska has not said that it will open waters to
28 everyone in the State, the thing is, the State of
29 Alaska Constitution does state that subsistence is the
30 priority use but there is no way of prioritizing rural
31 people versus urban people, so anyone from the road
32 system or anywhere in the State of Alaska can come to
33 Bethel and harvest chinook salmon under State
34 management. And this is a concern, you know, some
35 people have said, well, I don't picture a lot of people
36 going to Bethel to harvest chinook salmon, for those of
37 us who travel the state, chinook populations have been
38 down everywhere in the state, we all know that it's a
39 coveted species, and it really -- you know, all of the
40 three SARs say, at the very beginning, that the number
41 1 thing is not to have other competition from other
42 parts of the state, that Federally-qualified users,
43 meaning people who live along the river year-round
44 should get the priority, and that's not just tribal
45 members, that's everyone who lives along the river.
46 You could be Korean or Albanian or Gussuk or Native, if
47 you live along the Kuskokwim River you have a priority
48 and each of these three SARs, you know, talks about
49 Federally-qualified users having it closed to everyone
50

1 but Federally-qualified users; that's the one thing.

2

3 Madame Chair, if the RAC agrees with
4 this resolution, does that mean that before the Federal
5 Subsistence Board you will support the three SARs?

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: If that's what
8 the Council wants upon this resolution and special
9 action we're going to be talking about right after we
10 hear from Napiamute, then that's up to the discussion
11 at that time. Regardless of what I want, it depends on
12 what my Council wants. I do not support, I do not
13 oppose, I do not say neutral unless it's been written
14 in our meeting minutes and brought forth to the Federal
15 Subsistence Board for our Council or anybody who
16 represents our Council to any type of Board of Council
17 or meeting or any type of public representation for
18 them to go against what the Council wants.

19

20 MS. PELTOLA: Okay. My -- so I would
21 respectfully ask that the RAC support the three SARs
22 from the Kuskokwim based on the testimony given by
23 Kuskokwim residents by Mike Williams, by James Nicori,
24 by Evan Nikolai, numerous people have testified asking
25 for the support of the RAC, and the reason this is
26 important to me is because I've come to understand that
27 the Federal Subsistence Board defers to RAC decisions
28 well over 95 percent of the time, and they're very
29 proud of that. But if we have a RAC that's opposed to
30 the SARs from people on the Kuskokwim, the Federal
31 Subsistence Board will probably defer to the RACs so
32 it's really important to the Fish Commission and the
33 three proponents of their special action request, that
34 the RAC and the RAC Chair also support these.

35

36 Thank you, Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mary.
39 Have heard your concerns.

40

41 Any questions or comments for Mary at
42 this time.

43

44 MR. LEKANDER: Hello, Alissa, this is
45 Robert Lekander.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Robert.

48

49 MR. LEKANDER: Yeah, I'm with the

50

1 Kuskokwim InterTribal Fisheries, too, and I represent
2 Napaskiak, Oscarville and (indiscernible) and they all
3 support the SARs that Akiak, Kwethluk and Albertson
4 made.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
9 Lekander. Any further comments or questions for
10 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
15 hearing.....

16

17 MR. NICORI: Madame Chair.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do we have our --
20 I'm sorry, who is that, first name.

21

22 MR. NICORI: Madame Chair, this is
23 James Nicori, Kwethluk.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Sorry, James, go
26 ahead, James.

27

28 MR. NICORI: I am a member of the
29 InterTribal Fish Commission in Unit 4, in-season
30 manager. I've been working as an in-season -- as an
31 in-season manager for the past three years, and it's a
32 challenging job that pertains to the fishing and the
33 people. And the SAR from Kwethluk and Akiak and
34 Lamont, I would put -- I support in there, and ask the
35 RAC members to support our SARs respectfully. And it's
36 not for us, or the individual, as a RAC member or the
37 InterTribal Fish Commission members, it's for the
38 people -- it's not for us, it's for the people up and
39 down the Kuskokwim and people look at us and watch us
40 how we conduct ourselves.

41

42 That's all I wanted to say.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MR. JORDAN: Madame Chair, this is
47 Moses.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Moses.

50

1 MR. JORDAN: I know on behalf of ONC
2 Subsistence Committee we wrote that letter to not
3 support the .804 ANILCA and I believe the SARs, so
4 during our meeting we typed letter -- of course I
5 brought it up yesterday and also today, read it, just
6 saying that ONC does not support the SARs.

7

8

Just letting you know.

9

10 And we would like the Feds to come into
11 effect -- in that letter that we wrote, if the numbers
12 ain't projected, like the State says what they are, if
13 those numbers ain't what they say they are, then we
14 would support it. Just wanted to put that out there.

15

16

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Moses.

17

18

MR. JORDAN: Thank you.

19

20

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do we have any
21 more questions for Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish
22 Commission.

23

24

MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair.

25

26

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Mike.

27

28

29

MR. WILLIAMS: This is Mike Williams
30 from Akiak. I think, you know, with those
31 uncertainties and it takes time for those SARs, if
32 there are changes in middle of the run, it puts
33 everyone, you know, the fish just don't wait for
34 everybody, they swim up river. And it takes time,
35 administratively, if there is concern for the return
36 and we'll lose a lot of time because it takes time for
37 that process to work. But with the MOU that we have,
38 memorandum of understanding, everything is built in
39 there for all of those things to be addressed. And if
40 you read the MOU, the agreement between the Kuskokwim
41 River InterTribal Fish Commission and U.S. Fish and
42 Wildlife Service that was signed off by AVCP, by Tanana
43 Chiefs, by all of the tribes in attendance, signed that
44 agreement, it's all built in there and it says in there
45 that those actions that you just described, and I think
46 it would be in the best interest of the Kuskokwim
47 River, as we work very hard on those agreements where
48 we protect everyone on the Kuskokwim River, and also if
49 our fish need to be protected, it's all built in there
50 in an agreement.

1 But those are my comments, Madame
2 Chair.

3
4 Thank you.
5

6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Do we
7 have any more comments for the Kuskokwim River
8 InterTribal Fish Commission.
9

10 (No comments)
11

12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Any comments
13 directly from our Council members for the Fish
14 Commission.
15

16 (No comments)
17

18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
19 hearing no comments for the Fish Commission, do we have
20 Napiamute on line?
21

22 MR. GILLIKIN: Madame Chair, this is
23 Dan Gillikin, yes.
24

25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Dan,
26 go ahead, you have the floor.
27

28 MR. GILLIKIN: Well, thank you very
29 much for waiting for me, we've had intermittent service
30 here.
31

32 Through the Chair and members of the
33 Council. I don't really have a whole lot beyond what I
34 presented to you last time.
35

36 We did receive four years of funding
37 through the FRMP program to conduct operations on the
38 Salmon River weir and to conduct the Aniak Test
39 Fishery.
40

41 As folks are probably well familiar,
42 the Salmon River weir operates from July 1 to August
43 15th focusing just on chinook and king salmon
44 escapement. We have four local hires for that and
45 interns to operate that weir.
46

47 And the Aniak Test Fishery operates
48 from June 1 to July 15th. It utilizes a couple of crew
49 members and interns.
50

1 And like I mentioned we now have
2 secured four years of continual funding for both of
3 those vitally important projects.
4

5 Other than that my program is pretty
6 much the same as what it's been in previous years with
7 youth outreach, and doing outreach with stakeholders up
8 here. We've been working with folks on some of the
9 very early steps with the management strategy
10 evaluation outreach work that we're hoping to do a
11 little bit of this year.
12

13 And I'll be happy to answer any
14 questions if folks have some for me.
15

16 Thank you.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
19 Gillikin. Do we have any comments or questions for the
20 Village of Napiamute on fisheries?
21

22 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.
23

24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, first
25 name, last name.
26

27 MR. ANDREW: John Andrew from Kwethluk.
28

29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Oh, hi, John.
30

31 MR. ANDREW: I make a motion to support
32 the three Kusko SARs because our people on the whole
33 river needs that salmon, and we'll be hurting if we
34 don't.
35

36 Thank you.
37

38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Sorry, John, we
39 kind of lost you there for a moment. Can you repeat
40 what you're saying -- what you said, I couldn't under
41 -- I couldn't hear you, our connection might be going
42 wonky again.
43

44 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: John, go ahead.
47

48 MR. ANDREW: I just made a motion to
49 support the three Kusko SARs.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: John, we're going
2 to go on to the -- we're going to do that next, that's
3 next on the agenda. Standby John.

4
5 (Pause)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, if we
8 don't have any more comments or questions at this time
9 for any more fisheries questions, let's go ahead and do
10 the special action requests and I'll hand it over to
11 Eva and Pippa and Greg Risdahl, are you there.

12
13 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
14 Yes, we have OSM fisheries biologist Frank Harris and
15 OSM anthropologist Pippa Kenner on teleconference here
16 and they will be -- and also Greg Risdahl is here,
17 providing an overview of the fisheries special action
18 request and also an overview of the Federal Subsistence
19 Board process for this.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MS. KENNER: Hello, this is Pippa
24 Kenner, an anthropologist with OSM and I'm going to
25 start by talking about the Board process and why we're
26 here today talking about these special actions.

27
28 So we received these special actions in
29 enough time to hold a public hearing, which we're
30 required to do, if time allows. Additionally, the
31 regulations say that if the timing of a regularly
32 scheduled meeting of the affected Regional Councils so
33 permits without incurring undue delay, the Board will
34 seek a Council recommendation. And so we're looking
35 for your recommendations today on these special
36 actions, that would be either to support, support with
37 recommendation, or to not support, or support with
38 modification or not support.

39
40 So we held the public hearing last
41 night, many of you were there, those comments will all
42 be summarized and put into the document that describes
43 these special actions. Now, we're asking for the
44 Council's recommendation and that recommendation and
45 justification will also be documented and put into the
46 report that describes these special actions. And we'll
47 do tribal consultation later on this month and those --
48 the tribal consultations will be summarized and put
49 into the same document. That document is what we call

50

1 an analysis and it will include a lot of biological and
2 cultural information and then that document will go to
3 the Board in probably a teleconferenced meeting that
4 will be taking up only this issue, and the Board will
5 make a decision whether to support, support with
6 modification or to not support one or more of these
7 special actions.

8
9 The Board may choose to follow -- the
10 Board generally follows recommendations of Regional
11 Councils, but the Board may choose not to follow any
12 recommendation which the Board determines is not
13 supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized
14 principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would
15 be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence
16 needs.

17
18 The Western Interior Council has met
19 and offered a recommendation and justification and
20 Frank, in a minute, will be letting you know what that
21 is.

22
23 Before I pass this on, does anybody
24 have any questions about the process of the special
25 action?

26
27 MS. PELTOLA: Pippa, could you restate
28 -- Madame Chair, could you ask Pippa to restate the
29 thing, that the Federal Subsistence Board won't allow
30 -- or, you know, reasons why they don't go with an SAR.
31 I got the middle one.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Pippa, would you
34 just be able to restate how the process works from the
35 public comments and how the public comments, tribal
36 consultation, corporations get put into an analysis,
37 maybe that would help clarify some.

38
39 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
40 Great questions. Okay.

41
42 So the Councils, the Western -- in this
43 case, the Western Interior and Yukon Kuskokwim Delta
44 Councils make recommendations to the Board. The Board
45 may choose not to follow any recommendation which the
46 Board determines is not supported by substantial
47 evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and
48 wildlife conservation, or would be detrimental to the
49 satisfaction of subsistence needs.

50

1 I was also asked a little bit about the
2 process, to repeat it.

3
4 And what I said is that these Council
5 recommendations and justifications, a summary of the
6 public hearing, and a summary of tribal and corporation
7 consultation will be provided to the Board while its
8 considering these special action requests.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Mary, did that
11 answer your question a little better?

12
13 MS. PELTOLA: Yeah. Yes.

14
15 (Pause)

16
17 MR. HARRIS: Good afternoon, Madame
18 Chair, members of the Board. For the record, my name
19 is Frank Harris. I'm a fish biologist at the Office of
20 Subsistence Management. I'm here today to provide an
21 overview of Fisheries Temporary Special Actions 20-01,
22 20-02, and 20-03 related to the Kuskokwim River chinook
23 salmon subsistence fisheries.

24
25 This is an action item.

26
27 Temporary Fisheries Special Action
28 Request FSA 20-01 was submitted by the Akiak Native
29 Community Council on February 21st, 2020 and requests
30 the following:

31
32 To close Federal public waters of the
33 Kuskokwim River drainage to the harvest of chinook
34 salmon except by Federally-qualified subsistence users
35 possessing a community harvest permit between June 1,
36 2020 and July 1, 2020. To reduce the pool of eligible
37 harvesters based on the Alaska National Interest Lands
38 Conservation Act, ANILCA, Section .804, subsistence
39 user prioritization that was implemented in 2017 and
40 consult with 33 Federally-recognized Kuskokwim River
41 tribes named in a 2014 Office of Subsistence Management
42 Section .804 analysis to establish an appropriate
43 harvest allocation of chinook salmon to be distributed
44 among communities within the Kuskokwim River drainage.

45
46 Temporary Fisheries Special Action
47 Request FSA 20-02 was submitted by the Organized
48 Village of Kwethluk on February 26th, 2020 and requests
49 the following:

50

1 Close Federal public waters of the
2 Kuskokwim River drainage to the harvest of chinook
3 salmon except by Federally-qualified subsistence users
4 between June 1, 2020 and July 1, 2020. And to further
5 reduce the pool of eligible harvesters within the
6 Kuskokwim River drainage based on the ANILCA, Section
7 .804, subsistence user prioritization. These
8 proponents state: chinook salmon harvest within the
9 Kuskokwim River drainage has declined precipitously
10 within the past decade. The last time the amount
11 necessary for subsistence was achieved for chinook
12 salmon in the Kuskokwim River was in 2009. The harvest
13 outlook for chinook salmon for 2020 should trigger the
14 responsibility of the Board to restrict the taking of
15 chinook salmon for subsistence uses on public lands of
16 Alaska per their responsibilities specified in Section
17 .802 of ANILCA, failing first to restrict chinook
18 salmon harvest to Federally-qualified subsistence users
19 forgoes the Board's additional responsibility to
20 restrict within subsistence users when necessary.

21
22 And the third special action, Temporary
23 Fisheries Special Action, FSA 20-03 was submitted by
24 Lamont Albertson on February 26th, 2020 requesting the
25 following:

26
27 Close Federal public waters of the
28 Kuskokwim River drainage to the harvest of chinook
29 salmon except by Federally-qualified subsistence users
30 at the beginning of the 2020 Kuskokwim chinook salmon
31 run. Conduct an ANILCA Section .804 subsistence user
32 prioritization analysis to reduce the pool of eligible
33 harvesters, and requests that Federal in-season manager
34 continues to implement emergency special actions to
35 ensure that conservation mandates under Section
36 .815(1)(3) of ANILCA by the following model from 2019
37 where the Federal in-season manager worked with the
38 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission, the Alaska
39 Department of Fish and Game and other stakeholders to
40 determine when harvest opportunity should be provided.
41 The proponent states, based on new information
42 regarding a set of risk factors including critical
43 sources of uncertainty and a decade long decline
44 presented below, are herein -- that there is a lack of
45 justifiable evidence to support a preseason decision
46 that the 2020 run of Kuskokwim River chinook salmon
47 will be or is highly likely to be sufficient to support
48 the harvest demands of all user groups authorized by
49 the State on Federal public lands and waters without
50

1 endangering the health of these populations. Of the
2 four risk factors listed below, note that the first
3 three factors all function as drivers of decline
4 negatively impacting the abundance and/or productivity
5 of the stocks.

6

7

Those four risk factors are:

8

9

No. 1. Risk to stock diversity from
10 high harvest rates are not currently accounted for.
11 The mandate for protecting population diversity is
12 found in Title III of ANILCA and in the Alaska Board of
13 Fishes Sustainable Salmon Policy Act.

14

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And the fourth critical source of
40 uncertainty fuel risk. The Kuskokwim chinook salmon
41 pre-season forecast and in-season management operates
42 under a very heavy degree of uncertainty which
43 translates into risk. The proponent does not contest
44 the methods used to estimate the 2019 total run and
45 escapement numbers; however, he is concerned that the
46 true uncertainty associated with the performance of the
47 prior year forecast method when applied to the
48 Kuskokwim River salmon data set may actually be
49 significantly higher than the level of uncertainty

1 being assigned to it. This is an important question to
2 be evaluated. Due to its high degree of uncertainty,
3 use of the 2019 total run estimate by the Federal
4 subsistence management program to justify the 2020 pre-
5 season or in-season harvest management decision poses
6 unacceptably high risks to the viability of the
7 populations and the harvest needs of the priority
8 consumptive uses.
9

10 Going to get into a little background,
11 I'll try to be brief because we've heard most of this
12 before.
13

14 If adopted by the Federal Subsistence
15 Board affected Federal public waters would be those
16 waters within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries
17 of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. These
18 waters are generally described as a lower Kuskokwim
19 drainage from the mouth upriver to and including about
20 30 miles of the Aniak River. All permitted residents
21 of the Kuskokwim River management area are Federally-
22 qualified subsistence users, including residents of the
23 40 communities, roughly 17,500 people.
24

25 The Federal in-season manager, with
26 guidance from the Board, has closed Refuge waters to
27 the harvest of chinook salmon except by Federally-
28 qualified subsistence users each year since 2014 and
29 further allowed Federally-qualified users to harvest
30 chinook salmon during two to five opportunities in
31 June. The Federal in-season manager and the Kuskokwim
32 River InterTribal Fish Commission have consulted and
33 determined when these opportunities occur with the
34 input of Alaska Department of Fish and Game managers.
35

36 The current sustainable escapement goal
37 for the Kuskokwim River chinook salmon was set in 2013
38 by ADF&G with a range of 65,000 to 120,000 chinook
39 salmon. This goal has been met every year since 2014
40 with returns ranging from 37,000 chinook in 2013, to
41 approximately 188,000 in 2019.
42

43 Total run sizes, which consist of
44 escapement and harvest, have slowly increased since a
45 low of approximately 79,000 in 2012. The total run
46 size has remained fairly consistent recently, ranging
47 from 125,000 in 2015 to an estimated run size of
48 around 141,000 in 2018, and in 2019 there was a fairly
49 large jump in the estimated total return to
50

1 approximately 227,000 chinook salmon.

2

3

4 Since 2012 the annual subsistence
5 harvest of chinook salmon has been well below the 1990
6 to 2009 average of 73,303 fish, including the lowest
7 annual harvest on record in 2014 of 11,234. The
8 subsistence harvest from 2014 to 2018 has ranged from
9 16,000 to 31,000 chinook. An estimated 38,000 chinook
10 were harvested during the 2019 season.

11

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The current preseason forecast run size ranges for chinook salmon in the Kuskokwim River are produced by a method in which the range is equal to the prior year run size plus or minus the recent seven year average percent deviation of subsequent year runs.

The current methodology has been fairly accurate with total Kuskokwim River chinook salmon run abundances falling in or near preseason forecast range in every year from 2014 to 2018. This was a result of low variability in run sizes since 2010. However, the 2019 Kuskokwim River chinook salmon forecast was 115,000 to 150,000 fish and the estimated total run size was about 227,000 chinook salmon.

Preseason forecast is usually produced in March because of the time it takes to summarize data coming from the post-season subsistence harvest surveys that occur from September through early November. As discussed earlier, the 2020 preliminary preseason forecast is 193,000 to 261,000 chinook salmon.

