

WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Pike's Landing
Fairbanks, Alaska
March 3, 2020
9:00 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Reakoff, Chairman
Timothy Gervais
Don Honea
Tommy Kriska
Jenny Pelkola
Goodwin Semaken
Pollock Simon

Regional Council Coordinator, Karen Deatherage

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

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3 (Fairbanks, Alaska - 3/3/2020)4
5 (On record)6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I'll call this
8 meeting to order. And we have a lot to do today and
9 we'll begin with Proposal 67.10
11 (Electrical malfunction)12
13 MR. STOUT:where surveys have
14 been done. We don't have the ability in this area to
15 do a bear survey. So what we typically do is we look
16 at our harvest statistics that gives us an idea of what
17 that population is doing. And so in our analysis we
18 look at the age of the bears being harvested. If we
19 tend to have much older bears being harvested, that
20 hunters are selecting for those, and they seem to be
21 available in the population, that indicates that the
22 population is not being overharvested. Also we look at
23 the sex ratio of the harvest. Typically, hunters being
24 selective for a larger bear are going to shoot more
25 males and the more males we see in the population, or
26 in the harvest, then we expect that represents the
27 population is heavy in the male component of the
28 population so we mostly look at the trend, the index of
29 the population is our harvest numbers.30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.32
33 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Glenn, once something is on the books there, how likely
35 is it you change back to that, because I thought that
36 once that we do that, it'll take a few years, and I --
37 but my question is kind of two-fold here.38
39 Jack, I see this is for 21D, and I'm
40 just wondering what's the thoughts of the Council on
41 their own thing there.42
43 Yesterday we heard from -- I mean we
44 saw a proposal from Alissa Rogers and it was real broad
45 throughout the Interior and whatever, but this one is
46 for exactly for 21D. And so I'm just wondering what
47 the Council's stance on, instead of making it for 21D
48 make it for the 21 as a whole. I mean what are the
49 thoughts.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The proposal has
4 been published as for 21D and so it would have to -- it
5 would be not -- the Board's, you know, already got the
6 proposal. The public has already commented on 21D. We
7 can't change the proposal.

8

9 MR. HONEA: No amendments.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the main area
12 that was proposed. There has to be a 30-day
13 notification. The public has not deliberated the
14 entire unit of 21.

15

16 So we could -- in the next Board cycle
17 we could submit a proposal to increase that bag limit
18 throughout all of Unit 21, if that's what you would
19 like to do. But that's -- at this time we -- we can
20 adopt this part now.

21

22 Glenn, if there's a problem they can
23 reduce the numb.....

24

25 Go ahead, Glenn.

26

27 MR. STOUT: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I think
28 one answer that may be helpful to Mr. Honea is that
29 we've got nine different bear proposals. And so
30 effectively we've had to analyze that very question.
31 And they include additional bag limit, bear baiting.
32 Season extensions are several different proposals, so
33 for the Galena management area we did the analysis.

34

35 We have no biological concerns for
36 these liberalized harvest methods as a group for the
37 Galena management area, so that would include 21B, C,
38 and D, and all of Unit 24. It wouldn't include the
39 additional 21A and E that if you were to include that.
40 But at least for the Galena management area our
41 analysis says we have no biological concerns if that
42 were to be adopted for that whole Galena management
43 area.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you feel that the
46 Board would accept a modification of the proposal to
47 21D, B, and 21C?

48

49 MR. STOUT: Well, I -- Mr. Chair, I

50

1 guess I wouldn't go so far to say what the Board would
2 do.

3

4

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

5

6

MR. STOUT: But it's pretty obvious
7 that we've been progressively, every Board cycle
8 another proposal to expand like bear baiting. Another
9 one to expand additional opportunity keeps coming up.
10 And we keep telling them yeah, it's no biological
11 concern.

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I think at some point, you know, you
kind of get to that tipping point where you basically
adopted it for everything else. I think it may be
somewhat self-evident to the Board that's the direction
we're going, so then.....

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I think we
could comment. In the comments we could comment that
the whole bear population in the northern portion of 21
-- including 21, 21B, and C, that population can
support additional harvest opportunity, but we support
the proposal as written if we so choose.

26

27

Tim.

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31

MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
don't support expanding out this proposal into the
other sub-units outside of 21D. I don't.

32

33

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37

Glenn can answer to it, but is there a
problem in 21B and 21C where grizzly bears are taking
over and consuming too much -- too many ungulates. Is
there some kind of biological crisis going on -- or
concern.

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39

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MR. STOUT: Through the Chair. Member
Gervais.

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No. In fact this isn't really about
predation control at all. This is solely about there's
opportunity for harvest. There's additional bears that
could be harvested. And what we have seen is whenever
we do liberalize these it really doesn't affect much of
an increase in the harvest actually. It seems like
that, but it's demand, there's just not much demand for
bears. And so even when we increase and liberalize
these things it ends up -- like when we've had these

1 bear baiting proposals going we get one or two bears
2 reported on that additional opportunity. But we're not
3 even sure that's an increase. It may just be a bear
4 taking over bait was one not taken opportunistically.
5

6 So yeah, there's just not much demand
7 for interior grizzlies.
8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

10 MR. GERVAIS: All right. Thank you,
11 Mr. Chair.
12

13
14 What I'm concerned with, with expanding
15 this proposal or some of these other proposals, 68, 69
16 where you have these increased hunting opportunities is
17 it's sending a signal out to the sport and recreational
18 community that there's like an abundance or
19 preponderance of bears, grizzly bears out here and I
20 think it's -- would it attract too much non-local
21 hunting to the area to -- to support or to propose
22 these increased bag limits, bear baiting.
23

24 And so that's why I won't support this
25 Council going forward with expanding the sub-units
26 outside of 21D and I'm not supporting the bear baiting
27 proposals in 68 or 69.
28

29 And as we can -- we'll get into it
30 later. We have the -- we had Ruby AC supporting this
31 proposal as written and after three reiterations of it
32 we have -- the Ruby AC is opposed unanimously to 68 and
33 69.
34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So yeah,
36 we're just deliberating proposal 67 and so we'll
37 maintain it as written.
38

39 But the reality is there's a lot of
40 other units in Alaska that have two bear limits. And
41 this is a very remote area. This place is actually
42 really hard to get to. The sporthunting community --
43 the only reason they go there is to hunt moose. That
44 would be the main reason what most sporthunters come to
45 hunt moose there.
46

47 So there -- currently there's an under-
48 harvested bear population and there's opportunity to
49 harvest these bears. And if certain individuals --
50

1 Middle Yukon wants -- has certain individuals on their
2 committee that wants to hunt bears, I'm supportive of
3 achieving the sustained yield harvest. And right now
4 they're under-achieving the sustained yield harvest.
5 That my position.

6

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You had a comment there, Pollock.

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MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
10 have some comments.

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In the early part of the fall -- in
October and November, the grizzly bears and brown bears
around near Allakaket and Alatna. That was just two
miles but have been seeing it a few times. But they
used to shoot it. We don't eat grizzlies or
(indiscernible) any more, their meat is more tender.
Brown bear meat is too tough to eat, so the peoples
have concerns that some of it should be taken out
because they tend to kill moose and black bears and
stuff like that so I would support a proposal like this
to take some of them out.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Pollock.

So we've laid out the biology of the
proposal. We need to move down this agenda really a
lot quicker today because we have a lot of agenda in
front of us past these proposals. So.....

MS. PELKOLA: Call for the question.

MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair, I call for the
question.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

Okay. Don calls for question.

Those in favor of Proposal 67 as
written, signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.

MR. GERVAIS: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We have an
2 opposition.
3

4 So Proposal 68 is to permit hunting for
5 bears with the use of bait or scents. Open a fall bear
6 baiting season in Unit 21C as follows: Allow the
7 harvest of bears at registered bait stations in Unit
8 21C from August 1 to September 30. Bear baiting is
9 authorized by permit and the dates are established
10 through the discretionary authority of the Department
11 of Fish and Game. I would like the Board of Game to
12 direct the Department to establish this proposed fall
13 hunt.
14

15 What issue would you like the Board to
16 address: Increase the harvest opportunity for allowing
17 bear baiting in Unit 21C. I won't go through all of
18 that.
19

20 ADF&G reports only two bears, one in
21 24D and one in 21C that have been harvested at bear
22 bait sites in the Galena Management Area since they
23 were first allowed in 2012, so harvest is not expected
24 to increase above what black or brown bear populations
25 can support.
26

27 ADF&G also reports that the total
28 harvest of brown bear is low and continuing below the
29 sustained harvest level for 21B, C, and D. So
30 additional harvest opportunity is available in the
31 area. Craig Hill.
32

33 So that's the proposal. And is there a
34 motion to adopt the proposal.
35

36 MR. GERVAIS: I move to adopt Proposal
37 68.
38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
40

41 MR. SIMON: Second.
42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.
44

45 Discussion.
46

47 Go ahead, Tim.
48

49 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50

1 Yeah. I wanted to clarify for the record the position
2 of the Ruby AC on this.

3
4 We had a meeting in early November -- I
5 think November 6th and this proposal was voted down
6 unanimously. We had another meeting in January, early
7 January and this proposal came under discussion, but it
8 didn't -- because of a problem we had -- and then it
9 was -- I have to admit we didn't, as an AC, the Ruby AC
10 we didn't function well, we didn't get our minutes
11 correctly transmitted to the State and whatnot and so
12 we were operating in the second meeting without a -- I
13 was on teleconference because I was in Kodiak, but they
14 had -- they still just had a handwritten set of the
15 minutes. And we were -- the general purpose of that
16 second meeting was to discuss some of the Minto
17 proposals. But this proposal -- it was recommended
18 that this proposal be discussed and so we discussed it
19 again. We talked about it. The Department mentioned
20 that it would be useful for predator control. I said I
21 was opposed to it for reasons which I'll talk about
22 when I get done with talking about the Ruby AC stance,
23 for hunter ethics reasons.

24
25 And anyways, so the Chairman Sarten
26 said well, should we just like take no action on it
27 because we're not -- we're not getting good consensus
28 on what we want to do with this proposal. And I didn't
29 realize at the time that we had already -- had opposed
30 this unanimously in November, so I said no, we need to
31 take action because it's 21C, it's in our neighborhood.
32 And so we voted on it and it was -- it was either four
33 or -- I think it was four for and two against. And
34 then after the meeting I got a copy of the minutes from
35 our first meeting and it said we already had taken
36 action in that meeting. And I -- so I called Nissa
37 Pilcher and -- with ADF&G -- and Sarten, Chairman
38 Sarten and I said hey, you know, we'd already taken
39 action on this proposal. You should have brought it up
40 as a motion to -- let me get the right -- amend --
41 what's the correct term when you already have action on
42 a proposal and you want to revisit it. What's it
43 called. A motion to modify.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm not exactly sure
46 what they would call that. That would be basically
47 revisit the.....

48
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: I would call it

50

1 reconsideration.

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Reconsideration.

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MR. GERVAIS: Reconsideration.

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: To revisit the
8 proposal.

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The stance on this Board of Game
proposal that the Ruby AC's adopting and standing with
is opposed to Proposal 68, opposed to Proposal 69, for
Proposal 75, and for Proposal 76.

So that's -- in a nutshell that's what
happened with a -- kind of a poor performance on the
Ruby AC's part in defining what's the position of the
AC's.

Now my position as the commercial seat
on this Council is I am opposing this proposal because
this proposal is -- appears to be for the benefit of
Mr. Hill's guiding operation, which is occurring in
21C. And on some information gathering on my part --
well, we know and we've had a discussion, this Council
specifically, on multiple occasions we had Mr. Hill
bringing in rotten meat to Ruby and it's caused ethical
problems, it's also caused public safety problems from
having rotten meat in a town dump, which has brought
black bears and grizzly bears into the town dump.
We've had -- our traditional chief had legal action
taken against him for killing a grizzly bear within one
mile of the dump. Even though it was a public safety
action he took, he still was tried and convicted of
that offense, trying to deal with meat coming from Mr.

1 Hill's operation.

2

3 And on further research of this, in
4 2011 I pull up -- or I did it just this winter, but
5 there's a -- I don't know what the term for it is, it's
6 put out by an administrative law judge at the request
7 of the Big Game Commercial Services Board in March of
8 2011. The judge's name is Rebecca Pauley. They fined
9 Mr. Hill for \$17,000 for mis -- for lying and
10 misrepresenting and mis-answering questions regarding
11 his guide licensing. In this 33-page document, it's
12 too long to read into the record, but just some of the
13 -- some of the items in it is 1996 failure to salvage
14 edible meat; '97, two guiding violations; '98, lying to
15 the Game Board; 1998, felony regarding controlled
16 substances; '99, advertised himself as a guide when he
17 wasn't; 1999, more violations; a continual pattern of
18 this stuff all 2000, 2005.

19

20 So I'm presenting this Council three
21 decades worth of illegal, unethical guiding practice by
22 this gentleman and for that reason I don't feel like
23 this Council should support Mr. Hill's bid to expand on
24 his guiding operation, which I feel is being conducted
25 illegally, unethically, and has detrimental effects on
26 our community.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

29

30 Other comments.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And did the Middle
35 Yukon Advisory Committee take action on this.

36

37 Glenn.

38

39 MR. STOUT: Yeah. They supported it.
40 And the analysis by the Department is the same as the
41 previous proposal, we support the proposal because
42 there's no biological concerns.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Koyukuk River
45 Advisory supported the proposal primarily because of
46 the under-achievement of harvest. But at this meeting
47 and Tim's testimony and the opposition of the community
48 closest to the area that's in distinct opposition to
49 this proposal, I'm leaning towards the Ruby Advisory

50

1 Committee at this point. Because that's.....
2
3 MR. GERVAIS: Do you want to.....
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you have a
6 comment.....
7
8 MR. GERVAIS:talk about in the
9 Ruby AC stuff, Don? I mean do you think I was
10 accurate.
11
12 MR. HONEA: Well, I don't want to mix
13 up proposals here. But.....
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 68.
16
17 MR. HONEA: Exactly. I mean I don't
18 want to go ahead and speak on 69. Just specifically
19 for this one because we're kind of jumping around here.
20
21 But after consideration, after looking
22 at the charges against this guide here, we then -- as
23 Tim mentioned, changed our stance on that and we were
24 in non-support of it. So that's basically it.
25
26 The reason why -- I mean why some of us
27 supported it in the first place was we didn't think
28 that it would -- contrary to what Tim's frame of mind
29 here, we didn't think it would bring in any more
30 hunters than usual. We're talking about a place over
31 there that's kind of hard to get to and he's the only
32 one that I know of, unless we have somebody that flies
33 in there and floats down that river, it's right across
34 from Ruby. So we were -- we thought -- our initial
35 thing was it's -- the numbers are low. I don't think
36 just doing this is going to bring a lot of people.
37 Maybe -- so anyway, I don't want to be conflicting
38 here, but I just wanted to say why we opposed it.
39
40 Thank you.
41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Karen.
43
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 If you wish, I'd like to read the OSM position on this
46 proposal.
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead. Yes,
49 please.
50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: OSM is neutral on this
2 proposal. While this proposal may increase opportunity
3 for subsistence users it would mis-align Federal and
4 State regulations, which may lead to user confusion.
5 This proposal is not expected to substantially increase
6 harvest and therefore would not negatively impact the
7 bear population in the area. Due to the isolated
8 nature of 21C and the lack of communities within the
9 boundary it is unlikely that fall bear baiting in this
10 sub-unit would habituate brown bears to human use
11 areas.

12
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. So I
16 think we've deliberated this proposal enough.

17
18 Do we have a question on this proposal,
19 vote it up or down.

20
21 MR. GERVAIS: Question's called.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.

24
25 Those in favor of Proposal 68, signify
26 by saying aye.

27
28 (No aye votes)

29
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: We don't have a
31 motion.

32
33 REPORTER: Yes, there's a motion.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: We do?

40
41 REPORTER: Yes. Tim, and Pollock
42 seconded.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And let the record
45 -- I'll reflect that my position on this proposal is
46 opposition to the proposal because of the Ruby AC's --
47 the closest community that would be affected by this
48 proposal and the performance of the proponent -- I
49 would be concerned if they're throwing rotten meat into
50

1 the dump in Ruby that that's going to become bear bait.
2 I would be real concerned about that -- encouraging
3 additional wanton waste. So that's a problem.
4

5 And the Proposal 69 is for 21C also and
6 so we'll take no action -- or the same action on 69 --
7 is also for bear baiting in 21C.
8

9 What's the Council want to do with that
10 one.
11

12 MR. GERVAIS: That's acceptable to me.
13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Take no action on 69
15 because -- refer to action taken on 68.
16

17 Is that acceptable to the Council.
18

19 (Council nods affirmatively)
20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So let's see.
22 Proposal 70 was to align the seasons in Unit 24A where
23 I live, which is the Dalton Highway corridor area. To
24 change the season from an opening on August 10 to July
25 25 to June 30.
26

27 Koyukuk River opposed that proposal
28 because the bears are actually in fairly poor
29 condition. They haven't recovered. We eat bears in the
30 mountains. Maybe they don't like bears in -- where
31 they eat salmon, but we're up in the mountains, we've
32 got excellent eating bears. And the bears are not fat.
33 They're just starting to go into what's known as
34 hyperphagia. They're eating more and they're just
35 starting to gain weight. The skin has got old hair
36 hanging out of it, they're not good yet. So we --
37 after the 10th of August they're considerably in better
38 condition. So the harvest rates and so forth from the
39 -- in the Unit 24A are higher than in other parts of
40 Unit 24, so the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
41 opposed the proposal.
42

43 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
44 adopt the proposal, but my intention is to vote against
45 the proposal.
46

47 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.
48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.
50

1 MR. KRISKA: Second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tommy.
4
5 Any discussion.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a
10 question on the proposal.
11
12 MS. PELKOLA: Question.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called by
15 Jenny.
16
17 Those in favor of Proposal 70, signify
18 by saying aye.
19
20 (No aye votes)
21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.
23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.
25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So let's see. We
27 should go to -- we had testimony -- let's see.
28 Proposal 72 is the Gates of the Arctic -- this proposal
29 -- oh, 71.
30
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, Proposal 71
32 is in the same game management unit for bear baiting.
33
34 Thank you.
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Koyukuk River
37 Advisory Committee adopted Proposal 71, primarily
38 because it's a -- would revolve around conjunction with
39 black bear baiting in springtime. And so the Advisory
40 Committee discussed that with the Department. The
41 Department felt that there was additional harvest
42 opportunity and the bears in the spring are in better
43 condition than they are in late July.
44
45 And so the Advisory Committee adopted
46 Proposal 71.
47
48 Does the Council want to take this
49 proposal up.
50

1 Do we have a motion to adopt.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: I'm not going to make a
4 motion unless you want the Council to take action.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't feel that
7 it's -- this is necessary for the Council to take
8 action on. There were six bear baiting stations. It's
9 a nominal effect on the -- of the population. And the
10 bears -- we'll give it to the Board's discretion, if
11 you would like.

12

13 Proposal 72 is the Gates of the Arctic
14 Subsistence Resource Commission proposal. Increase the
15 bear bag limit to two bears in Unit 24B. When we had
16 our Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission
17 in Anaktuvuk Pass in mid-April of 2019 the residents of
18 Anaktuvuk, which is right on the divide and they
19 actually live in Unit 24B. They're saying they see a
20 lot more bears.

21

22 And the people there were requesting
23 additional harvest opportunity for specific hunters.
24 There's people that hunt bears and there's people that
25 have like no interest in bears. And so they were --
26 they wanted additional harvest opportunity. So the
27 Gates of the Arctic submitted the proposal for the
28 entire Unit 24B, which has an under-performance of
29 harvest.

30

31 Did you want to go over the biology of
32 this population there, Glenn? My notes are not real
33 clear.

34

35 MR. STOUT: Yeah, Mr. Chair. It's
36 pretty much the same analysis that I gave in the other
37 one. We're harvesting below the harvestable surplus.

38

39 In this area here, and specific to this
40 proposal we're neutral on the allocative aspects of it
41 because it proposes a resident only hunt. But the
42 Department does support additional harvest opportunity
43 because in fact we are harvesting below the harvestable
44 surplus.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Gates of the
47 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission submitted the
48 proposal and supports the proposal. The Koyukuk River
49 Advisory Committee supports the proposal.

50

1 Do we have a motion to adopt.
2
3 MR. HONEA: Motion to adopt.
4
5 MR. SIMON: Second.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.
8
9 My notes here show 450 bears to the
10 north and 320 to 480 to the south. Those are the
11 populations for Unit 24B?
12
13 MR. STOUT: That's correct. Those are
14 the numbers we gave.
15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the bear
17 population is actually pretty high -- really high. And
18 so we feel that there's additional harvest opportunity
19 that can support this kind of a bag limit.
20
21 Any other discussion.
22
23 Pollock, do you have any discussion on
24 that?
25
26 MR. SIMON: No.
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No? No comment?
29
30 Don.
31
32 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I would
33 support this. I mean I believe that resident hunters
34 and the Gates of the Arctic -- you guys are comprised
35 of your -- if the residents feel there's a need for it,
36 it certainly wouldn't be on record here. So I fully
37 support this.
38
39 Thank you.
40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
42
43 Pollock.
44
45 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46
47 In AKP they kill those brown bears,
48 grizzly bears to eat them, so additional for them would
49 be good.
50

1 Thank you, Chair.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: It sounds like Eastern
4 Interior's down there.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think a whole tour
7 bus unloaded down there, it's loud.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's what
12 happened.

13

14 MR. GERVAIS: Part of the Alaska Tour
15 Group.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Most likely. So the
18 -- do we have a question on the Proposal 72.