So currently we are now in the analysis process for these special actions, as Pippa mentioned, and many of you participated in, there was a public meeting last night and it was held by telephone. And she updated you on where we are kind of in the process from there and how the process works.

At this time we would like the Council to consider making a recommendation.

Thank you for your time and attention. I will now try to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Frank. Do we have any comments or questions for Frank about

1 the special action requests?

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hey, Frank, would
6 it be possible that -- for you to send that document
7 out?

8

9

MR. HARRIS: Sure. It'll have to go
10 through some internal review here but.....

11

12

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. When would
13 be an expected time to receive it?

14

15

MR. HARRIS: That just depends on how
16 quickly we can get it through some internal review,
17 probably within a week.

18

19

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. I have a
20 few questions. I don't know if they'd be geared more
21 towards U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Office of
22 Subsistence Management, but does U.S. Fish and Wildlife
23 Service or Office of Subsistence Management have any
24 chinook salmon conservation concerns at this time?

25

26

(Pause)

27

28

MR. DECOSSAS: Hey, Alissa, this is
29 Gary Decossas over at the Refuge. Ray had to step away
30 from the computer a bit so he's not currently on line
31 right at the moment but he did state earlier that he
32 doesn't feel that the Federal government had a nexus to
33 close the fishery this year.

34

35

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. So U.S.
36 Fish and Wildlife Service under our Federal government
37 right now does not have a chinook salmon conservation
38 concern at this time? Yes or no?

39

40

MR. DECOSSAS: That'd be a question for
41 Ray to answer given he's the Federal in-season manager.

42

43

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Does
44 someone want to go grab Ray.

45

46

(Pause)

47

48

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: As we're waiting
49 for Ray, Pippa, would you be able to help me -- I'm

50

1 trying to wrap my head around for our recommendation
2 that we're putting up to the Board, I want to make sure
3 we're covering all our bases. Would you be able to lay
4 out really quick, the main points of what the
5 recommendation from us to the Federal Subsistence Board
6 is going to be looking at and specifically to making
7 sure that we have an account of every single item in
8 which that will delegate us the recommendation for this
9 special action?

10

11 MS. KENNER: Yeah, Alissa, this is
12 Pippa Kenner with OSM here in Anchorage.

13

14 Well, so I think what you're suggesting
15 I do, or you're asking that I do is if the Council
16 wanted to recommend the Board support the special
17 action and that is go ahead with the closure to the
18 harvest of chinook salmon in Refuge waters to all but
19 Federally-qualified subsistence users; what might that
20 justification look like based on all the information
21 that's been put in front of the Council?

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Well, I was just
24 trying to find out if the RAC makes the recommendation
25 to the Board, but they also don't have to follow the
26 recommendations of the Board if it violates
27 conservation management, can you label out what those
28 specifically are?

29

30 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Alissa. I now
31 understand and I will.

32

33 The Board may choose not to follow the
34 Council's recommendation if the Board determines it is
35 not supported by substantial evidence, violates
36 recognized principles of fish and wildlife
37 conservation, or would be detrimental to the
38 satisfaction of subsistence needs.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa.
41 Can you say the number -- the first one again,
42 determines that it is not and then I lost you.

43

44 MS. KENNER: Yes, Alissa, this is Pippa
45 again. The Board may choose not to follow the
46 Council's recommendation if the Board determines it is
47 not supported by substantial evidence.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa.

50

1 MR. BORN: Madame Chair, this is Ray
2 Born, you wanted me to call back in?
3

4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, Ray, thanks
5 for calling in. Yeah, I had a few questions for you in
6 regards to these special action requests. I just
7 wanted to make sure that we are covering all of our
8 bases in regards to before we make a recommendation, I
9 want to make sure that we had all of our -- our I's are
10 dotted, our T's are dotted [sic] and our questions and
11 comments have been made clear so that we can make an
12 adequate decision on the process of our recommendation
13 for this special action request.
14

15 So my first question was does U.S. Fish
16 and Wildlife Service have a chinook salmon conservation
17 concern at this time?
18

19 MR. BORN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
20 Again, Ray Born, the Federal manager. Based upon the
21 numbers I see right now, with harvest opportunity for
22 117,000 and an escapement of 110,000, at this time I
23 cannot articulate a conservation concern for chinook
24 salmon because the numbers I'm seeing right now would
25 meet both of those interests, the first one being
26 conservation at 110,000 escapement and then the second
27 one being subsistence needs at 117,000. So at this
28 time I do not see a conservation concern.
29

30 Thank you.
31

32 (Teleconference interference -
33 participants not muted)
34

35 MS. PELTOLA: Madame Chair.
36

37 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Excuse me, Mary.
38 For those of you that are on line can you please star
39 six to mute your phone, I'd greatly appreciate it, we
40 are having some background noise and it's really hard
41 to hear those that are speaking and our presenters at
42 this time.
43

44 Mary, could you please hold your
45 questions until we're done, at the end of this, I'd
46 greatly appreciate it, I'm trying to get clarification
47 and I don't want anyone to go on a tangent with this,
48 that'd be greatly appreciated.
49

50

1 So just to double clarify what you're
2 saying, Ray, because I could barely hear, so you said
3 upon the numbers that we have right now, with the
4 numbers we can't articulate a conservation concern at
5 this time with escapement being met and ANS being met,
6 or projected to being met; is that correct?
7

8 (No comments)
9

10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: It appears that
11 we have lost Ray.
12

13 (Pause)
14

15 MR. BORN: I'm sorry, I was on mute.
16 So to reiterate, with 117,000 (ph) chinook run coming
17 in, and 110,000 escapement objective that the
18 InterTribal Fish Commission has historically
19 identified, we meet that, and 117,000 chinooks were
20 harvestable surplus available that would exceed the
21 upper end of the ANS identified, so at this time I
22 cannot articulate a conservation concern.
23

24 Thank you.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. My
27 second question is does U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
28 or OSM foresee that there will be additional
29 restrictions that are not already mandated by ADF&G?
30

31 MR. BORN: Madame Chair, this is Ray
32 Born. You came in kind of garbled, can you say that
33 again, please?
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Sorry. Does U.S.
36 Fish and Wildlife Service or Office of Subsistence
37 Management foresee that there will be additional
38 restrictions that are not already mandated by ADF&G?
39

40 MR. BORN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
41 This is Ray Born. So as the in-season manager I don't
42 see the need for additional restrictions identified
43 beyond what ADF&G has identified.
44

45 Thank you.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.
48 So my third question, does U.S. Fish and Wildlife
49 Service or Office of Subsistence Management see as that
50

1 the Yukon National Wildlife Refuges for the Kuskokwim
2 River's customary and traditional uses for chinook
3 salmon will be under restrictions outside of the
4 proposed ADF&G restrictions that already require
5 regulation for conservation of chinook salmon?
6

7 MR. BORN: Madame Chair, this is Ray.
8 I'll let OSM answer that question on traditional uses.
9

10 (Pause)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Ray, did you -- I
13 couldn't hear what your answer was.
14

15 MR. BORN: Madame Chair, this is Ray
16 Born. You're pretty garbled but customary and
17 traditional uses I think would be better answered by
18 OSM, maybe Pippa Kenner would be better to answer that.
19

20 Thank you.
21

22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.
23 Pippa, I'll reiterate the question.
24

25 Does U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or
26 Office of Subsistence Management see that the Yukon
27 National Wildlife Refuges for the Kuskokwim River's
28 customary and traditional uses of chinook salmon will
29 be under restrictions outside of the proposed ADF&G
30 restrictions that are already require regulation for
31 conservation of chinook salmon?
32

33 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
34 question, Alissa. This is Pippa Kenner with OSM, and
35 I'm the anthropologist here.
36

37 Now, OSM doesn't actually directly
38 manage, we basically -- basically the in-season manager
39 there, the Refuge manager has delegated authority to
40 make those restrictions if necessary. However, we do
41 have three special action requests that are going to
42 the Board. The Board will not be considering those
43 special actions until its heard the result of the
44 public hearing, the justification and recommendation
45 from each of the two Councils and tribal and Native
46 corporation consultation, and it's seen all the
47 biological and cultural information that will be
48 involved in making the decision.
49

50

1 So I really can't say right now. The
2 OSM has not come up with an analysis or a conclusion,
3 recommended conclusion to the Board yet. So we don't
4 have those materials in front of us yet.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do we have any
7 type of like preliminary recommendation or anything in
8 regards to customary and traditional uses from OSM at
9 this time or do we have any concerns for chinook salmon
10 restrictions for subsistence use?

11
12 MR. RISDAHL: Madame Chair, this is
13 Greg Risdahl, Subsistence Fisheries Division lead. We
14 really do need to do the analysis before we make any
15 kind of a preliminary conclusion or justification and
16 that is because there is new information out there that
17 we have not been able to -- we have not had the time to
18 go through yet and there actually is a lot. We spent
19 several days at a workshop this year, earlier, and
20 learned a lot of new things, there's a lot of new
21 research going on out there that does need to be looked
22 at in order to answer your question.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Thank
25 you, Greg. Okay. So my next question, does U.S. Fish
26 and Wildlife Service foresee that they will be closing
27 the public lands and waters of the Yukon Delta National
28 Wildlife Refuge for the conservation of chinook salmon
29 outside of the ADF&G's current and forecasted
30 restrictions that are in place currently?

31
32 MR. BORN: Madame Chair, this is Ray
33 Born. I had to dial back in. In answer to that last
34 question, again, I foresee that the current limitations
35 that have been identified by Alaska Department of Fish
36 and Game meet the conservation concerns for Fish and
37 Wildlife Service so, and, quite frankly, at this run
38 size I cannot -- again, I cannot articulate a
39 conservation concern for the species based upon the
40 current science and the best science that I have to
41 date.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.

46
47 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, if I may. I
48 did hear that John Chythlook from ADF&G sportfish had
49 joined on and it sounded like there were questions

50

1 earlier from the Council regarding how the sportfishery
2 would be managed. John may be on line and be able to
3 speak to that.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
6 We'll take him up after we're done with this special
7 action request. I don't want to jump tangent or change
8 subjects at this time, that way we keep everyone
9 focused on the task here.

10
11 So, John, thank you for joining us, I
12 greatly appreciate you calling in, when we're done with
13 this special action we'll go ahead and take you up
14 after.

15
16 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
17 Pippa Kenner. Actually.....

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Pippa.

20
21 MS. KENNER:what the management
22 plan for the sportfishery is does play into this
23 conversation and I, for one, would be really interested
24 to hear what the sportfishery management will look like
25 this summer.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. I didn't
28 know that we were having sportfish in the decision of
29 our special action request, but, thank you for that
30 clarification. I'll go ahead and take you up now,
31 John, go ahead.

32
33 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Okay, just a quick
34 update, I suppose. As far as what we're going to do
35 with the sportfish management. As you all know the
36 subsistence fishery is closed until June 12th -- or
37 after June 12th, or, you know, it's basically until
38 June 12th it's closed, and so with that in mind what we
39 have to do is to.....

40
41 (Teleconference interference -
42 participants not muted)

43
44 MR. CHYTHLOOK:the sportfishery
45 closed until.....

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: John Chythlook, I
48 apologize for the interruption but it seems like
49 there's overpowering background noise from someone

50

1 else. Can you please star six to mute your phone or
2 press mute on your telephones. Everyone want to check
3 your phones to make sure you're muted, John's coming in
4 a little quiet there on his end and it's really hard to
5 hear him. If you could please star six to mute your
6 phone or press mute on your telephone, that would be
7 greatly appreciated. I apologize for the
8 inconvenience, John, go ahead you have the floor.
9

10 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Okay, thank you. I'm
11 not sure what you all heard with that. But basically
12 we are closing the sportfishery preempt -- until June
13 12 -- after June 12th because of the subsistence
14 fishery closure and then we will reevaluate that after
15 that time. And so that's what we have at the moment.
16

17 Thank you.
18

19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, John. Just
20 to reiterate your message, if I got you correctly, the
21 sportsfish management for 2020 will be closed until
22 June 12th?
23

24 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Correct. And then we
25 will reevaluate after that. That will be kind of in-
26 season. And so we'll see what happens at that point.
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, John.
29

30 MR. CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
31

32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. Do we
33 have any more comments or questions from the Council of
34 this special action. Council members.
35

36 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.
37

38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.
39

40 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
41 For the record, Ray Oney. Frank mentioned that --
42 maybe I missed it, that he was going to mention about
43 the Western Interior's recommendation. I don't know if
44 he mentioned that yet or if he could read that again.
45

46 Thank you.
47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thanks, Ray, that
49 was a really great question. Do we have an answer for
50

1 him, Frank?

2

3 MR. HARRIS: Yes, Madame Chair. Sorry,
4 I totally spaced that one.

5

6 So the Western Interior RAC supported
7 the three special actions. The Western Interior
8 Regional Advisory Council support the premise of the
9 special actions. Stressed that the 20-03 is looked at
10 in more detail. The third special action request
11 brings up several good points that were found in last
12 year's fisheries. These details were not considered in
13 previous SAR analysis.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MR. ONEY: Okay, thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Did they give
20 justification for that support, Frank?

21

22 MR. HARRIS: Were you asking for the
23 justification, if so, I just read that to you, or maybe
24 you missed it.

25

26 The Western Interior Alaska Subsistence
27 Regional Advisory Council supports the premise of the
28 special actions. Stressed that the 20-03 is looked at
29 in more detail. The third special action request
30 brings up several good points that were found in last
31 year's fisheries. These details were not considered in
32 previous special action requests and they are issues of
33 high priority for the residents and for the Federal
34 Subsistence Board.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Frank.
39 All right, do we have any more comments or questions
40 from the Council.

41

42 MR. WILLIAMS: Can I ask or make a
43 comment. This is Mike Williams.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mike.
46 I'm taking comments or questions from the Council
47 first.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
2 hearing none, we'll go ahead and hear from the public.
3 I have Mary Peltola and then Mike Williams.
4

5 MS. PELTOLA: Hi, thank you, Madame
6 Chair. My question was about the process of the RAC.
7 Is it the RACs priority to support the agencies or the
8 people in the region that they represent?
9

10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Eva, I'll go
11 ahead and defer that question to you.
12

13 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
14 Thank you for the question, Mary. The Regional
15 Advisory Councils represent all subsistence users
16 within the region and we hold the public process and
17 the Council meetings to receive feedback from the
18 public. The Council considers both the public
19 feedback, the local and traditional knowledge and
20 biological data in their decisionmaking and in their
21 recommendations. The Councils are encouraged to
22 consider all of those points when they're providing a
23 justification for their actions. They are recommended
24 to consider both the data in terms of the science, the
25 traditional knowledge, effects to subsistence users and
26 hearing from all of the rural residents in the region
27 on that feedback. So they consider all of the
28 information that has been provided to them through the
29 process in that consideration. And the key part is the
30 justification and the Council's recommendation to
31 ensure that they've considered all of that information.
32

33 Thank you.
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mary.
36 Thank you, Eva.
37

38 Mike Williams.
39

40 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you very much. I
41 think with that question we have been meeting all
42 winter long talking about fisheries from our people on
43 the ground and on how they see their lives being
44 affected by these actions and based on what we hear and
45 what the observations are, our -- and the information
46 that we have gotten in terms of meeting the subsistence
47 needs of our members, citizens here, in recent times we
48 have come way short of meeting the subsistence needs of
49 our people, and that is the reason why we are very
50

1 concerned and relaying that to the Council to support
2 the people, and the agencies that we deal with have to
3 respect that and also to work in concert with that, and
4 -- and, you know, with 37,000 chinook that we
5 mentioned, it doesn't even come close in meeting our
6 ANS. And even in previous years we've -- like I've
7 said again, we've sacrificed a lot and rebuilding these
8 and right now the way we hear the elders, let's not put
9 our resource at risk as of yet, and -- because we have
10 -- they have been making all of these sacrifices and --
11 and it affects the quality of life and our health in
12 our communities.

13
14 So I hope you take that into
15 consideration and we see the Advisory Council as
16 implementing and protecting our subsistence way of life
17 and respecting our hunting and fishing that we depend
18 on for survival.

19
20 And I appreciate your time.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mike.
23 Any further comments or questions from the public.

24
25 MR. ALEXIE: Madame Chair, Steven
26 Alexie.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Steven.

29
30 MR. ALEXIE: I would like for you to
31 consider that back in 2013, when we had the new area
32 manager, the State of Alaska failed at that year to
33 meet the escapements and I know from experience, kings
34 return to the Kuskokwim about six to seven years. 2020
35 is going to be the year to watch. And this preseason
36 forecast of 193,000 to 261,000 is, I think, overly
37 stated, I mean 2013 had a crash and every tributary did
38 not meet their escapement and it was because we had a
39 new manager and the old manager, Doug Bue [sic], was
40 training that new manager, so consider that we had a
41 crash back in 2013 and this year is 2020, seven years
42 later, we need to watch and see how the kings are going
43 to come in and I'm thinking they're going to come just
44 as low as 2013 did and that year we fished and fished,
45 without any restrictions. I remember buying a net and
46 fishing with 50 fathom eight inch gear and we caught
47 just about -- just about met our needs, but when -- at
48 the end of the season the managers of Kuskokwim was
49 looking for those kings, where were they, we didn't
50

1 meet escapement, Kwethluk didn't meet it, all these
2 tributaries up the river didn't meet the escapement.

3

4 So that's my -- I'd like for you to
5 consider that, too.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
10 Steven. Were you on the line when Fish and Game gave
11 their report on what their plan is for this season, it
12 sounds like ADF&G is going to be putting heavier
13 restrictions on there. We already have restrictions
14 for the closure already in place on the regulation, and
15 then on top of that they're going to continue to keep
16 that four inch restriction in place and then they're
17 not going any higher for gillnets for six inch
18 restrictions. Do we -- I can help send information to
19 you if you want those information, also ADF&G has this
20 information that can be sent to you, but what they said
21 was that for the prior, the front end closure, the
22 start date's going to be on -- the start date's going
23 to be considered by the Kuskokwim River Salmon
24 Management Working group and it's going to be closed
25 until June 11th. On the main stem there's going to be
26 closures for gillnet restrictions, which includes
27 rolling closures all the way up to the head waters,
28 with six inch mesh allowable per week, up to six inch,
29 which they can determine if the run is going lower or
30 if the run is not coming in they'll use four inch, but
31 if they have good numbers and we're allowing for
32 subsistence to catch the smaller chinook salmon so that
33 we can get the quality of our chinook salmon with the
34 genetic stocks of bigger salmon, the older salmon up to
35 the head waters. And then the legal methods are going
36 to be beach seine, dipnet, which they'll be allowing,
37 but all chinook salmon have to be returned back to the
38 river. All the spawning tributaries are going to be
39 closed. And they all have to return chinook salmon to
40 the waters. All closures are going to include 100
41 yards from the main confluence of the Kuskokwim up --
42 any non-salmon tributaries are going to be closed a 100
43 yards up stream from the confluence. Now, after the
44 June 12th closure, they're going to have tributaries,
45 depending on how good the run is, tributaries are going
46 to be in effect and rod and reel will be allowable to
47 retain chinook salmon only if chinook salmon numbers
48 are met -- or we have good numbers of chinook salmon
49 that came in. For drift and setnet six inch mesh would
50

1 be allowable in the subsistence mouth of 1 and 2, all
2 the way from the mouth of the Kuskokwim all the way up
3 to Tuluksak, drift is going to be limited to six inch
4 in Districts 3 through 5, in which will remain open,
5 which is all the way past Tuluksak, Aniak, all the way
6 up river, which they have been doing in the past. From
7 the Aniak box, closure will be currently in effect and
8 they have to return chinook salmon back to the waters
9 until June 23rd, until then all other gear types will
10 be selectively provided and that information will be
11 provided out by ADF&G. Now, after June 23rd when the
12 ratio changes for chinook salmon to other species of
13 salmon which means if there is more chums and reds in
14 the river than there are chinook salmon then we're
15 going to go into chum salmon management when chum
16 numbers and chinook salmon ratios come in.

17
18 So that's the type of restrictions that
19 are going to be in place if ADF&G manages the river
20 this year. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service doesn't have
21 any conservation for chinook salmon at this time. They
22 don't -- let me see, my notes here really quick -- so
23 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not foresee any
24 conservation for chinook salmon at this time because
25 the projections are coming out at 127 [sic] chinook
26 salmon coming in with 110,000 of escapement with an
27 objective of 117 [sic] harvestable surplus, means that
28 we're going to be at the higher end of the ANS -- or
29 the number of harvest amount that's allocated to
30 subsistence fishermen, we're going to meet the lower
31 bounds and actually probably be above the 117 [sic]
32 harvestable surplus, which we haven't had in a very
33 long time. And so they can't articulate a conservation
34 concern for chinook salmon at this time, so regardless,
35 if they do take over management or not, we're still
36 looking at the same type of restrictions that the State
37 management has put out.

38
39 One of the things I do want to say,
40 Council members of the RAC, I really would like to see
41 what the Office of Subsistence Management -- let me
42 repeat -- Office of Subsistence Management, they have
43 not come up with an analysis or a recommendation
44 currently right now, and I would really greatly
45 appreciate if we can hold off on our recommendation
46 until we get that analysis and have a meeting, a
47 telephonic meeting again, like we did in 2018, to
48 determine our -- what we're going to be voting on for
49 this. I don't feel comfortable -- not getting the
50

1 subsistence analysis directly from the Office of
2 Subsistence Management, especially if we're going to be
3 talking about lives, and people's lives, and how this
4 is going to affect them, I would greatly appreciate
5 hearing from the Office of Subsistence Management on
6 their analysis that they're going to be doing, a
7 recommendation to the Board. I really do not feel.....

8

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I honestly do not
12 feel comfortable giving a recommendation at this time.

13

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: So if it's --
17 excuse me, Mike, I'm speaking, thank you.

18

19 I'd really greatly appreciate Council
20 members, if we can take this up at another
21 teleconference so that we can have the analysis from
22 the Office of Subsistence Management for their
23 recommendation.

24

25 In addition to what our Council
26 members, I would like to hear from my Council members
27 first on how you guys would like to proceed with these
28 special actions at this time.

29

30 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair, Ray Oney here.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray,
33 go ahead.

34

35 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you. For the
36 record, Ray Oney. I think we should take it up. I
37 think we've gone through the process of the public
38 testimony that OSM put on yesterday and we had a good
39 number of people that turned out to give testimony.
40 And I don't know how long it's going to take for the
41 analysis to be completed, but I think with the
42 information that we have on hand and based on the
43 testimony that we received last night, I think we
44 should take up their request because these are three
45 separate SARs that is addressing the chinook salmon on
46 the Kuskokwim. And I think if we take this up I think
47 that would give us enough time for us to be ready when
48 the season comes, so I recommend that we take up these
49 three special actions.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.
4 Any other comments from our Council.

5

6 MR. PETER: Alissa, this is Phillip. I
7 agree with Ray, I don't want to wait for those analysis
8 or reports, it's real important for the -- yesterday's
9 testimony was really good testimony and they have us
10 good information in regards to the special action
11 request. And another thing I want to talk about these
12 certain -- especially the Federal government to submit
13 the special action -- because you know I don't think --
14 they're really smart, you know, the elders
15 (indiscernible - muffled) and commercial fishermen in
16 the river, Kuskokwim and (indiscernible) for
17 subsistence fishermen, and what Mike's testimony this
18 morning regard to the chinook (indiscernible) 1984 the
19 chinook were declining because of commercial fishing
20 and those old people, those elders -- in AVCP
21 convention -- and they told us to (indiscernible) based
22 on the chinook for commercial fishing (indiscernible).
23 So ever since that -- my net (indiscernible) not been
24 out, never use it for long, long time. And when I
25 heard -- I got this -- one of those people talk about
26 the body size, body size, chinook, really small -- I
27 never catch any big ones using the six inch, the mesh
28 size net for drifting, never see a big fish for long,
29 long time, those 100 pounders and 37 pounders and 50
30 pounders, and 60 pounders are always -- average about
31 15 pounds, 27 pounds or less because the -- if they're
32 going to conserve the -- those kings, why are we still
33 using those small small mesh size nets -- when I was a
34 young boy I used to watch my dad, he hung up eight inch
35 net, 30, 40 mesh about 10 fathoms, we used to set right
36 across -- right across from my first (indiscernible) in
37 May, in May, 10 fathoms, 38 inch (ph) 10 fathoms, 30
38 mesh. Also sheefish in May and then he go for king,
39 right now we're setnetting the -- we're still setnet
40 whitefish net for first consumption that's why we're --
41 that's why those body size are getting small and we're
42 killing the big ones. We're killing them big ones.
43 Late Paul John used to talk about the -- you know, the
44 nose, the tip of the noses are deadly for the fish if
45 they tangle into a net. I believe him. And one time
46 when we changed those net sizes to commercial fishing,
47 the Department of Fish and Game used to open it from
48 the mouth all the way up to Aniak for commercial
49 fishing. And right after commercial fishing closes,
50

1 when I go down to Bethel I see a lot of dead kings on
2 the side of the sand bar. We took them. We took them.

3
4 So I will support all three of the
5 special action requests if the time comes because it
6 made me -- it makes me really sad when I heard the body
7 size for chinooks, it hurts me really hard in my heart,
8 you know. We're still killing them. We're still
9 killing them. If we want to increase it why are we --
10 us -- go back to our traditional way so that -- we're
11 not going to, you know, eliminate all the king salmons.
12 If we keep doing these kind of small mesh sizes like
13 six inch, 5.5 and five and a quarter we're going to --
14 they're not going to increase even though we try to
15 conserve them.

16
17 So that's my comment.

18
19 Somehow we need to work together to
20 solve what we've been trying to do. What those elders,
21 they don't make any mistakes and they pass it down to
22 us, we will never make a mistake. We will never. I
23 repeat it, we will never make a mistake because we
24 believe our past elders, they teach us how to conserve.
25 For example, we sacrifice the uses (indiscernible)
26 increase the (indiscernible) and they (indiscernible)
27 our village. We follow what our elders regulations and
28 policies.

29
30 I will support the -- when the time
31 comes on these three special action requests for the
32 benefit of my people. Because the -- maybe -- maybe in
33 future we will change these net sizes for kings, for
34 setnetting, for drifting. The commercial fishing in
35 the Kuskokwim is dead. Nobody's -- right now I guess
36 they forgot, and not supporting the commercial fishing.

37
38 So that's my comments, thank you,
39 Madame Chair.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
42 Phillip -- Peter -- Phillip Peter.

43
44 Did the two Council members that have
45 said that they wanted to go with the
46 recommendation.....

47
48 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, John.

2
3 MR. ANDREW: Quyana. First I'd like to
4 thank Ray Oney and Phillip Peter for bringing those --
5 earlier during the day when I tried to make a motion, I
6 was really depressed (indiscernible-muffled) what they
7 were talking about because I've seen this
8 (indiscernible-muffled) my life, especially lately
9 starting the time of conservation, the question is, is
10 this Council working for our own aboriginal, our tribes
11 out there, or are they just trying to push what the
12 Anchorage are trying to give it to us, because I'd
13 rather go with my people out there and asking for what
14 they want. And, you know, Phillip Peter talks about
15 the dead fish floating on the river, every time we fish
16 with four inch nets they will -- if we look hard enough
17 you'll see floaters out there. And last year it was
18 really bad even if we use 5.5 or 6 inch, day after
19 fishing we'd see floaters, but what made it worse for
20 us during that warm spell, you know, we seen a lot of
21 dead floaters that are coming down mostly reds and
22 chinook. We need to act now because those analysis
23 take time, if I'm not mistaken, about roughly 60 days
24 in their books.

25
26 Yeah, Quyana.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. And,
29 Mr. John Andrew, okay, so that's three people. Like I
30 said at this time, right before Mr. Andrew's comments,
31 since there is a recommendation on the floor and John
32 had put in a motion prior to this recommendation we
33 were unable to do anything until we heard from the
34 special action, from the Office of Subsistence
35 Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on these
36 special actions. We can now take a -- we can now take
37 a formal recommendation from the RAC at this time.

38
39 So, Mr. John, would you like to start
40 us off.

41
42 (Pause)

43
44 MR. SLATS: Madame Chair, this is
45 Richard. Am I too late to make any comment before we
46 do the recommendation?

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: No, go ahead --
49 go ahead, Richard.

50

1 MR. SLATS: Hi. This is Richard Slats
2 from Chevak. After yesterday, listening to this
3 yesterday and reading the proposals I'm looking at all
4 three of these proposals, 20-01 is, you know, I agree
5 that No. 3 consult with the tribes, and I keep
6 reiterating that consultation with the tribes is a
7 mandate and that goes to No. 1, that -- to close the
8 public waters of the Kuskokwim River drainage to the
9 harvest of chinook salmon except by Federally-qualified
10 subsistence users possessing a community harvest permit
11 between June 1 and July 1, 2020.

12
13 And then 20-02 emphasizes Section .803
14 of ANILCA which defines the subsistence users to mean
15 customary and traditional users by rural Alaska
16 residents. Section .802(1) provides the opportunity
17 for the Federally-qualified users to engage in a
18 subsistence way of life. Number 2 requires that non-
19 wasteful subsistence uses of fish and wildlife shall be
20 the priority of consumptive use. When it is necessary
21 to restrict the taking in order to assure the continued
22 viability of a fish and wildlife population for the
23 continuation of subsistence users of such population.
24 Salmon subsistence harvest, with the Kuskokwim River
25 drainage has declined precipitously within the last
26 decade.

27
28 And then 20-03. Provide for the
29 priority consumptive uses using Federally public --
30 closing Federal public waters the Kuskokwim River
31 drainage to the harvest of chinook salmon except by
32 Federally-qualified subsistence users at the beginning
33 of the 2020 Kuskokwim chinook salmon run.

34
35 Okay. And then their justification is
36 that -- not only in this one but in the other two, that
37 there's been a decade of decline and their
38 justifications, risk of overharvest, significant
39 decline in size, et cetera, impacts of climate change.
40 And then uncertainty in this day and age fuels risk.

41
42 I was beginning to think that -- I
43 agree with all three of these proposals. If I chose
44 one over the other then I would be turning on my back
45 with the others because they all -- these are people on
46 the Kuskokwim, this is their life, this is their
47 mainline, and the Kuskokwim River is what provides for
48 them. Much the same way as the coast provides for my
49 people.

50

1 I was thinking that because I agree --
2 and there was a lot of repetition that I was repeating
3 myself when I'm saying, to consult with the tribes and
4 that there are -- to prefer the Federally-qualified
5 subsistence users, and -- and to look at what is going
6 on in our life in society the way it is now, I was
7 thinking that it would be an idea to form or set up a
8 working group to come up with some working proposals
9 derived from all of these three proposals.

10
11 A resolution was presented that
12 supports all three of these resolutions -- or proposed
13 special action proposals, I support that resolution.
14 This day and age, climate change is here to stay, and,
15 you know, we don't know what is going to happen or what
16 is going to come up from one day to the next, or one
17 season to the next. And we -- you know, just like as I
18 was hearing in the past, people on the Kuskokwim, when
19 their moose had declined, was in decline, where else in
20 the world would you ever find a people that would
21 impose a moratorium on themselves to regain the moose
22 population. So these things need to be considered and
23 especially the Federally-qualified users. I'm also
24 thinking that those ones that I had mentioned from all
25 three of these should be considered before, and looking
26 at our environment, the way it is today.

27
28 Thank you, Madame Chair.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
31 Slats.

32
33 MR. MAXIE: Madame Chair, this is Carl
34 Maxie, Napaskiak.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Carl.

37
38 MR. MAXIE: Yeah, I totally agree with
39 Richard and all the rest who are supporting the
40 resolution and most of our communities here on the
41 Kuskokwim are at the poverty level, so for the sake of
42 our livelihood and well-being of our people here that
43 we let them see some food on the table for the long
44 winter ahead. That kind of reminds me that once that
45 clear water, seems (indiscernible) there's no food on
46 the table, that scares me a little bit to think about
47 that a little bit there.

48
49 And another thing, there's one -- the
50

1 bycatch, is there restrictions on that, kind of a
2 recommend -- bypass them first, (indiscernible)
3 bycatch.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
8 Maxie. We did put a letter already in for bycatch.
9 They're going to be working on that recommendation to
10 lower the amount of bycatch out in the high seas
11 fishery so that we can allow more chinook salmon into
12 the rivers.

13

14 All right, does anyone want to start us
15 off.

16

17 (Pause)

18

19 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
20 I believe we had a motion on the floor initially and
21 went -- by John Andrew, and then we went back to
22 considering all the information prior to the Council
23 taking action. Perhaps, John Andrew, you could restate
24 your motion.

25

26 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair, I move that
27 we support the Kuskokwim InterTribal Fish Commission's
28 proposal -- I mean their resolution.

29

30 Quyana.

31

32 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and.....

33

34 MR. PETER: Madame Chair.

35

36 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair.

37

38 MS. PATTON:Council. Just to
39 reconfirm, we heard from the resolutions from the
40 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission, the three
41 special action requests that are before the Council
42 right now, and if you would like us to read it, just
43 briefly, to reiterate, we could have Frank do that so
44 it's clear what the Council is taking action on.

45

46 There are three special action requests
47 that have been combined and so that's what the motion
48 was on, was on the special action request, rather to
49 support Special Action Request 20-01, 02 and 03, and

50

1 that was what Frank had presented prior to the
2 discussion here.

3

4 (Pause)

5

6 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

9

10 MR. LANDLORD: So John made a motion to
11 support 20-01, and it's a combination of.....

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: So he.....

14

15 MR. LANDLORD:20-01, 02 and 03,
16 to support.....

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: No. There's --
19 no, John, would you be able to restate your motion
20 because your first motion prior was to support the
21 three special action requests, 20-01, 20-02 and 20-03,
22 or are you putting in recommendation in to support the
23 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission, that's two
24 different motions.

25

26 MR. PETER: Yeah, what's the.....

27

28 (Teleconference interference -
29 participants not muted)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: John.

32

33 MR. ANDREW: I had a little trouble
34 with my phone, I just got back on, when I made the
35 motion I meant to support all three SARs, the one from
36 Kwethluk, Akiak and Lamont Albertson.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you for the
39 clarification, John. Can I get a second.

40

41 MR. PETER: Second. Phillip Peter.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
44 Phillip. Any further discussion or questions.

45

46 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.

49

50

1 MR. ONEY: Yes, thank you, Madame
2 Chair. For the record, Ray Oney. I was just wondering
3 if we may have to include some amendments or
4 recommendations from the Council, that's why I wanted
5 to hear from the other RACs to see if they gave any
6 input to the SARs, if they already had their meetings
7 and gave recommendation. I think we did already from
8 Western Interior. And I don't know if you guys want to
9 consider any of those recommendations also from the
10 YKRAC to strengthen it.

11
12 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
13 We could have Frank read the recommendations from the
14 Western Interior, as requested by Ray.

15
16 MR. HARRIS: The Western Interior
17 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council supports
18 the premise of the special action requests. Stressed
19 that the 20-03 is looked at in more detail. The third
20 special action request brings up several good points
21 that were found in last year's fisheries such as risks
22 to stock diversities, high harvest rates, decline in
23 body size, impacts of climate, sources of uncertainty
24 that increase risk. These details were not considered
25 in previous SAR analysis, these issues area a high
26 priority for the residents and the Federal Subsistence
27 Board.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Ray, did you copy
32 with what the WIRAC said?

33
34 MR. ONEY: Yes. Yes, I did. Yeah,
35 there's been a lot of changes that's been happening,
36 you know, since, you know, and climate change is a big
37 one, and we include that in our letters to the Federal
38 Subsistence Board. Yeah, if there's no objections I
39 think, you know, I would recommend that we include that
40 also.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, thank you.
43 John Andrew and Phillip Peter, are you guys willing to
44 change your support to a support with amendment?

45
46 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair. For me, I
47 think that'd be justification taken from the resolution
48 they submitted.

49
50

1 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
2 And just to reiterate, and so all of this discussion,
3 when the Council votes, the recommendation, many of you
4 are providing your justifications and the information
5 you would like to include in that justification so that
6 doesn't require an amendment. We can include your full
7 discussion and the concerns for why you are voting on
8 this special action request. So amendment is needed to
9 provide that additional information in your
10 justification.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva,
15 for the clarification. All right, is there any more
16 further discussion or questions on this special action
17 request?

18
19 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, this is
20 Phillip.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead,
23 Phillip.

24
25 MR. PETER: I call for the question.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Question has been
28 called. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

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

34
35 (No opposing votes)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: And for mine,
38 Eva, you can put me down as neutral. I don't give a
39 recommendation at this time. My justification for not
40 voting at this time is because I don't have all the
41 data in front of me including the Office of Subsistence
42 Management's, so I don't feel comfortable making a
43 recommendation at this time without all the data in
44 front of me. That's my justification.

45
46 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair,
47 and thank you Council.

48
49 So motion passes to support Fisheries

1 Special Action 20-01, 20-02 and 20-03.

2

3 And there has been lots of great
4 discussion and justification regarding that. Just
5 wanted to touch base with Council if there's any
6 further justification or comments the Council would
7 like to make in support of their justification.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MS. PATTON: Typically when we go
12 through proposals, and this was asked before, you know,
13 the question that are considered, especially in the
14 justification, are, is there a conservation concern,
15 and how will the recommendation address the concerns,
16 is the recommendation supported by substantial
17 evidence, such as biological and traditional ecological
18 knowledge, and will the recommendation be beneficial or
19 detrimental to subsistence needs and users, or will the
20 recommendation unnecessarily restrict other users.

21

22 So those are the key things. The
23 Council has discussed a lot of that and just wanted to
24 touch base and see if any of the Council members wanted
25 to provide any additional justification for the
26 proposal and your action to support.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, this is
31 Phillip.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead,
34 Phillip.

35

36 MR. PETER: Well, what about the
37 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission
38 resolutions, what are we going to do?

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: What do you want
41 to do?

42

43 MR. PETER: They presented to us, are
44 we going to take action.....

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: It's up to.....

47

48 MR. PETER:make a motion?

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:the Council,
2 you guys, yeah, someone needs to make a motion on it.

3
4 MR. PETER: I'd like to make a motion
5 to accept the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish
6 Commission resolution.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: So we're making a
9 motion to support the recommendation by Kuskokwim River
10 InterTribal Fish Commission made by Phillip Peter. Do
11 we have a second?

12
13 MR. ONEY: Second.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Who was that?

16
17 MR. ONEY: Ray Oney.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Second by Ray
20 Oney. Any further discussion or questions.

21
22 MR. LANDLORD: Madame Chair, my.....

23
24 MR. PETER: Question.

25
26 MR. BUSTER: Madame Chair.

27
28 MR. LANDLORD:phone was
29 disconnected, I didn't hear the motion.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, Eva, can you
32 do a roll call really quick to see who's all on line.