19

20 MR. SIMON: Question.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.

23

24 Those in favor of Proposal 72, as
25 written, signify by saying aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Proposal 73
34 is a proposal that I submitted to change the -- where
35 is it. Is that the proposal I submitted, where is it
36 -- oh, here. I submitted this proposal to -- in
37 discussion with the area biologists, currently under
38 the subsistence permit we -- we have to have the permit
39 in hand to take a bear. Bears are harvested
40 opportunistically and so this proposal for Unit 21D,
41 24A, B, C, and D for brown bears would allow bears to
42 be taken under regulation, that allows you to
43 opportunistically take the bear. You don't need a
44 resident tag and the Department is assured the Koyukuk
45 River Advisory Committee that they will -- these bears
46 would have to be sealed, but the bears would be, you
47 could send the bear into Fairbanks, get the seal on the
48 skull and the skin or the fur sealers -- and I would
49 encourage the Department to contact the fur sealers to

50

1 get the sealing ability in the communities or the
2 licensed vendors are usually the fur sealers also.
3

4 So I supported this idea because the
5 subsistence permit -- we have to have the permit in
6 hand. The permit -- if you saw the bear, you didn't
7 have the permit, you couldn't take the bear and so I
8 felt that going to this regulation would be better.
9

10 Subsistence Division has since -- and
11 there's Caroline Brown back there, she had some
12 concerns and she called me and wanted to voice her
13 concerns to the Council.
14

15 Did you want to come to the mic there,
16 Caroline.
17

18 MS. BROWN: For the record, this is
19 Caroline Brown, of the Subsistence Division at Fish and
20 Game here in Fairbanks.
21

22 And I think that the primary concern or
23 issue with this proposal is that that permit is a --
24 represents a subsistence hunt which resulted from case
25 law, the Morrie case, which recognized the distinction
26 between subsistence hunts and trophy hunts of brown
27 bear and recognized the customary and traditional use
28 practices of -- in that area -- or in this area of
29 leaving the skull or other parts in the field. And so
30 eliminating this particular hunt would also eliminate
31 those protections.
32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we -- but most
34 subsistence hunters, at least in the mountains in the
35 northern part of the unit, they take the skin home.
36 It's customary to take the skin home and those were
37 used at doors in Anaktuvuk Pass historically and so
38 skins were salvaged. A lot of the parts are salvaged.
39

40 And so the -- but the -- I was not
41 aware this, so this would have statutory restrictions
42 with the -- the Board is under constraint to provide a
43 subsistence hunt under the Morrie ruling?
44

45 MS. BROWN: Through the Chair or
46 Chairman Reakoff.
47

48 I think that, yes, the Board would have
49 to determine that they can still provide reasonable
50

1 opportunity for subsistence with -- if they were to
2 eliminate this and perhaps determine that those
3 customary and traditional uses no longer exist.
4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hmm. Well, there is
6 customary and traditional uses of brown bears for
7 subsistence. That's true. But the permitting process
8 for the subsistence permit RB601 is cumbersome for the
9 subsistence users and so that was the rub, that was one
10 of the main reasons I agreed to submit this proposal.
11 Because it doesn't work in either realm. If you don't
12 have the permit you can't take the bear. And so I felt
13 that it was -- that you had to take the opportunity
14 when it arose.
15

16 And so this current sealing procedure,
17 you take the bear, you skin the bear, you bring the --
18 and you send the skin and the skull off to the
19 Department and they can seal it to get the biological
20 information off of it and the age and all that.
21

22 So is there other discussion on the
23 proposal. We made a motion to adopt Proposal 73.
24

25 Do we have a motion.
26

27 MR. GERVAIS: I move to adopt Proposal
28 73.
29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.
31

32 MR. GERVAIS: We need a second.
33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we need a
35 second.
36

37 MR. KRISKA: Second.
38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.
40 You're.....
41

42 MR. GERVAIS: Caroline, welcome to our
43 meeting this morning. Do you know how many people are
44 applying for this RB601 on an annual basis?
45

46 MS. BROWN: Through the Chair. I would
47 ask Glenn Stout that, but I believe it's extremely low
48 to zero. Yeah.
49
50

1 And my expectation -- you know,
2 actually the conversation I had with Chairman Reakoff
3 about this was pretty illuminating because it -- one of
4 the things that I was wondering about is the issue of
5 -- our conversation quickly came to the permit issue,
6 which he mentioned and not the customary and
7 traditional use practices being the focus here, which
8 makes sense.

9
10 But one of the things that it
11 immediately made me question or think about was the
12 permitting requirement ahead of time, which is also
13 culturally problematic especially in the Koyukuk River
14 area of -- which makes me wonder, although I have no
15 information about it, whether or not the practice is
16 existing, but getting the permit ahead of time is
17 culturally problematic and so people are not doing
18 that.

19
20 I don't have any information about
21 that, but just knowing what I know about the cultural
22 patterns and the customary and traditional use
23 practices, that occurred to me.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I will state for the
26 record that bears are taken opportunistically. And
27 some of the reasons why they're taken opport -- you
28 might not encounter a bear, you might not -- you might
29 be having a hard time hunting. The mountain's snowed
30 in, you can't hunt sheep, moose are up on the sides of
31 the mountains, you're not getting any moose and we had
32 no intention of taking a bear to eat, but you're coming
33 down to the end of the moose season. There's a bear.
34 You need to get the meat.

35
36 And so that's some of the driving
37 forces of taking these bears, is it's like an alternate
38 meat source, not the preferred meat source. They're
39 tough. You've got to age them out. But they do have
40 fat. And I got a lot of good fat off of bear this
41 year. So there's reasons why bears are taken
42 opportunistically.

43
44 And the subsistence permit, as far as
45 I'm concerned, never was easy to use. It had all kinds
46 of problems about obtaining the permit. There's
47 regulations -- you don't actually have a -- this is not
48 your bear, if it goes out of the unit you've got to cut
49 the feet off it and stuff. So there's a whole bunch of
50

1 problems with that bear permit. And we didn't -- I
2 didn't like that bear permit, never did like that bear
3 permit, it never did work out for subsistence users.
4

5 And so I feel that this actually is
6 easier to use because you could use the opportunity
7 when it arose. So that was the reason.
8

9 So did you have a comment, Karen, go
10 ahead.
11

12 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 If you wish, I would like to read the OSM position on
14 this.
15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure.
17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: And we also have a
19 member of the public who would like to testify on this
20 proposal.
21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good. Go ahead.
23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: For the Office of
25 Subsistence Management, OSM is neutral on this
26 proposal.
27

28 If the proposal is adopted it would
29 remove an opportunity for subsistence users to harvest
30 brown bear for human consumption without the need for
31 sealing. Although the season and harvest limits are
32 the same for the general hunt, we are not certain how
33 many users prefer to use the registration permit
34 subsistence hunt.
35

36 If this permit hunt is eliminated then
37 a new Federal permit will need to be established in the
38 Federal regulation.
39

40 Thank you very much and please let us
41 know when you would like for the public member to come
42 and testify.
43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll take the
45 public member now. And who is that. Oh.
46

47 MR. SIMON: Hi. My name is Jim Simon.
48 I'm with the Tanana Chiefs Conference.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. SIMON: And I just wanted to add
4 onto what Caroline said. As you know, Mr. Chairman, I
5 used to work for the Division of Subsistence and was
6 representing the Department in 2004 when this -- the --
7 pardon me. The State comments in Proposal 73 imply
8 that this existed from 2004 to the present, but it
9 actually pre-dated 2004.

10

11 In 2004 the Board of Game took the
12 administration and management of the brown bear
13 management areas, basically deactivated that approach
14 because at that -- prior to 2004 the area biologists in
15 Galena did not manage this hunt, which made it even
16 more difficult to administer. And so as Caroline's
17 predecessor at that Board of Game meeting I indicated
18 my concern that when those brown bear management areas
19 were disbanded basically and this was farmed out to
20 individual area biologists that eventually this would
21 start eroding this court-initiated permit system.

22

23 And I recognize that there has often
24 been stated on the record and by the Department that
25 there is very little utilization of this permit and I
26 think the issues that you've identified, Mr. Chairman,
27 and the challenges of making this available in an
28 opportunistic fashion are really on point. But I would
29 suggest that instead of eliminating the subsistence
30 opportunity and focusing on only the subsistence uses
31 of the hides and not so much the meat that an
32 alternative approach to how that permit be administered
33 be a more productive avenue rather than just
34 eliminating it and disregarding that customary and
35 traditional use pattern.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

40

41 So I don't feel that eliminating the
42 subsistence permit because -- the permit's not working
43 is the issue. The issue is that the sealing
44 requirement or opportunistic ability to harvest a bear
45 and get it sealed if there's actually a sealer in the
46 community gives the ability to take the bear when
47 needed.

48

49 The subsistence permit -- it basically

50

1 -- you had to get the permit before the hunt occurred.
2 And like I'm reiterating here -- and you lose part of
3 the bear. If it leaves the unit you lose part of the
4 bear and so it's not actually your bear -- all of the
5 bear. So that's not part of the subsistence. If you
6 have -- there's really no -- the reason we have trophy
7 destruction on moose in the Koyukuk River Controlled
8 Use Area is because there's a lot of hunters and we
9 can't -- we have to destroy the trophy value. But
10 these -- eliminating -- taking away pieces of the bear
11 from exporting it outside of the unit boundary, those
12 are problems with that permit.
13

14 And so how to morph that permit to
15 where it would be more user friendly, maybe should have
16 been a different tack, but this is already in place and
17 so I just figured let's just switch over to this
18 system. People that are taking bears -- well, most of
19 the people taking brown bears would be able to
20 accommodate what the Department's biological needs are.
21

22 That was the reason why I went along
23 with this proposal. Unless the -- during the Board
24 discussion the Subsistence Division can come up with an
25 alternate permitting system for the subsistence hunt.
26

27 Is that in Subsistence vision's purview
28 to comment on this proposal.
29

30 MS. BROWN: For the record, this is
31 Caroline Brown. I don't know that it would be -- you
32 know, if we were to suggest any alternative approach it
33 would be in coordination with our colleagues in
34 Wildlife Conservation, with the area biologist.
35

36 I think though that as you've pointed
37 out and as Jim Simon pointed out, I think it's
38 worthwhile sharing your knowledge with the Board --
39 with the Board of Game about your specific concerns
40 about this so that it can be a usable -- you know, if
41 the Board -- depending on what the Board chooses to do.
42 If they keep the -- if they keep that protection of the
43 customary and traditional use practices in place,
44 perhaps that is work that they can do to make that
45 permit a more usable thing for residents of the area.
46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hmm. So we -- our
48 record should reflect that those are the concerns with
49 the current permitting system. And I intend to adopt
50

1 -- vote for adoption of the proposal because I want the
2 Board to address the issue. The issue is the
3 subsistence permit is not sufficing what subsistence
4 users need.
5

6 So if the Board chooses they can morph
7 to accommodate the subsistence use, but they don't --
8 currently -- this current permitting system does not --
9 is not user friendly and is not providing what
10 subsistence users need. I don't feel that the -- going
11 to this regulatory process eliminates subsistence.
12 That doesn't -- I don't feel that that's eliminating
13 the subsistence priority. That's not what that's doing
14 at all.
15

16 And I disagree with OSM, that OSM says
17 we need to have a certain kind of a permit. It's like,
18 no, OSM is relying on biological information. The
19 sealing record is that biological record. So OSM
20 adopted -- OSM stating that the permitting process, the
21 State permitting process -- well, the State -- whatever
22 the State is -- biological enumeration is the process.
23 So the State -- the regulatory language in the Federal
24 book has to be changed as to what kind of biological
25 information gathering.
26

27 Caroline.
28

29 MS. BROWN: I want to be clear that
30 when you say the permit itself, eliminating the permit
31 wouldn't eliminate the customary and traditional use
32 practices. That is true, but it would make it illegal
33 to leave the skull in the field, for example. For
34 those hunters who -- for -- who practice that or who
35 follow those cultural practices, it would make that
36 illegal.
37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: True.
39

40 (Laughter)
41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see what you mean.
43 But.....
44

45 MR. SIMON: The chart in the State
46 comments is helpful.
47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: What.
49
50

1 MR. SIMON: The chart in the State
2 comments.

3
4 MS. BROWN: Yeah. What Jim Simon, the
5 public, was just saying -- a member of the public was
6 just saying that in the -- in the State comments on
7 this, the Department put together pretty clear comments
8 about where the issues are and comparing the two, the
9 two types of -- the two types of hunt so that you can
10 see very clearly what would be required under each
11 approach.

12
13 And so -- and I did send those comments
14 to Karen. So.....

15
16 MS. DEATHERAGE: I was trying to get to
17 them.

18
19 MS. BROWN: They are also online for
20 anybody who wants to access them online. But the State
21 comments are pretty clear about the two different hunts
22 and about the customary and traditional use practices,
23 as well as a comment on the Morrie case.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hmm.

26
27 MS. BROWN: So the whole history is
28 there.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So there's no middle
31 ground here. You know, we don't have the opportunity,
32 but we don't -- so you can't use customary practices if
33 you don't have the permit. You can't even shoot the
34 bear to leave the skull and the skin in the field.

35
36 So we have lots of problems. We're
37 stuck in purgatory here. So we've got a problem.

38
39 So this proposal is identifying a
40 problem. That's what this proposal is doing. And I
41 feel that your comments at the Board should identify
42 the Morrie case and all that -- and that you can work
43 with the Board on where we -- how to accommodate
44 subsistence use. This is to accommodate subsistence
45 use. That's what it's -- really all about.

46
47 MS. BROWN: Yes. And that's -- and we
48 are prepared and will be speaking to it. The
49 deliberation materials include all of this for the
50

1 Board. The Department of Law will be there to also
2 comment on this, as well it being in the State
3 comments.

4
5 My point earlier, however, is just that
6 they can hear it from me for sure, but that was my --
7 my feeling is that whoever -- if there's going to be
8 somebody from the Western Interior RAC or from those
9 communities in general who can speak to those cultural
10 practices to inform the Board about, not just about the
11 cultural practices, but also about the specific
12 concerns about the permit implementation.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

15
16 MS. BROWN: Because the Board can
17 better address those concerns if they know what the
18 specific concerns are with the permit itself.

19
20 So in our conversation about, you know,
21 having it ahead of time and what immediately occurred
22 to me was that's culturally problematic to say I'm
23 going to go hunt a bear, then that is -- that -- you
24 know, having -- finding ways to -- or to talk about the
25 specific concerns about the permit itself while also
26 providing ways to get that information to the area
27 biologists for management reasons -- you know, it's
28 kind of a balance between those two things.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

31
32 MS. BROWN: So that's why I would
33 encourage anybody -- any member of the public to share
34 his or her perspectives on the permit itself, the
35 concerns about the permit as well as the cultural
36 patterns that prevail in that area having to do with
37 big animals.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I feel that the
40 proposal is pointing out that the permit is not
41 working. And so let the Board figure out how to
42 address the problem.

43
44 And so our record -- let our record
45 reflect that the current permit, whatever that permit
46 number is, RB601 is not providing for harvest
47 opportunity opportunistically. It is cumbersome and it
48 takes away portions of the animal from the subsistence
49 user. That's a -- I feel that's an issue.

50

1 And so I feel that the opportunity to
2 harvest under the sealing is actually -- when you weigh
3 the two -- right now we're stuck between two things.
4 We have the subsistence permit that doesn't work and we
5 have -- we can take opportunistically. So I feel that
6 the -- going to this -- of the two systems, the one
7 actually works better for subsistence users.
8

9 And let the record reflect that. And
10 you can provide all of the other problems that the two
11 disparancies of the systems and let the Board figure it
12 out. This highlights that we're not happy with this
13 RB601. That's what we're saying.
14

15 So all right. Enough discussion?
16

17 Any other comments.
18

19 Tommy.
20

21 MR. KRISKA: Yep. Whoever may be
22 dealing with this proposal or this -- the way the rules
23 and regulation are done here, I hope they do something
24 about it before the spring because the way it is out in
25 the village, we subsistence use some of these bears and
26 we're thinking about since it was a bad winter we want
27 to go out there and take care of some of this stuff to
28 protect our moose and things and hopefully this issue
29 is solved by the spring because the moose already had a
30 bad winter and a lot of them got eliminated -- the
31 calves and everything -- and now if we let the bears go
32 and -- all of that is going to cause us more issues.
33

34 So I hope this is dealt with before
35 this coming spring.
36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a
38 quest.....
39

40 MR. HONEA: Question.
41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's on the
43 proposal. Those in favor of Proposal 73, with the
44 comments to the Board of Game regarding the brown bear
45 subsistence permit RB601, those in favor of the
46 proposal, signify by saying aye.
47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good discussion. A
6 really good discussion. Good stuff to have on the
7 record so that the Board understands what the issue is.
8
9 So we -- let's see here. So there's
10 Proposal -- feasibility and -- Proposal 75. Proposal
11 75, develop assessment of intensive management for
12 wolves and bears in Unit 21D and 24.
13
14 So Koyukuk River Advisory supported
15 that feasibility assessment.
16
17 Did Ruby take that up.
18
19 MR. HONEA: Motion to adopt.
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have a motion to
22 adopt.
23
24 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.
27
28 Did Ruby take this proposal up.
29
30 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. Ruby AC passed
31 this unanimously.
32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Koyukuk River
34 Advisory reviewed the proposal and supported the
35 proposal. It's an assessment.
36
37 Discussion on the proposal.
38
39 MS. PELKOLA: Question.
40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
42 Those in favor of Proposal 75, signify by saying aye.
43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.
45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposal 76.
47
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hmm.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Excuse, Mr. Chair.

4 Could you just state on the record a sentence for
5 justification for supporting this proposal.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Justification would
10 be -- did Ruby have justification. Any language.

11

12 Okay. The justification would a lot of
13 people talking about the high number of wolves and
14 bears in these game management units and I continuously
15 hear people wanting to have some kind of predator
16 reduction, especially like around Allakaket, I hear
17 that a lot. And appreciation for the project that the
18 State did there.

19

20 There's feasibilities though. And so
21 the feasibilities are -- have to be analyzed by the
22 State.

23

24 You have a comment there, Don.

25

26 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
27 Chair. I guess our justification also was exactly what
28 you said. It's a feasibility thing.

29

30 And I thought when we had our meeting
31 in McGrath that Galena was going to come up with some
32 kind of a predator control proposal or something. But
33 I think, you know, when Tommy was talking about the bad
34 winter that moose are having and stuff, I think we've
35 got to be a little proactive here in making some kind
36 of steps.

37

38 And this is just, as it reads, a
39 feasibility assessment and so that was -- I'd like to
40 offer that as our justification.

41

42 And that's not -- I don't know if it's
43 really a predator control thing, but it's a study.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does the Department
48 have a position on this, Glenn?

49

50

1 MR. STOUT: Mr. Chair. The Department
2 is neutral on this proposal at this time. It's a
3 fairly broad proposal and no specific objectives were
4 identified.

5
6 And specifically as far as intensive
7 management objectives where we identify populations for
8 high levels of human consumptive use, some of the
9 concerns that were expressed in the proposal did not
10 necessarily speak to that specific issue. There was
11 concerns about, like public safety concerns, bears,
12 wolves in the communities. And so intensive management
13 isn't specifically designed to address those types of
14 concerns.

15
16 And so as far as the other concerns
17 where we -- this suggested for a pretty broad area and
18 in some of those areas we're actually meeting our
19 intensive management objectives, our moose population
20 levels -- it was not real clear in the proposal whether
21 this was just a moose proposal -- moose prey concern or
22 whether it was moose and caribou all prey. And so we
23 have some other concerns as far as kind of narrowing
24 down and maybe working with the proponent on this --
25 what specifically they would like to accomplish on
26 that.

27
28 But at this point we're neutral on the
29 proposal.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I think
32 basically we answered the question. There may be
33 certain areas within the described units where they may
34 -- and I keep hear -- mainly it was the support for
35 Allakaket. Allakaket was the -- I keep hearing that
36 they're under-achieving their harvest and they have --
37 they had an intensive management program there which
38 was -- people felt was beneficial to their harvest.
39 And so that's the main reason I was supporting Proposal
40 75 is for -- just in support for looking -- again
41 looking at Allakaket or that Unit 24B area.

42
43 Tommy.

44
45 MR. KRISKA: Yep. I have a few
46 comments about the two different things here.

47
48 A lot of the bears in the summertime in
49 Nulato -- they -- just because of the Nulato River

50

1 there's a lot of activity with grizzly bears. The cubs
2 and the -- right in Nulato. A lot of the time the
3 people, the two parts of town are separated from --
4 they moved the new town way back on the hills and the
5 old town is out here. But a lot of people walk this --
6 about a mile for -- there's no -- you have to walk
7 through the wildlife Refuge, I guess.

8
9 Anyway, a lot of the time -- last year
10 many times the people were just walking down the road
11 and no protection and out here -- coming right out of
12 the woods there, a mother and her cubs. And there was
13 two different, a mother with three cubs there and a lot
14 of single grizzly bears and that really scared the crap
15 out of them. But then those are things around in the
16 village there with the bears.

17
18 And then right now where I should be
19 rather than sitting here is targeting.....

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 MR. KRISKA: Seriously, we shouldn't be
24 here. Because right now even as we speak there's wolf
25 packs. I travel a lot. I was just in Huslia the other
26 day, just went up there to meet this lady for our
27 gatherings and other things. I do a lot of personal
28 stuff. But the thing is I went up there. That's the
29 fourth time I was there this winter, through the deep
30 snow conditions and everything like that. But then --
31 and a lot of the boys are up there. They go up there
32 to hunt wolves, but they just don't have the tactics
33 which I was supposed to be teaching them right now.

34
35 The thing is, is about the wolf packs
36 right now and what we're seeing -- and a lot of those
37 guys say well, I don't see no wolves anywhere. I don't
38 see them anywhere. But what I ran across, the wolf
39 pack in -- right below Butcher's Camp there was wolf --
40 that wolf pack. There's two packs there. They're just
41 camped out in between there and the Dalbi. They're
42 just sitting there.

43
44 The reason is, is there's a lot of -- a
45 lot of calves and a lot of moose. And they hide into
46 the moose along this one hill. I don't know what this
47 hill is called. You might as well call it Wolf
48 Mountain because there's 22 dens on that hill -- wolf
49 dens.

50

1 But right now those wolves are just
2 sitting there. They don't have to go anywhere. They
3 don't need to go anywhere. Why go through five feet of
4 snow if they can sit there and just kill moose at will.
5 And from the last time I was there a week, a little
6 over a week ago they killed three moose. And they're
7 just there. They're killing them. They just kill them
8 so they'll eat them later.
9

10 And then another place is right below
11 Bishop Mountain. That wolf pack is just sitting there.
12 They come out of the woods and kill a moose. They
13 killed two. And then another one just the other day
14 right on the trail. So they're just sitting there.
15 Where the moose are abundant they're just sitting there
16 killing those moose. Why travel if you have a lot to
17 eat.
18

19 But anyway, that's just the -- and
20 we're really concerned about this stuff because our,
21 you know, our food is getting eaten up. And the danger
22 of the villagers with the bears and stuff.
23

24 So in different areas there's different
25 things, and I imagine it's all over.
26

27 But anyway, just I would support that.
28

29 Thank you.
30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we supported the
32 proposal. We're just kind of giving justifications
33 about -- concerns about various predators and -- and do
34 an assessment on that.
35

36 That was Darrel. He used to be on the
37 Council.
38

39 MR. VENT: Hello.
40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Proposal 76, non-
42 intensive management predator control. Establish a
43 non-intensive management control plan in Unit 21 for
44 bears and wolves as follows. And establish a non-
45 intensive management predator corridor, control plan to
46 address conservation concerns in the Galena Mountain
47 and Wolf Mountain Caribou Herds.
48

49 And did you want to -- is Glenn here.
50

1 Oh, there. I can't see. The light is glaring.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Sorry. You can move.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's okay.