33
34 MS. PATTON: Absolutely. So we were
35 just taking up a motion to support the Kuskokwim River
36 InterTribal Fish Commission resolution that was
37 presented by the director, Mary Peltola. We want to
38 make sure we got everybody on line for this roll call
39 vote.

40
41 So we have John Andrew.

42
43 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

44
45 MS. PATTON: James Landlord.

46
47 MR. LANDLORD: Yes.

48
49 MS. PATTON: Carl Maxie.

50

1 MR. MAXIE: Yes.
2
3 MS. PATTON: Raymond Oney.
4
5 MR. ONEY: Here.
6
7 MS. PATTON: Richard Slats.
8
9 MR. SLATS: Yes.
10
11 MS. PATTON: Phillip Peter.
12
13 MR. PETER: Here.
14
15 MS. PATTON: And Alissa Rogers.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Present.
18
19 MS. PATTON: And I think we were still
20 missing Thomas Alstrom, he was absent earlier, I don't
21 know if he's been able to join us now.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 MS. PATTON: Okay. So we still have
26 the quorum that we had after reconvening this
27 afternoon. And so maybe we could just have the motion
28 repeated, I think that was James Landlord who got cut
29 off briefly, so if we could repeat the motion for
30 James.
31
32 Thank you.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, no problem.
35 All right. So the motion on the floor right now is a
36 motion to support the recommendation by Kuskokwim River
37 InterTribal Fish Commission presented by Phillip Peter,
38 it was seconded by Ray Oney, and we are at the
39 discussion and question.
40
41 MR. ALSTROM: Thomas Alstrom, present.
42
43 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you,
44 Thomas.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, and do
47 we have -- I can't remember if we had heard discussion,
48 there was someone who was trying to speak during
49 discussion and question.
50

1 MR. ONEY: I had a question.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, your
4 first and last name.

5

6 MR. BUSTER: Gabriel Buster from
7 Alakanuk tribe.

8

9 Before the meeting comes up, you know,
10 you guys should have a layout of, you know, of how they
11 do the fish count, you know, make sure if like it's
12 flat or if it has lumps, or, you know, how they lay out
13 the fish counting. It's been.....

14

15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Point of order.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Mr. Buster, I'm
18 going to have to call a point of order, we're currently
19 having a motion on the floor for a recommendation by --
20 a recommendation for the Kuskokwim River InterTribal
21 Fish Commission.

22

23 MR. BUSTER: Okay, sorry about that.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We can take your
26 question and comment up after this discussion -- after
27 we're done with the motion on the floor -- excuse me --
28 I'm getting my words tongue-tied.

29

30 MR. BUSTER: Okay. Sorry.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That's okay, it's
33 a learning process, we're all still learning.

34

35 All right, any.....

36

37 MR. JORDAN: Madame Chair.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I'm sorry,
40 what.....

41

42 MR. JORDAN: This is Moses Jordan.....

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Moses, we.....

45

46 MR. JORDAN:ONC.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:have a
49 motion on the floor right now so if it's not anything

50

1 towards the motion right now that we currently have on
2 the floor we'll go ahead and take you up after Mr.
3 Buster, okay.
4

5 MR. JORDAN: All right, thank you.
6

7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Do we
8 have any more discussion or questions from our Council
9 members.
10

11 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.
12

13 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.
14

15 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you. For the
16 record, Ray Oney. I know Mary had read the resolution
17 earlier, maybe if she can maybe read the therefore for
18 the record, if she can.
19

20 Thank you.
21

22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
23 Oney. Ms. Peltola, are you still on line?
24

25 MS. PELTOLA: I am, Madame Chair.
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Could
28 you go ahead and read the last section of your
29 resolution underneath therefore.
30

31 MS. PELTOLA: Now, therefore, be it
32 resolved the Executive Board of the KRITFC expresses
33 it's full support for the actions requested of the
34 Federal Subsistence Board under 2020 special action
35 request 20-01 submitted by Akiak Native Community, 20-
36 02 submitted by the Organized Village of Kwethluk, 20-
37 03 submitted by Lamont Albertson, adopted this 13th day
38 of March, 2020, with unanimous approval.
39

40 MR. ONEY: Okay, thank you.
41

42 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do we have.....
43

44 MS. PELTOLA: Is that.....
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:any more
47 discussion or.....
48

49 MS. PELTOLA: Was that all?
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, thank you,
2 Mary.
3
4 MR. ONEY: Yes.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do we have any
7 more further discussion or questions.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
12 hearing none.....
13
14 MR. ONEY: Call for the question.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Question has been
17 called. All those in favor signify by saying aye.
18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those
22 opposed, same sign.
23
24 (No opposing votes)
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: As for this one,
27 too, Eva, you can go ahead and put me down as neutral
28 in regards to the vote that I took up for the special
29 actions, not having enough -- not having the Office of
30 Subsistence Management analysis to make a full sounded
31 recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board.
32
33 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you, Council.
34 Motion passes, seven yes and one neutral.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
37
38 MS. PATTON: Seven in support and one
39 neutral, thank you.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Thank you.
42 We have Mr. Buster -- Gabriel Buster, you can make your
43 comment at this time.
44
45 MR. BUSTER: Yeah. During the next
46 meeting I think it would be a good idea to have a map
47 filled out of, you know, of the lower and the upper
48 rivers, you know, how they sonar the fishing that's
49 coming up, like if the king season starts in -- you
50

1 know, it will be kind of different because last year we
2 were catching small kings and that was kind of
3 worrisome, you know, in the times of -- and I just
4 wanted to let you guys know about that, about, you
5 know, how do they structure the sonar stuff, you know,
6 if it's on both sides or, you know, that way they can
7 ask questions when they have that meeting too, the
8 Federal subsistence.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
11 Buster.

12

13 We're going to Jordan -- Moses Jordan.

14

15 MR. JORDAN: Madame Chair.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead.

18

19 MR. JORDAN: I'd also like to ask the
20 RAC to reiterate our recommendation as well for ONC.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead and.....

23

24 MR. JORDAN: Did you want me to go
25 ahead and read the letter of recommendation?

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes.

28

29 MR. JORDAN: It says -- okay, to the
30 Federal Subsistence Board from Orutsaramiut Native
31 Council, letter of recommendation to the Federal
32 Subsistence Board. The recommendation from ONC,
33 Subsistence Committee on the following special actions
34 20-01, 20-02 and 20-03.

35

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

38

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

43

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

49

50

1 No. 2. If the chinook salmon return
2 estimates do not uphold current numbers based on ADF&G
3 chinook salmon preliminary estimates. So what we're
4 saying is if the numbers ain't what the State says then
5 we would like ANILCA to be enacted.

6
7 So the ONC Subsistence Committee
8 recommends that the ANILCA .804 be enacted and Federal
9 management resume jurisdiction until chinook salmon
10 estimates are met.

11
12 With that I'm pretty sure there's other
13 people on here that have family members that live
14 elsewhere, that they would probably come home for the
15 summer to fish and that's all I'd like to say.

16
17 MR. NICORI: Madame Chair, this is
18 James Nicori.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, James.

21
22 MR. NICORI: That letter of
23 recommendation from ONC, correct me if I'm wrong, I
24 heard him say committee, not the Council, and if that
25 was from the Council I would like to hear the vote
26 outcome of the yea's and nay's, if that was from the
27 committee, send it as a committee.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
32 Nicori.

33
34 MR. JORDAN: It is from.....

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I.....

37
38 MR. JORDAN: Sorry.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I was.....

41
42 MR. JORDAN: It is from the ONC
43 Subsistence Committee, I didn't say Council once, I
44 said Subsistence Committee.

45
46 MR. NICORI: Okay, thank you. That
47 didn't come from the Council, that came from the
48 committee.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay.
2
3 MR. JORDAN: I guess I'd like to say
4 though in order for this letter to be -- for this
5 letter of recommendation to be read and everything, it
6 had to go through the Council and the Council, all
7 supported except for two, to have this letter be
8 recommended.
9
10 MR. NICORI: That wasn't unanimous.
11
12 MR. JORDAN: I don't think -- believe
13 so.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Moses.
16
17 MR. JORDAN: Thank you.
18
19 MS. ESQUIBLE: Hey Moses.
20
21 MR. JORDAN: Yes.
22
23 MS. ESQUIBLE: And James, this is
24 Janessa here. It wasn't unanimous but it was still
25 passed and supported to provide to the RAC meeting.
26
27 MR. NICORI: Yes, I know, but that
28 wasn't unanimous and that's for the record.
29
30 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair, this is
31 Mike. It can still go to the Federal Subsistence Board
32 as a letter. And that's who it was addressed to, the
33 Federal Subsistence Board?
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Sorry, Mike, this
36 letter was sent out -- this letter was sent out to a
37 group of people, and it was brought forth for a
38 recommendation to the RAC, that this letter be
39 recommended by the RAC in his presentation.
40
41 MR. WILLIAMS: That wasn't specifically
42 written to Anthony Christianson, Federal Subsistence
43 Board for consideration, as a special action request?
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: It's not a
46 special action request.
47
48 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
49 Maybe I can help clarify, and Moses can clarify too.
50

1 That that letter was addressed to the Federal
2 Subsistence Board and it was read into the record at
3 the public hearing last night and also provided to the
4 Council again this morning as ONC's Subsistence
5 Committee recommendation. So that was originally
6 coming from ONC, correct, Moses, to be directed as
7 comment to the Federal Subsistence Board during the
8 public hearing?
9

10 MR. JORDAN: From the ONC Subsistence
11 Committee, yes, and in order for it to be read to you
12 guys it had to be passed by the Council. I couldn't
13 just overgo the Council and just come -- you know, they
14 wouldn't -- it had to be approved first.
15

16 MS. PATTON: My apologies for that
17 confusion, Moses. The Federal Subsistence Board
18 doesn't technically receive written comments on special
19 actions, and so they do require public testimony at the
20 public hearing and so that's where your letter needed
21 to be read and that's what you did last night so it's
22 not required to come before the Council although the
23 Council likes to hear from as much of the public and
24 tribes participating in the process. So you've covered
25 all of those bases.
26

27 Thank you.
28

29 MR. JORDAN: Thank you, Eva.
30

31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Back to
32 Jordan's recommendation, he said he would like a
33 recommendation from the RAC meeting to support the ONC
34 Subsistence Committee letter, do we have anyone to make
35 that motion?
36

37 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
38 If I may try to clarify, so my understanding is that
39 the ONC recommendation, as the letter was just read, is
40 not in support the special action requests that the
41 Council had just voted to support. So that would
42 contradict the Council's current action right now, in
43 my understanding of how that letter was presented.
44

45 Thank you.
46

47 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Chair. That's
48 what I understand. And it just -- it just puts the
49 Council in a bad position.
50

1 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray,
4 go ahead.

5

6 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
7 Chair. For the record, Ray Oney, from Alakanuk. Yeah,
8 I think we don't need to take any action on this letter
9 of recommendation I don't think because they already
10 gave that testimony at the hearing, the SARs, that was
11 read last night, just to clarify my understanding from
12 Eva.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.
17 Greatly appreciate it.

18

19 Do we have any more recommendations
20 from the public that we need to take up at this time in
21 regards to the special action?

22

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. We'll go
27 ahead and move on with our agenda.

28

29 We have agency reports up next.

30

31 For tribal governments, we have ONC
32 Natural Resource Director, Jordan Moses.

33

34 MR. JORDAN: Yes, Alissa, it's Moses
35 speaking.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.

38

39 MR. JORDAN: So at the Natural
40 Resources Department here at ONC, I am the director for
41 the department.

42

43 We have three programs currently going
44 at the moment. We used to have four. We have the
45 IGAP, we have NALEMP, you guys heard from Janessa
46 earlier, she covered fisheries, and we used to have
47 Brownsfield (ph) and we are working on trying to get
48 that back. We will not get that back this year,
49 hopefully we will be eligible next year, I'll see how

50

1 that goes.

2

3 Right now the update for IGAP. IGAP,
4 she'll be working on -- anyway she plans to work with
5 science and the cultural camp this summer. She's going
6 to do an oil spill simulation and how to clean it up.

7

8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted)

10

11 MR. JORDAN: We also have our NALEMP
12 program. That is Mark Springer. He takes care of
13 NALEMP. They plan to clean up the old Faulkner dump
14 site at the BIA this summer so that's what he has going
15 right now.

16

17 And for me, right now, what I have
18 going on as the Natural Resource director, what I have
19 going on is -- any way I take care of the potato seed
20 program, so what I plan on doing is ordering up to 400
21 pounds of potato seed and we will be giving that to --
22 allowing people to come here to ONC and pick that up so
23 they could at least grow their own potatoes and that's
24 what I have going on right now.

25

26 At this moment I have no other reports.
27 If you have any questions or recommendations you can
28 feel free to give me a call here at (907) 543-2608 and
29 ask for Moses Jordan. But at this time I have no other
30 report.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Jordan
33 -- sorry, Moses. Do we have any comments or questions
34 for ONC.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
39 hearing none, thank you, ONC.

40

41 Let's see, do we have Bureau of Land
42 Management.

43

44 OFFICER GUSSEY: Good afternoon, this
45 is Walker Gussey. I'm the law enforcement officer
46 based out of the Anchorage Field Office. I'm curious
47 if the field manager, Bonnie Million's on the line.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 OFFICER GUSSEY: It doesn't sound like
2 it. Madame Chair, thank you for your time. Walker
3 Gussey here.
4

5 I don't have any specific report for
6 you, just say thank you very much to the communities
7 for their cooperation and participation in the
8 Mulchatna Caribou hunt closure. I was out at various
9 times with the Fish and Wildlife Service and
10 participated in aerial patrols and covering the area.
11

12 That's really about all I have. Do you
13 have any specific questions I could answer.
14

15 (Teleconference interference -
16 participants not muted)
17

18 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I apologize for
19 the inconvenience, are you still there?
20

21 OFFICER GUSSEY: I am.
22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, standby.
24 For those of you on teleconference, can you please star
25 six to mute your phone or press the mute button. We
26 are getting some background feedback that we cannot
27 hear our current presenter. Could you please star six
28 to mute your phone or press mute, and if you have to
29 take another call, please do not put us on hold, go
30 ahead and hang up the phone and then call us back.
31 It'd be greatly appreciated, that way we have respect
32 for our presenters and also for those who are trying to
33 listen on teleconference.
34

35 Thank you, I apologize, go ahead, you
36 have the floor.
37

38 OFFICER GUSSEY: Thank you, Madame
39 Chair. Did you hear any of my comments or do you want
40 me to recover everything?
41

42 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Could you please
43 recover, it was very difficult to hear you. I
44 apologize.
45

46 OFFICER GUSSEY: Okay, I'll take it off
47 speaker phone and hopefully this is better. For the
48 record, this is Walker Gussey. I'm the Federal law
49 enforcement officer, pilot, for the Anchorage Field
50

1 Office, which covers your area.

2

3 I don't have any specific presentation.
4 I was just going to say that I really appreciate the
5 communities participation and cooperation with the
6 Mulchatna Caribou hunt closure. I was out at various
7 times patrolling the area, made a few contacts and
8 participated with the Fish and Wildlife Service in that
9 area and we had, I think, a successful closure of the
10 area.

11

12 Do you have any specific questions or
13 concerns that I can refer back to the field manager or
14 the biologist?

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: RAC Council, are
17 you guys able to hear his presentation and do you have
18 any comments or questions for him at this time?

19

20 MR. ONEY: Yeah, I could hear him real
21 good and I don't have any questions.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Mr.
26 Oney. Anyone else.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. I
31 don't hear any additions.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 OFFICER GUSSEY: Thank you very much.
36 Thank you for your time, Madame Chairman, members, and
37 I look forward to meeting you in person when all this
38 -- the current events pass.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. It
43 looks like I missed one, with U.S. Fish and Wildlife
44 Service, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

45

46 MR. ADERMAN: Hello.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, your.....

49

50

1 MS. PATTON: Hi, we can hear you now,
2 do we have folks on line still?

3
4 MR. ADERMAN: Okay. Yeah, I just have a
5 real quick report on moose in the very southern part of
6 Unit 18.

7
8 We did some surveys here three weeks
9 ago in the Goodnews drainage and found that the moose
10 population has doubled since the last count, actually
11 more than doubled, and then the area immediately north
12 of there in the Kanektok and Arolik drainage, we
13 counted 234 moose, which is the highest ever. Two
14 years ago it was 167. So both areas the moose
15 population is doing real well.

16
17 That's all I had.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Do we
20 have any comments or questions.

21
22 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.

25
26 MR. ONEY: Yeah, thank you. For the
27 record, Ray Oney. You mentioned that the people around
28 Goodnews Bay were having a good moose count, do you
29 know if they had their winter moose hunt this winter?
30 That's my question, thank you.

31
32 MR. ADERMAN: Through the Chair. Yes,
33 Mr. Oney, they did have a winter hunt. I believe
34 Patrick Jones may be on the line yet, I talked with him
35 earlier today and he indicated that only two moose were
36 taken during the winter hunt.

37
38 MR. ONEY: Okay, thank you.

39
40 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, this is
41 Phillip.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead,
44 Phillip.

45
46 MR. PETER: How many permits are you
47 guys issuing for that area, hunting?

48
49 MR. ADERMAN: I would defer to Patrick

50

1 Jones or Keith Oster there with the Bethel Fish and
2 Game office, they would have the most up to date
3 information on how many permits were issued. I think
4 that's a relatively small number.

5

6 MR. PETER: That area is like
7 Quinhagak, Eek, Goodnews, Platinum, Tuntutuliak also
8 (indiscernible), those areas who hunt that area?
9

10 MR. ADERMAN: It's my understanding --
11 this is Andy again. For the Kanektok, Arolik area, and
12 actually the area south of the Eek River drainages is
13 included in that for their fall hunt there were 80
14 permits issued, 58 hunted, there were, I believe 16
15 bulls harvested, 13 indicated that they did not hunt
16 and there were 9 that they have not received a report
17 for that hunt. For the Goodnews drainage fall hunt
18 there were 37 permits issued, 32 hunted, and I believe
19 16 moose harvested there, all bulls, and then I think
20 Patrick had told me that there were only four permits
21 issued for the winter hunt and two moose taken, one
22 cow, one bull.

23

24 MR. PETER: How many days they
25 hunt.....

26

27 MR. ADERMAN: I believe the.....

28

29 MR. PETER:during the moose
30 season.

31

32 MR. ADERMAN: Go ahead. In both hunts
33 the season is the entire month of September. For the
34 winter hunt I would have to look to see when that
35 opened, but I believe it just closed here a couple days
36 ago, on March 15th.

37

38 MR. PETER: Okay, thank you.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, do we
41 have any more further comments or questions at this
42 time.

43

44 MR. BORN: Madame Chair, Ray Born, and
45 Yukon Delta Refuge.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray,
48 go ahead.

49

50

1 MR. BORN: Yeah, Phillip, kind of talk
2 about the moose stats, I have some numbers in front of
3 me. For RM615, which is Unit 18 for the moose fall
4 hunt, the information I have says 1,565 permits issued,
5 241 moose were harvested, this is RM615 moose hunt is
6 September 1 to September 20th, and that's broken into
7 two zones, Zone 1, which is mostly along the Kuskokwim
8 River, which is managed, mostly State managed land, 165
9 moose, and Zone 2, which is up in the Kilbuks
10 basically, up above mostly Federal lands, 72 moose were
11 harvested there. On the Federal lands, the quota is
12 110 so we were short the quota a little bit, so we're
13 looking at what we can do better for next year, but
14 that's kind of some of the moose statistics that I got
15 from ADF&G.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
20 I just wanted to check in also with Yukon Delta
21 National Wildlife Refuge, if you had further reports.
22 I know we kind of split up your report into fisheries
23 and then wildlife, and so if there's any further
24 reports for the Council on wildlife updates.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MR. BORN: Thank you, Madame Chair. If
29 I could talk about emperor geese, briefly, you had
30 asked about that earlier.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, thank you so
33 much, Ray, go ahead.