6

7 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
8 reason we call it a non-intensive predator control plan
9 is because in regulation a herd has to meet certain
10 thresholds of high levels of human consumptive use, and
11 in caribou it's got to 100 caribou to reach that
12 threshold.

13

14 The Galena Mountain Herd is only about
15 140 animals. We certainly aren't meeting that high
16 levels of human consumptive use threshold. And so this
17 does not have a positive finding for intensive
18 management, and so a predator control program in this
19 case is not about intensive management, it's about
20 conservation concerns. We're concerned that we could
21 lose this caribou herd and so this is -- it's kind of
22 an odd term to use, non-intensive predator control.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

25

26 MR. STOUT: But the Department is
27 neutral on this. We want the public to weigh in on
28 this because it's really about whether the public is
29 concerned that this is an important thing for them to
30 invest in it because we aren't getting a lot of harvest
31 out of this herd obviously. And so does the public
32 prioritize this, you know, the conservation of this
33 herd, is it important in the eyes of the public and we
34 want the public to weigh in on whether in fact that's
35 an important thing for them.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. So do we have
38 a motion to adopt Proposal 76.

39

40 MR. GERVAIS: I move to adopt Proposal
41 76.

42

43 MR. SIMON: Second.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.
46 So these caribou herds are dwindling away, the Galena
47 Mountain and Wolf Mountain Caribou Herds. And so
48 there's -- did the Ruby AC discussed this proposal.
49 Did they.....

50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Yes. Ruby AC supported
2 this proposal. They're -- but they have -- they wanted
3 to -- the main discussion or points of interest were
4 they wanted to see and review the study information.
5 Like potentially what may come out of this non-
6 intensive management plan may be a controlled burn and
7 the members of the community and the tribe wanted to
8 see the results of the study and evaluate that and not
9 necessarily by their passing of this proposal, they
10 weren't signifying their willingness to go with a burn.
11 They want to see the data from the research before we
12 move on to the controlled burn, which is -- apparently
13 is three or four steps out in the process.

14
15 So yeah, it was generally favorable,
16 but they want to make sure they weren't authorizing the
17 burn right off the bat. They want to see what the
18 science says.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Their concern was
21 that the burn was going to eliminate caribou habitat?

22
23 MR. GERVAIS: Food source.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

26
27 MR. GERVAIS: They were.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I live with
30 caribou and there's sort of a misnomer that burns are
31 bad for caribou. In reality when burns burn through
32 tundra it make -- causes it -- nitrogen loads those
33 tussocks and they just blossom like crazy, it'll just
34 be white with Arctic cotton. And caribou eat cotton
35 grass flowers as soon as it emerges, so right after a
36 burn -- you go around, go up here in Globe Creek, or
37 just right out of Fairbanks here in the springtime and
38 you'll see those tussocks are white in June. That
39 means that there was -- instead of like five to ten
40 blossoms there was up to fifty different blossoms,
41 which is all high protein for caribou.

42
43 Caribou capitalize on that protein
44 source. So burns -- specific burns on ridges like that
45 would actually benefit caribou. It was my
46 understanding -- and Glenn, do you have comments on
47 this -- on these burn, the controlled burns?

48
49 MR. STOUT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And

50

1 both the comments that were provided there as far as
2 our discussion about the plan that we would have to
3 look at, we would do a feasibility assessment for this
4 herd and any kind of predator control non-intensive
5 management planning that we did. And it could include
6 habitat treatment, which could include prescribed
7 burning.

8
9 One of the issues that we've identified
10 in this area is a structural component of the habitat
11 up there, not a forage component and a transition area
12 where cows are transitioning from their summer and
13 winter range. They go to a calving area for just one
14 or two weeks. They drop their calves and then they
15 transition back through that area.

16
17 So that does not represent a forage
18 component to them. An important forage component in
19 the area that they -- they're going to camp there and
20 not have that forage component. It's about removing
21 the over story in these areas where the boreal forest
22 is starting not only to move north in latitude, it's
23 moving up in altitude. And as these caribou with
24 calves are transitioning through this area there's a
25 lot of bears in hiding in the thick cover. And so it's
26 about creating a visual security.

27
28 Now this is a premise of ours. We
29 don't know, in fact, that this is the cause of it. And
30 we don't know that a habitat treatment is the solution.
31 And that's why we need to go through, like Member
32 Gervais said, probably about three different phases
33 where, first of all, we establish what is actually
34 happening to the productivity and the survival of these
35 Galena Mountain Herd animals and then start to figure
36 out, well, what's the best solution.

37
38 It may be that the habitat treatment is
39 the best solution. If it were so, we could go in there
40 and we could try a habitat treatment in there. And if
41 that doesn't work then we may consider doing a predator
42 control program.

43
44 So there's a lot to be learned about
45 this. A very specific example as far as the Galena
46 Mountain Herd, but I think we have a lot to learn about
47 these small, non-migratory herds throughout the area.
48 Because we have quite a few of these herds around.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it's
2 interesting that Ray Mountain, Wolf Mountain, Galena
3 Mountain, Hotzana, all of those herds are dwindling
4 away as these as their calving areas are being
5 encroached by these timbers and these bears have closer
6 access to them, those herds are diminishing.

7
8 And so caribou calve -- if you look at
9 where caribou actually calve, they calve in tussock.
10 That's what they -- why they calve there. And cotton
11 grass is -- in the Arctic Refuge they spent a lot of
12 money, millions, to study how the coastal plain is half
13 melted off when the caribou calve. On the average day,
14 when caribou drop their calves in the Arctic Refuge,
15 the tundra's half melted off. They get to the Arctic
16 Refuge. The tundra's melting back. They're eating
17 cotton grass flowers. They don't eat any lichen. The
18 perception is they have to have lichen on their calving
19 ground. No, they don't. They're eating cotton grass
20 flowers.

21
22 And so as the tundra's flushing, it
23 actually is -- it is highly -- it gives them all this
24 nitrogen, all this protein to dump into those calves.
25 So treatment of burning the hill where they actually
26 calve would actually -- if it's just tussock, burn the
27 crests off of those tussocks. Those things will flush
28 back. They will go to that like a pig to a trough.

29
30 You know, that big burn on the Arctic
31 Slope up there north of Anaktuvuk, people were freaked
32 out about that thing. It was like oh, man. I bet
33 those caribou in the spring were just loaded on that
34 thing. Because that will be -- it will be high
35 nitrogen for about ten years. It's actually a huge
36 boon.

37
38 Dall sheep, there was burn that went
39 into the -- up the side of the mountain. Those stayed
40 green later into the fall and the sheep -- there was 40
41 sheep on this little tiny burn near a tree line just
42 north of Wiseman back about 25 years ago.

43
44 Burns are not bad for caribou. Not
45 nearly as bad as most people think they are. I've seen
46 it lots of times. In fact, those huge burns there by
47 Jim River in the -- or South Fork, the Hotzana caribou
48 came down there. They were on the South Fork eating
49 cotton grass right next to the road. People were like
50

1 we never seen caribou here. No, they came down to
2 those burns because it was all -- it's just white with
3 Arctic cotton in the summer, but that's all blossoms in
4 the spring.

5
6 So the treatment actually we should be
7 considering for Fortymile and some of these herds, they
8 should actually think about burning certain --
9 prescribed burns. And look at it. You burn some of
10 that tundra you watch what those caribou do. They'll
11 -- that's a huge boon to their productivity.

12
13 So I'm supportive of the proposal.

14
15 Who else is -- any more comments.

16
17 Pollock.

18
19 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
20 used to get caribou from the Western Arctic Caribou
21 Herd come down to the Koyukuk River, but they don't
22 come around anymore. So I would support this just to
23 try to save the smaller herds like Galena Herd, Ray
24 Mountain Herd.

25
26 I would support taking some of these
27 wolves out and bears because when we run out of moose
28 meat in the wintertime we subsist on caribou in
29 wintertime, but wolves and bears are taking -- kind of
30 taking some of these caribous out. We should try to
31 save these small herds.

32
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those
36 comments, Pollock.

37
38 Don.

39
40 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
41 also support this.

42
43 And as stated by Glenn to Ruby AC that
44 this would be done in stages. I mean the one behind
45 Kokrines there, I am up at Big Eddy, about 25 miles up
46 there, five miles from the old village of Kokrines and
47 I've seen -- someone right above our camp there, I
48 think they saw 10, 15 caribou that came down to the
49 river from that exact thing. And so anything that we
50

1 could try to enhance or save those to me is a good
2 thing. And so I was just -- so I'm in full support of
3 this.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.

8
9 Final question.

10
11 Go ahead there, Tim.

12
13 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 Yeah, for at least a couple of decades the Department
15 and Glenn himself have done a lot of research on this
16 herd, so I think having the Department continue to
17 evaluate and figure out some of the biology and ecology
18 of what's going on with this herd is an efficient use
19 of the Department's resource.

20
21 And it probably will provide insight
22 for stuff with some global warming and it would
23 translate into some management knowledge for these
24 other, Wolf Mountain, Galena Mountain, Sunshine
25 Mountain, Ray Mountain Herds, so it can be applied
26 through several of these small herds in the Interior.

27
28 So I will support the proposal also.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim. You
31 know, like there's those Kuskokwim caribou there by
32 McGrath, same kind of situations.

33
34 MR. HONEA: Call for the question.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
37 Those in favor of Proposal 67 [sic], signify by saying
38 aye.

39
40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

43
44 (No opposing votes)

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're at 76. I
47 misstated that.

48
49 And so the.....

50

1 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

4
5 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair, I just had a
6 question. Are we going to go through these -- all of
7 them -- the McGrath, every one of them, I mean in view
8 of time and stuff, do we -- are we going to be able to
9 cover the agenda.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have two sheep
12 proposals in 84 and 85. Those are to increase harvest
13 opportunity on the Dalton Highway Corridor. PJ Simon
14 testified against that. I oppose that. But let's take
15 those two proposals, 84 and 85 up as a block.

16
17 And would somebody like to make a
18 motion to adopt Proposal 84 and 85 combined.....

19
20 MR. HONEA: So moved.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:with the
23 intention to vote them down.

24
25 MR. GERVAIS: Seconded.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don first?

28
29 MR. HONEA: Yes.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A motion to adopt.
32 Second by Tim.

33
34 The sheep population cannot support
35 additional harvest opportunity in these game management
36 Units 24, 25, and 26B. So we heard plenty of testimony
37 about that.

38
39 Any further discussion on those two
40 proposals.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
47 Those in favor of Proposals 84 and 85, signify by
48 saying aye.

49
50

1 (No aye votes)
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.
4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're coming down
8 on the end of the proposals and I think we can cover
9 some of the -- Proposal 96 is to re-authorize the Unit
10 19D predator control program. That's McGrath.
11
12 And did we have.....
13
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: We have 95. Do you
15 want to just skip it.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposal 95.
18
19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Establishes.....
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, that's a complex
22 proposal.....
23
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, it is.
25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:that I don't
27 think we have enough information on.
28
29 So 96.....
30
31 Is Josh Pearce on the phone?
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Alaska Department of
36 Fish and Game?
37
38 (No comment)
39
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, with your
41 permission, can we go ahead and have people announce
42 who they are on the phone. We haven't done the
43 introductions yet for today. I'd appreciate it.
44
45 And also for the folks in the room, if
46 you could sign the sign-in sheet in the back, that
47 would also be appreciated.
48
49 Thank you.
50

1 So if you're on the phone, could you
2 please give us your name and your agency or who you're
3 representing.
4

5 Thank you.
6

7 MR. HAVENER: Yeah. This is Jeremy
8 Havener, Fish and Wildlife Service, out of Galena, for
9 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife Refuge.
10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning.
12

13 Anybody else.
14

15 MS. JALLEN: Good morning. This is
16 Deena Jallen, Alaska Department of Fish and Game in
17 Anchorage and the summer season assistant manager for
18 the Yukon River.
19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning.
21

22 MR. BURCH: Hello. This is Mark Burch,
23 with the Department of Fish and Game. I'll actually be
24 going back and forth some between this meeting and the
25 Eastern Interior meeting.
26

27 Thank you.
28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
30

31 So do you know.....
32

33 MR. ESTENSEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
34 Members of the Council. This is Jeff Estensen, Alaska
35 Department of Fish and Game, fall season manager for
36 the Yukon. Good morning.
37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning.
39

40 So we're on Proposal 96 and the area
41 biologist, Josh Pearce, is not on the phone and so we
42 were going to take this proposal up. It's to re-
43 authorize the 19D predator control program. And.....
44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm trying to get you
46 the State comments on it.
47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I'm looking
49 for the.....
50

1 MS. BROWN: They start on page 111.
2
3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. All right.
4 So.....
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we have a re-
7 authorization of the predator control program.
8
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: If you'd like, I can
10 read the Department's comments.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead if you have
13 them.
14
15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16
17 This is Karen Deatherage. I'm reading
18 the Department of Fish and Game's comments on this
19 Proposal number 90.....
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 96.
22
23 MS. DEATHERAGE: 96. Thank you. The
24 Department is neutral regarding -- oh, wait. Is the
25 right one?
26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's the
28 Department's proposal.
29
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: The Department
31 submitted and supports this proposal, although the I.M.
32 moose pop -- that's intensive management moose
33 population within 19D East has been reached, moose
34 harvest objectives have not been met. A typographical
35 error appeared in the original proposal in which
36 paragraph C should correctly read the Unit 19 East
37 predation controlled area is established and consist of
38 those portions at the Koyukuk River drainage within 19D
39 upstream from the Slatna River drainage, but excluding
40 the Black River drainage.
41
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.
45
46 The McGrath AC supports the proposal.
47 Do you have a record of the McGrath's justification?
48
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, thank you.
50

1 If you would give me just a couple of minutes.....
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.
4
5 MS. DEATHERAGE:I can read that
6 as well.
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the issue.....
9
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead.
13
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: The McGrath AC
15 supported this 12 to 0, but they did not give any
16 justification on their report.
17
18 Thank you.
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. The harvest
21 objective is not going to be met since they've had two
22 deep snow years in McGrath back to back. And their
23 population is going to retract even further coming in.
24 So I am supportive of the proposal because these -- the
25 moose population was just coming into recovery and
26 starting to get to the point where it need -- and so
27 now they're getting a big down turn.
28
29 So do we have a motion to adopt
30 Proposal 96.
31
32 MR. SIMON: So moved.
33
34 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded
37 by Jenny. Those in.....
38
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Who?
40
41 RECORDER: Moved by Pollock, seconded
42 by Jenny.
43
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.
45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any discussion.
47
48 MS. PELKOLA: Question.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's
2 called on Proposal 96. Signify by saying aye.
3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Justification would
7 be re-authorization of the predator control program is
8 warranted. The moose population is enduring two hard
9 winters back to back and so it should be seriously
10 considered to look at restraining predation at this
11 time in Unit 19D.
12
13 And so there is -- let's see, change
14 the Tier II -- 97 is change the Tier II permit for
15 moose in 19A to a registration permit. McGrath opposed
16 that.
17
18 Is there a -- what is that, Aniak,
19 Middle Kuskokwim, what's their AC down there.
20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: The GASH?
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.
24
25 MS. BROWN: No.
26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is 19A.
28
29 MS. BROWN: The Middle.....
30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. This is 19A.
32
33 MS. BROWN: Yeah, it's 19A, the Western
34 part as opposed to eastern part, which is.....
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hmm. So okay.
37 Well.....
38
39 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Central Kuskokwim
40 Fish and Game Advisory.
41
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, Central
43 Kuskokwim.
44
45 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Page 119.
46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So there 90 --
48 McGrath supported Proposal 99 for a Tier II moose
49 permit in 19A to household permit. And OSM is
50

1 supporting 99. So let's take up 99.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: All right. So we're
4 not going to take up the others.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we're going to
7 come back to those, but let's take up 99 right now.

8

9 MR. HONEA: Motion to adopt.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to adopt
12 Proposal 99.

13

14 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

15

16 MR. GERVAIS: Second.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is to change the
19 Tier II moose permit, which is TM680 in Unit 19A to a
20 household permit as follows. The people in the same
21 household can hunt together. There is currently
22 another area -- currently other areas in the State
23 where this occurs. Please use that language.

24

25 The TM680 permit be modified from an
26 individual permit to a household permit. We would like
27 to modify the permit in order to reflect our
28 traditional way of hunting as a group. It's important
29 for elders to pass on knowledge to the younger
30 generation and currently with a Tier II permit system
31 that our area has mentoring and hunting together is not
32 allowed. We are not requesting an increase in the
33 number. Only when the hunting -- the permit issued
34 contains each member of the household's name on it.
35 The licensed hunter needs to have the permit with him
36 at the time of the hunt.

37

38 So they want this household permit, and
39 McGrath supported it with amendment.

40

41 And was there an amendment, Karen, did
42 McGrath amend.....

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Let me get this, just
45 a minute.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: McGrath amended it.

48

49 MR. GERVAIS: McGrath amendment.

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Just a second, what's
2 the number.
3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 99.
5
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: 99.
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And they amended it
9 in some way.
10
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 This is Karen Deatherage. The McGrath AC supported
13 with amendment. Again we incorporate by reference the
14 conditions and comments by the SHAC. I guess that's
15 the Shaktoolik.....
16
17 MS. BROWN: Shag. No.
18
19 MS. DEATHERAGE: I mean Shage --
20 Shageluk, to include but not limited to a registration
21 hunt with up to 300 permits. Two, permits available
22 within the hunt area. Three, a person won't qualify to
23 receive a permit if they have a permit to hunt moose
24 anywhere in the Kuskokwim drainage. Four, only one
25 permit per household. Five, hunt reports turned in
26 with 15 days of hunt closure.
27
28 And it was a 10-0 vote.
29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So they.....
31
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: So those are the four
33 conditions that they want to support this proposal
34 with.
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
37
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I understand why
41 they want that. And so I would entertain a motion to
42 adopt the amended language of the McGrath Advisory
43 Committee.
44
45 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.
46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.
48
49 MR. GERVAIS: Seconded.
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: So you're amending it
4 too.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Amending. And so
7 vote on that amendment. So we take a vote on the
8 amendment -- on the amended language.

9

10 Those in favor of adding the McGrath
11 AC's amended language to Proposal 99, signify by saying
12 aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in -- and so
17 any discussion on this household permit.

18

19 I think it's a warranted justification
20 by the proponent in the Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game
21 Advisory Committee.

22

23 Any further discussion.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called by
30 Jenny.

31

32 Those in favor of adopting Proposal 99,
33 with the amended language from the McGrath Advisory
34 Committee, signify by saying aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

39

40 (No opposing votes)

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So these -- 97 and
43 98 are Tier II permits for moose in 19A registration
44 permits. And McGrath opposed those.

45

46 And did they have justification on
47 their opposition to those permits?

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 On 97 and 98, McGrath opposes this proposal as written
2 and incorporates Stony Holitna AC's comments by
3 reference. And the same is true for 98. I do not have
4 copies of the Stony Holitna's AC comments, however.
5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I will make note
7 for the record, this Council is at a loss on these
8 proposals because we do not have representation on this
9 Council from anyone on the Kuskokwim River. Why am I
10 asking for the AC's comments. Because we do not have
11 Council members from the Kuskokwim River. And so I'll
12 note that for the record, my displeasure for the
13 appointments not being made to this Council.
14

15 I was informed by Kevin Wentworth that
16 he submitted his application yesterday, so maybe we'll
17 get one in the hopper.
18

19 (Laughter)
20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hopefully though he
22 will be appointed.
23

24 So I will go along with McGrath AC. I
25 would vote against those two proposals. We'll take
26 those as a block, 97 and 98.
27

28 Do we have a motion to adopt 97 and 98.
29

30 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.
31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.
33

34 MR. GERVAIS: Seconded.
35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tim. I
37 feel that the McGrath AC -- they were comfortable with
38 the amended Tier II permit in Proposal 99 and they
39 opposed the other two. And so I'm in favor of their
40 decision.
41

42 Any discussion on 97 and 98.
43

44 Go ahead, Don.
45

46 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair. So we are
47 in opposition.
48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I am opposed to
50

1 adopting those two proposals.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Both of them, okay. Thank
4 you.

5

6 MR. GERVAIS: Based on action in 99.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Based on action in
9 99 and supporting the McGrath AC, which is within our
10 region and under .805 of ANILCA that Councils look to
11 the AC's for advisement.

12

13 Go ahead.

14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 Is there any interest in hearing the Department's
17 position on these proposals.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, yes, if there
20 is.

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 The Department is neutral regarding changing TM680 to a
24 registration permit because it's an allocation issue.
25 The Department is opposed to the proposal as written
26 because hunters are currently harvesting the maximum
27 number of animals available and if this proposal is
28 adopted as written harvest would likely increase
29 significantly.

30

31 The Department currently issues 200
32 permits while the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issue
33 an additional 100 permits. Currently, with 300 total
34 permits issued and success rates just above 50 percent
35 there is no additional harvest available. Therefore,
36 if the Board decides to make the change from a Tier II
37 hunt to a registration permit ensuring harvest does not
38 increase will be essential. Changes to seasons and bag
39 limits may need to be considered or other options such
40 as limiting the number of registration permits issued
41 only allowing one permit per household, only being able
42 to hold registration permit in the Kuskokwim River
43 drainage or a very short reporting requirement.

44

45 The Department will need clear guidance
46 regarding how widely permits will be available and the
47 time frame to issue them.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That enforces my
2 opposition.....
3
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Exactly.
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:to the two
7 proposals.
8
9 Do we have a question on the Proposals
10 97 and 98.
11
12 MR. HONEA: Question.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
15 Those in favor of those two proposals for registration
16 permits in Unit 19A for moose, signify by saying aye.
17
18 (No aye votes)
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.
21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I think we've
25 covered all the proposals that we need to cover.
26
27 Karen, don't you?
28
29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 There are Proposals 100 through 119 still dealing with
31 Unit 19A for moose hunting. There's a number of those
32 in 19A, including re-authorizing the predation control
33 program in that area. So there are still -- there's
34 still another page of proposals.
35
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see it. It's
39 back here.
40
41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Take a break.
42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So do you want to
44 take a break.
45
46 (Council nods affirmatively)
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
49
50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Does the Council have
2 interest in Proposal 115, meat on the bone.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

5
6 So we're going to take a break. I
7 missed these -- that there's this -- there's a whole
8 other sheet here. So we'll take a break. We've got to
9 finish these proposals up by at least lunch because
10 we've got a whole bunch more agenda to do. So we're
11 going to cherry pick the best of the proposals that
12 hunt most effectively.

13
14 We'll break till about 11:15.

15
16 (Off record)

17
18 (On record)

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're in
21 uncharted waters because we don't have Council members
22 from the Kuskokwim. I am inclined to look at the
23 proposals that OSM made some comments on or took
24 positions on.