34
35 MR. BORN: So emperor goose, we sent
36 forth some slides, I don't know, Eva, did that get out
37 to the Council members?

38
39 MS. PATTON: Did you just send that?

40
41 MR. BORN: No, I sent that Friday.

42
43 (Pause)

44
45 MR. BORN: Okay, I can talk to most of
46 it.

47
48 MS. PATTON: Yeah, I had forwarded your
49 information, I'm not sure most Council members were
50

1 able to download it so if you could elaborate or speak
2 to it as much as possible, that would be great.

3

4

Thank you.

5

6 MR. BORN: Yeah, so I'll talk -- the
7 first thing I want to talk about, emperor goose, of
8 course, the population is going down, and we're
9 concerned about that. But the first thing I kind of
10 want to set the stage, if you will, the distribution is
11 80 to 90 percent of the emperor geese are on the Yukon
12 Kuskokwim Delta. So we have the largest part of it,
13 and mostly along the coastal area, and then about 10 to
14 20 percent on Kotzebue Sound, St. Lawrence Island, and
15 Russia. In the winter time -- you know, that's the
16 breeding areas. In the winter time they go down to the
17 Aleutian Islands, to Kodiak and Alaska Peninsula and
18 they kind of go along the island's chains there.

19

20

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So we agreed with AMBCC on the harvest numbers and kind of what we would do, when the population was over -- let's see, over 27,000 it's basically an open season. Once it goes below 27,000 then we want to have it open with some conservation measures and then once it goes below -- let's see, once it goes below -- well, right now, it's at 26,585, so that would indicate we need to do some conservation measures. Discussions with AMBCC, they decided that we would we would have to do some more outreach activity so Yukon Delta Refuge is engaged with reaching out to the coastal villages to talk about emperor geese.

And a couple of key messages we have is we recommend you choose to harvest other types of geese, maybe take few emperor geese and take only what you need, don't harvest the entire family group of the emperor geese. When you harvest the eggs, only take one or two of the eggs, leave the rest, or take none at all. The emperor geese do not reneest or replace eggs within a season, so once the eggs are gone they do not replace them. Recommend you only take one -- you target one single goose instead of the large flocks, which leads to unintentional mortalities. And then please take the younger birds instead of the adults. The adults -- taking them will slow down the whole population growth because they're full breeders and they will raise their young.

A couple things you can do to help us

1 out.

2

3 Share the conservation message. There
4 was a fact sheet that was sent out. Please share that
5 with everybody. Or you can invite one of us, Fish and
6 Wildlife Service, to come to a meeting and talk about
7 that. And, again, we'll be doing an emperor goose
8 outreach effort as we go forward with that.

9

10 But the key message, of course, are cut
11 back on the harvest. The population requires
12 conservation concerns, or conservation efforts right
13 now, so once it gets below the lower threshold we will
14 be driven into actually stopping the harvest one more
15 time, so we'd rather not get to that point.

16

17 We talked about caribou already.

18

19 I'll talk about some Staff updates kind
20 of last thing to talk about. Of course, I'm Ray Born,
21 the acting Refuge Manager. We have a Refuge Manager
22 announcement out right now, it'll close March 25th, so
23 we hope to hire a new full-time Refuge Manager. We're
24 still -- Spencer Riorden is still my Acting Deputy.
25 And, of course, Aaron Moses, who many of you have met
26 is now my acting subsistence coordinator.

27

28 That's kind of all the updates from --
29 oh, and Yukon Delta Refuge is now doing operations --
30 we're suspended normal operations due to the Covid-19
31 outbreak so we're not -- we're less available than we
32 have been in the past and we'll continue to respond to
33 calls and emails, it just may take a little longer with
34 that.

35

36 And that concludes my report.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.
41 Do we have any comments or questions for Ray.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
46 hearing none, thank you, Ray, for your report.

47

48 Let's see, going back to our agenda,
49 did we have anything else from Native organizations?

50

1 Eva, were you able to get a hold of the
2 water people?
3

4 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair
5 and Council. No, at this time the Yukon River
6 InterTribal Watershed Council, we weren't able to get
7 them for this meeting. They have a new director as
8 well so we're hoping we can line them up for the fall
9 meeting.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, thank
12 you. Could we go ahead and get Alaska Department of
13 Fish and Game Wildlife on line to get an update from
14 them.

15
16 MR. JONES: Hi, Alissa, this is Patrick
17 Fish and Game.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
20 Patrick, for standing with us for this long.

21
22 MR. JONES: Not a problem. So I got a
23 few updates for everybody here. I'll start with the
24 Kuskokwim.

25
26 We were able to complete a moose survey
27 last month here on the Kuskokwim, Zone 1 area, so
28 that's the mainstem from just below Kalskag down to the
29 Johnson River. We counted 3,220 moose, so that's
30 doubled in this.....

31
32 (Teleconference interference -
33 participants not muted)

34
35 MR. JONES:last -- in the five
36 years since we've counted it. It's pretty good news
37 for folks. This year we had a seven day hunt in Zone
38 1. For 2020 September, it's probably going to be
39 closer to 11 days with a larger quota, with this new
40 count, so there should be more opportunity for
41 everybody.

42
43 Fish and Wildlife had started the count
44 on Zone 2, hopefully they're able to finish that before
45 this weather deteriorates so we can extend the season
46 in Zone 2 as well.

47
48 The other thing that happened, is,
49 Board of Game, on the State side met in Nome in

50

1 January, and talked about wildlife proposals, one of
2 the proposals was for Kuskokwim moose hunting, and on
3 the State side the Board of Game passed a proposal that
4 would mix the RM615 times from September 1 to October
5 15th, Ray, at Fish and Wildlife had said that they're
6 going to put a sister proposal in on the Federal side
7 to match that so that the Zone 2 area, if the count is
8 higher we can have a longer -- two weeks longer into
9 October season.

10

11 Other proposals that passed in the Nome
12 meeting. For Nelson Island muskox, that season got
13 lengthened by two weeks, instead of ending March 16th,
14 it'll now end at the end of March.

15

16 Nunivak Island muskox season got
17 extended as well. We added on the month of August, so
18 in the fall they can hunt August 1 to September 30th.
19 And we lengthened the winter season and that'll be
20 January 15th to March 31. That's a four week extension
21 on their winter season, so that's good news for them.

22

23 For Unit 18 remainder moose hunt, so
24 that's the coastal area and the Yukon, the Board of
25 Game passed the proposal that would extend that season
26 to match the Federal season so that'll be August 1 to
27 April -- to the end of April on both the State and
28 Federal side, starting this fall.

29

30 The Goodnews moose season got extended
31 as well, so they have a fall season of September 1 to
32 September 30. And now their winter season got extended
33 from January 1 to March 15th. This year and last year
34 we did season extensions for the folks down there in
35 Goodnews and Platinum, but passing this proposal just
36 makes the season longer for them so they have
37 opportunity to get out and hunt when the weather is
38 good.

39

40 The State ptarmigan season remained the
41 same but we reduced the bag limits so now it's 15 a
42 day, 30 in possession, which is the same as the Federal
43 season.

44

45 For Alaska hares, commonly known as
46 jack rabbits in our area, they come up with a bag limit
47 of six per year, no more than two per day for folks in
48 Unit 18.

49

50

1 Brown bear season got extended in the
2 spring to the end of June, so there's another month of
3 brown bear season for the folks in Unit 18.

4

5 So that's quite a bit of changes coming
6 on but they're all liberalizations, making things
7 easier for folks in the area.

8

9 And then coming up this spring, we have
10 some work scheduled. I'm not sure how it's going to
11 play out with the current novel Coronavirus. But
12 currently we are planning on catching moose on the
13 Yukon in the middle of April, so we're going to try and
14 catch 30 moose calves in the area below Mountain
15 Village and we're going to try and catch 30 moose
16 calves around the Russian Mission area, up stream of
17 Marshal anyway. This will be the second year we'll be
18 doing this. We're getting collars out and tracking
19 movements and mortality and the age of first
20 reproduction, when those cows start having calves. So
21 folks on the Yukon will see a helicopter flying around
22 for about a week there in mid-April and that's us doing
23 that work there.

24

25 And I think that's all the updates I
26 have at the moment.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
29 Patrick.

30

31 Any more questions for Patrick.

32

33 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Ray.

36

37 MR. ONEY: Thank you. For the record,
38 Ray Oney. Thank you, Patrick, for your update. Can
39 you give us a little bit information on the wood bison
40 that you mentioned earlier, or even yesterday that you
41 attended a workshop or something, maybe if you could
42 give us an update on how the herd is doing, I know we
43 heard a little bit about it, so if you don't mind.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MR. JONES: Through the Chair. Ray.
48 Unfortunately I'm not the most informed, I'll tell you
49 what I know though.

50

1 So last winter, the winter of 2018/2019
2 those bison were kind of in a bad spot where the snow
3 was pretty deep for them and the wolves got in there
4 and killed quite a few, and that put that total
5 population below 100 animals, just a little bit below
6 100 animals, and then -- but we had a good spring -- or
7 they had a good spring, a lot of calves. So the last
8 count was about 130 animals, which is what we started
9 with originally so we haven't gained but we haven't
10 lost either. But we're also kind of hopeful a lot of
11 those cows are going to be five or six years old this
12 spring and that's the age that bison have their first
13 calf. So we're kind of hopeful for another big calf
14 year, recruitment, some population growth hopefully
15 this year.

16
17 Kind of what I know, those bison are
18 hanging out pretty close to where we released them, a
19 lot of them are right by Shageluk. There's a small
20 group that's kind of moved down there closer to Holy
21 Cross, but they really haven't moved around a whole
22 lot, they're kind of staying in that same core area
23 that we released them in.

24
25 MR. ONEY: Okay, thank you. Maybe a
26 follow up. I know you mentioned about a ptarmigan
27 collaring, have you had any luck with that?

28
29 MR. JONES: So hopefully that's still
30 going to happen this May. So, currently, we're still
31 planning around the 7th or 10th of May to put out a two
32 or three, field camps out, to try and catch 50 adult
33 birds with radio collars, thanks for the reminder,
34 there, Ray. Hopefully that still happens. That's kind
35 of up in the air right now with this new Coronavirus
36 thing and being able to move people around with State
37 policy and things like that. But right now it's still
38 going forward, so hopefully everything works out and
39 we're able to get out and catch birds this May, put
40 some collars out so we can track movements, mortalities
41 and just learn a little bit about our birds.

42
43 I think most people in the region would
44 recognize that the ptarmigan population is at an all
45 time low or something pretty close to it, at least for
46 my lifetime, there's just not very many birds around
47 right now like there used to be, so we're trying to
48 look into it and see if we can find some answers.

49
50

1 MR. ONEY: Okay, thank you. Maybe one
2 more. Have you noticed any bears out there, I know
3 people are beginning to talk about bears and it seems
4 like it's a little early for them to be out but I don't
5 know. Have you seen any or heard of any?

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MR. JONES: I haven't seen any. I
10 helped Togiak Refuge do a moose survey in the Goodnews
11 drainage a couple weeks ago and we saw one set of bear
12 tracks but I'm pretty sure it went back in its hole.
13 But it seems like there's always one or two that's out
14 right about now, but most of them don't come out until
15 after April 15th.

16
17 MR. ONEY: Okay, thank you.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Do we have any
20 further comments or questions at this time.

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

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

27
28 MR. PETER: Yeah, what about the -- in
29 those Tuntutuliak on the river called Togiak, I see a
30 flock last summer when I go pick berries, look like
31 they're getting more and more, they look like a little
32 bit increased down there, especially those moose, too.

33
34 (Teleconference interference -
35 participants not muted)

36
37 MR. JONES: I guess, through the Chair.
38 Phillip, this is Patrick again. It seems like there's
39 a few more ptarmigan around this year than there were
40 last year and the year before but they're still not
41 very many compared to what it used to be.

42
43 For moose, there's definitely more and
44 more moose below the Johnson, though we didn't go count
45 them directly this year. I suspect it's the same as
46 everywhere else we've counted moose this year, that --
47 the last time we had good snow to count moose was five
48 years ago in 2015, and then so the counts we've gotten
49 this year are about double what they were in 2015, so I

50

1 would wager a guess that we have about twice as many
2 moose below the Johnson as we did five years ago based
3 on everything I'm seeing right now.
4

5 MR. PETER: Two weeks ago I go
6 ptarmigan hunting between (Indiscernible-muffled) see
7 five ptarmigans, I catch four of them and I was looking
8 for one, that's all I see. But it looked like jack
9 rabbits are coming back, I see quite a few tracks in
10 the trees when I was hunting. I hope they come back,
11 them jack rabbits.
12

13 MR. JONES: Yeah, I hope so too. The
14 people studying jack rabbits just caught one in Ekok,
15 that's just a little south of Dillingham a couple weeks
16 ago and put a radio collar on it. So hopefully we have
17 some news to report on that. After I was -- looking at
18 the map it's pretty clear that that rabbit already
19 moved about 10 miles away from where we caught it. So
20 they move quite a bit for a rabbit.
21

22 MR. PETER: Thank you. Quyana.
23

24 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Do we have
25 any more further comments or questions.
26

27 MR. ALEXIE: Madame Chair, Steven
28 Alexie.
29

30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Steven.
31

32 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, I have a question
33 for Phillip [sic]. Of the 3,220 moose that were
34 counted, what was cow to calf ratio and also bull to
35 cow ratio?
36

37 Thank you.
38

39 MR. JONES: Through the Chair, this is
40 Patrick with the Department of Fish and Game. So
41 that's a good question.
42

43 In October, late October, early
44 November, we were able to do comps on the Kuskokwim and
45 in the upper and lower Yukon River and everything
46 looked great. On the Kuskokwim we had bull to cow
47 ratios in the low 50s, which is really good for a
48 hunted population, our goal is to keep it close to 30
49 so we're exceeding that. So that's another reason
50

1 we're going to be able have a longer hunt on the
2 Kuskokwim this coming fall. And the calf to cow ratio
3 was about 44 calves to 100 cows. Again, that's a
4 really good number and it indicates that the population
5 is continuing to grow and it matches all the other data
6 we have for the moose population here. So things are
7 looking really good here.

8
9 The lower Yukon is looking really good
10 for bull to cow ratios, they're in 60 bulls per 100 cow
11 range. We also had about 40 calves per 100 cows so
12 those are both really good numbers. We frankly just
13 don't have enough hunters on the lower Yukon to bring
14 that population down, or harvest as many moose as we
15 would like. We'd like to harvest more moose on the
16 lower Yukon than we are now. And it's continuing to
17 grow really fast, it's going to turn into a problem
18 sooner or later because they're going to overgraze the
19 habitat there at that growth rate.

20
21 On the upper part of the Yukon around
22 Russian Mission, we looked there, and their bull to cow
23 ratio is still really good, it's 60 bulls to 100 cow
24 there too, again, we'd like more hunting pressure there
25 than we're currently getting. Their calf to cow ratio
26 wasn't very good though. I think it was in the teens,
27 I don't have that in front of me. But it indicated
28 that population is decreasing and that's also what our
29 surveys are showing, is that those moose up stream of
30 Marshall, that section of the Yukon, the population
31 started to decrease and the habitat, especially on
32 those islands around Russian Mission is over grazed,
33 and the moose up there are just in slightly worse
34 condition. Last year when we had calves, the calves up
35 there by Russian Mission were pretty light. They
36 weren't coming out of that winter very good.

37
38 MR. ALEXIE: One more. Is the
39 Kuskokwim browse, how is it down there, is it healthy?

40
41 MR. JONES: So another good question.
42 So it's middle of the road for browse. We looked at
43 the browse two years ago now -- or, no, sorry, last
44 year, last spring, spring of 2019, it's about 24
45 percent removal rate and we don't get concerned until
46 we get closer to 35 percent removal rate so we have
47 room for growth but not a lot of growth. I suspect
48 we're two or three years away from having a cow hunt on
49 the Kuskokwim so we're getting really close to the
50

1 population that we can support and we want to maintain.
2 And when we reach that point we're going to start
3 liberalizing the season so we can start hunting cows to
4 stabilize the population. So we're getting really
5 close to that point and I think we're going to have a
6 cow hunt in two or three years here on the Kuskokwim.

7

8 MR. ALEXIE: Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, Patrick, it's
11 Alissa. I just wanted to see if -- we would like to
12 extend the Yukon River season to April 30th, would the
13 RAC be able to put in a letter to open up the season
14 since it closed this past Saturday, and I know there's
15 quite a bit of people that are still trying to get
16 their moose and Federal lands are very selective on the
17 Yukon area.

18

19 MR. JONES: Hi Alissa. Absolutely you
20 can do that. I received one letter from an individual
21 of the public today and I passed it up my food chain
22 but it takes a little time for me to get a result from
23 that but if the RAC were to submit a letter too, that
24 would only help push it through, I think. Obviously
25 biologically not only can we support it but like I just
26 finished saying, we could use more harvest on the
27 Yukon, so there's plenty of opportunity there. We have
28 the weather and the travel conditions right now so if
29 you guys wanted to put that letter in, this would be a
30 good time to.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. I'm
33 looking for a motion from the RAC to extend the moose
34 season on the Yukon River to match the Federal
35 subsistence season of April -- correct me if I'm wrong,
36 April 30th, is the end of the Federal season?

37

38 MR. JONES: Correct.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, I'm looking
41 for the language in the book right now.

42

43 (Pause)

44

45 MS. HOOPER: Madame Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, who is this?

48

49 MS. HOOPER: Hi, Alissa, this is

50

1 Jennifer AVCP.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Hi, Jennifer.

4

5 MS. HOOPER: Hi, I just wanted to add
6 that AVCP is also finalizing a request to submit to
7 Department of Fish and Game asking for that as well.
8 Just FYI.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
11 Jennifer.

12

13 (Pause)

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay, I found
16 some language, I believe, this is what the language
17 would be; is the RAC -- let me ask this question first,
18 does the RAC want to put in a letter to extend the
19 moose hunting season on the Federal -- on the State
20 side?

21

22 (Pause)

23

24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yeah, go ahead.

27

28 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I would recommend
29 since it's -- isn't this kind of different from other
30 seasons and I would recommend you get on with, you
31 know, what you are -- saying about, opening until the
32 30th.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Someone
35 needs to make a motion. I don't think I can make a
36 motion, but someone needs to make a motion for the RAC
37 to send a letter to the Alaska Department of Fish and
38 Game to open and extend the season to April 30th on the
39 Yukon -- on the Yukon portion, I believe it's the GM --
40 it's a general season moose hunt for Unit 18.