25
26 So with that, one of the proposals is
27 102, to shift the seasons, dates for Tier II moose
28 permit hunts in Unit 19A. So that's Proposal 102. And
29 OSM supported the proposal.

30
31 What was their justification for that?

32
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: While I'm looking this
34 up, is Josh Pearce on the phone now?

35
36 MR. PEARCE: Yes. Yep, I'm on the
37 phone.

38
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Super.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Good.

42
43 MS. DEATHERAGE: So just to let you
44 know, Jack. Thank you. Thanks, Josh.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So.....

47
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: 102?

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 102 is -- what's the
2 Department's position on 102, Josh?

3
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Do you.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I'll get OSM
7 right after that.

8
9 MR. PEARCE: Yeah. Well, I'm just
10 getting signed in here, so let me log in.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I'll give
13 Karen a chance to give OSM's position. You can come
14 back after her.

15
16 Go ahead, Karen.

17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 I have both positions, if you need.

20
21 The OSM recommendation is to support
22 this proposal. This proposal would benefit Federally-
23 qualified subsistence users by easing meat care in the
24 field. There are no conservation issues.

25
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27
28 And if you would like to hear the
29 State's position I can read that.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You could read it
32 and Josh can concur. Go ahead.

33
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 The Department is neutral to shifting
37 the season dates for TM680 in Unit 19A; however, the
38 number of permits issued may be decreased to adjust for
39 any additional harvest because the bull/cow ratio are
40 below the management objective and we are very close to
41 the maximum harvestable surplus for the area. This
42 shift in season dates would not only add a day of
43 hunting opportunity, but would also likely increase
44 harvest because bulls become susceptible to harvest as
45 the rut approaches in late September.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And did you have

50

1 comments on that, Josh.

2

3

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MR. PEARCE: Yeah. Yeah. Thanks,
Jack. I sure do.

So yeah, the proposal basically as it's
written would shift the season date, so it would end on
the 25th of September instead of the 20th of September.
And we can accomplish that with the Tier II permit that
we currently have in place, thus the neutral
recommendation. However, if that proposal passes it's
highly likely we are going to have to reduce the number
of permits, which wouldn't necessarily be a good thing
for subsistence.

As you just heard in that
recommendation, we are currently at the maximum number
of bulls that we can harvest. And in addition to that
our bull/cow ratio is on the low side. It's below 25
bulls per 100, it typically is between 20 and 23 or 4
bulls per 100 cows, which is low. And so my concern
about opening this season and what I wanted to point
out was that if it does pass as written it's likely to
lead to a reduction in opportunity because we just
cannot harvest any more bulls from that area.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How many permits are
you issuing right now?

MR. PEARCE: So the State currently
issues 200 permits per year and the Refuge issues
another -- an additional 100. So there's 300 total
permits given.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. So you
would work with the Refuge to reduce permits if this
proposal were to pass? You would set a.....

MR. PEARCE: Well, so that would be
part of it. I'm not sure what the Federal number of
proposals would look like, but the Tier II permits
certainly would be a starting point. And I would also
try to work with the Refuge to reduce that number of
permits as well.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we should
have a motion to adopt Proposal 102.

MR. HONEA: Motion to adopt.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a second.

2

3

MR. GERVAIS: Second.

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We've got a
6 second from Tim.

7

8

9 And what's the Council's opinion of
10 this. Gregory Hoffman submitted the proposal. And the
11 reason for is the warm, wet weather in early part of
12 September may cause meat to start to spoil before
13 hunters are able to get it safely home to finish
14 processing and preserving the meat. So that was the
15 reason given for extending the season longer, but the
16 bull/cow ratios are really low. I consider bull/cow
17 ratios for that kind of a population of 20 to 23 is not
18 that good at all.

19

20

So because of that and because it makes
21 any available bulls that are moving around -- younger
22 bulls are -- we don't have the younger bulls to
23 actually sacrifice at a higher rate, so the bulk -- you
24 would take bulls at a higher rate.

25

26

So I can see why you would need -- and
27 it would be a little bit complex to actually calculate
28 how much reduction. So there's going to be reduced
29 hunting opportunities -- is the upshot of what the
30 Department is going to do. The number of hunters are
31 going to be reduced. That's what's going to happen.

32

33

So I'm not supportive of this proposal
34 because of that part of it. And I'm really concerned
35 about this low bull/cow ratio of 20 to 23 bulls per 100
36 cows.

37

38

Discussion.

39

40

Tim.

41

42

MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Jack. Yeah.
43 I'm in agreement with what you're saying. To me that
44 September 1 opening seems real early to me. We talked
45 about it yesterday. We're going to talk about it more
46 in the future about moving seasons back because we're
47 all seeing the lack of the rutting behavior.

48

49

But then yesterday we got some
50 testimony from Glenn Stout saying that the Department

1 is -- at this time the Department is saying that the
2 rut is still occurring on time based on their gestation
3 and calving timing. They think they're just starting
4 to breed at night and have less daytime or daylight
5 hour breeding.

6
7 So other than that bull/cow ratio I
8 would support the proposal to move the season back, but
9 if the Department is going to take action -- Department
10 of Fish and Game is going to take action to reduce the
11 amount of Tier II permits, I would be inclined to vote
12 this proposal down so we could have more two tier
13 permits issued.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I think that
16 it's more beneficial to have -- give more people or
17 more families the opportunity to take moose in a more
18 equitable distribution than to reduce the number of
19 hunters and I don't think that that's beneficial to
20 subsistence users to reduce the number of participants.

21
22 So I'm opposed to the proposal on that
23 grounds and the concern about this really low number of
24 bulls. We don't have additional bulls. It's not like
25 we've got excess young bulls floating around and we can
26 take those all -- skim them off. These younger bulls
27 need to come in for breeding bulls, so those would be
28 subjected to higher rates of harvest later in the
29 season -- those younger bulls.

30
31 So any other comments.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a
36 question on the proposal.

37
38 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
41 Those in favor of Proposal 102, signify by saying aye.

42
43 MS. PELKOLA: Aye.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you vote aye

50

1 or.....
2
3 MS. PELKOLA: Oh, I, I don't know.
4
5 (Laughter)
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the vote.....
8
9 REPORTER: Do it again. Do the vote
10 over, I didn't get who voted aye and aye.
11
12 (Laughter)
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
15 Proposal 102, signify by saying aye.
16
17 (No aye votes)
18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.
20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Proposal 102 is
24 opposed.
25
26 REPORTER: Okay, good job, got it.
27
28 (Laughter)
29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll go to 107,
31 which is another OSM made comment on and the GASH made
32 comment on. So GASH supported it. OSM supported it.
33
34 Did you want to give an outline of this
35 Proposal 107, Josh?
36
37 MR. PEARCE: Yeah. Yep, I sure can.
38 I'm just trying to stay caught up with you guys.
39 Sorry. I wasn't aware of what proposals you were going
40 to go on through here.
41
42 But this proposal would establish a
43 resident winter moose hunt in Unit 21E. And the
44 Department supports the concept of additional harvest,
45 but of course we're neutral on the allocative aspects
46 of who gets to go harvest those moose.
47
48 But in 21E we've got a growing moose
49 population right now. We've got about two moose per
50

1 square mile in the area. And my concern is -- it's
2 actually just over that, it's 2.1. But my concern is
3 with twinning rates. And as you guys have heard a lot,
4 twinning rates are a direct indication of the
5 nutritional status of the herd. And what we have going
6 on there now have been steadily decline -- as we've
7 seen steadily growing population we've seen steadily
8 declining twinning rates.

9
10 And so the last year we did them was
11 spring 2000 -- this is composition data. Yeah. Okay.
12 So last spring, a year ago basically, we went out there
13 and we had in the Holy Cross area only 14 percent
14 twinning rates. And our objectives are based on what
15 we do with the moose population. Allow it grow,
16 stabilize it or start to reduce it are based on what
17 those two-year average twinning rates are.

18
19 So right now we're sitting at a two-
20 year average twinning rate of 12 percent, which is
21 definitely low, especially considering that that's deep
22 snow country. As you move north, however, toward
23 Shageluk and up towards Grayling, where the moose
24 densities really start to decline pretty rapidly,
25 twinning rates are much better and we've got 32 percent
26 twinning in those areas, which is certainly adequate.

27
28 So anything over 20 percent we try to
29 continue to allow for growth to occur. Once it gets
30 between 15 and 20 percent though we look to stabilize
31 the population.

32
33 And so if you average those twinning
34 rates, you know, we're in the 20s, but it's that Holy
35 Cross area in particular that I have concerns with and
36 we really do need to start harvesting more moose there.

37
38 So this proposal would allow for
39 additional subsistence opportunity of course. It would
40 allow for a winter moose hunt and in particular that
41 area around this -- where I'm interested in seeing more
42 harvest.

43
44 So that's kind of a quick thumbnail and
45 I'd be happy to answer any questions.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that's all
48 great information and it has real bearing on
49 deliberation of the proposal.

50

1 So do we have a motion to adopt
2 Proposal 107.
3
4 MR. GERVAIS: I move to adopt Proposal
5 107.
6
7 MR. SIMON: Second.
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.
10
11 Discussion.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: OSM's position and
16 the GASH position, Karen, if you have those.
17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19
20 The OSM position is to support this
21 proposal. There is currently no biological concern for
22 this moose population. If this proposal is adopted it
23 could provide more opportunity to Federally-qualified
24 subsistence users by permitting a winter harvest on
25 State managed lands that border many of the
26 communities.
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's GASH's
29 proposal, did they have any further justification?
30
31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32
33 The vote was 6 to 0 to support the
34 proposal with no justification provided.
35
36 Thank you.
37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I don't think
39 there's a lot of need for deliberating a lot on this
40 proposal. It's a given that there's additional harvest
41 opportunity.
42
43 Any further comments.
44
45 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.
46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.
48
49 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
50

1 don't know who's on the phone there answering this, but
2 I mean it says they traditionally had a winter hunt.
3 And I was just wondering why that was stopped or -- and
4 so if this is going to be in effect this would -- the
5 reading would be for the people that did not get a
6 moose during the fall hunt?
7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Josh.
9

10 MR. PEARCE: Yeah. Okay. So yes,
11 there was a winter hunt. It ended back in the early
12 2000s, I don't know the exact year, over concerns of a
13 declining moose population. So as the -- the theory
14 from the locals in that area is that all those Unit 18
15 moose that we're dealing with now on the Yukon, that
16 moose from 21E started moving down into that area. So
17 at any rate, around 2004 there was a planning process
18 put in place and one of the concerns was that moose
19 numbers had declined quite a bit in the GASH area. So
20 when that happened the State winter season was closed.
21 Over the last 15 years or so that moose population has
22 really rebounded and there is definitely an opportunity
23 to harvest additional moose now.
24

25 And then the final question was; yes,
26 this hunt would only be available to people who did not
27 harvest a moose in the fall. So they can't shoot a
28 second moose, and the yearly bag limit is a regulatory
29 year, which is July 1st to June 30th.
30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.
32

33 Don.
34

35 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank
36 you, Josh. Usually I think -- when we're talking about
37 some of these -- whether it's the Nowitna, the Koyukuk
38 or the GASH area, the Innoko Wildlife Refuge, I guess
39 my question is if this is a Federal hunt then, are we
40 -- isn't it at the option of the Refuge manager?
41

42 Thank you.
43

44 MR. PEARCE: Yeah. So this hunt would
45 reopen a State season. There is a Federal season and
46 the GASH wanted it to overlap with the Federal season
47 so the season dates would be identical to the Federal
48 hunt that's already on the books. As OSM pointed out
49 though, if this proposal were to pass this would open
50

1 up opportunity for Federal subsistence users on State
2 and private lands as well, which of course there's, you
3 know, significant amounts of.

4
5 So under the Federal season a person
6 really needs to watch what color box of land they're
7 on, you know are they on Federal land or not. And so
8 this would open up all of 21E to a winter opportunity.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So if you look in
11 the Federal regulation book you see the white areas
12 would be the State lands, the brown areas are the
13 Federal lands. And so this would open up the lands
14 closest to the villages. That's where most of the Corp
15 lands and State lands would occur, so it would be -- it
16 would give closer access to the same winter hunt that's
17 happening on the Federal side, except people have had
18 to travel to the Federal lands. So now they can hunt
19 -- if this hunt were to pass by the Board of Game
20 they'd be able to hunt simultaneously on the Federal
21 and the State lands. And so this is highly beneficial
22 to subsistence users.

23
24 MR. HONEA: So Mr. Chair, we're just
25 aligning the two hunts.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Aligning the two
28 hunts.

29
30 MR. HONEA: Okay. I -- if the numbers
31 -- I have no problem with it if the numbers can support
32 that hunt. Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a
35 question.

36
37 MR. HONEA: Question.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
40 Those in favor of Proposal 107 to align the seasons
41 with the Federal hunt February 15 to March 15 in Unit
42 21E for a winter hunt for moose, signify by saying aye.

43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same
47 sign.

48
49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion carries. So
2 we're going to -- we're just jumping around here, Josh.
3 We're going to go to Proposal 109. Replace the general
4 moose season with registration hunts in Unit 21A.
5

6 MR. PEARCE: Yeah. Okay. So this
7 proposal was submitted by the GASH and McGrath Advisory
8 Committees.
9

10 What they are looking to do here, the
11 GASH, about six years ago changed 21E from a harvest
12 ticket to a registration permit in order to get better
13 harvest reporting. It was pretty poor in that area.
14 And after that proposal passed we saw about a doubling
15 in the amount of harvest that was actually reported.
16

17 So 21A, we're pretty suspicious I guess
18 would be the right word, that harvest that's being
19 reported is not accurate of what's actually taking
20 place. And that's based on us talking to -- interviews
21 with hunters, transporters that access the area and
22 then primarily fly back through McGrath, the wildlife
23 Troopers who are out there doing enforcement, and it
24 really appears that the harvest is not being accurately
25 reported.
26

27 And of course as you guys know it's
28 hard to manage if you don't have good data. And so
29 part of good data is knowing how many animals you have
30 out there and how many are being harvested.
31

32 And so we don't have any biological
33 concerns out there at this time, but having better
34 harvest reporting would be very useful for management
35 purposes.
36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So a motion to adopt
38 Proposal 109.
39

40 MR. HONEA: Motion to adopt.
41

42 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.
45 So GASH is tracking this closely and they submitted
46 this proposal and it's a warranted proposal. The
47 support is from McGrath AC, GASH AC, and OSM.
48

49 Did OSM have a comment on this Proposal
50

1 109?
2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 The OSM recommendation is to support this proposal. If
5 this proposal is adopted it could improve harvesting
6 reporting in the unit. And that is all the comment for
7 OSM.
8

9 Thank you.
10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I'm
12 supportive of the proposal. I feel it's warranted
13 because of the under-reporting that's occurred
14 previously on the general hunt. And I applaud the GASH
15 AC for tracking this and highlighting this.
16

17 Any further discussion.
18

19 Go ahead, Don.
20

21 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair, I would agree
22 also. When we have the GASH area and McGrath
23 concentrating on this, I think it important that we at
24 least take action. I support it.
25

26 Thank you.
27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.
29

30 Further discussion.
31

32 MR. SIMON: Question.
33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
35

36 Those in favor of Proposal 109, signify
37 by saying aye.
38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.
40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.
42

43 (No opposing votes)
44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to jump
46 down to Proposal 112, Josh. And so -- the reason I'm
47 jumping around is because we're running out of time and
48 we have to -- we're going to basically have to be
49 finished with State proposals by lunch. Because we've
50

1 got a whole bunch of agenda after lunch.

2

3 So 112. Do you want to give an
4 overview of that.

5

6 MR. PEARCE: Sure. Yeah. I can make
7 this one real fast.

8

9 It's basically the exact same issue as
10 what you just voted on, except it's in the Farewell
11 Hunt area. Same issue. What we are seeing from
12 reports from the field do not match up with what we
13 actually get for harvest reports. So the McGrath AC
14 submitted this proposal. Again, better harvest
15 reporting is what they're after.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And McGrath AC
18 supported their -- it's their proposal, but they have
19 an amended language?

20

21 MR. PEARCE: Yeah. So the -- yeah,
22 that's right. Maybe this will take another second
23 here.

24

25 Yeah. So their proposal -- the hunt
26 definition area was not real clear. It said south to
27 the mountains, which wasn't a legally definable
28 boundary. And so at their meeting we showed them
29 basically what we did on the line was we just put a
30 straight line in there. So the hunt area is actually
31 bounded very nicely for your average hunter. To the
32 mountains really is a good definition for a hunter
33 because that's where the moose hunting stops. And then
34 it's bounded by two drainages, the South Fork and the
35 Windy Fork of the Kuskokwim.

36

37 So to make it legal for the regulation
38 book though, we basically drew a straight line from the
39 Windy to the South Fork and put some GPS coordinates in
40 there which a hunter in the field would be able to make
41 sure that they stayed north of that line. However, for
42 the average hunter on the ground, as long as they don't
43 go up into the mountains, which they're not going to
44 moose hunt anyways, they will be fine within the area.

45

46

47 So that's their amended language. I've
48 got a map that -- it's in front of me here. It doesn't
49 do you guys a lot of good. But it shows that straight

50

1 line.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
4 that clarification.

5

6 And then OSM is opposing the proposal,
7 and what line of thought was the OSM?

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 The OSM recommendation is to oppose this proposal.

11

12 If this proposal is adopted it could
13 improve harvest reporting in this small portion of the
14 unit, but it would also increase the burden on
15 Federally-qualified subsistence users. The area in
16 which the registration permit is requested is a small
17 corridor. A registration permit for the entirety of
18 Unit 19C may be more useful if the goal is to increase
19 reporting and to better understand moose harvested in
20 the area. It may also be warranted to conduct
21 composition surveys in the area to better understand
22 trends in moose population dynamics.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so the
27 Department is supportive of the proposal, Josh, and
28 they didn't consider the entire Unit 19C?

29

30 MR. PEARCE: Yeah. So Jack, I'll speak
31 to that.

32

33 So what this is really about is the
34 demographic of hunter who utilizes that area. The
35 Farewell area is very unique in the McGrath management
36 area. It is I would say exclusively -- and maybe not
37 entirely exclusively because you can't get too carried
38 away, but I would say it's exclusively a fly out hunt
39 and it's almost all people from the Alaska road system
40 or non-residents who go out to this area.

41

42 So they access the area by airplane.
43 They fly into Farewell. There's a big public airport
44 there. And then once they get there they get around
45 again almost exclusively on four-wheelers or those, you
46 know, side-by-side like Rangers and things like that.
47 So it's heavily motorized access. There's an extensive
48 trail system out there. And there are few to no
49 Federally-qualified subsistence users who utilize that

50

1 area.

2

3 Now 19C as a whole has a different
4 demographic, but in general there are very few
5 subsistence users in the fall who utilize that area.
6 There is an important winter hunt opportunity where
7 folks from McGrath and Nikolai absolutely can get out
8 there on snowmachines, but in the fall it's a fly in
9 hunt. You can't boat to the area. And so 19C is
10 pretty much used by non-Federally-qualified subsistence
11 users.

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And so really the area where we've got
the concern with the harvest reporting is within that
Farewell hunt area where it's -- like I said, heavily
motorized access.

The other portions of 19C -- I don't
know. Maybe eventually we'll get to switching toward
registration permit, but for now keeping it as a
harvest ticket seemed appropriate with the Federal area
-- solely the Federal area going to a registration
permit.

And the McGrath AC has been pretty
involved in this area. In the early 2000s they also
submitted a proposal to change the area to 50-inch or
brow tine spike fork regulation. It used to be any
bull out there; however, the bull/cow ratio really
started to decline. Harvest success rates were going
down and in recognition of that the McGrath AC wanted
to make changes to ensure that the harvest out there
was sustainable. So they've been pretty actively
involved in this area and keeping an eye on it
obviously for many years. And I think they're on the
right track starting off with just the Farewell hunt
area.

Like I said, we might get to 19C
eventually, but we're just not there yet.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we should
make a motion to adopt Proposal 112, with the
modification for the straight line as described by the
area biologist over the phone, which would delineate it
for legal reasons.

And I'm supportive of the proposal
because of the McGrath AC's tracking of this issue and

1 as Josh testified, living in McGrath, that there are
2 very few rural subsistence users that would utilize the
3 described area.

4
5 So do we have a motion to adopt.....

6
7 MR. SIMON: So moved.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:with the
10 modification of the McGrath AC.

11
12 Motion by Pollock.

13
14 Do we have a second.

15
16 MR. KRISKA: Second.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tommy.

19
20 Okay. Further discussion.

21
22 MR. SIMON: Question.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
25 Those in favor of Proposal 112, as modified by the
26 McGrath AC, signify by saying aye.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

31
32 (No opposing votes)

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we also have
35 Proposal 115.

36
37 And so would you like to give an
38 outline of that, Josh.

39
40 MR. PEARCE: Yeah. Sure. Thanks.

41
42 So Proposal 115 was submitted jointly
43 by all four of the McGrath area advisory committees.
44 That's the McGrath AC, the Stony Holitna AC, the
45 Central Kuskokwim AC, and the GASH AC. And what they
46 were looking to do was kind of twofold.

47
48 So right now the current regulations
49 for meat on bone requirements are kind of all over the
50

1 place. 19D, for example, there are no meat on the bone
2 requirements. 19A, a portion of it you have to leave
3 the meat on the hind quarters and front quarters.
4 Another portion there are no meat on bone requirements.
5

6 And so kind of first thing they wanted
7 to accomplish was just to standardize the regulations
8 across the McGrath management area so it's consistent
9 for hunters. But in addition to that, they recognized
10 that meat quality and meat care is better accomplished
11 on the bone versus boning out. And quite frankly it's
12 also their traditional practice around here. People
13 bring back their meat on the bone. They don't carve it
14 off.
15

16 So in an effort to improve meat care --
17 you know, a lot of meat gets donated in villages, if it
18 remained on the bone it would improve the quality. So
19 meat care was a big part of this and then consistency
20 in the regulations.
21

22 And the one thing they added that is
23 unique to State regulations would be requiring bison
24 meat also to be left on the bone. And that's because
25 we have the Farewell bison herd in 19C, the area we
26 just talked about. But in addition to that with the
27 optimistic point of view that we're going to get to
28 harvest wood bison someday in the future over in the
29 GASH, they felt like it would be appropriate to put
30 that on there.
31

32 So all four AC's supported this, but
33 they did also have an amendment. The thing when they
34 submitted this proposal that was omitted was that meat
35 salvage right now in the State is required prior to
36 October 1st and so they all put in the amendment to
37 make this proposal meat required to be left on the hind
38 quarter, front quarter, and ribs for moose, caribou,
39 and bison prior to October 1st.
40

41 And that was their amendment.
42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Sounds good.
44 And so a motion to adopt Proposal 115 with discussion.
45

46 MR. SIMON: Move to adopt.
47

48 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, we have -- what?

2

3

MS. PELKOLA: Wait. With amendment?

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: With amendment.

6

Yeah. With the amendment for October 1.

7

8

MS. PELKOLA: Okay.

9

10

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Prior to October 1.

11

12

Okay. And so did you motion?

13

14

MS. PELKOLA: No.

15

16

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Who was first?

17

18

REPORTER: Pollock and then Jenny.

19

20

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock, okay, and then Jenny. All right.

21

22

23

So this meat on the bone thing comes from back in the early '90s. Tim Osborne at Galena identified that there was meat coming out that was boned off and there was meat coming out on quarters and that the meat boned off in bags was soured and the meat coming out on quarters was in a lot better shape. So that drove that proposal to have meat on bone in Unit 24 and portions of 21.

30

31

32

And so a lot of other places have been adopting this. And it makes the meat come out in a lot better shape and there's a lot less loss. And I've watched guys -- what they were boning, how they boned in the field would probably not be like it was laying on their kitchen table and they were actually boning it on the table. I've seen guys hacking chunks of meat off the shoulder, leaving the lower leg, taking little chunks off of here and there, and tossing it in the river. I've watched it myself.

41

42

43

And so this boning in the field thing is a big mess. It leads to the -- enforcement can't enumerate all those various muscle groups. They don't know what they're actually looking at. I've seen the caribou come into Wiseman that they seized. Bull caribou necks that big around in the fall time with little, teeny outer portions of the neck boned off.

49

50

1 They just basically hack off a chunk of meat and call
2 that half the neck. It's like there's like a lot of
3 meat in this boning thing in the field.
4

5 So this addressed two things. It
6 addressed the wanton waste of close trimming to the
7 bones as required by statute and it addresses that the
8 meat comes out in a lot better shape. And so let the
9 record reflect that.

10

11 So that would be my discussion.

12

13 Tommy.

14

15 MR. KRISKA: Yeah. I have issues with
16 boning meat and the way they do it in the field.

17

18 Like there's some places on the Koyukuk
19 River that they actually have the boning and -- I don't
20 know how boning requirements are supposed to be, but I
21 see a lot of places where the moose is actually not cut
22 up by the joints or anything like that. And there's a
23 half -- or a skeleton of a moose. The whole -- right
24 from the neck to the -- everything. The whole moose is
25 still laying there all attached to all the bones and
26 everything attached together so it's just a skeleton.
27 So I don't know how the requirements of the boning of
28 the moose is and I don't like seeing that.

29

30 And one more question for the guy
31 that's on the phone there.

32

33 Is this proposal blocked with Proposal
34 109? In block? Is it -- or is this similar to it?

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposal 109?

39

40 MR. PEARCE: So Proposal 109 -- no.
41 These are two separate proposals, if I understand the
42 question correctly.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

45

46 MR. PEARCE: So 109 would just require
47 a registration permit instead of a harvest ticket and
48 -- and then this one would require meat to be left on
49 the bone. So whether or not 109 passes, this proposal

50

1 would still stand on its own to be considered by the
2 Board of Game.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other comments or
5 questions.

6
7 Don.

8
9 MR. HONEA: Yeah. I'd just like to
10 speak in support of this also. I think when we have it
11 open like that it's really open to a lot of wanton
12 waste as both of you guys mentioned.

13
14 Traditionally, culturally, when we go
15 out there -- and like the ribs and stuff, I cannot see
16 how people would just cut that off. It's just -- to me
17 it's just -- it's a terrible thing to do. I mean we go
18 ahead and roast the ribs and stuff.

19
20 And I just find it just a means of
21 waste and so I would support this.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tom.

26
27 MR. KRISKA: I take that back. I'm
28 looking at the wrong numbers here. It's Proposal 108.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 108. That's require
31 trophy destruction of moose antlers in Unit 21E.

32
33 MR. KRISKA: There's a lot in it that's
34 about the meat, too.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And.....

37
38 MR. PEARCE: Yeah. So 108 is also a
39 different proposal. That was submitted by a member of
40 the public to -- like you just said, require trophy
41 destruction of antlers. So separate from the meat.

42
43 And actually in 21E right now moose
44 hunters are already required to leave the meat on the
45 front quarter, hind quarter, and ribs, but not for
46 caribou at all.

47
48 So anyways, yet, again, that is a
49 totally separate proposal.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're on Proposal
2 115.....
3
4 MS. PELKOLA: 115.
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:so we don't get
7 sidetracked.
8
9 MR. KRISKA: Okay.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we -- I think the
14 Council's -- anybody that's hunted moose knows that you
15 don't hack the meat all apart out there and roll around
16 in the mud before you get it home.
17
18 So Pollock, you want to comment.
19
20 MR. SIMON: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
21 Chair. Yes, the proposal, Tim Osborne, to leave the
22 meat on the bone is -- it's a good proposal, more meat
23 is retrieved from the fields, so I support this
24 proposal.
25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.
27
28 MR. HONEA: Call for the question.
29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
31 Those in favor of Proposal 115, signify by saying aye.
32
33 IN UNISON: Aye.
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.
36
37 (No opposing votes)
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we've got --
40 we've covered some of the most pertinent proposals.
41 We're coming down on lunch and we might.....
42
43 Did you want to address Proposal 108,
44 Tommy?
45
46 MR. KRISKA: Yes.
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This trophy
49 destruction?
50

1 MR. KRISKA: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Proposal 108.

4 Josh, did you want to go over that one?

5

6 MR. PEARCE: Yeah. Yep. I sure can.
7 So 108. Let me -- I just want to scroll through to my
8 notes here to make sure I've got everything.

9

10 Well, 108 was, like I said a minute
11 ago, was submitted by a member of the public who has
12 concerns about basically a lot of people coming into
13 the area to hunt, you know, who aren't locals and so
14 they put in this proposal. There's several things in
15 the proposal that were not worded accurately, however,
16 and so the GASH opposed this proposal. There was a
17 local Advisory Committee that this would affect.

18

19 The Department is neutral on it because
20 we don't have biological concerns. And as we just
21 talked about a bit ago, there's even more moose hunting
22 opportunity that's available.

23

24 So some of the things in the proposal
25 stated that we're not meeting ANS, which is not
26 accurate. There's more than enough moose there to meet
27 the amounts necessary for subsistence, or ANS under the
28 State system, and really what I think what they're
29 looking at are basically some user conflict sorts of
30 issues.

31

32 There is non-resident hunting in 21E
33 and there is resident hunting in 21E. Non-residents
34 are required to get a drawing permit, meaning they have
35 to put in for a lottery and are selected in a random
36 draw, so we get more applicants every year than we
37 issue permits. And then resident hunters are required
38 to get this registration permit.

39

40 And the way the proposal is written
41 it's resident hunters who would actually have to
42 destroy their antlers. And they would do that by
43 basically destroy the trophy value by cutting at least
44 one antler in half. The way this proposal is worded,
45 non-resident trophy hunters who come to the area would
46 not be required to do that. They have a draw permit
47 that they receive.

48

49 So that's kind of the proposal.

50

1 Like I said, the GASH opposed it. What
2 they wanted to do was over the next year work amongst
3 the four GASH villages to come up with some ideas for
4 ways to reduce some of the user conflicts that they are
5 starting to experience, however, they did not feel like
6 this was the best way to accomplish that by requiring
7 residents to cut their antlers in half.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What's the bull/cow
10 ratio in 21E lower portion?

11
12 MR. PEARCE: 21E is fairly high. If
13 you wanted to ask a few questions I can get that back
14 to you, but it's typically in the 40s. I don't have
15 the exact number memorized, but it's typically in the
16 40s.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh.

19
20 MR. PEARCE: So we have good -- very
21 good bull/cow ratios and we have a harvestable surplus
22 which is well in excess of the amount of moose that
23 we're harvesting every year. It's basic -- we're
24 harvesting around 200 moose per year and the
25 harvestable surplus is close to 400 moose.

26
27 So if you can avoid the user conflicts
28 there's a lot more moose in 21E that we could be
29 harvesting right now.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So the moose
32 population can support the current harvest and so this
33 -- if Proposal 115 passes, they included all the edible
34 meat of the quarters, hind quarters and ribs in the
35 Proposal 108, so that would be addressed in 115.

36
37 So I'm not supportive of the proposal
38 at this time because the bull/cow ratio is plenty high
39 enough and the harvest low enough to where there's --
40 there may be user conflicts, but that's not the way to
41 address this. And I feel that the GASH AC, working
42 with the communities in the future could address the
43 user conflict aspect.

44
45 Other discussion.

46
47 Or we have a motion to adopt Proposal
48 108. Need a motion.

49
50

1 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.
4
5 MR. KRISKA: Second.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tommy.
8
9 Your discussion, Tommy?
10
11 MR. KRISKA: Oh, no. No.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You were just
14 questioning this proposal then?
15
16 MR. KRISKA: Yeah. Just questioning
17 this proposal because I'm going to wind up getting
18 phone calls about it anyways.
19
20 So just a learning curve for them and
21 to understanding -- and like you said, there's a --
22 it's got to be brought up again anyway, so there's --
23 there are a lot of concerns about like the things that
24 we're talking about, making a controlled use area in
25 the Kaiyuh Flats, the control use area in the Koyukuk.
26 And what their big concern is that you went from 200 to
27 400 permits, their big concern that they're getting
28 flooded with hunters and they just kind of -- I mean
29 it's hard to take up something like that when all your
30 hunting areas are flooded by other people and it seems
31 like you don't have your privacy anymore. And they're
32 just looking at ways to try to maybe try to -- they'll
33 never stop it because of the abundance of the moose and
34 it's going on down the river where now that -- on down
35 -- farther down from them it's going to be in proposals
36 where there's two moose per hunter. So I guess they'll
37 just move further down the river. I don't know. I'm
38 not sure.
39
40 But I'm just kind of trying to -- or
41 they're just wanting to be ready for -- you know, for
42 moose in their -- in the future for their young ones.
43 It's all their -- their concerns. And I kind of wanted
44 to visit it and make sure that -- or just to see the
45 response from the Boards and the Fish and Game.
46
47 Thank you.
48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So yeah, I
50

1 understand that. You know, they're not -- they're used
2 to not having many hunters there and now they've got
3 lots of hunters coming around. But they're issuing 400
4 permits, but they're only -- they can harvest 400
5 moose. If they were starting to harvest at nearing
6 their 400 moose, approximate moose amount, that would
7 be -- then they might start talking about, you know,
8 destruction of -- trying to disincentivize.....
9

10 MR. KRISKA: Yeah. Yeah.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:reaching that
13 harvest objective. But right now the Department
14 has.....
15

16 MR. KRISKA: Just like the late Sidney
17 Huntington has said, it's better to handle it earlier
18 than later.
19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's a good time to
21 talk about it for sure. And -- but it's not time to
22 pass this proposal.
23

24 MR. KRISKA: Right. Yeah. Yeah.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Proposal 108. Do
27 we -- any further discussion.
28

29 (No comments)

30
31 Do we have a question.
32

33 MS. PELKOLA: Question.
34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
36 Those in favor of Proposal 108, signify by saying aye.
37

38 MR. GERVAIS: Aye.
39

40 Opposed -- what -- you're in favor of
41 the proposal?
42

43 MR. GERVAIS: I'm sorry. Let's.....
44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
46

47 MR. GERVAIS: I would retract that.
48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Start over
50

1 again. Those in favor of Proposal 108, signify by
2 saying aye.

3

4 (No aye votes)

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So now we're at
11 12:01. We've covered most of the proposals that we
12 need to cover, or we can cover, because we have a large
13 agenda for the rest of this day. And we spent a lot of
14 time on these State proposals, which was a primary
15 objective of this meeting.

16

17 We're going to go to lunch.

18

19 You have one final comment there, Tim?

20

21 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I'll request, Mr.
22 Chair. Can we take some further action on this
23 Proposal 64 from yesterday.

24

25 (Council nods affirmatively)

26

27 MR. GERVAIS: And that's about this
28 Dalton Highway Corridor.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

31

32 MR. GERVAIS: I would like some
33 language added that states that we request the Board of
34 Game to define the language that's missing from the
35 proposal right now and come back to the AC's with that
36 defined language before taking action on that proposal.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah. Do you
39 want to insert that in the.....

40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: I've already done
42 that.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, you've done it.
45 Okay.

46

47 MS. DEATHERAGE: I can put it for the
48 AC's, too, but basically saying for reassessment
49 that.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The AC's under .805
2 of ANILCA are the advisement to the Councils. And so
3 we will include the Advisory Committees -- of the
4 affected Advisory Committees, which would be the
5 Koyukuk River Advisory. What's that one on the Yukon
6 Flats.

7

8

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yukon Flats Advisory
11 Committee and North Slope AC, whatever they call that.
12 They have a different name than an AC, but.....

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MR. REBARCHIK: Yukon Flats.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yukon Flats Advisory
Committee and North Slope AC, whatever they call that.
They have a different name than an AC, but.....

MR. GERVAIS: Karen, could you put.....

MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm trying to figure
out where to put AC's in there.

MR. GERVAIS: Instead of clarifying
language, put the -- the final language. I mean you
could leave that or.....

MS. DEATHERAGE: Or proposed?

MR. GERVAIS: I would like to.....

MS. DEATHERAGE: Proposed language?
Because I don't know that they're going to have final
language.

Through the Chair. Mr. Gervais.

I'm not sure if they're going to have
final language. I think that what I might recommend is
that any language that they come up with, proposed
language, that they run that through the Council with
supporting information before any action is taken.

MR. GERVAIS: Well.....

MS. DEATHERAGE: Is that what you're
looking for?

MR. GERVAIS: Well, what I'm talking
about is yesterday Glenn Stout said they're going to
supply more language to the proposal at the Board of
Game meeting, but he didn't have that language
available for us to vote on -- to be included in the
proposal when we voted on it. So I would like whatever

1 that finalized language is to come back for review to
2 the AC's.

3
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: With the Chair's
5 permission, would it be okay if I reviewed this letter
6 with Member Gervais during the lunch break.....
7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.
9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE:to ensure that we
11 capture -- I think -- I think what Mr. Gervais is
12 saying was captured yesterday, but I think he's
13 offering more specified language that will make it
14 stronger and I think it will be appropriate to do that
15 during the break.
16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.
18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.
20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. You can do
22 that during lunch break right before we come back to
23 order.
24

25 And we've got a big agenda, so we're
26 going to come back to order at 1:00 o'clock. 1:00
27 o'clock. That's 55 minutes from now.
28

29 (Off record)
30

31 (On record)
32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so we're
34 coming back on the record and we're going to look at
35 the definition language for Proposal 64, State Proposal
36 64, which we'll work with Karen on.
37

38 So that's.....
39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: I can read it.
41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You can read
43 it.
44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'd rather do it than
46 set it all up again.
47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
49
50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: And, again, I'm going
2 to read each little section slow, so that if there's
3 any changes.....
4

5 REPORTER: Karen. Karen, mic.
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Sorry. Mr. Chair,
7 I'll be reading the draft comment to the Board of Game
8 on Proposal 64. I'll be reading each paragraph
9 individually and slowly so that if there are any
10 changes or concerns the Council can respond to that.
11

12 Thank you.
13

14 Proposal 64. Clarify the legal use of
15 highway vehicles, snowmachines, and off road vehicles
16 in the Dalton Highway corridor management area for
17 hunting and trapping. Clarify the use of firearms and
18 transport of furbearers and trapping bait when trapping
19 in the DHCMA.
20

21 Council recommendation. The Council
22 voted unanimously to support this proposal with
23 amendments.
24

25 Council comments. The Council supports
26 the premise of the proposal to clarify use parameters
27 of the DHCMA and believes the BOG, the Board of Game,
28 is the best management body to address enforcement and
29 other issues brought forth by law offices and the
30 public. The Council voted to amend Proposal 64 by
31 adding the following requests, which were also
32 discussed and submitted by the Koyukuk River Fish and
33 Game Advisory Committee.
34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Is this correct?
38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.
40

41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42

43 The first request. Clarification to
44 allow snowmachine use in the DHCMA for both access to
45 trap lines and the transport of legally defined big
46 game bait. Licensed trapping is a very important
47 management tool to harvest furbearers under trapping
48 regulations. Travel to and from homes within or
49 outside of the DHCMA by licensed trappers should not be
50

1 impeded.

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Firearms to take free ranging furbearers has always been allowed in the DHCMA under a trapping license and should continue. Restricting trappers' abilities to take predators would be detrimental to big game populations and could cause the reduction of subsistence opportunity.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

MS. DEATHERAGE: You like that? Yeah?

Okay.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I do.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Thank you, Mr.

Chair.

Two. Clarification to allow residents north of the Yukon River to travel to their homes from the Dalton Highway. The residents of Wiseman, Coldfoot, Stevens Village, Anaktuvuk Pass, Allakaket, Alatna, Evansville, Bettles, and Nuiqsut should be permitted to travel from the Dalton Highway to their homes with legally taken big game. Access by residents using licensed highway vehicles should be allowed on a year round or winter roads to these villages in order to transport game, game parts, hunters or hunting gear as defined in regulation. Specifically, residents should have access to the oil field roads to Nuiqsut, the winter roads to Stevens Village, Anaktuvuk Pass, Bettles, Evansville, and Allakaket, and the year round road to property and businesses in Wiseman.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Third point.

Clarification to allow the licensed highway vehicles to transport hunters, game, game parts, and gear within one mile of the Dalton Highway. The current quarter mile restriction does not allow subsistence hunters to access boat launching sites. I changed that from big game hunters to subsistence hunters, just so you know.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hmm.

MS. DEATHERAGE: To access boat launching sites into the Koyukuk and Sag River

1 drainages that have side road access outside of the
2 quarter mile limit. Some hunters are accessing legal
3 boat launch sites up to 18 river miles from logical
4 accesses.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to put
7 subsistence hunters slash -- subsistence and other
8 hunters. I'm inclusive to the other public members.

9
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11
12 I have included subsistence hunters and
13 other hunters.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: So those are the three
18 points that the Council wished to put forth as
19 clarifications for this proposal and adopted from the
20 Koyukuk River Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

21
22 The next paragraph -- or the next small
23 paragraph I worked on with Member Gervais and I
24 appreciate his assistance with this.

25
26 The Council does not support additional
27 clarifying language within the original proposal.
28 Namely the five bullet points on page 75 and 76 of the
29 Board proposal book. There is insufficient information
30 provided as to what that clarifying language would be
31 and the impacts of any such language to subsistence
32 uses within the DHMCA. The Council requests the BOG
33 defer action on this proposal and return to the Fish
34 and Game Advisory Committees and subsistence Regional
35 Advisory Councils with a proposal that contains
36 specific language that would clarify the legal uses of
37 the DHMCA.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. That's what
40 you.....

41
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: That last line is.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does that
45 language.....

46
47 MR. GERVAIS: That's what we just
48 created.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And clarified that?

2

3

MR. GERVAIS: Uh-huh.

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And you worked with
6 Glenn on that or you just.....

7

8

MR. GERVAIS: Well.....

9

10

REPORTER: Tim, mic.

11

12

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You promulgated
13 that? Oh, yeah. Turn your mic on.

14

15

MR. GERVAIS: I talked to Glenn for
16 about 35 minutes about what this substitute or to -- to
17 be introduced language is. And what the main point
18 that we're expressing to the Board of Game is that once
19 the Board of Game establishes the language that's going
20 to be created or issued out at the Board of Game
21 meeting, then they don't take direct action during this
22 Board of Game meeting and they agree on that finalized
23 language during this Board meeting and then bring the
24 proposal back out to the AC's and the Advisory Councils
25 for comments.

26

27

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

28

29

MR. GERVAIS: And then it can get voted
30 up and down after the Councils and Advisory Committees
31 can review the finalized language.

32

33

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

34

35

MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I just
36 added for comment in here.

37

38

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

39

40

MS. DEATHERAGE: So that it's clear
41 that -- that as Member Gervais said, that you want the
42 Board of Game to come back with clarifying language to
43 the AC's and the RAC's with a proposal for comment that
44 contains specific language.

45

46

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

47

48

MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay?

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: And then the final
4 paragraph is; finally, the Council wishes to convey
5 that its support for any clarifying language via
6 Proposal 64 is solely based on protection of fish and
7 wildlife resources for Federally-qualified subsistence
8 users who reside in and near the DHCMA. Further, any
9 actions or clarifying language proposed by the BOG
10 under this proposal should not be interpreted as taking
11 away the rights afforded to subsistence users under the
12 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act or the Alaska
13 National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So do you
16 want to make a motion to adopt that document or that
17 comment.

18

19 MS. DEATHERAGE: We don't have to.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we're
22 clarifying the language -- the amended language.

23

24 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair, I'd like
25 to.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We don't have to.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: You have to
30 reconsider.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We don't have
33 to.....

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 You'll have to pull your support for the proposal that
37 you previously did. Under Robert's Rules you -- all of
38 these points were made during the notes that I took for
39 your comments on this proposal.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: What we've done is
44 just fleshed them out and put them in order that, you
45 know, is understandable to the Board of Game.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

48

49 MS. DEATHERAGE: There's no new

50

1 information here.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And
4 that's.....
5
6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's fine with me.
9 I just want to make sure that it's correct to be
10 submitted.
11
12 So it's agreeable -- all of the
13 language is agreeable to the Council members.
14
15 (Council nods affirmatively)
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see affirmative
18 from all Council members.
19
20 Don.
21
22 MR. HONEA: Uh-huh.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So it looks great,
25 Karen. Thanks so much.
26
27 And so I think that covers Proposal 64.
28 Appreciate Glenn Stout's working with the Council on
29 all of these proposals.
30
31 And so we're done with Board of Game
32 proposals and you can return to your respective
33 offices, kick your boots off and get ready for the real
34 meeting next week.
35
36 (Laughter)
37
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're moving into
41 the agenda now. And so we're at Fisheries Program
42 Information Update, with Frank Harris and Hannah
43 Voorhees.
44
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 Unfortunately, Ms. Voorhees, an anthropologist for the
47 Office of Subsistence Management is ill and was unable
48 to make the meeting.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
2
3 Frank.
4
5 MR. HARRIS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
6 Members of the Council. My name is Frank Harris, for
7 the record. I'm a fish biologist with OSM. I want to
8 give you some updates on the fisheries program and
9 we'll start off with the fisheries regulatory cycle
10 update.

11
12 The Federal Subsistence Board is
13 currently accepting proposals this spring to change
14 Federal regulations for the subsistence take of fish
15 and shellfish on Federal public lands and waters for
16 the 2021 through 2023 cycle. You can find a flyer
17 starting on page 12 of your books to describe how to
18 submit a regulatory proposal.