41

42 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair, I'll go ahead
43 and move.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. There's a
46 motion on the floor to send a letter to ADF&G to open
47 the general season moose hunt for Unit 18 to -- you
48 want to -- Eva, do you want to correct me if I'm wrong
49 on this, but the motion on the floor is to send a

50

1 letter to ADF&G to open the general moose hunt season
2 for Unit 18 and extend the hunting season to April
3 30th.
4

5 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
6 That is correct. That is my understanding. To extend
7 the season.
8

9 I would just like to confirm with
10 Patrick of who the letter should be directed to, would
11 that be directed to the leadership of ADF&G or would
12 that be directed to the Board of Game?
13

14 Thank you.
15

16 MR. JONES: Thank you, Eva. You can
17 direct it to Fish and Game or me and then I'll get it
18 to the right place.
19

20 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you. I think
21 when we submit letters to ADF&G then those go through
22 Ben Mulligan and Mark Burch so we'll direct it there.
23

24 Thank you.
25

26 MR. JONES: Okay. That'll work.
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
29 Thank you, Patrick. Now, that the clarification has
30 been made can we get a second.
31

32 MR. PETER: Madame Chair, Phillip.
33 Second the motion.
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
36 Phillip Peter. Now, the floor is open for discussion
37 -- discussion and questions.
38

39 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.
40

41 MR. ALSTROM: Madame Chair.
42

43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We have -- we
44 have John Andrew.
45

46 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, John Andrew. The
47 only question I got in my mind is there's a lot of deep
48 snow and it's raining up there and the trail
49 deteriorates it can be pretty hard traveling,
50

1 especially with heavy loads, because we never see this
2 kind of snow in a long, long time.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, John.
7 Duly noted. It's snowing out right now in Bethel.

8

9 Any further discussion or questions, I
10 didn't get that other person's name.

11

12 MR. ALSTROM: Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Bill,
15 go ahead.

16

17 MR. ALSTROM: Yeah, I just want to -- I
18 don't know if I'm supposed to be commenting or making
19 any -- on the discussion part, is this just for the
20 Board members, or do you allow comments from the
21 outside?

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Eva, I'll refer
24 that question to you. I mean like we've been doing it
25 all day and I think those rules have been rescinded
26 this morning. Eva, can you verify.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
29 Sure. So you're correct, typically once the Council
30 makes a motion and has deliberation we let the Council
31 do its business and try not to interrupt. But it is at
32 the Council's wish, if the Chair would like to hear
33 from the public in this regard to inform the
34 recommendation, as the Chair and the Council wishes
35 here.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
38 Go ahead, Bill.

39

40 MR. ALSTROM: Yeah, I just had a
41 question. When they talk about extending the moose --
42 moose up until the end of April, does that mean -- does
43 that include -- is that for the whole District 18 or
44 remainder of District 18 or just certain parts of the
45 Yukon River?

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.
48 Patrick, would you like to enlighten us with the
49 boundary lines.

50

1 MR. JONES: Absolutely. So this would
2 be for, in our regulations we call it Unit 18
3 remainder. In effect, if you look at a map, what this
4 is, this is the Johnson River, Unit 18 and everything
5 north, it's kind of like the northern third of the
6 unit. It really encompasses the upper parts of the
7 Johnson River, above the tundra villages, and it
8 includes the Yukon River from just above Russian
9 Mission all the way down to the mouth, including Kotlik
10 and Emmonak and Nunum Iqua, and then it runs south
11 along the coast all the way down to Kwig and King, so
12 it's a pretty big chunk of real estate in Unit 18 but
13 where the majority of the moose are is on the Yukon and
14 that's where I would anticipate most of the harvest
15 happening. But like I said before we -- we have the
16 moose to support the harvest and it would be beneficial
17 to the moose population if we had more harvest along
18 the Yukon.

19
20 So, anyway, hopefully that helps.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, do we
23 have any more further comments or questions.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Any more
28 discussion.

29
30 MR. LANDLORD: This is James Landlord,
31 call for question.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, James.

34
35 MR. LANDLORD: Call for the question.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, sorry.
38 Question has been called, all those in favor signify by
39 saying aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those
44 opposed, same sign.

45
46 (No opposing votes)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,
49 hearing none, motion has passed. All right, thank you.

50

1 Anything else Patrick.

2

3 MR. JONES: I think that covers it for
4 me, yeah, unless anybody has any more questions.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, thank
9 you. Okay. All right, it looks like, Eva, do we have
10 everyone covered for all of our government agencies
11 before we go into Donlin Gold and Office of Subsistence
12 Management?

13

14 MS. PATTON: Yes, Madame Chair, we have
15 covered everybody that had planned to present to the
16 Council through the agencies, and we do have a
17 representative from Donlin Gold on teleconference to
18 provide the Council with an update at this time.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That's great. Go
21 ahead Donlin representative, you have the floor.

22

23 MS. WOOLSTON: Hi, Madame Chair, thank
24 you. This is Kristina Woolston, and I appreciate your
25 time today and if I just want to check in, I have about
26 10 or 15 minutes; is that right?

27

28 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you Kristina,
29 and thank you for holding on to the very end of the day
30 here. I'm glad we were able to get to you. So, yeah,
31 again, really we ask all of the presenters to keep the
32 presentation to 10 or 15 minutes and then an
33 opportunity for the Council to have open discussion
34 after that.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MS. WOOLSTON: Sure. Thank you very
39 much. Well, just a little bit of an update on where
40 we're at with the project.

41

42 We're, as most people know, we have
43 completed all of our Federal permits and we're now
44 engaged in some of the final State permits but it's a
45 fairly iterative process and will take a couple of
46 years for the technical back and forth with the dam
47 safety office. We're conducting geological and
48 geotechnical drilling and surveying and mapping so that
49 we can get down to bedrock and design and build the

50

1 safest dams for the containment areas that we need at
2 the project sites.

3
4 So, I guess, perhaps -- I apologize,
5 I'll just back up very quickly and just give a very
6 brief overview of who I am since I don't believe I've
7 met many of you.

8
9 I'm Kristina Woolston, I'm the head of
10 External Affairs, and I'm originally from the community
11 of Naknek, and my dad has sat on their Regional
12 Advisory Committee for a long time, Dan O'Hara, and my
13 parents still live in Naknek and so I am very pleased
14 to be on the phone with you today, thank you so much.

15
16 So, again, back to the project.

17
18 We have received right-of-way -- final
19 right-of-way for the natural gas pipeline that we will
20 build out to the project site as well as land
21 authorizations, which include a fiber optic line that
22 will come out to the project site as well and other
23 facilities for the potential mine site. The natural
24 gas pipeline and the fiber optic line are considered to
25 be what's called open access and that really just means
26 that when we build these pieces of infrastructure the
27 communities have the opportunities to tap into that.
28 It does not mean that when we are installing it, this
29 is something that we received a clarification on
30 recently, there will not be access to that area, there
31 will not be a road, we will be installing the pipeline
32 and the fiber optic line subsurface, so it will go --
33 it will be buried and it will grow over over time and
34 the only access points will be some areas -- some
35 valves along the way and then the opportunity for
36 communities to connect in should they be able to do so.

37
38 So the plans for this year with our
39 drilling program is, we've actually got a more robust
40 plan than we've had last year and the last few years.
41 We'll have four to five drilling rigs at the project
42 site and we're ramping up right now, we've got about
43 100 people that are on rotational work force and I
44 think it's prudent to let people know our plans. We
45 started almost immediately when we heard about the
46 spread of the coronavirus and some of the precautions
47 that were being taken and we immediately set into place
48 with our health care provider, pre-screening at each of
49 the locations because we have people flying to the

50

1 Donlin Gold campsite from all over the YK region, many
2 villages and also from Anchorage, and so we have
3 initiated as of last week, pre-screening in each of
4 those locations for any health consideration including
5 temperature and how people are feeling and if anybody
6 is feeling ill they're asked to stay home. We
7 understand sensitivity about bringing anything to the
8 work site or to the communities, and so it's been
9 something that we've taken great care to address almost
10 immediately. And so if anybody has any questions about
11 that, off line, or even on this call, I'm happy to
12 answer what I can, but it is important to us.
13

14 So the work projects this year out at
15 camp, we will be doing pretty extensive drillings for
16 around additional resource development and around the
17 permitting information that we need for the geological
18 and geophysical mapping of the area. We are -- so the
19 program will be longer than originally scheduled, so it
20 will run at least from March to September, and
21 potentially into 2021 so pretty extensive drilling
22 program and we are ramping up and should have everybody
23 fully staffed by the middle of April. And we'll take a
24 little bit of a break. And then we start our winter
25 program right now and then we have to take a little bit
26 of a break in probably May month for, you know, spring
27 break up and melt out, and then we start back up again
28 once it's safe to have the drill rigs out there working
29 on site.
30

31 We'll have two crews working
32 simultaneously so that'll be kind of our timeline.
33

34 And then in terms of the overall
35 timeline itself, as most people know, it takes about
36 two years of engineering that will happen once we get
37 all of the kind of final dam design work done with the
38 State of Alaska and we will be providing public
39 information updates on that process. Because it is a
40 highly technical back and forth conversation with
41 engineers and drillers and the state of Alaska, it does
42 not include a public comment period, but we will be
43 holding, you know, at least, twice a year meetings
44 with.....
45

46 (Teleconference interference -
47 participants not muted)
48

49 MS. WOOLSTON:the public and lots
50

1 of information once this program gets underway to make
2 sure that the communities.....

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Sorry, Kristina.
5 Kristina, I apologize for the interruption but we're
6 definitely getting some background noise and continuous
7 bumping and beeping on the teleconference, so I
8 apologize for the interruption, but I do have to say,
9 if you are on our teleconference, please star six to
10 mute your phone or press mute on your phone. Again,
11 that's star six to mute your phone or press mute on
12 your phone. We want to be respectful to our presenters
13 and I know it's been a long day on the teleconference
14 and I greatly apologize that we have to meet over
15 teleconference instead of face to face, so, again, if
16 you can please star six to mute your phone and be
17 respectful to our presenter and also to the listeners
18 who are trying to pay attention to our meeting.

19
20 Thank you, I greatly appreciate it.

21
22 Sorry about that Kristina, go ahead you
23 have the floor.

24
25 MS. WOOLSTON: No, problem, thank you
26 so much Madame Chair.

27
28 So we will be holding community
29 meetings over the course of the next couple of years,
30 specifically around dam safety and the design. We will
31 be holding regular updates on where we're at with our
32 community advisory committees and the Kuskokwim
33 Corporation and the Calista Corporation, the land
34 owners recently announced that we will be announcing,
35 probably around May month, the recruitment and the
36 application process for the first community advisory
37 committee, which will be focused on subsistence and we
38 will be looking to fill that committee from across the
39 region with a wide range of experiences and backgrounds
40 and it will be an open application process, very
41 transparent and we seek to have the first community
42 advisory committee subsistence meeting in the early
43 part of October out in region. So we'll be excited to
44 share more information about that probably in May and
45 look forward to that first committee getting underway
46 which is part of our commitment with the environmental
47 impact statement, the EIS that came out in 2019.

48
49 We are moving forward with additional
50

1 community partnerships this year. We've actually
2 bolstered our community investment priorities and we
3 recently partnered with a number of organizations in
4 the YK including AVCP, TKC, Calista and others on the
5 Kuskokwim ice road and so right now we're providing
6 support for ongoing maintenance for the ice road, so
7 this is a great opportunity to partner for safety and
8 access in the region. Then we are looking to partner
9 in other communities for additional potential
10 infrastructure projects and then the ongoing community
11 investment for safe and healthy communities that we've
12 participated in for years, including, you know,
13 landfill clean up and the (indiscernible - muffled) and
14 scholarship programs and the campfire program. So
15 we're excited about a robust and continued support in
16 the region. And, given, where things are right now in
17 our communities and some of the concerns around health
18 we think there may be an opportunity for us to support
19 a different kind of community healthy safety program,
20 we just -- I don't think anybody really knows how far
21 and how extensive the virus situation is going to
22 continue so we're standing by to support how we can.

23

24 At this point I would turn this back
25 over to you, Madame Chair, to ask any questions or to
26 offer any feedback.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
29 Kristina. Do we have any comments or questions for
30 Kristina or Donlin Gold at this time.

31

32 MR. MAXIE: Madame Chair, this is Carl
33 Maxie, Napaskiak.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Carl.

36

37 MR. MAXIE: Yeah, I have a question.
38 Where are they going to store the chemical waste, will
39 it be stored in a certain area?

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MS. WOOLSTON: I didn't hear that last
44 part but the plans for the chemicals and materials that
45 will be used on site, anything that we release will be
46 required to be cleaned and properly managed before any
47 release and the chemicals that we use will be removed
48 and taken out of the area. So that's the plan for
49 right now as part of the approved in the EIS.

50

1 MR. MAXIE: Thank you.

2

3 MS. WOOLSTON: Thank you.

4

5 MR. ALSTROM: Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Bill.

8

9 MR. ALSTROM: Yeah, I got a question
10 here. Does not pertain to Donlin Gold, but do you have
11 -- I don't have the agenda in front of me but do you
12 have a report for Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
13 Association, the agenda, as on the reports?

14

15 (Pause)

16

17 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair. It sounds
18 like, Bill, are you asking about the Yukon River
19 Drainage Fisheries Association report?

20

21 MR. ALSTROM: Yes. Are they on the
22 agenda?

23

24 MS. PATTON: Yes, I'm sorry, Bill, they
25 addressed the Council yesterday at the end of the day
26 and so now we're on our last presenter addressing the
27 Donlin Mine. I can send you the materials that Yukon
28 River Drainage Fisheries Association had provided to
29 us.

30

31 MR. ALSTROM: No, no, I just -- earlier
32 today I had told you I was going to give you the 800
33 number.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Oh, right, and would we be
36 able to do that at the end of this session here, so we
37 can complete the discussion with Donlin Mine?

38

39 MR. ALSTROM: Because I'm going to be
40 leaving.

41

42 MS. PATTON: Okay. And I can look up
43 the 800 number and provide that to folks as well too.

44

45 MR. ALSTROM: Okay, that sounds good.
46 Okay, thank you.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Thank you so much Bill for
49 your participation.

50

1 MR. ALSTROM: Okay.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. Do we
4 have any further comments or questions for Donlin Gold
5 at this time.

6

7 MR. NICORI: (In Yup'ik)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, James.

10

11 MR. NICORI: Yeah. I was wondering what
12 kind of chemicals were you using or is that available?

13

14 MS. WOOLSTON: Sure. Well, we're not
15 using any right now because we're still in the
16 development phase and so we're, you know, a little bit
17 ways off from construction and any of the mining or
18 processings but we will be bringing in, in dry pellet,
19 cyanide, that will be used and processed on site. That
20 will be the primary chemical that we will use on site
21 for processing.

22

23 MR. NICORI: Thank you.

24

25 MS. WOOLSTON: You bet.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
28 Kristina. Would you be generous enough to let us know
29 what other chemicals, besides cyanide, that you're
30 going to be bringing up to the mine and also what --
31 the rest of them, because we subsistence out here on
32 both the Yukon and Kuskokwim, heavily, and we're one of
33 the last and largest remaining subsistence users on
34 this river, so we heavily rely on our land and our
35 water, to continue our lifestyle and continue our
36 customary and traditional values that we have, so we
37 really need to know what type of chemicals you're going
38 to be bringing in and what you're going to be leaving
39 and how it's going to be affecting our subsistence and
40 how it's going to be affecting our waters because
41 there's quite a bit of people out here that actually
42 drink straight out of the water, and river is very
43 sacred to us because, just as you heard earlier this
44 afternoon, if you were on line with us, we definitely
45 had a huge discussion on salmon and salmon's one of the
46 main livelihoods of our subsistence way of life, so
47 it's really important that we need to know the types of
48 things you're bringing in and also, you know, the type
49 of effects that it's going to have on us so that we can

50

1 be prepared so if anything does go wrong, and anything
2 does happen or starts to leak from your mine, we need
3 to be prepared for our future of our generation,
4 because if that mine goes and completely destroys
5 everything, that's going to destroy everything out here
6 for us including our subsistence and damage our
7 fisheries and really affect us out here and there's
8 quite a bit of people on this river that are not for
9 the mine and just for that reason, because we highly
10 subsistence on what's out here. It's a very big
11 concern for us, for our livelihood, to continue it.
12

13 And so would you please be able to let
14 us know what other types of chemicals that you're
15 bringing up here, even if it might be really small, it
16 can still be very detrimental to our subsistence way of
17 life.
18

19 MS. WOOLSTON: Sure. And what I can
20 do, Madame Chair, is I'll provide a full write-up that
21 you can distribute to your committee members and to the
22 others on the advisory. I'd be happy to share that
23 with you. And our commitment and, you know, by law, we
24 have to adhere to the strictest environmental laws and
25 regulations out there. And as a commercial fisherman
26 and subsistence user myself and my family and coming
27 from Bristol Bay, I know, and all of the folks on the
28 Donlin Gold team know, personally, and, you know, from
29 a family standpoint, exactly how critical that is. And
30 so our -- you know, we will not be allowed to operate
31 if we don't maintain safe and clean practices.
32

33 And that starts with the water that we
34 use and manage, and the water that we use will have to
35 be returned cleaner than is actually there right now,
36 and so those are part of the very strict regulations.
37 Air quality. Any of the -- when materials that we
38 move, in terms of rock, we have to make sure that
39 anything that's naturally occurring, that's there is
40 managed properly and cleaned and stored. So these are
41 all measures that we take as part of the license to
42 operate and to continue operation, an ongoing --
43 monitoring and reporting of all of our activities.
44

45 And so I'll be happy to provide to you,
46 and I think folks know that we'll be bringing diesel
47 into the mine site, much less than we were going to
48 originally because of the natural gas pipeline. And,
49 you know, my home is on the Naknek River and we know,
50

1 you know, there's a lot of barging activity on the
2 Naknek River as well and we know that's a consideration
3 and our barging and communications plan is highly
4 important to the communities along the river and while
5 we're still a ways off from those activities
6 commencing, it is important to us to share those as
7 they develop.

8

9 (Pause)

10

11 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Kristina. This
12 is Eva. I'm just hearing a little quiet in the
13 background there so wanted to make sure our Council
14 members are still connected and folks can hear. Were
15 there any further questions for Kristina?

16

17 (Pause)

18

19 MS. PATTON: We may have lost folks, it
20 sounds pretty quiet out there.

21

22 Council members are you still connected
23 on line?

24

25 MR. MAXIE: I have one question, during
26 wintertime, though, after the barge season, how's that
27 going to work with the chemical delivered out from the
28 site.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MS. WOOLSTON: So like most things, you
33 know, all travel on the river during the winter, they
34 pretty much come to a stop and so we -- our plan is to
35 use regional barging captains and people really
36 experienced with the river and so we would only be
37 barging within the safe parameters of the schedule on
38 the river. And the -- it would have to be on site
39 storage in approved containment facilities in order to
40 maintain them in a safe manner before we could ship
41 them out during the safe barging season.

42

43 MR. MAXIE: Thank you. I have one
44 example, you know, water is strong, my dad used to tell
45 me that and I believe that because when you set out
46 empty drum outside for a long time it deteriorates,
47 pretty soon it will be gone from weather factors
48 because of the weather there.

49

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Carl,
4 for bringing up that. That brings me to a personal
5 question, this is Alissa.

6

7 Does Donlin Gold have any plans on
8 fishing on -- working with U.s. Fish and Wildlife
9 Service and ADF&G on barging in regards to subsistence
10 fishing, and also is Donlin Gold going to be refunding
11 setnets that they run over. I know we have really
12 tight rivers up here and some parts of it are really,
13 really, really tight and there's no way that a barge
14 can get through without running over at least 10 to 20
15 or more nets, at least in some areas; is Donlin Gold
16 going to be paying for those nets that they run over?