19
20 The Board will consider proposals to
21 changes of Federal fish and shellfish seasons, harvest
22 limits, methods of harvest, and customary and
23 traditional use determinations. There are a number of
24 ways that you can submit a proposal. If you have a
25 fishery proposal that you would like to submit as a
26 Council or as an individual, we can discuss that right
27 now, you could also submit proposals to OSM through
28 your Council coordinator, by hand or by mail. And we
29 can assist in the drafting of the proposal if you'd
30 like. There is also an online process outlined more
31 clearly on the flyers in your books.

32
33 These proposals will be analyzed and
34 presented to the Councils during the fall meeting cycle
35 this year for Council recommendations. Proposal
36 analysis and Council recommendations will be presented
37 to the Federal Subsistence Board for their actions at
38 the January 2021 fisheries regulatory meeting. The
39 call is currently open and it will be open until April
40 20th of this year.

41
42 This concludes the fisheries regulatory
43 cycle update.

44
45 Any questions.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions from
48 Council members for Frank.

49
50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none.
4
5 And so you covered C there.
6
7 Call for the proposals. At this time,
8 do we have any proposals. Has anybody thought about a
9 fishery proposal -- an issue with fisheries.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen.
14
15 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 I want to let the Council members know that after you
17 hear fisheries reports from various agencies and
18 organizations there's certainly time to bring this back
19 onto the table if you feel there is a need for a
20 proposal.
21
22 Thanks.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
25
26 And so I think that covers that.
27
28 Frank, thanks so much.
29
30 MR. HARRIS: Yeah. That covers that.
31 I'm going to actually cover B now.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh.
36
37 MR. HARRIS: I do things backwards
38 around here. You're not done with me yet.
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
41
42 MR. HARRIS: I'm going to give you a
43 brief.....
44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see. Yeah.
46
47 MR. HARRIS: Yeah.
48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You jumped backward.
50

1 Okay. Go right ahead. Yeah. I was -- yeah, okay. B.

2

3 MR. HARRIS: So we're going to cover
4 the FRMP, a little quick FRMP update.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Sure.

7

8 MR. HARRIS: The Fisheries Resources
9 Monitoring Program update. The 2020 fisheries
10 monitoring plan. You are currently in the final phase
11 of the 2020 monitoring plan funding cycle.

12

13 The Federal Subsistence Board met on
14 January 28th through the 30th and made recommendations
15 about the final funding plan. Once the Office of
16 Subsistence Management has a final budget, which should
17 be any day now, the Assistant Regional Director will
18 approve the funding plan and all applicants will be
19 notified of the status of their submissions.

20

21 With the 2020 plan nearing finalization
22 it means it's time for the Council members to begin to
23 form the priority information needs for the 2022
24 Fisheries Resources Monitoring Program call for
25 proposals that is due out in November of 2020.

26

27 Just for a little brief background,
28 priority information needs, or PINS as they are also
29 known. They're an important component of the program
30 as they identify issues of local concern and knowledge
31 gaps need to relate subsistence fisheries using input
32 from the Regional Advisory Councils. These priority
33 information needs determine the types of projects that
34 are sought for each region and provide a framework for
35 evaluating and selecting project proposals. These
36 information needs are really important.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

39

40 MR. HARRIS: Similar to the 2020
41 monitoring program cycle, we are going to ask for
42 several Council members to volunteer to meet
43 telephonically over the summer to identify knowledge
44 gaps and information needed for management of
45 subsistence fisheries needs in your region. These
46 volunteers will review a list of PINs from the last few
47 FRMP cycles and a list of what projects have been
48 funded from those PINs. They will then discuss whether
49 the FRMP funded projects have addressed the previous

50

1 PINs, the potential to re-use previous PINs, and the
2 development of new PINs to address the issues they are
3 currently seeing.
4

5 The result of these telephonic meetings
6 will be presented to the Councils during your next
7 meeting to help jumpstart the conversation on a topic.
8 Councils will formally make a motion to adapt priority
9 information needs at that next meeting and start a
10 whole new monitoring program cycle.
11

12 If anyone on your Council is interested
13 in participating and identifying information needs for
14 this region, this would be an appropriate time to
15 announce their interest.
16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
18

19 Anybody show interest in participating
20 and identifying PINs, priority information needs.
21

22 Tim.
23

24 MR. GERVAIS: I will.
25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You would?
27

28 MR. GERVAIS: Uh-huh.
29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And how many Council
31 members could participate, Frank?
32

33 MR. HARRIS: As many as want to.
34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
36

37 MR. HARRIS: Preferably we have at
38 least two from each Council, but if the entire Council
39 wanted to join that would be acceptable also.
40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anybody else want to
42 participate in that.
43

44 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah, I would.
45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Goodwin?
47

48 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So Goodwin
2 wants to participate in that -- fish around the Yukon.
3
4 And anybody else.
5
6 MR. KRISKA: Yeah.
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tommy?
9
10 MR. KRISKA: Yeah.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
13
14 MR. GERVAIS: Jenny, you catch a lot of
15 fish. Do you want to.....
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to be on
18 there, Jenny?
19
20 MS. PELKOLA: (Shakes head negatively)
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Not necessarily.
25
26 MS. PELKOLA: No.
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
29
30 So that's three Council members.
31
32 Go ahead.
33
34 MR. HARRIS: Excellent. Yeah. We
35 appreciate it.
36
37 And one more quick Partners for
38 Fisheries Monitoring update. The latest Partners
39 Program cycle began in January of this year. And the
40 four year term extends until the end of 2023. The
41 partners that were funded this year in this region were
42 Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Native Village of
43 Napaimute, And I believe both will be giving
44 presentations later on during this meeting. They'll be
45 here speaking about their programs with the agency
46 reports.
47
48 This concludes the FRMP program update,
49 as well as the Fisheries Division update.
50

1 Anybody have any questions on that.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Questions.
4
5 (No comments)
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. That was fairly
8 thorough. And we will look forward to this fall
9 meeting to address some of those information needs and
10 so forth.
11
12 MR. HARRIS: Should be good.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
15
16 MR. HARRIS: Thank you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. So we
19 have -- let's see. Yukon Drainage Fisheries
20 Association is under time constraints, so we'll have
21 you come up, Catherine. So go ahead. Introduce
22 yourselves to the Council.
23
24 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay. Good afternoon.
25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
27
28 MS. MONCRIEFF: Thank you for the
29 opportunity to present to your Council. My name is
30 Catherine Moncrieff. I am representing the Yukon River
31 Drainage Fisheries Association. And I have with me
32 here today -- I'll let you introduce yourself.
33
34 MS. FITKA: My name is Serena Fitka. I
35 am the newly hired Executive Director for Yukon River
36 Drainage Fisheries Association.
37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hetka?
39
40 MS. FITKA: Fitka, with an F.
41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay. Go right
43 ahead.
44
45 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay. Well, I'm very
46 excited to be able to bring our new Executive Director
47 to your meeting and I hope that you all have an
48 opportunity to talk with her at a break or after the
49 meeting or on the river this summer, or at one of our
50

1 upcoming meetings. We're very excited to be working
2 with her.

3
4 So I would like to begin our report
5 with an update on our Fisheries Resource Monitoring
6 Program projects, which is really great that we came
7 right after that discussion. Then I would like to
8 update you briefly on some of our other related
9 activities.

10
11 And there are some handouts being
12 passed around and there were some that were put on the
13 table -- some copies of the same ones -- so I hope
14 everyone has a copy of that and you can look at that at
15 another time, if you want, or now.

16
17 So the first Fisheries Resource
18 Monitoring project I would like to tell you about is
19 the in-season community surveyor project. We're just
20 wrapping up a four-year cycle that began in 2016 and
21 our final report is in its last stages and we expect to
22 be able to distribute it after the end of March.

23
24 During this four-year period we were
25 able to train and hire 19 surveyors. And we're very
26 proud of this number because it reflects our retention
27 rate and our capacity building efforts. We were able
28 to keep most or many of our ten surveyors from year to
29 year and we have some surveyors who have worked on this
30 project for over ten years and they have become our
31 leaders and our mentors to our newer surveyors.

32
33 In the 2019 fishing season our
34 surveyors conducted 377 interviews with 142 households
35 over a 13-week period. They participated in ten
36 teleconferences. In Ruby, Tanana, and Eagle all of the
37 participating fishers reported meeting their needs for
38 chinook salmon and most reported meeting their needs in
39 Alakanuk, Marshall, and Fort Yukon.

40
41 And I have -- one of the handouts is
42 specific -- the one you're holding, Pollock, is
43 specific to the 2019 season. It gives a bunch of
44 details about what we learned.

45
46 So we hope to receive notice of our
47 2020 funding soon. And with the new funding cycle that
48 begins on April 1st we will begin by rehiring our
49 surveyors and then we'll be holding a surveyor training
50

1 event that will take place in Anchorage in late April
2 and this will be associated with our pre-season meeting
3 and our other meetings.
4

5 The next project I would like to tell
6 you about is the in-season salmon management
7 teleconferences. We're also just wrapping up a four-
8 year cycle of funding from the Fisheries Resource
9 Monitoring Program on this project. In 2019 we held 13
10 in-season teleconferences. Important topics that were
11 discussed between fishers and managers this year
12 including the record breaking hot weather, the high
13 water temperature, poor chum flesh quality and sores on
14 the fish, fishery issues including the dead salmon on
15 the Koyukuk River, discussions over providing for the
16 subsistence harvest.
17

18 There were more Canadians on the calls
19 this year with good discussions. There was surprise at
20 the high number of chinook counted at Pilot Station,
21 yet barely making the escapement goal for the Canadian
22 origin chinook.
23

24 And so also with this program we're
25 hopefully awaiting notice of 2020 funding, so we can
26 continue the teleconferences.
27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
29

30 MS. MONCRIEFF: And then I have one
31 more Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program project that
32 I would like to update you on. And it's our local and
33 traditional knowledge of anadromous fish in the Yukon
34 Flats, with a focus on the Draanjek basin.
35

36 This project is just beginning its
37 final year and the project will end on March 31st of
38 2021. Our remaining tasks include the biological
39 fieldwork which was postponed last summer because of
40 fires in the area that they needed to travel to and
41 other things that delayed us. So we have a plan for
42 this spring, summer, and fall where they'll be looking
43 for evidence of chinook, chum, and coho salmon.
44

45 And then following that we will do
46 community meetings in the fall to share our preliminary
47 results and gather community feedback and then we'll
48 put out a final report about one year from now.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

2

3 MS. MONCRIEFF: So those are all of our
4 Fisheries Resource Monitoring projects.

5

6 Other activities that I want to make
7 sure you're aware of, our annual board meeting is going
8 to be taking place this year in Anchorage on Tuesday
9 and Wednesday, April 28th and 29th. And this is going
10 to be our 30th annual meeting, so we'll be having a
11 celebration as well, and I hope everybody can come.
12 And the celebration will take place the evening right
13 after the pre-season planning meeting, which will take
14 place in Anchorage on Thursday, April 30th. So we'll
15 have three days of meetings. The board meeting the
16 28th and 29th of April and the pre-season meeting on
17 April 30th followed by the celebration. So it will be
18 a big week for us.

19

20 And I could either pause and take
21 questions on any of those projects or ask if Wayne is
22 on the phone and see if he can tell you about any --
23 about our work with BLM and the Pew Charitable Trust.

24

25 REPORTER: Wayne is on the phone.

26

27 MS. MONCRIEFF: He is?

28

29 REPORTER: I believe so, he was a few
30 minutes ago.

31

32 MS. MONCRIEFF: But you want to do
33 questions first?

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Tim's got a
36 question there.

37

38 MS. MONCRIEFF: Okay.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

41

42 MR. GERVAIS: Catherine, thanks for
43 your presentation. What's the location of the YRDFA
44 meeting in Anchorage?

45

46 MS. MONCRIEFF: I think it's to be
47 determined, but we're looking at one of the hotels,
48 Marriott, Hilton or Sheraton. We're just getting --
49 yeah. We'll keep you posted on that.

50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Okay.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

4
5 MR. HONEA: Thank you, guys, for your
6 report there. I had a question on the surveyors. Now
7 maybe it's an annual thing, but I wanted to know
8 exactly what they did. If you have 19 you pretty much
9 have a lot of communities there. But I remember in the
10 past, like maybe it was completed by the TCC, why they
11 would take the measurements and stuff off of the
12 salmon, the king salmon, and then get a stipend for
13 doing that. Is that actually what this is.

14
15 And before I say that I want to thank
16 you guys for your teleconference that's held every
17 Tuesday. I don't know. Probably most people around
18 here -- around the table -- because it's really
19 important. It's important for us to know -- you know,
20 I'm sitting in Ruby, if I want to know if in St. Mary's
21 whether the fish are coming. I want to know up in
22 Eagle if high water is coming. So it's actually really
23 important because I've lost nets to high waters and
24 stuff like that, so I just wanted to throw that out
25 there.

26
27 But I really wanted to know if there
28 was any funding that -- maybe it's a TCC question, but
29 for everyone that -- we took samples and stuff, we were
30 given a stipend, maybe \$10, \$15 and it really helped
31 locals with the fuel costs and stuff. Is that -- could
32 you be more specific on what the surveyors do.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right,
37 Catherine.

38
39 MS. MONCRIEFF: Yes. Through the
40 Chair. Thank you for those questions and thank you for
41 the comments about the teleconferences.

42
43 I've heard lots of other comments that
44 it's very helpful to fishermen up and down the river to
45 hear what's going on in different parts of the river.
46 It's helpful for the managers to be able to have a
47 discussion with the fishermen and also it's helpful for
48 the fishermen to have a discussion amongst themselves
49 or to share information about what's happening on the

50

1 river.

2
3 For the in-season salmon community
4 surveyor program, that is not a sampling program. I'm
5 not sure who was running that. I'm going to guess Fish
6 and Game, but maybe somebody else in the audience can
7 explain that sampling of fish where the fisherman got a
8 stipend. Our program is a -- it's a communication tool
9 where managers can get information from fishermen and
10 hear what's happening on the river from the mouths of
11 the fishermen who are making the observations
12 themselves and are out there on a daily basis.

13
14 So the way our program works we work
15 with ten different communities. And so those 19
16 surveyors that I hired, I hire ten every year and I
17 tried to hire the same ten every year because they got
18 better and better at their jobs and they got more
19 established in the people -- with the fishermen. And
20 the longer they do the job I find the better they get
21 at it.

22
23 So that's my goal, to have just ten and
24 I could have had as many as forty because we did it for
25 four years, if I had to get new surveyors every year.
26 So I'm proud of the number 19 because I only had to
27 replace, you know, nine -- you know, I mean sometimes
28 more than one in one village over four years.

29
30 So anyway, what the surveyors do is
31 they go and talk to the fishermen once a week for six
32 weeks while the chinook salmon are swimming through
33 each of those ten villages and they ask them about five
34 or six questions about what they're seeing on the
35 river, how the fishing conditions are, whether they
36 have the right gear or not, whether there's any debris
37 in the water. They learn a lot from the fishermen just
38 about their observations and their fishing success.

39
40 And then we summarize that by community
41 and make sure it's very anonymous. And then we share
42 that with the managers the day before the
43 teleconference. They get that information on Monday,
44 so then when they get on the teleconference they
45 already have some information about what's happening on
46 the river from this program. And then the surveyors
47 get on the teleconference on Tuesday and they give
48 their own report of what they learned that week from
49 the fishermen in their community.

50

1
2
3 So there's no touching of fish in this
4 program. It's just a matter of talking with fishermen
5 about what they're observing.

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

7
8 Pollock.

9
10 MR. SIMON: Yes. Catherine, I have
11 some comments. You said 30 years, at the together, are
12 we going to recognize the past members, the long time
13 past members to show appreciation.

14 MS. MONCRIEFF: Through the Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

17
18 MS. MONCRIEFF: I think you're asking
19 about the 30th anniversary celebration that we'll be
20 having and whether we're going to be giving awards to
21 past members.
22

23
24 MR. SIMON: Yes.

25
26 MS. MONCRIEFF: Yes. We will be giving
27 some awards to past members and various things like
28 that.

29
30 MR. SIMON: Okay.

31
32 MS. MONCRIEFF: Yes.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

35
36 Other comments.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. Are you on the
41 phone there, Wayne?

42
43 MR. JENKINS: I am, Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay. Go ahead,
46 Wayne. Do you got a comment there, and then I've got
47 Tim's come up.

48
49 Go ahead.

50

1 MR. JENKINS: So I wanted to just give
2 you guys an update. You're aware that over -- gosh --
3 since 2013 I guess YR DFA's been -- we continue to
4 assist Yukon River tribal governments and communities
5 to engage with Bureau of Land Management in two BLM
6 Regions, Bering Sea Western Interior and the Central
7 Yukon, as the Agency tries to formulate their 20-year
8 resource management plans for both of those areas.
9

10 The plans cover millions of acres and
11 can affect many of the communities in those areas.
12 Those tribal councils and communities have clearly
13 explained to BLM their concerns for protecting
14 traditional subsistence use for the harvest of highly
15 important foods, BLM, especially now Bering Sea/Western
16 Interior, appears to prefer mining and development of
17 the land by opening up over 90 percent of their managed
18 areas in Bering Sea Western Interior's preferred
19 alternative. In response to this outcome over 20
20 tribes in the Bering Sea Western Interior Region have
21 formed the Bering Sea Western Interior InterTribal
22 Commission for standing together and pressing their
23 concerns.
24

25 In a recent meeting in Anchorage with
26 the Alaska BLM Director, Chad Padgett, the Tribal
27 Commission heard that a new alternative was being
28 formulated by BLM and it remains to be seen if it
29 supports the Commission's request for protection of
30 critical traditional use areas which are necessary for
31 cultural and nutritional needs of the local people
32 living there.
33

34 The Western and Eastern Interior RACs
35 might consider sending letters of support of the Bering
36 Sea Western Interior InterTribal Commission to the
37 Federal Subsistence Board sharing their concerns on
38 these issues also and showing support. As advisors
39 working with the Commission, myself, Suzanne Little,
40 Bob Satler, we offer our assistance in creating such a
41 letter.
42

43 You have a handout there. Please see
44 the 20 Alaska Tribe comment letter. This was sent to
45 the BLM Alaska District Manager and to Tom Hymland, and
46 the Field Manager Bonnie Million back in June and it's
47 provided a handout for the Council for more information
48 on these issues. There's a lot there. Don't worry
49 about reading it now, but I hope all of you can find
50

1 the time to go through that. It's a pretty damning,
2 you know, bit of information. There's a long list of
3 how the trust relationship between the Federal Agency
4 and the Federally recognized Tribes has not been upheld
5 by BLM and how the NEPA process has been mismanaged.

6

7

And I will just leave it there.

8

9 If anybody has any questions for me, I
10 will be more than happy to try to answer them.

11

12

13

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks,
Wayne.

14

15

Any questions.

16

17

(No comments)

18

19

MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21

22

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That was presented
at our fall meeting also.

23

24

And I don't see any questions.

25

26

You had a comment, Tim, or a question?

27

28

29

MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
Chair.

30

31

32

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39

40

I just wanted to welcome Serena to her
new position and to our Council. And the fisheries in
our region are one of our most valuable resources and
we wish you success in promoting the good work and good
information that we're accustomed to getting from
YRDFA. So just saying congratulations and wanted to
stress how significant YRDFA's work is into helping
this Council understand what's going on and communicate
up and down the river what everybody's concerns and
knowledge is.

41

42

Thank you.

43

44

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim.

45

46

Other comments.

47

48

(No comments)

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comment is also
2 welcome to YRDFA, Serena. And one of the most
3 effective and important thing is that teleconference
4 that identified those mortalities on the Koyukuk River,
5 it would have never been known about. People would
6 have talked about it on Facebook, but it wouldn't have
7 been nearly as -- the managers are actually like what,
8 they came and looked and saw. And why we didn't get
9 escapement in Henshaw is because they died before they
10 got there. That's what happened to them.

11
12 So then the chinook not getting into
13 Canada, it's also very suspicious that we had all that
14 passage, but they didn't go into Canada. That's
15 another -- so these -- all of these little pieces of
16 the puzzle all fit together and including all of the
17 people on the calls helps the managers tremendously and
18 it helps the fisheries. It's a symbiotic relationship
19 between the fishers and the managers. And so I applaud
20 Yukon Range Fisheries Association for their proactive
21 work with this conference call and the various -- the
22 assessments -- these resource monitoring assessments.

23
24 And so it's very important work and we
25 appreciate that.

26
27 Thank you very much.

28
29 Tim.

30
31 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 Serena, I wanted to let you know -- you weren't at this
33 meeting yesterday morning, were you?

34
35 MS. FITKA: (Shakes head negatively)

36
37 MR. GERVAIS: In my opening comments I
38 brought out a concern from our community that there's
39 -- some families and some fish camps are rumored to be
40 harvesting too much king salmon beyond what's necessary
41 for their family needs. And it's -- yeah. Some of it
42 is customary barter and trade and then some of it seems
43 to be getting too excessive and verging on or actually
44 being like commercial grade exploitation of the salmon.

45
46 So I would be interested -- it doesn't
47 have to be at this meeting, it could be later on, I
48 would like to know if YRDFA either through you or
49 through the Board is interested in opening up a

50

1 dialogue with the fishermen on the river. I don't know
2 how much issue with it there is out on the Kuskokwim,
3 I've only heard about the problem being on the Yukon
4 for right now. If YRDFA -- if it fits into your
5 mission and it's an issue you're interested in
6 addressing, it potentially is the cause of why we're
7 seeing the mismatch in the sonar counts between Pilot
8 Station and Eagle Sonar.

9
10 So it's something that fishermen are
11 stating is a problem and we'd like to find out if YRDFA
12 wants to engage the fishing community and work towards
13 a solution.

14
15 MR. HONEA: Can I.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Let her
18 answer that question first, Don.

19
20 MR. HONEA: Well, it was on the same
21 line.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. Oh, okay. Do
24 the question.

25
26 MR. HONEA: All right. Thank you.
27 Serena and Catherine, Tim brings up an interesting
28 point. And maybe if Wayne is still on there maybe it
29 could be a point of interest that we could pursue at
30 the annual meeting in Anchorage. I just wanted to
31 mention that. It is a problem area that, you know, not
32 just us, it's river-wide. And so I think that maybe
33 it's -- if that could be added on the agenda -- I don't
34 know.

35
36 But I thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah.

39
40 MR. JENKINS: Mr. Chair, this is Wayne.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Serena was going to
43 answer first and then I'll put you next.

44
45 Go ahead.

46
47 MR. JENKINS: Okay. No. Go ahead.

48
49 MS. FITKA: Well, thank you for your

50

1 welcome and I look forward to working with all of you
2 guys.

3

4 And I -- this is my second day of work.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MS. FITKA: So me -- I have a lot of
9 discussion to talk with Wayne and what the great people
10 at YRDEFA has been doing.