17

18 MS. WOOLSTON: Those are great
19 questions. So the barging and communications plan will
20 do a number of things. And, one, yes, of course, if we
21 damage or do harm to anybody's property that would be
22 -- we would compensate for that for sure. But the plan
23 is that by using strong communication tools, having
24 people that go ahead of the barges and assess the
25 situation where subsistence nets may be taking place,
26 or people may be fishing, so that we can avoid those to
27 the greatest extent possible is one of the big
28 priorities. Two, 24/7 communication by an app that is
29 being developed for barging communications. We will
30 have advisors in communities along the way that will be
31 announcing when barges are coming through and letting
32 people know. And then, finally, the barges themselves
33 are designed to be adjustable for the bends in the
34 river. It's a unique river. And the barges allow for
35 greater accommodation to turn around bends and in
36 channels than we see in other rivers. And they're
37 double-hulled, and designed specifically to maintain
38 safe transport along the Kuskokwim River. And we've
39 learned a lot because there's been barging on the
40 Kuskokwim River for a long time and so we're -- you
41 know, we're confident that the people that already run
42 the river and do it safely are the best assets to help
43 us manage and to operate our barging platform. We're
44 not going to be bringing in barging captains from
45 Louisiana or places like that, we'll really rely on
46 local knowledge and local expertise as barging happens
47 locally.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. That

50

1 brings me to my second question. Are you guys going to
2 be barging during times of smelts, when smelts are
3 going to be spawning in their spawning grounds, because
4 I know smelts have a really sensitivity to their
5 spawning grounds in regards to rebuilding their
6 population.
7

8 MS. WOOLSTON: Uh-huh. That's another
9 really great question. So for the last five years we
10 have invested, for the first time, we don't think it's
11 ever been done before, the activity, the numbers and
12 the gender and the timing of the smelt spawning season
13 on the Kuskokwim River. And so this allows us to see
14 kind of baseline information about what the smelts are
15 doing and the numbers and we are committed to working
16 with -- I think you had asked this before, and I didn't
17 answer this, sorry, yes, we are absolutely committed to
18 working with Fish and Wildlife, ADF&G around what's
19 going on on the river and that's just prudent and the
20 right thing to do and then also looking at the smelt
21 season, what's going on and how that's being affected
22 right now with current barging activities and current
23 fishing activities so that we know if anything is
24 changing when our barges come in. And so those are all
25 good pieces of information to help us make good
26 decisions with local fishery experts around our
27 barging.
28

29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Are
30 there any further comments or questions from the
31 Council.
32

33 MR. SLATS: This is Richard.
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead,
36 Richard.
37

38 MR. SLATS: Hi. This is Richard Slats.
39 Donlin Gold is going to be one of the biggest one, or
40 the biggest in the world as we read about it, and it's
41 going to be used to separate gold from waste rock. And
42 we know that cyanide is a harmful chemical, you know,
43 dangerous. Donlin Gold has an expected lifetime of 27
44 years from today, it will be 2047, you know, when --
45 after the expected lifetime and I'm looking at another
46 line that the Berkler -- Berkeley pit mine located in
47 Montana that had a flock of geese back in 1995, 342 of
48 them, after it shut down and then some 30 years later a
49 flock of geese got there and all 342 have died from
50

1 them, so here -- I cannot prove this but it has been
2 said by some people in Montana that it's not -- it's an
3 ongoing thing. So in our area it's geese and other
4 migratory birds are come and go to this area for their
5 survival. So if Berkeley pit was still leaching acid
6 by sending lead and zinc into the open pit some 50
7 years later after -- after the expected life of Donlin
8 it would be 2047, 50 years after that it would be 2090
9 and Donlin Gold -- if (indiscernible) taught us
10 anything as with the Berkeley pit mine it would be the
11 year 2090 when Donlin would still be leaching, or
12 sending lead and zinc into that open pit. There's no --
13 there is no plans to rehabilitate or do anything to
14 clean it up after the life -- well, after Donlin Gold
15 is no longer being worked on.

16
17 So these are just some of the things
18 that the environmental impact statement didn't give us
19 a chance to look at mainly because they come out with
20 -- they first come out with 2012, and then they came
21 out with a final in 2015, and then -- or they had
22 comment period between those days and then in 2018 --
23 between 2018 and 2019 they came up with 10,866 pages of
24 the environmental impact statement. They gave the
25 tribes 30 days to comment on the final. So these
26 things we never had a chance -- a real good chance to
27 discuss what we're talking about today because we'll
28 have -- eventually it may, during the life of Donlin
29 and, not only that, it will be perpetual for long after
30 you -- Donlin Gold is gone, that open -- that will
31 still be open leaching or sending lead, or mercury,
32 zinc and it will continue to fill up and Kuskokwim --
33 the Kuskokwim River is right next to it.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MS. WOOLSTON: I'm sorry, I didn't
38 catch the first name, was it -- was it Gabe?

39
40 MR. SLATS: I'm Richard.

41
42 MS. WOOLSTON: I'm sorry, Richard, I
43 apologize. Thank you so much for your questions and
44 for your concerns.

45
46 So I'll start with the first one which
47 is the by law we have to bond and put aside the entire
48 financial amount for full reclamation, and that
49 includes removing all equipment, any facilities, the
50

1 cleaning of the tailing storage facility and all of the
2 other containment areas. So by law we cannot start to
3 do any construction or anything until all of the money
4 is set aside for all of the reclamation for that.
5 There will be an impact, just like there is to anything
6 that we do on this Earth, you know, whether it's
7 fishing or, you know, gravel pits for airports, for
8 roads, there is an impact, and so we have to pay up
9 front for that to be reclaimed, using natural
10 vegetation for the future.

11
12 In terms of the situation in Montana
13 which is incredibly unfortunate, the standards and the
14 requirements and really the management of those older
15 Legacy Mines are fortunately not the standard anymore.
16 And so what we are looking at in terms of our
17 requirement is the water that we used, must be cleaner
18 than it is currently right now before we are able to
19 release it. Any of the materials that we put into the
20 tailing storage facilities need to be properly treated.
21 In addition to that we also have to -- our now required
22 to do proper water management so that water is not
23 going anywhere. And we're lining the facility -- the
24 tailing storage facility and the liner is so thick that
25 we actually weld it together because it is such a
26 substantial liner facility for the tailing storage.

27
28 So in each of these cases, you know, we
29 are required to, and are monitoring on an ongoing
30 bases, and anything from water to air quality to dust
31 that, particulates to go into the air, each of these
32 things are required to be monitored and to meet the
33 standards on an ongoing basis.

34
35 The other piece of this is, oh, dear,
36 Richard, I just blanked on one of the other things that
37 you had mentioned, I'm sorry I forgot one of the last
38 ones that you -- I'll try to think of it in a minute.

39
40 But it is -- oh, excuse me, the EIS.

41
42 So it's my understanding that all of
43 the tribes were invited to be participating agencies as
44 part of the six year EIS process. And of the 66 tribes
45 that were invited, I believe six participated in the
46 sharing of information and in the feedback process, and
47 along the way there were public meetings and comment
48 periods along the way as part of the EIS process and it
49 was one of the longer EIS' processes out there. But we
50

1 would be absolutely willing to, Richard, have a
2 conversation with you and your tribe to answer any of
3 the questions and walk through your concerns. I can be
4 sure that you have my personal contact information and
5 we'll be happy to come out there and visit with you and
6 your tribal representatives at any time.

7

8

(Pause)

9

10

MR. BUSTER: Madame Chair.

11

12

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, first
13 name, last name.

14

15

MR. BUSTER: Gabriel Buster, Alakanuk
16 tribe.

17

18

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Gabe.

19

20

MR. BUSTER: Yeah, if it were to be
21 built and where would the contaminants be located and
22 where would it be around at?

23

24

MS. WOOLSTON: The project site itself
25 and the mine site is -- there's about a 30 mile road
26 from the port back up beyond Crooked Creek, and so the
27 facilities itself would be -- it's a closed facility so
28 a private runway and a gaited road and then all of the
29 materials would be stored on site until they can be
30 shipped out, including the gold and anything else that
31 we're using and processing with. And so it is kind of
32 up in the hills beyond Crooked Creek between 20 to 30
33 miles from the Kuskokwim River.

34

35

MR. BUSTER: Thank you.

36

37

MS. WOOLSTON: Thank you.

38

39

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, do we
40 have any more further comments and questions for Donlin
41 Gold.

42

43

(No comments)

44

45

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I had -- going
46 back to my notes, I had a couple questions in regards
47 to -- I know on your EIS you were talking about
48 implying subsistence restrictions for fishing, for
49 migratory bird hunting and things that would be

50

1 affected around the mine site area. What are your guys
2 plans for our fishery, introducing more restrictions
3 than we already are restricted on the Kuskokwim River?
4

5 MS. WOOLSTON: I'm sorry, I don't think
6 I understand that question. What restrictions would we
7 put on the fisheries on the river, is that what you're
8 asking?
9

10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: That is correct.
11

12 MS. WOOLSTON: My understanding is that
13 we would not be putting any restrictions, it's not
14 really up to us, the fisheries is managed by -- not us,
15 so we would be working within the requirements of the
16 river.....
17

18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted)
20

21 MS. WOOLSTON:and those things.
22 We wouldn't be placing additional restrictions on
23 anyone.
24

25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Well,
26 according to your Appendix and Section .810 analysis of
27 the subsistence impacts and summary and findings of the
28 Donlin Gold project there was quite a bit of stuff in
29 there that did impact subsistence and I was hoping that
30 you guys would have information on how you guys plan on
31 impacting our subsistence foods and also what your
32 findings were and what your plan is in regards to
33 managing those type of restrictions.
34

35 MS. WOOLSTON: I think that is a great
36 opportunity for us to have an additional conversation
37 and meetings around that. Would that be something that
38 you would be willing to engage in?
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: I would really
41 like to have my Council a part of that since we are the
42 Federal Subsistence Council -- Regional Advisory
43 Council -- I believe having closed door meetings is not
44 an appropriate way to discuss important matters that
45 affect our whole entire region so I'd greatly
46 appreciate if you'd come back to our next meeting,
47 which is going to be a fall meeting, and possibly,
48 hopefully we'll have one in person and then you could
49 discuss with us your subsistence, foreseeing additional
50

1 restrictions and also what the plan you guys have, if
2 you guys have changed those restrictions implying
3 additional information that we need to know with the
4 chemicals that could be affecting our area, our
5 migratory birds, which by the way I forgot to mention
6 when -- it was a great conversation that Richard had
7 brought up. We have the largest migratory birds within
8 the whole entire world. We're the only ones in the
9 world that has the highest density of habitat known for
10 migratory birds across the whole entire world. We have
11 five different types of flyways that come from all over
12 the world that stop here in our YKDelta in specific
13 areas that could highly be affected by your mine, and
14 he brings up a great point, are you guys planning on
15 putting cages around the mine, the lake where you guys
16 are going to be storing these contaminated, because
17 your mine is directly underneath the migratory flight
18 route, where at least three different migratory --
19 large migratory flyways -- I remember this was brought
20 up at a meeting before where we were trying to ask for
21 this information but no one had gotten back to us on it
22 so.....

23

24 MS. WOOLSTON: Sorry about that.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS:so can you
27 bring out more information on that.

28

29 MS. WOOLSTON: Sure. And we're not --
30 we're absolutely open to having an open conversation
31 about this, we don't need to have any closed door
32 meetings at all, I was implying the greater Council as
33 part of this conversation and we would be happy to talk
34 through that at your fall meeting, that would be great.

35

36 (Pause)

37

38 MS. WOOLSTON: Did I lose you guys?

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: No, we're still
41 here. All right, do we -- is there any more further
42 comments or questions or anything else you would like
43 for her to bring to our fall meeting in regards to any
44 questions or comments you guys have.

45

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right,

50

1 hearing none, thank you so much for your time, I
2 greatly appreciate that you were standing on the line
3 for this one and being a part of -- actually being a
4 part of our meeting, which we've been trying to have
5 for, you guys to actually come to our meeting for a
6 very, very long time, so I greatly appreciate you being
7 here today.

8
9 MS. WOOLSTON: Thank you so much for
10 the invitation and we look forward to a more in-depth
11 conversation in the fall and I will have with me as
12 many folks from our team as you're willing to allow me
13 to bring so that we have all of the experts there to
14 answer everybody's questions and have an open
15 conversation.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, that'd
18 be great. Oh, and tell your dad, Hi, I used to live
19 out in King Salmon and Naknek for a few years and I
20 worked with your dad a lot because I worked at PenAir.

21
22 MS. WOOLSTON: Oh, that's awesome, I
23 will.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, thank
26 you.

27
28 MS. WOOLSTON: Thank you, everyone.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right.
31 Moving on to Office of Subsistence Management.

32
33 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
34 This is Pippa Kenner with OSM here in Anchorage. I
35 have the OSM report.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa.

38
39 MS. KENNER: As most Council members
40 are aware the Office of Subsistence Management had to
41 reschedule the winter 2020 Council meetings until March
42 and early April.

43
44 ensure compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee
45 Act, and we certainly thank all of you, this Council's
46 members and all the other Councils for their patience
47 and working with us to reschedule these meetings.

48
49 Council charters have been included in

50

1 each of the Council books. The charter includes a new
2 provision that allows Councils to have alternate
3 members and we are pleased that the Secretary of
4 Interior signed these Council Charters making them
5 valid through December 2021. Last year the Federal
6 Subsistence Board received 63 applications to fill 46
7 vacant or expired seats. The Board recommended to the
8 Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to appoint or
9 reappoint 42 incumbents and new applicants to the 10
10 Councils. Of these, 22 appointments were approved and
11 arrangements were made for these individuals to
12 participate in the winter 2020 Council meetings.
13

14 OSM has been pushing harder than ever
15 to recruit for additional Council member nominations
16 and applications for the current appointment cycle.
17 The Council nomination application deadline was
18 extended through March 2nd for this reason.
19

20 Okay. Gene Peltola vacated the
21 Assistant Regional Director position at OSM in June
22 2018 and over the last 21 months, Thomas Doolittle did
23 done an outstanding job leading OSM and we thank him
24 very much.
25

26 However, now, Susan Detwiler has been
27 recently selected to head OSM. She expects to be here
28 by the end of March. Susan has over 25 years of
29 experience working in Alaska with the U.S. Fish and
30 Wildlife Service and Forest Service. She first went to
31 work for OSM and the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1989
32 when the subsistence program consisted of just two
33 people. After leaving OSM in 2000, Susan went to work
34 in other areas with Fish and Wildlife Service,
35 including as the Congressional and Native American
36 Liaison and Endangered Species Coordinator in Alaska
37 and the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Division
38 Chief in the California and Nevada area.
39

40 Susan has over 30 years of Federal
41 service. She has a Master's Degree in natural resource
42 policy from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, and a
43 Bachelor's degree in wildlife management from Humboldt
44 State University in California. More recently, Sue
45 comes from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as
46 the Director for the Alaska Operations Office. Susan
47 said that she enjoyed her time with the Subsistence
48 Program and is very happy to be coming back. Please
49 join us in welcoming Susan back to OSM.
50

1 And finally, since the fall 2019
2 Council meetings there have been a number of Staffing
3 changes at OSM. Tom Evans, one of our wildlife
4 biologists retired while another wildlife biologist,
5 Megan Klosterman, left OSM for a position with the
6 National Park Service in North Dakota. Our budget
7 analyst, Durand Tyler, took a promotion with the new
8 Joint Administrative Operations Division, what we call
9 JAO. Even in his new position, Durand has continued to
10 help arrange travel and other logistics for winter 2020
11 Council meetings. OSM's executive secretary, Pam
12 Raygor, left for a promotion at the Bureau of Safety
13 and Environmental Enforcement. Our pathways
14 anthropology student, Christine Brummer, left to finish
15 her Master's degree. Jared Stone, a fisheries
16 biologist with the Fisheries Division took a promotion
17 with the Alaska Fish and Wildlife Service Marine
18 Mammals Program.

19
20 With these departures OSM Staffing was
21 down about 40 percent.

22
23 The good news is that OSM filled four
24 vacancies this past month. Tina Baker, took a lateral
25 transfer from the JAO to become OSM's administrative
26 specialist. Michelle St. Peters, returned to OSM after
27 working for the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration
28 Program for about a month to resume her duties as the
29 grants and agreement specialist. Sabrina Schmidt and
30 Catherine Avery were selected to fill two vacant
31 administrative assistant positions.

32
33 With these new arrivals, OSM is still
34 down about 35 percent, however, by the end of this
35 calendar year we hope to fill at least three to four
36 additional vacancies. OSM is currently waiting on
37 human resources to advertise one fisheries biologist
38 position, and the anthropology and Council coordination
39 supervisory positions and that would leave us down 28
40 percent.

41
42 Today the Federal Subsistence Board
43 voted to reschedule the April board meeting to be by
44 teleconference for the same date on April 20th to 24th.

45
46 (Teleconference interference -
47 participants not muted)

48
49 MS. KENNER: Now, some of you might

50

1 know this we were going to -- one of the first times,
2 have the Board meeting outside of Anchorage, and it was
3 going to be in Gakona, and because of the environment
4 right now it was decided to go ahead and teleconference
5 rather than bringing a bunch of people together. And
6 OSM, all of us, will start teleworking tomorrow,
7 Wednesday, March 18th, for at least a couple of weeks
8 so we won't be in the office, we'll all be home with
9 our computers.

10
11 That's the end of my presentation and
12 thank you very much.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa.
15 I apologize for the interruption. There was some
16 people that are having background noise, please star
17 six to mute your phone or press mute on your
18 telephones, it would be greatly appreciated and
19 respectful to our presenters and also to those who are
20 listening in to our teleconference.

21
22 I kind of wasn't able to hear a little
23 bit of your -- the last segment of your discussion or
24 presentation there, Pippa. I apologize for that.

25
26 MS. KENNER: Would you like me to tell
27 you what it was about?

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, please, I'd
30 greatly appreciate that.

31
32 MS. KENNER: No problem at all, Madame
33 Chair. This is Pippa Kenner again with OSM.

34
35 So I think it was probably this part.

36
37 Our Board, the Federal Subsistence
38 Board voted to reschedule the April board meeting to
39 be by teleconference for the same date on April 20th to
40 24th. The Board was scheduled to meet outside of
41 Anchorage in Gakona, but because of the recent actions
42 being taken and the need to telework and not bring a
43 lot of people together in one place they decided to
44 teleconference.

45
46 In addition to that, starting tomorrow,
47 Wednesday, OSM, all Staff will be teleworking so we
48 won't be in the office we'll be at home with our
49 computer.

50

1 I think that was it, Madame Chair.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa.
6 Do we have any comments or questions for Pippa at this
7 time.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Pippa,
12 for your report.

13

14 MS. KENNER: You're welcome.

15

16 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
17 That brings us -- unless there's any further questions
18 that brings us down to selecting future meeting dates
19 on the agenda.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: We had another
22 item under Office of Subsistence Management, for an
23 update on the Federal Subsistence Board -- or the
24 update -- sorry -- an update on the wildlife proposals
25 that was asked for under the agenda change request.

26

27 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
28 Thank you. So we did receive -- Patrick provided the
29 updates on all the regulatory changes on the Board of
30 Game side, the Council had made numerous
31 recommendations to the Board of Game, and so Patrick
32 had reported on those changes. Again, almost all of
33 them were liberalization of extending seasons or bag
34 limits. So Patrick provided the update on the Board of
35 Game proposals that the Council made recommendations
36 on.

37

38 Pippa just provided the update on how
39 the Federal Subsistence Board meeting will take place.
40 So the Federal Subsistence Program has not yet met to
41 take action on the Council's recommendations for
42 subsistence regulatory proposals. So all of the
43 wildlife proposals that the -- all that the Council's
44 made recommendations on, at your fall meeting, that is
45 the Board meeting that is coming up here in April, and
46 it sounds like that will proceed but by teleconference.
47 And so we'll be in touch for the Chair's participation
48 in that meeting by teleconference, and once the Board
49 makes recommendations we'll keep you posted on what the

50

1 recommendations were and when the regulations will go
2 into effect. So it's a longer timeframe on the
3 wildlife cycle. Normally, on the fisheries cycle the
4 Board meeting is held in January so when the Council's
5 meet for their winter meeting we have those regulatory
6 changes, but for the wildlife side, those meetings tend
7 to be later in the spring and so that's forthcoming yet
8 in the third week of April here. And I will definitely
9 keep all of the Council posted on the Board's actions
10 and recommendations so you know what the
11 recommendations were on the proposals that you had made
12 recommendations to the Board on.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 So long story short, is, we don't have
17 new regulatory recommendations yet on the Federal
18 Subsistence side, that's coming up at the end of April
19 here.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
22 All right, we'll go ahead and move on to our agenda, if
23 there's no more comments or questions about wildlife
24 proposals.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right.

29
30 MS. PATTON: Okay.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, Eva,
33 go ahead.

34
35 MS. PATTON: Then last but not least on
36 the agenda would be selecting meeting dates, both to
37 confirm your fall 2020 meeting dates and select a
38 winter 2021 meeting date.

39
40 So you'll find on Page 30 is when all
41 the Councils are meeting and the date that YKDelta had
42 selected. I did want to point out, I believe that the
43 current date that the YKDelta had selected of September
44 22nd and 23rd would still fall within the moose hunt
45 season, so just wanted to bring that to the awareness
46 of the Council, if you wanted to change that meeting
47 date to after the season, and that's on Page 30 in your
48 meeting books.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
2 I think that would be a very good idea, we don't want
3 to have a meeting during subsistence gathering time.
4

5 MS. HOOPER: Madame Chair, this is
6 Jennifer. Could I add a quick note?
7

8 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead,
9 Jennifer.
10

11 MS. HOOPER: I just wanted to also
12 share that those two dates are also the AVCP
13 convention, they shifted it up a week or two now to try
14 to get a little space in between AFN, so those are
15 actually the same dates as the AFN Convention as well,
16 I mean AVCP Convention, sorry.
17

18 MS. PATTON: Great, thank you,
19 Jennifer, for that update. Yeah, we want to try to
20 overlapping with the other conventions. AFN is
21 tentatively October 22nd, 23 and 24, so that's good to
22 know AVCP Convention that week of the 22nd.
23

24 And it looks like on the Federal
25 subsistence moose season ends September 30th, and so
26 does the State actually for Unit 18.
27

28 And maybe I should just point out to
29 the Council, too, we are only able to accommodate two
30 Council meetings per week, and so if the moose season
31 ends on September 30th, the following week is open to
32 another Council meeting, that week of October 5th
33 through the 9th, and then also later in the meeting
34 window that week, of November 2nd through the 5th is
35 also open.
36

37 (Pause)
38

39 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Anyone want to
40 put in a recommendation for dates we should have our
41 meeting on.
42

43 MR. MAXIE: Carl, Napaskiak, Madame
44 Chair.
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, Carl.
47

48 MR. MAXIE: Yeah, to the call of the
49 Chair.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Well, Eva,
2 when did you say that there was an opening, the first
3 and second week of October?
4

5 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council.
6 Currently right now, so the moose season runs through
7 the 30th, we could potentially hold a meeting on the
8 Thursday and Friday that week, October 1st and 2nd, if
9 folks thought they would be back. Actually it would
10 require traveling on the 30th, though, so that might be
11 a tight squeeze.
12

13 The next week is open and that's the
14 week of Monday, October 5th through the 9th.
15

16 And then it gets booked up with two
17 Councils already scheduled per week until the week of
18 November 2nd through the 6th.
19

20 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. So the
21 only week available to us is the 5th through the 9th.
22

23 MS. PATTON: The 5th through the 9th of
24 October, or the 2nd through the 6th of November.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Okay. Let's go
27 ahead and put it on for Tuesday, the 6th of October
28 that way you guys can fly in on Monday the 5th and we
29 could have our meeting on Tuesday, and Wednesday and
30 that gives us a little flexibility in case the weather
31 is bad to extend the meeting additional days that week
32 and not have to worry about not going out and doing
33 subsistence activities on the weekend.
34

35 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.
36

37 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, John.
38

39 MR. ANDREW: I'm looking at October 5
40 and 6, is that doable?
41

42 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, John, we can
43 definitely do that.
44

45 MR. ANDREW: What about the village, or
46 to Bethel, because we don't know.
47

48 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Yes, we can do
49 that too.
50

1 MR. ANDREW: Let me just restate my --
2 make it to a motion, I move that we have it on October
3 5 and 6 in Bethel.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Motion's been
6 made by John Andrew to have our next fall meeting
7 October 5th and 6th in Bethel, can I get a second.

8
9 MR. MAXIE: Second. Carl, Napaskiak.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you.
12 Second's been made by Carl Maxie.

13
14 Any further discussion or question, if
15 not can we get a question.

16
17 MR. PETER: Question.

18
19 MR. ANDREW: Question.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Quyana.
22 Question's been called, all those in favor say aye.

23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. All
27 those opposed, same sign.

28
29 (No opposing votes)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, thank
32 you folks. There you go, Eva, there's our new meeting
33 date.

34
35 MS. PATTON: Wonderful, thank you. So
36 that was for fall 2020. And then we do select a
37 tentative date at least for the winter 2021 meeting,
38 and you'll find that on Page 21 of your meeting book.
39 Several other Councils have scheduled their meetings
40 but so far there's only one scheduled per week and so
41 that timeframe is wide open for whenever the YKDelta
42 RAC would like to meet.

43
44 Any time between February 16th and
45 March 26th is open.

46
47 MR. ANDREW: Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Go ahead, John.

50

1 MR. ANDREW: I move that we have our
2 winter meeting in March 3 and 4 in Bethel.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Does that work
5 with you, Eva.

6
7 MS. PATTON: Absolutely, if that works
8 with the Council.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. A
11 motion's been made on the floor to have our meeting
12 March 3 and 4 in Bethel, can I get a second.

13
14 MR. LANDLORD: Second.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Was that a
17 second?

18
19 MR. LANDLORD: Yes, it's a second.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. Is
22 this James Landlord?

23
24 MR. LANDLORD: Yes.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, James.
27 Second's been made by James Landlord. Now, we're in
28 discussion and question, if there's no further
29 discussion or question can the question be called?

30
31 MR. MAXIE: Question.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Question's been
34 called, all those in favor for March 3rd and 4th of
35 2021 go ahead and signify by saying aye.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you. All
40 those opposed, same sign.

41
42 (No opposing votes)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right, thank
45 you. Our spring meeting dates have been selected.

46
47 All right, Eva, I'm turning it back
48 over to you.

49
50

1 MS. PATTON: Wonderful. Well, thank
2 you, Madame Chair and the whole Council. We have
3 closing comments now.
4

5 And I just want to say how much, and
6 Pippa's waving her arms here, too, that I'm just amazed
7 at the dedication and commitment that the Council has
8 to subsistence and to your communities in the region
9 and for holding in there and participating through a
10 very long, and somewhat challenging teleconference at
11 times, so I just want to congratulate you on all your
12 wonderful work and great discussion and all the
13 knowledge and care that you bring to the Council, and
14 hopefully we'll be able to meet in person at the fall
15 meeting so we can all see each other again.
16

17 But thank you so much. I just can't
18 say enough of how much care and commitment to work
19 through this process all by teleconference.
20

21 Thank you, so much.
22

23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
24 Would you be able to go down our line of folks so that
25 we can make sure everyone gets in their closing
26 comments.
27

28 MS. PATTON: Absolutely, would be happy
29 to. We'll start at the top of our roster with John
30 Andrew.
31

32 MR. ANDREW: This is John Andrew from
33 Kwethluk. First of all I'd like to thank Eva and our
34 Staff for putting this teleconference together, and our
35 Madame Chair along with all the people that are
36 attending and the agencies that are attending and
37 participating.
38

39 And at this time I'd like to remember
40 and honor the late Harry Wilde, Sr. Because back in
41 2002, -- no back in 1993 to 2000 I worked as the.....
42

43 (Teleconference interference -
44 participants not muted)
45

46 MR. ANDREW:coordinator and I
47 worked with the first group of our Council members --
48 Regional Advisory Council members in this area and
49 Harry was the Chair for many years, back in the early
50

1 -- in the 2000s and our meetings took -- most of our
2 meetings took place in the villages and a few of them
3 were in Bethel. Those I can remember on the Yukon
4 side, we had one at Pilot Station, one at St. Mary's,
5 another one at Mountain Village, and Ray can correct me
6 on that if I missed out on something, if I missed out
7 one of the villages in there, but on the Kuskokwim side
8 we had Akiachak, Quinhagak, lower Kalskag, and some in
9 Bethel, most of them in Bethel though, but weather
10 permitting in those days. He loved to take them out to
11 the villages, the Regional Advisory Council meetings,
12 and our meetings were conducted in Yup'ik and Chup'ik
13 and thanks to our Staff for providing us the
14 translators and if they weren't available, I helped out
15 in some of the translation along with James Charles and
16 some of the people that were attending. And Harry was
17 a true subsistence warrior among many things, he was a
18 fisherman, trapper, blackfish trapper, and he used to
19 talk about hunting all the way -- even though there was
20 a lot of moose in his village area, he loved to go up
21 to the (indiscernible-participants not muted) to the
22 fall hunting camp.

23
24 And I could carry on but I think I'll
25 give Ray Oney a chance to.

26
27 Quyana.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, John.
30 I guess we'll go to Ray Oney.

31
32 MR. ONEY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
33 Ray Oney for the record.

34
35 Well, first of all I want to thank
36 everyone for participating in the teleconference, even
37 though it's been a little hectic. I want to thank all
38 those that have participated, thank Eva and Staff for
39 putting this meeting together, it was hard right at the
40 beginning but we somehow made it through. I want to
41 thank all of those that called in to participate also,
42 especially during the public testimony that was held
43 yesterday evening. Even though it was disappointed all
44 the villages didn't call in to participate, I was
45 hoping to hear that but it sounds like it had full
46 support all up and down the river so. And all the
47 Council members that gave input on some of the
48 questions that came out as a result of the meeting
49 today, thank you for helping out on some of those.
50

1 Like John Andrew mentioned, Harry
2 Wilde, I've known him for a long time, it was in 2001
3 when I first came on board as a Board Council member,
4 he was the Chairman then and served with him up until
5 he retired. I've learned a lot from him. Like John
6 said, he definitely was a strong advocate for
7 subsistence for our people that are both on the Yukon
8 and the Kuskokwim.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.

11

12 Eva, I'm going to turn it back over to
13 you for our line.

14

15 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Thank you,
16 Ray, so much, and we'll go back down the line here.

17

18 James Landlord, for closing comments.

19

20 MR. LANDLORD: Yes. I'd like to thank
21 everyone for setting up the teleconference meeting.
22 Congratulations to Alissa being Chair again and to
23 Phillip Peter for Vice Chair and Ray Oney for being
24 Secretary.

25

26 It's been kind of hard straining on
27 your ear, hard to listen on the phone.

28

29 Spring is around the corner, I hope
30 everyone gets their fish, all that they need and a lot
31 of our people here in Mountain Village and up and down
32 the river, people want to fish for chinook.

33

34 That's all I have, thank you.

35

36 (Pause)

37

38 MS. PATTON: Thank you so much, James.
39 And thanks, again, as you say, for standing on your
40 ear, I know it's such hard work and really appreciate
41 all the efforts of everyone and such care.

42

43 We'll go on down the line here, Phillip
44 Peter.

45

46 MR. PETER: Yeah. I want to thank all
47 the Staff for prepare our meetings, and I like the
48 front cover, where you see a lot of whitefish and some
49 locals, first time I see a big whitefish ready to be

50

1 eaten. And I want to congratulate to the officers and
2 Alissa, especially Alissa, Eva, for helping out and
3 also the participants and we got -- we have a good
4 meeting this year and I hope -- I hope us folks and the
5 Staff work together to improve our subsistence way of
6 life. It's really important, not only for me, but to
7 my grandchildren who's going to be taking over this
8 land and water and so forth. And also those Department
9 of Fish and Game, who took care of the hard jobs for us
10 to know -- in the meetings and so I hope we have a
11 pretty good summer season for chinooks and chums and
12 reds and cohos on both rivers. And I'd like to see
13 more openings so that we could successfully meet our
14 needs.

15
16 That's my comments.

17
18 Thank you, and good luck in this 2020
19 season.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
24 Phillip.

25
26 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Phillip.
27 Thanks for the kind wishes everyone.

28
29 And we'll go down to Carl Maxie.

30
31 MR. MAXIE: Yes, I thank rest of the
32 Board members that make decisions for the wellbeing for
33 our region and Alissa for going back to our
34 Chairmanship. And, Eva, you did a great tremendous job
35 even though it's challenging meeting, even though I
36 have to kind of run over to the other place to be on
37 the line there, and when they close, come back here,
38 and run and reconnect again.

39
40 But, anyway, I hope we have a good
41 schedule opening this year, like last year, and not on
42 the point of designated opener like Bethel on down, or
43 Bethel on up, but like last year, open so the fish can
44 trickle up -- swim up to the spawning grounds.

45
46 I appreciate the reports and
47 information given to us.

48
49 That's all I have, thank you very much.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Carl.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Thank you so much, Carl.
4 And we'll go down to Richard Slats.

5

6 MR. SLATS: I wanted to start off by
7 thanking everybody for the work that all of you do.
8 Congratulations to Alissa, Phillip and Ray. I want to
9 thank you, too, Eva, and all the Staffers. You know,
10 we know that there's more work than meets the eye even
11 though we're teleconference, you know.

12

13 I want to appreciate John Andrew for
14 mentioning the old former Board members that paved the
15 way for us, back in the early '90s it was in Hooper Bay
16 we kind of -- I was young and lean and then we just
17 hopped on a fourwheeler and went over and listened to
18 Harry Wilde, Lester Wilde, David O. David, Billy
19 McCann, David Bill, Chuck Hunt back in the day was the
20 Staff member, so, you know, we used to just go there
21 and listen to what those people were doing and what
22 they were saying and it was all centered around
23 subsistence which is kind of important, our way of
24 life, and something that we need to continue to do for
25 our children. And even though all of these things are
26 coming up fast, we still need to keep our heads up and
27 continue to work on, you know, this is a very important
28 topic to me.

29

30 I wanted to wish all of you good luck
31 -- good luck to all of you and God Bless all of you and
32 thank you for all the work that you guys do.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
35 Richard.

36

37 MS. PATTON: Thank you so much,
38 Richard.

39

40 And we'll go to Thomas Alstrom.

41

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MS. PATTON: Do we still have Thomas on
46 teleconference?

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

1 MS. PATTON: We might have lost Thomas.
2 If you're able to connect with us Thomas we'll come
3 back to you.

4
5 And we'll go to Alissa Rogers.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Eva.
8 Thank you everyone who has stuck through it, through
9 the end of our meeting. We have made some great
10 accomplishments during this meeting. I appreciate
11 everyone's participation and patience for our
12 teleconference as we couldn't meet in person this time
13 around. Thank you for being so flexible and being able
14 to be here with us throughout this whole time. Thank
15 you to our immediate Staff and Council members, our
16 agencies, tribes and corporations for their dedicated
17 work to continue providing us with as much informal
18 data as possible and justification to help us make the
19 best recommendations with sound knowledge to the best
20 of our abilities. I understand that we may not always
21 agree on topics but we all agree that we all have a
22 common goal to put our best interests forward for the
23 people, the resources and all the user groups that call
24 our place home.

25
26 In principle, every chance we have to
27 hear each other's perspectives on a topic is a chance
28 to improve the understanding and build foundations for
29 better decisions and apply better restrictions or
30 regulations or even do away with regulations as we did
31 at our last meeting that are not necessary for us to
32 have anymore. Undue hardship is one of the things that
33 we definitely strive for to make sure that we have the
34 ability for people to go do their subsistence needs and
35 have the ability to continue their customary and
36 traditional lifestyles. That's what we love our home
37 so much for, this is our home and there's no place else
38 like it.

39
40 Often the most valuable comments come
41 right at the end of our discussions, I feel, after
42 everything's already been said and done we sit down and
43 relax, all the tension's gone and then we start
44 thinking about things. And when we start to reflect
45 and digest the topics that were brought forth to us
46 today, I know I do my best thinking at times after --
47 when I start cooking and taking care of my family.

48
49 And last, my heart goes out to our
50

1 people, the people who call this place home, those that
2 we have lost in the past who have sat on these Councils
3 and committees and we look up to them, I know I sure
4 have for as long as I could remember, going to these
5 meetings and learning from these meetings and learning
6 from the best of the best, and I conduct myself on what
7 I was taught by them.

8
9 I greatly appreciate everything and I
10 greatly appreciate your support and I greatly
11 appreciate that you guys chose me again as your
12 Chairman and also congratulations to Phillip Peter and
13 Ray Oney and congratulations to all of you who sit on
14 this Council for we are appointed by Department of
15 Interior to these seats and our people highly support
16 us, whatever we decide, because they know we're making
17 the best recommendations and putting them first and
18 also putting the resources first when our resources are
19 in decline.

20
21 All right, those are my closing
22 comments and, oh, lastly, I thank you Eva for adding in
23 that recommendation for the Federal Subsistence Board
24 to acknowledge Harry Wilde on here, it was a tremendous
25 loss but I was told not to be so disheartened that we
26 lost him, you know, he was a great resource but he's --
27 I was told he was ready to go and he was happy to go
28 and he definitely made his last -- his last statements,
29 really good ones, so my prayers go out to the Wilde
30 family and all of us who knew him.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Thank you.

35
36 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
37 And thanks to everyone again, and our wishes are that
38 everyone be well and be safe and a good subsistence
39 spring and we will be back in touch soon to follow up
40 on all your action items, your letters and reports, and
41 take good care everyone.

42
43 MR. ONEY: Thank you, you too.

44
45 (Pause)

46
47 MS. PATTON: And the final is a motion
48 to adjourn.

49
50

1 MR. ONEY: Madame Chair, if there is
2 nothing else then I move to adjourn the meeting.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you, Ray.
5 We have a motion on the floor to adjourn this meeting,
6 can I get a second.

7
8 MR. PETER: Second the motion.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Thank you,
11 Phillip.

12
13 MR. PETER: Second.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: If there's no
16 more further discussion or questions, can we go ahead
17 and get a question.

18
19 MR. PETER: Question.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Question has been
22 called and all those in favor of adjourning the meeting
23 at this time go ahead and signify by saying aye.

24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All those
28 opposed, same sign.

29
30 (No opposing votes)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Quyana.

33
34 MS. PATTON: Quyana.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: All right. You
37 guys have a great and wonderful time, take care of
38 yourself up there in Anchorage and all your agency
39 people up there, take care of yourself, and all the
40 tribes.

41
42 MR. ONEY: Have a good spring, bye-bye.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: You too, have a
45 great spring.

46
47 MR. ANDREW: Quyana, (In Yup'ik)

48
49 MR. ONEY: Okay. All of you, too, take

50

1 care, bye.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ROGERS: Bye.

4

5

6

(Off record)

7

8

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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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 II taken electronically on the 17th 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 6th day of May 2020.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22