11

12 So -- and go ahead, Wayne.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

15

16 Go ahead, Wayne.

17

18 MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Serena.

19

20 Don, we will definitely be including
21 that on the agenda. And, you know, basically I think
22 we just want to hear back from our Board members, is
23 that what you're experiencing, are they seeing fishing
24 beyond subsistence needs.

25

26 So, you know, I think nailing down,
27 it's such a delicate topic, but nailing it down in a
28 healthy environment where people can speak frankly with
29 one another. And then the question goes to a larger
30 dimension of what can be done. And hopefully that we
31 will have that follow-up discussion also.

32

33 And we are of course open to getting
34 feedback from managers, from Councils, from everybody
35 that's involved because it is a very challenging
36 problem.

37

38 So, yeah, the answer to your question
39 is yes.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This Western
42 Interior Regional Advisory Council addressed this, it's
43 known as customary trade. And the customary trade --
44 the Council's previous positions have revolved around
45 not opposed to customary trade between rural-to-rural,
46 especially rural on the river. That's how elders get
47 fish. People catch a lot of fish. They might sell it
48 to elders.

49

50

1 What we got cross sided with was rural-
2 to-urban. Taking the resource away from the river
3 where the customary and traditional use determinations
4 are for the people there and then selling it into a
5 cash market in Fairbanks or Anchorage or somewheres
6 else.

7
8 So re-opening the dialogue on customary
9 trade at the YRDFA meeting is an excellent place to
10 format that and re-address that issue. So I applaud
11 that effort in your meeting in mid-April.

12
13 So.....

14
15 MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have a lot of
18 agenda here. I appreciate YRDFA's work for the Yukon
19 River drainage, which is a major portion of the region,
20 so thanks so much.

21
22 MS. MONCRIEFF: Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we've got --
25 Bruce Seppi's got to leave pretty quick, so we're going
26 to put him up for BLM next. And he's going to give us
27 a briefing for -- oh, I always for the Anchorage
28 office's -- Anchorage office.

29
30 MR. SEPPI: Anchorage field office.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anchorage field
33 office. Go ahead, Bruce.

34
35 MR. SEPPI: Mr. Chair, Members of the
36 Board. I'm Bruce Seppi, wildlife biologist for
37 Anchorage field office. And if there are questions
38 about Bering Sea Western Interior -- I'm going to see
39 if -- Bonnie, are you on the line right now?

40
41 MS. MILLION: Yes, I am. Good
42 afternoon, Mr. Chair. Chair Members. This is Bonnie
43 Million with the Bureau of Land Management. I'm the
44 field manager for the Anchorage field office.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good afternoon,
47 Bonnie. Welcome to the call.

48
49 Go ahead, Bruce.

50

1 MR. SEPPI: Okay. I just have three
2 brief points.
3

4 Just wanted to point our statewide
5 subsistence coordinator position that Dan Sharp was in
6 for BLM has been advertised and it closed February 20th
7 and we got a bunch of good applicants and hopefully
8 that position will be filled in the next few months.
9

10 I also wanted to mention as far as
11 Mulchatna Caribou, BLM has been working either with
12 Fish and Game or the Togiak Refuge in funding some of
13 that satellite collar -- or the collaring and
14 monitoring of that herd over the last many years, but
15 we have an InterAgency agreement now with the Togiak
16 Refuge and hopefully we'll be able -- we will be able
17 to continue this year to add money to that.
18

19 We haven't been working with them on
20 the ground, but that remains open and if they need help
21 we always try to help with that. So we also had our
22 ranger out there, our ranger Walker Gussy is a pilot
23 ranger and he was out flying with Fish and Wildlife
24 Service out of Bethel and Dillingham just before it
25 closed. So we hope to be doing more of that because I
26 think that probably needs a little law enforcement. So
27 we'll be working with the Togiak Refuge and at least
28 contributing money into that InterAgency Agreement.
29

30 And then finally BLM has been, or we're
31 in the process of purchasing collars for the Plains
32 Bison Herd in Farewell. Josh Pearce approached us that
33 -- asked if we can help with that. And they have VHF
34 collars on those animals for years, but they were
35 hoping we can contribute to buy at least ten satellite
36 collars to put on. And we had hoped that they would be
37 able to put on this spring, but we were slowed way down
38 by the BLM's procurement process. And so we are
39 committed to getting them purchased and get them to
40 Fish and Game, but it -- it's looking now it won't
41 happen this spring, but that will give some better
42 movement data on that herd.
43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You like to deploy
45 the collars on bison in springtime, is the preferred
46 time for deployment?
47

48 MR. SEPPI: Fish and Game would be a
49 better person to answer that, Josh Pearce. But yes,
50

1 that's what we had intended to do, that in spring they
2 would be deploying those. There's a number of -- quite
3 a few VHF collars out there already, but that means
4 they'd have to fly them all the time and.....
5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
7

8 MR. SEPPI: And we haven't contributed
9 money to bisons -- to Plains bison at all, although
10 they're running all over our land in that area.
11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
13

14 MR. SEPPI: So we felt that we should
15 step up and help with that.
16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that.
18

19 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.
20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. That makes it
22 a lot cheaper and you get better data off of that, too.
23

24 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.
25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Questions for BLM's
27 Anchorage field office, for Bruce or Bonnie.
28

29 (No comments)
30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see any.
32

33 I thank you for assisting in
34 enforcement for Mulchatna because they were -- and I
35 would hope that there's continuance of flights during
36 this closure especially when there's snow on the
37 ground.
38

39 MR. SEPPI: Right. I'm not sure how
40 much that will continue. It was in cooperation with
41 Fish and Wildlife Service that they asked our pilot
42 ranger to come out and fly their Cub out of the places,
43 so I don't have -- I don't have a schedule about how
44 that will work, but I think it's on a case by case
45 basis.
46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We'll be
48 talking to Kenton about that Mulchatna issue also.
49
50

1 MR. SEPPI: Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any questions at
4 all from the Council on BLM Anchorage field office.

5

6 Thanks.

7

8 Oh, Tim.

9

10 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Bruce, does your office have any workings with Donlin
12 at this stage of their process?

13

14 MR. SEPPI: Donlin has been permitted.
15 But Bonnie, if you're still there you can probably
16 field that question.

17

18 MS. MILLION: Sure. Of course. Thank
19 you so much for the question.

20

21 So we are still -- we are having
22 quarterly meetings I guess at this point with
23 representatives from Donlin Gold just to touch base on
24 what their plans are and the status of their potential
25 construction schedule. They do currently have a BLM
26 right-of-way grant for the pipeline corridor across BLM
27 lands. However, there's quite a bit of documentation
28 and planning and whatnot that they still need to submit
29 before they can actually start construction. And so
30 these quarterly meetings that we have with them are
31 just to sort of keep tabs on their to-do list and try
32 and get a feel for them on when they're going to be
33 moving forward.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

36

37 So I think that answered that question,
38 Bonnie.

39

40 MS. MILLION: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I don't see
43 any other questions from the Council.

44

45 Any final statements.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so

50

1 much, Bruce.

2

3

MR. SEPPI: Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Always appreciate
6 your informationals for the Council.

7

8

And thank you, Bonnie.

9

10

MR. SEPPI: Absolutely. Thank you, Mr.
11 Chair and thank you, Council.

12

13

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we covered those.
14 Karen, where do you think we should go to now?

15

16

MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, thank you.
17 I would recommend that we recognize our -- any Alaska
18 Native organizations or tribes if they wish to speak.

19

20

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

21

22

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you very much.

23

24

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So yes, is there any
25 public or tribal comments on non-agenda items.

26

27

So TCC will.....

28

29

MS. DEATHERAGE: Can we wait a couple
30 of minutes for them to upload it. If we can do
31 something else while they're taking care of that.

32

33

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Sure. Yeah.
34 We'll do something else. Something real short here.

35

36

MS. DEATHERAGE: There's the annual
37 report or.....

38

39

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Annual report.
40 Yeah. That's in the book here. And I forgot what tab
41 that's under.

42

43

MS. DEATHERAGE: 15. Page 15.

44

45

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Page 15.

46

47

And so we have the annual report we're
48 submitting to the Federal Subsistence Board. We had
49 two main points. Defining the high water mark

50

1 definition which is critical for subsistence users to
2 delineate where they can actually take under Federal or
3 State regulations below the mean water mark on
4 navigable rivers would be State regulation above that
5 mean water mark. So we made a recommendation to the
6 agencies -- and all of the agencies that there be
7 physical attributes such as willows or other plants at
8 the mean high water mark to simplify the definition so
9 that the subsistence users can look at a feature on the
10 ground and know where they're at.

11

12 And so I was -- this was brought up at
13 our Council meeting I think down in -- was it Galena.

14

15 MR. KRISKA: Galena.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so Tommy, do you
18 want to speak to that one, the importance of this.

19

20 MR. KRISKA: Yep.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's in our annual
23 report.

24

25 MR. KRISKA: One of the reasons this
26 came up is during the hunt that's going on right now --
27 last year there was a guy and his son-in-law went and
28 shot a moose on the south bank, but it was on -- it was
29 on top of the bank, but it was like 15 feet from the
30 actual willow lines that you could see. The Fish and
31 Game officer that cited them for not being on the south
32 bank, he said if this moose was 15 feet over there --
33 in that vegetation there, he would have been okay. He
34 was on top of the bank. And it's south bank to me. I
35 mean -- and that became a big issue because they got
36 cited for it and they couldn't hunt last fall on
37 account of that.

38

39 And the -- so that's why that
40 recommendation came up because we want to know. We
41 don't want the rest of our people -- I mean a lot of
42 people are shooting moose down by the water line, in
43 between the water line and the top of the bank and
44 there never ever was established boundary line from the
45 water, the top of the bank -- there is, but they're in
46 different areas -- meaning they're different. So we
47 want just one boundary line. I don't know where this
48 would be. Possibly for -- if it were me, I'd say water
49 line.

50

1 But anyway, as the -- we should have
2 took pictures after the snow melted because last the
3 snow was pretty deep, too, as well. It was like four
4 foot deep. But after the fact that the snow melted and
5 we -- you know, we hunt geese in that area. You can go
6 over there and the willow vegetation goes all the way
7 out to the edge of the bank. And the willows, the
8 shorter willows were about a foot high. So technically
9 they were in the vegetation if that's what the cop
10 meant.

11
12 So this caused a lot of issues and like
13 I said, these guys lost their rights. And now they've
14 got a record on them for it and that's one of the
15 reasons that we're really after this boundary line and
16 hopefully something is done about it.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it's in our
19 annual report. We had Mulchatna Caribou. And so there
20 was a lot of progress made since we made this annual
21 report project, but we -- or this annual report
22 subject. But we want the Board to be aware, and I'm
23 sure they're aware, but the importance of protection of
24 this herd. And so -- and so I feel that this annual
25 report topic needs to stay in the annual report.

26
27 And so this Council has been concerned
28 about the Mulchatna for years, when they got knocked
29 down from 200,000 down to 22,500. No. Correction.
30 28,000.

31
32 So any additions to this annual report.
33 The two subjects are primary submissions.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, do we
38 have a motion to adopt.

39
40 Go ahead, Tim.

41
42 MR. GERVAIS: I had a question. Would
43 you be interested in adding the subject of operating
44 these Federal fisheries at maximum sustained yield in
45 the -- and as a topic in the -- in this environment of
46 rapid environmental change.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be to
49 Director Oliver. The letter that we -- we were going
50

1 to send the letter though.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: Well, we were going to
4 send a letter and to both Director Oliver and to the
5 North Pacific Management Council. So we're already
6 going to do that, but I was wondering do you want to
7 have.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can insert a.....

10

11 MR. GERVAIS:have that be a third
12 topic in our annual report.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could insert that
15 as number three with basically a heads up to the
16 Federal Subsistence Board that we're contacting these
17 Agencies because of this maximum harvest rate and
18 concern about the basic outline.

19

20 MR. GERVAIS: Right.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This Board can't do
23 anything about that, but the Board should be aware of
24 that. The Board can make comments on that, but the
25 Board does not have management authority of that.

26

27 So I do feel that we should make it a
28 highlight to the Board, but this is an issue that we
29 need to -- the Board has to be aware of, that we still
30 exterior forces against meeting our subsistence needs
31 and escapements.

32

33 MR. GERVAIS: Right.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So do you want to
36 add that as number three. We can't get into a lot of
37 detail on this.

38

39 MR. GERVAIS: Right. We just.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got to move
42 forward.

43

44 MR. GERVAIS: Just want to say quickly
45 that it's -- the best available science isn't keeping
46 pace with the rate of environmental change.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. We should make
49 the -- highlight the primary basically title of what

50

1 the issue is. Science is not keeping up with
2 environmental conditions and the Federal managers are
3 harvesting at maximum yields. And so -- they're
4 harvesting beyond maximum yield in reality. So we want
5 the Board to be aware that we're concerned about that
6 issue.

7
8 So do you want to make a motion to add
9 that to this document, the annual report.

10
11 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'd like
12 to make a motion that we put a third item on our annual
13 report regarding the concern we have that if the
14 Federal fisheries are managed at a level of maximum
15 sustained yield and best available science due to the
16 rapid rate of the environmental change in the
17 atmosphere and the ocean that it is not appropriate to
18 operate these fisheries at that maximum sustain yield
19 level because there's too many chaining factors in the
20 environment and the marine ecosystem. At this time
21 they need to implement some more conservative
22 harvesting strategies.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Exactly.
25 Good. Excellent.

26
27 And so do we have a second on that.

28
29 MR. KRISKA: Second.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded.

32
33 Discussion on that motion.

34
35 It sounds great.

36
37 MR. HONEA: Question.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called on
40 adopting that third point. Those in favor of adding
41 number three to the annual report, signify by saying
42 aye.

43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a motion
47 to adopt the annual report with the three points.

48
49 MR. HONEA: I make that motion.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to adopt.
2
3 MR. SIMON: Second.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.
6
7 Further discussion on the annual
8 report.
9
10 MR. HONEA: Question.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called on
13 the annual report. Those in favor of adopting the
14 annual report to be submitted to the Federal
15 Subsistence Board, signify by saying aye.
16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.
18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.
20
21 (No opposing votes)
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so now we are on
24 the presentation.
25
26 MS. KENNER: All right. So I'm going
27 to turn this on.
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure.
30
31 MS. KENNER: And I don't want to hurt
32 your eyes.
33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.
35
36 MS. KENNER: So you guys could just
37 move.
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So your name is Dan
40 Gillikin?
41
42 MR. GILLIKIN: This is Dan. Can
43 everybody hear me.
44
45 MS. DEATHERAGE: No, Dan.
46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. No. No. I'm
48 confused. I got a note and I wasn't sure who was who
49 here. Stand by.
50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Dan, this is Karen.
2 If you could wait until after this next presentation
3 you'll be on right after.
4

5 Thanks, Dan.
6

7 MR. GILLIKIN: Will do.
8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Here we go.
10

11 MR. ROE: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
12 Council for your patience and the ability to present
13 with you today. My name is Eric Roe. I'm from Tanana
14 Chiefs Conference.
15

16 I recently took over the Henshaw Creek
17 weir project as the project leader. And the Henshaw
18 Creek weir is located on the Upper Koyukuk River and
19 it's been a long term data set where we've been
20 collecting age, sex, and length, as well as abundance
21 and run timing information from 2019, excluding three
22 years where we experienced high water events.
23

24 We partner with Alaska Department of
25 Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
26 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, and Allakaket City
27 Council to meet all of our goals over the season.
28

29 In these charts we have the information
30 gathered over the past 19 years, excluding the high
31 water event years in 2006, 2014, and 2018. In the
32 earlier years up to 2008 the average escapement for
33 chinook was 802, where the most recent years the
34 average was about 1,300. This past year, 2019, our
35 escapement was below the average with 441. As for chum
36 escapement the early average was 71,000 and with most
37 recent years being about 250,000, which has actually
38 been increasing. But excluding last season, 2019,
39 we've got one of the lowest in records, which was
40 34,474.
41

42 For the chinook and chum run timing it
43 was a little bit later than average. The blue line
44 represents 2009 to 2017 and the red line is 2000 --
45 2008, the earlier data sets. And the bars represent
46 what we experienced in 2019. And the run timing for
47 chinook was about four days later than average and in
48 2019 for chum it was about a week later than average,
49 but it's important to note they both finished on time.
50

1 Chinook salmon sex composition and chum
2 salmon sex composition. In the early period of this
3 data, is for chinook, was 32 percent female. And in
4 2009 to 2017 it was 43 percent female. And this has
5 been increasing for 2019. We actually experienced 62
6 percent female, which is our highest rate percent
7 female from the entire data set.

8
9 As for chum salmon, the early process
10 -- or the earlier years it was 52 percent. Most recent
11 years 57 percent and 2019 50 percent. So there hasn't
12 been much fluctuation between the percent female of
13 summer chum salmon.

14
15 And as for chinook salmon age
16 composition, most of the age classes we have come
17 through are 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4. Chinook salmon from
18 earlier years to now have been increasing. 1.2's
19 specifically have increased. Yeah. And that's
20 important to know. Age class is 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 are
21 present, but they only account for 2 percent and 2.2
22 accounts for about 3 percent.

23
24 But the -- excuse me. Yeah. If you
25 look at age classes 1.2, in the earlier years it was 25
26 percent. Most recent years 24 percent. And it's
27 significantly -- or it's jumped up quite a bit to 46
28 percent in 2019. As for the others of the most common
29 of 1.3 to 1.4 there hasn't been a lot of change, but
30 they have gone down compared to the other years.

31
32 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chairman. Ask a
33 question?

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead. Go ahead,
36 Tim.

37
38 MR. GERVAIS: Are those 1.2 chinook --
39 kings, are they breeding?

40
41 MR. ROE: Yes. They are spawning.
42 Yeah. All these that are counted are spawning salmon.

43
44 And as for chum age composition, their
45 age classes that mostly are counted are 3 and 4 that
46 are spawning. There hasn't been much change as you can
47 see for 3-year old chums. 64 percent up to 2008 and up
48 to 2017 was 63 and 2019 was 65 percent. And for four-
49 year olds it was 32 percent, 34 percent up to 2017, and
50

1 2019 was 35 percent. But 3 and 4 are the most
2 predominant age classes that we get throughout this
3 whole data set. And it's been very similar to the
4 historical averages and has remained stable and hasn't
5 changed much over 19, 20 years.

6
7 Here we look at female chinook age,
8 average lengths at age. So as the slide showed before,
9 the age class that is most predominant is the 1.3, 1.4,
10 and even to 1.5 in this case for lengths. In 2000 to
11 2008 the 1.3 age class was 750. In 2009 -- 2017 it was
12 751, and in 2019 it dropped down to 537. And as you
13 can see for 1.4 and 1.5, the numbers have also
14 decreased over the time to 724 and 806 millimeters.
15 And for male chinook they have actually increased
16 slightly from 2000-2008 528, 2009 to 2017 a length of
17 555, and 2019 568. And age classes 1.3 to -- have
18 increased to 713 millimeters. And as well as the 1.4
19 class has slightly increased.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I will comment that
22 gear restriction using -- eliminating large mesh gear
23 on the Yukon appeared in 2011 and so we're starting to
24 see that those large -- the larger fish are starting to
25 reach the spawning grounds. That's what would account
26 for that larger -- exponentially larger and larger fish
27 are not being sieved off on the lower river. Also,
28 true windowed openings with un -- basically unmolested
29 first and second pulses. Those are a huge component of
30 actually getting quality escapement kings back onto the
31 spawn ground.

32
33 MR. ROE: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 Looking at the same information for
36 chum salmon there hasn't been a lot of fluctuation in
37 lengths over the different age classes. This chart
38 shows here 3, 4, and 5 have gone from 537 to about 543.
39 There hasn't been a lot of change. And as for male
40 chum salmon it's the same case. A lot of the lengths
41 have remained constant over the past 20 years.

42
43 One of the most important and fun
44 things that we do at Henshaw Creek is a Culture and
45 Science Camp. We partner with Kanuti National Wildlife
46 Refuge and the Allakaket's Tribal Council and during a
47 week we conduct a camp for the kids and basically we
48 teach them how salmon escapement from a resistance
49 board weir works. During the camp we participate in a
50

1 lot of lessons. And it's really important by
2 connecting youth with nature. And we highly value this
3 Culture Camp because it's a great way for the youth to
4 learn from elders, as well as learning a Western way of
5 science and traditional knowledge.
6

7 These are just some pictures from the
8 camp and some of the lessons. There's many more
9 activities and lessons that go on than this, but just
10 as a -- they do some learning on traditional fish
11 cutting. They even get a chance to set a set net and
12 catch some chum salmon. And then they also learn about
13 salmon biology, ecology, and many more fun activities.
14 It's a great way for the kids to get involved and get
15 interested in conservation and managing their natural
16 resources at a young age.
17

18 And now I would like to acknowledge all
19 of our partners. The Allakaket City Council, U.S. Fish
20 and Wildlife Service, Fairbanks Field Office, the
21 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, the Alaska Department
22 of Fish and Game, and the Office of Subsistence
23 Management Partners Program. Without you guys, we
24 could not make this project work. And it is a great
25 project that's been going on for 20 years and provides
26 us with a valuable data set.
27

28 With that I would like to thank you for
29 your time.
30

31 And if you have any questions I would
32 be happy to answer them.
33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions on the
35 presentation.
36

37 MR. KRISKA: Yes. I have one. I was
38 wondering about some of the fish last -- if you knew
39 about maybe -- quite a few of the summer chum I -- you
40 know, I don't know if you read the report, but a lot of
41 them didn't even make it up around the Huslia area.
42 They still had the eggs in them and they died, and I
43 guess because of warm water or something like that.
44

45 MR. ROE: That's what's kind of been
46 the consensus. That's what I've been hearing. I don't
47 -- I can't answer for a fact why they were dying or why
48 the numbers were so low, but the main consensus has
49 been that it's been hot. It was hot and, you know, a
50

1 lot of warm water.

2

3 We were in contact with the U.S. Fish
4 and Wildlife Service and they kind of wanted us to keep
5 an eye out for salmon that might not have spawned, but
6 by the time the salmon get to where our weir is at,
7 they're in their spawning grounds. So it's kind of
8 difficult to -- I mean we could dissect them and check,
9 but a lot of them have already died because of
10 spawning. So it's normal for us to see a lot of salmon
11 washing up on the beach.

12

13 MR. KRISKA: Well, these salmon, even
14 during the baseball tournaments that was going on in
15 Huslia a lot of us, we'd drive there from Koyukuk,
16 Galena, and all those places with boats and a lot them
17 came back out of the Gisasa River, the Kateel River,
18 the Huslia River, they just floated down. And then we
19 were kind of curious because they look like some pretty
20 good fish and stopped and opened them up and they still
21 had their eggs, just pure red eggs.

22

23 So I think what -- well, we don't know.
24 But then from what I heard is the water was really low
25 and the temperature -- once it goes up above 68
26 degrees, 67 degrees they could survive, 68 degrees they
27 can't survive because of the oxygen in the water from
28 what they were telling me.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What was the
31 temperature at Henshaw Creek when you're doing most of
32 your monitoring when the chums were passing through?

33

34 MR. ROE: I believe it was about 13 --
35 13 degrees Celsius -- 11 to 13 on average. I didn't
36 include that information on here. I can get that
37 information to you, the temperature of our water, but
38 it was pretty consistent with previous years.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's like 58
41 degrees or something?

42

43 MR. ROE: Yes. And that's a peak day.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: On peak, and
46 day.....

47

48 MR. ROE: Yeah. Like the hottest part
49 of the day.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So 58
2 degrees. And that's -- you know, that's not going to
3 kill them then. So that high in the drainage there's
4 -- it's quite a bit cooler water up there.
5

6 MS. CARROLL: Mr. Chair. This is Holly
7 with Fish and Game and I can provide some background if
8 you guys need that on temperature.
9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So supplemental,
11 Holly. Go ahead.
12

13 MS. CARROLL: Well, I just wanted to
14 clarify that like the gentleman was saying, I was part
15 of the group that went with Tanana Chiefs to look at
16 the mortalities in the river. And I think while the
17 tributaries Henshaw and Gisasa might not have been
18 critically hot, the fish had already passed through
19 likely critically hot water in the main stem Koyukuk.
20

21 Locals had reported to us that the
22 water in the Koyukuk was, you know, upwards of 70
23 degrees. It was like bath water. And when we got
24 there and we took measurements -- again I'm using
25 Fahrenheit because that's how my brain works as a
26 human. Scientists like Centigrade. But we were seeing
27 only temperatures of 65, 68, stuff like that. This it
28 not critical to salmon or critically -- you know, that
29 hasn't been proven to be critical to kill them. And
30 there's also a lot of mixed results on what temperature
31 and for how long is critical. I don't think there's a
32 definitive answer on that. But we certainly start to
33 get concerned when we see above 18 degrees C or above
34 68 degrees Fahrenheit.
35

36 And so probably based on local reports
37 that Koyukuk River that was incredibly low was much
38 hotter than that before we got there when those
39 mortalities were occurring. So while they got to the
40 tributary probably the damage was done. So that's
41 probably why we saw the reduced escapements to that
42 river. They also experienced exceptionally high
43 temperatures in the main stem Yukon.
44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I understand
46 that. The water is moving way slow in the Koyukuk
47 Flats, so the water slowed way down and it can get
48 really hot. Whereas the tributary waters are coming
49 out of the mountains and they're quite a bit chilled
50

1 down. So the warmest water on really low years in the
2 upper drainage at Wiseman I saw 63 degrees. That was
3 warm as I got in daytime. I was sampling salmon for
4 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and I tracked
5 that temperature on a daily basis with a probe.
6

7 So I think probably there's an archive
8 record of temperatures for Huslia and various locations
9 that would reflect probably higher daytime temperatures
10 than when you were there post mortem.
11

12 So any other questions.
13

14 (No comments)
15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that
17 project.
18

19 MR. ROE: Thank you, Chair. Thank you,
20 Council.
21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's good. So
23 we're going to go to Dan Gillikin, who's on the phone.
24

25 You still there, Dan?
26

27 MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.
30

31 MR. GILLIKIN: This is Dan Gillikin.
32 Everybody hear me okay.
33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can hear you
35 fine. Go ahead.
36

37 MR. GILLIKIN: Okay. Great. Well,
38 thanks for this opportunity to present. And first of
39 all, I apologize for not being able to be there in
40 person. Between blizzards and this rotten flu I got
41 and it just wasn't going to happen.
42

43 So hopefully Karen has my first slide
44 up there with a lovely picture of me in the fall time
45 and my contact information. So I'm Dan Gillikin and
46 I'm the environmental director and the partners
47 biologist for the Native Village of Napaimute. And I
48 apologize ahead of time, this is just an update of a
49 presentation I gave to the Federal Subsistence Board
50

1 this year. So if you had to sit through that one it's
2 not going to be anything new to you here.

3

4

Next slide, please.

5

6

7 So for those who don't know, Napaimute
8 stands for People of the Forest. It's a small village
9 in the Middle Kuskokwim Region and we have about 100
10 enrolled members currently, growing every day. We have
11 several program areas, not just Partners in Fisheries
12 Monitoring. We get Indian general assistance funded
13 programs to manage our landfill and collect water
14 quality data. We have a brown field program. We have
15 a pretty extensive tribal transportation program where
16 we work with other tribes up and down the Kuskokwim
17 here to maintain the ice road.

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And then we also have a for-profit side
or enterprise business, which is focused on producing
firewood, fuels, lumber, logistic support and cabin
packages. And we lease timberlands from TKC down near
Kalskag and produce all those products and provide them
to the Region.

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So I'm here to talk about our Partners
in Fisheries Program mostly. And I'm sure you all are
familiar with that program. It's funded through the
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence
Management. And I'm happy to say that we have been
funded for four more years through the partners
program.

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In general, we have four kind of areas
that we tend to focus on with our partners program.
One of the areas is we work with agencies, other
agencies and NGOs on developing fisheries monitoring
projects. And I'll talk more about those in a little
bit. We represent our tribal members and our Council
on fisheries and wildlife issues for that matter and we
provide advice to local stakeholders, tribal members,
the Council related to those concerns.

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One of our big focus areas is also
building our capacity to have a local workforce using
our own local kids and local interns. Provide job
opportunities. Help them on their career paths in a
professional setting if possible. We do quite a bit of

1 that type of youth outreach here locally and throughout
2 the region. So focusing on that development we feel
3 it's really important to start really young with the
4 kids out here and so we do focus quite a bit on a
5 couple of programs that are directed at youth outreach.
6 And I'll talk about those more in a little bit.

7

8

So next slide, please.

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So this is one of the fisheries monitoring projects that we did get funded for the next four years thankfully through the FRMP program. So now we'll have a nice, solid continuation of that project. We weren't able to operate it last year due to a lack of funding, but it will be nice to get that back online. It's a partnership with ADF&G and we just focus on the chinook and chum salmon run.

For those who don't know, the Salmon River is the major spawning tributary of the Aniak River. The Aniak River on the Kuskokwim is a major salmon producing drainage for the entire Kuskokwim, so it provides us with a good index of chinook and chum escapement to the entire Aniak drainage.

We operate just from July 1 to August 15th. We've tried to do coho in the past later in the season, but it's a fixed picket weir and it doesn't tend to hold up too well during those fall high water events. Crew consists of usually about four local hires and we rotate them through that period and I also rotate interns through that operation so that they can gain experience on how you operate a weir. How you count fish, take age, sex, length. How you do your daily reports. Things like that.

In that window of operation we typically count about 90 percent of the chinook run and 85 percent of the chum run, which provides us with more than adequate numbers to estimate total escapement into the Salmon River weir.

Next slide, please.

So one of the other monitoring projects that we have that we've been operating here right out of Aniak for -- well, the last four years now is the test fishery. And we operate just above Aniak here. And it's been funded also through the FRMP project for

1 the next four years. And it operates from the 1st of
2 June to about July 15th, which is right about, you
3 know, July, the beginning of July is the peak fishing
4 period here in the Middle River for most folks, so it's
5 important that we have an idea of what the proportions
6 are of chinook to chum to sockeye ratios because that's
7 a tool that managers use to decide whether or not to
8 maybe close the fishery or liberalize the fishery. And
9 we happen to be right at the boundary line between the
10 Federal and State managed waters and so both agencies
11 are always very curious as to what the fishery is
12 looking like here at Aniak.

13
14 We basically collect catch per unit
15 effort data twice a day, in the morning and in the
16 evening and we take any fish, any mortalities from that
17 test fishery. Luckily, we're able to release about 90
18 percent of the chinook unharmed. Then we take what
19 does expire in that fishery and we provide it to the
20 local stakeholders.

21
22 Next slide, please.

23
24 Environmental monitoring. This year
25 we've got a project that's funded through the Alaska
26 Sustainable Salmon Fund. It's a partnership with the
27 University of Montana. And what we're trying to do is
28 a pilot project to map the spacial and temporal trends
29 of temperature for the Kuskokwim River and, more
30 specifically, more focused on the Aniak Rivers. We
31 will be deploying about 25 temperature loggers
32 throughout the Kuskokwim basin. And there's a picture
33 in the middle of the screen there, you see of one of
34 the loggers. That will be put into the water and it
35 will continuously record temperature data on an hourly
36 basis. And we use that information to calibrate
37 satellite imagery, thermal imagery. And on the left of
38 your screen there you see a map of the MODIS imagery
39 from a satellite that passes over this area every two
40 days, I think, is the return cycle on it. So we'll
41 have a continuous thermal map. And if we have actual
42 surface water data then we can build a model and
43 calibrate it using that water data to monitor the
44 entire temperature regime for the Kuskokwim basin and
45 its tributaries.

46
47 This is a pilot project. This model
48 has been proven to work in other locations and we're
49 hoping that it will work here and will give us a really
50

1 good methodology for doing some broad scale temperature
2 monitoring of the entire basis.

3

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Next slide, please.

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7 So I talked about outreach. One of our
8 big focal areas with outreach is trying to get the
9 information out to the stakeholders. As you guys all
10 are aware, there are a lot of management actions that
11 are taking place throughout the season as a result of
12 conservation needs and you just can't get the word out
13 enough. We do a lot of postings on websites. We do
14 hard copy postings. I have information technicians in
15 the villages that actually go around door to door and
16 meet people on the beach. We have poster boards. We
17 have people talking on the radio all the time. You
18 just can't seem to do enough outreach because of the
19 difficult and challenging -- oftentimes challenging
20 situations we have over here on the Kuskokwim with our
21 management and all those actions that are needed. And
22 we're certainly wanting people to take every advantage
23 of the opportunities that are provided and, you know,
24 make sure that nobody gets into any trouble.

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Next slide, please.

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So we're on a youth outreach slide
here. And two of our youth outreach programs are the
George River internship and the Math and Science
Expedition. The George River internship takes place on
the George River. And we take about a dozen advanced
students for a paid internship for about a week to ten
days on that expedition. And we go over river and
salmon ecology, hydrology, how weirs are operated. We
collect juvenile salmon abundance data. Basically they
get a crash course in how to be a fisheries and fish
habitat technician. They receive two high school
science credits for it and it is a paid stipend. And
that's been a very successful project over the last
four years and we have continued funding for the next

1 three years on that.

2

3 The other youth outreach project we
4 support is the Math and Science Expedition, which has
5 been going on here on the Aniak and Salmon River years
6 through the Kuspuk School District and Excel Alaska for
7 many, many years. And on that adventure they take
8 about 30 kids and they float them down the Salmon River
9 and the Aniak River and they talk about salmon ecology.
10 They do some very simple science measurements on the
11 habitat, water temperature, things like that. So a lot
12 of leadership skills are taught. A lot of team
13 building activities. And the kids have a lot of fun.
14 And it's just a great way to introduce them into the
15 outdoors. And from that group of kids we kind of
16 select kids to go on into our George River internship
17 program.

18

19 So these are both great projects that
20 we really enjoy participating in.

21

22 So next slide, please.

23

24 So the youth outreach work could never
25 be done without all the partners that we have involved.
26 Everybody from OSM and the partners program supporting
27 those projects. Janessa at ONC down in Bethel. Excel
28 Alaska. And then we have a lot of our interns who have
29 gone through the internship that want to come back and
30 be mentors to the kids, the next group of kids. And
31 that's a great way to keep them involved as well while
32 we're trying to find ways for them to further their
33 careers.

34

35 So with that, we can go to the last
36 slide. And I would be happy to answer any questions if
37 anybody has some.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any questions for
42 Dan on that presentation.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. My question was
47 how deep were you going to deploy those temperature
48 monitors.

49

50

1 MR. GILLIKIN: Yeah. We're going to
2 follow the protocols for the Statewide -- there was --
3 oh, I can't remember the name, but I'm -- I'm sorry,
4 Mr. Chairman.

5
6 There's a Statewide protocol for
7 deployment of these loggers where we will get the
8 surface temperatures across the stream channel and make
9 sure we find a location where we have a uniform
10 temperature profile. But they won't be deployed deep.
11 They'll be deployed just under the surface in a
12 location which will stay wetted because we're trying to
13 calibrate it to the satellite land surface temperatures
14 and so we wouldn't want to get a, you know, a missed
15 reading by putting them too deep.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that's a great
18 project, but I think that it would also behoove
19 managers, including yourself, to look at where chinook
20 salmon swim and deploy a temperature monitor there.
21 And also at the depths that chums -- they swim pretty
22 close to the beach and deploy one at that level to get
23 the water column profile that may be approaching the
24 mortality for those species. And so it might be
25 something to think about.

26
27 Any other questions.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen, do you got a
32 point?

33
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: I just had one comment
35 for Dan on the phone. I just wanted to let the Council
36 know that Dan was helpful in trying to recruit some
37 members from that region to apply from the Council and
38 I'm pleased to say he was successful in getting at
39 least one applicant for the Council for next year.

40
41 So thank you very much for your help
42 there, Dan.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I really appreciate
45 that part, Dan, because we're really at a lack here for
46 Council members on the Kuskokwim. So appreciate that.

47
48 Appreciate all the work you're doing
49 down there for the fisheries on the Kuskokwim River,
50

1 it's very important work.

2

3

Thanks so much.

4

5

MR. GILLIKIN: Thank you.

6

7

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so moving on,
8 we're going to go to Kenton Moos is going to come for
9 Mulchatna. Kenton was the in-season manager for the
10 Mulchatna Herd -- designated as the Mulchatna Herd's
11 in-season manager by the Federal Subsistence Board.

12

13

14

15

Go ahead, Kenton.

16

17

MS. DEATHERAGE: I.....

18

19

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Karen.

20

21

MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm sorry. All the
22 Council members should have a copy of that special
23 action request.

24

25

26

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's this right

27

28

here?

29

30

MS. DEATHERAGE: Yep. I put one out for
31 you during the lunch time, so if you don't -- if you
32 can't find it, let me know.

33

34

35

36

Thank you.

37

38

39

MR. MOOS: Good afternoon and thank
40 you, Jack. For the record, my name is Kenton Moos.
41 I'm the acting Refuge Manager for Togiak National
42 Wildlife Refuge out of Dillingham and I am the acting
43 in-season manager for the Mulchatna Herd at least until
44 the end of March.

45

46

47

48

49

So just to give you a little quick
50 history on why I'm here. Last year the ADF&G did a
census of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. The management
objective for that herd is 30 to 80,000. The
population estimate came in at 13.5, which is well
below the minimum management objective for that herd.
So Alaska Department of Fish and Game immediately did
an emergency order to reduce the bag limit from two
caribou to one throughout the Range, which includes
Units 19A and B, Unit 18, Unit 17A, B, and C, and Unit
9A, B, and C.

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1 So we followed suit on the Federal side
2 with a special action request through the Federal
3 Subsistence Board to do the same. That process,
4 because of the requirements for public input and
5 consultations and so forth took about a month and a
6 half, but through that process the Federal Subsistence
7 Board reduced the harvest from two to one and in Units
8 18 and 19A and B restricted it to one bull as well.

9
10 They also made the decision, though, to
11 appoint a Federal in-season manager for the remainder
12 of the season in order to make management decisions in
13 a relatively timely manner. And that's how I became
14 the in-season Refuge mana -- or manager for that herd.

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 MR. MOOS: So just anticipating what's
19 going to happen next year, we are not anticipating an
20 increase in the herd size. ADF&G, and we will be
21 participating in it as well, we will be doing another
22 survey this summer, July, August time frame for another
23 population estimate.

24
25 Just looking ahead, we were -- as a
26 Federal Manager I was concerned about the time frame it
27 takes for a special action request to go through, a
28 month and a half. That is not a very time sensitive
29 period, so thus the special action request that we are
30 putting forward right now -- what we are asking for is
31 that a Federal manager be appointed so that these
32 management decisions can be made in a timely manner.
33 And obviously the -- it's through a letter of authority
34 through the Federal Subsistence Board and, again, it
35 would be very similar to what I had this past year as a
36 manager. It would require consultation with State,
37 with other Federal agencies, as well as I'm required to
38 consult with the three RAC's that are impacted,
39 including this RAC. And then we also took it a little
40 bit further and we obviously do as much tribal
41 consultation as we can. Obviously, we can't do as much
42 as we would like, but we do reach out quite heavily to
43 the tribal entities that are involved in this whole
44 thing.

45
46 So what I am, again, asking for is that
47 the -- as you can see before you, the changes would be
48 instead of a two caribou limit, it would be a season to
49 be announced by the Federal in-season manager. It

50

1 would include opening, closures, age -- or I mean sex
2 and location restrictions as well.

3
4 So that's what that special action
5 request is for. I just wanted to make you aware of it.

6
7 Any other questions.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tommy.

10
11 MR. KRISKA: I have a question. I was
12 just looking at your numbers here and from -- it says
13 200 animals to an estimate to 13,500, a decrease of 50
14 percent since 2016. And so it seems like over 100,000
15 caribou missing in three years. That's what I see
16 here. It's on this book right here. It's in this one.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it's in our
19 annual report. The Mulchatna Herd which dropped from
20 historic highs of 200,000 animals to an estimated
21 13,500 in 2019. And a decrease of 50 percent since
22 2016.

23
24 MR. KRISKA: Oh, okay. I see.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So there's -- I
27 think 2016 was something like right around 30,000 or
28 something like that.

29
30 MR. MOOS: Yes. Through the Chair. It
31 was about 27 -- 28,000, and that was about three years
32 ago. They did try to do population estimates the two
33 years following that, but did not get good conditions
34 to do it. So it had been a three-year period since the
35 last population estimate had been done. And then when
36 it came in at 13.5 -- and Alaska Department of Fish and
37 Game feels very strongly that that 13.5 was a very good
38 count, so that's why were obviously very concerned for
39 that herd.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

42
43 Tim.

44
45 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Hi,
46 Kenton. Can you talk about how many animals were
47 harvested in the last year? And then some of the
48 points that you and the State managers were considering
49 whether to go with the one caribou instead of just zero

50

1 caribou or just a complete closure of the season?

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

4

5

6

MR. MOOS: Sure. Mr. Gervais, Through
the Chair.

7

8

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Yeah. We obviously looked at a lot of
different things. One of the first questions we asked
the Department of Fish and Game was what is the
harvestable surplus. And they ran some models and
basically the models indicated that at any harvest
levels the herd would not be able to sustain it or
would be able to increase. So that drove basically our
decision. It made it very, very easy for us. That in
order to grow this herd we had to stop harvest, human
harvest.

19

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And I just texted the in-season manager
for the State of Alaska, Lauren Watine out of
Dillingham there and the count as of today is 113
animals reported harvested through the year. Again the
Federal lands were closed on December 31st at 11:59
p.m. and then the State followed suit the last day of
January at 11:59, so February 1 it was effectively
closed to all harvest of caribou throughout that range.

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So -- and one thing that is a concern
to us is anecdotally we've heard a lot about unreported
harvest. And with this process we've put together a
law enforcement plan because we knew there was going to
be some -- there's some issues with this. There hasn't
been much for law enforcement in the past with this
hunt and so we put together a good law enforcement plan
with our Federal partners. Again, BLM really helped us
out with a pilot. And what we were finding was a
number of harvested animals, including cows that were
harvested on Federal land when it was closed to cow
harvest. There were a couple of cases made, but just
very anecdotally. A little while -- well, when I was
at the Board of Game in mid-January in Nome, at that
point we had an increase of reported harvest of six
animals and our officers, with minimum effort, found at
least 15 kill sites, so we know that there is a fair
amount of unreported harvest. How much we can't
quantify, but we know that there's a fair amount of it.

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you continuing
to fly the -- for patrols to make sure that the people

1 are not still accessing the herd?

2

3 MR. MOOS: Sure, Mr. Chair. Absolutely.
4 Our law enforcement efforts are continuing. Not only
5 our law enforcement, but just some surveillance flights
6 as well, especially out of Bethel. We've got a pilot
7 who routinely flies to check not only hunting activity,
8 but also the location of the animals. How close they
9 are to villages and so forth. So that is continuing
10 and it will continue through the end of March for sure.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

13

14 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Kenton, I guess my question would be kind of two-fold
16 here.

17

18 That's a really drastic drop in
19 numbers. And what do they attribute that to? Just
20 over-harvest or what exactly -- and I just -- that's
21 one question.

22

23 The other one is are you, in trying to
24 preserve this thing, are you curtailing any hunts out
25 there that's on the books, like for resident only or
26 something like that? I mean like at the Western Arctic
27 Herd, maybe a few years ago they were kind of alarmed
28 at the numbers that were really low, so I believe they
29 had instituted something like resident only or
30 something like that.

31

32 So I guess what I'm asking is other
33 than just dropping the number from two to one, is there
34 any other preventative measurements that you guys are
35 taking?

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Kenton.

40

41 MR. MOOS: Sure. Mr. Honea, through
42 the Chair. Absolutely. Well, we closed the season.

43

44 So on the Federal side we closed it for
45 -- well, it was two and a half months early and the
46 State side they did it a month and a half early for the
47 majority of the area. There's a couple of game
48 management units that go through the end of March, but
49 most of them are March 15th it ends. So there is that

50

1 closure. Absolutely.

2

3 And we're considering everything and
4 that's part of the reason why this special action
5 request is before you so that we can make management
6 decisions in a very timely manner through this way of
7 handling it. If we go with a special action request it
8 takes time. And we're just afraid that time is not
9 always on our side to make good decisions, especially
10 when we're trying to conserve a herd.

11

12 MR. HONEA: All right. Thank you. I
13 guess getting back to the question I originally -- the
14 first one was what are you attributing that big drop
15 in? Is it because of animal predation or just over-
16 hunting by us?

17

18 MR. MOOS: Again Mr. Honea, that's sort
19 of the million dollar question because Alaska
20 Department of Fish and Game has some fairly good
21 information on this herd and production is pretty good.
22 Recruitment isn't too bad either. It's not as high as
23 we'd like to see it, but it's not bad.

24

25 So -- and there's been a fair amount of
26 work done on predation. There is actually an intensive
27 management program that does occur within the calving
28 grounds of this herd, so there is wolf control measures
29 being taken since 2011. So it's -- and it has been
30 mixed. And typically the amount of wolves taken in
31 this predator control program has been very weather
32 dependent. It's whether the guys out of New Stu and
33 that area are able to get out and hunt and/or trap the
34 wolves and stuff. But with that said, the wolf
35 densities in the calving grounds is fairly low.

36

37 And it's -- so there's more to it than
38 just that.

39

40 One of the things that we are going to
41 be looking at, we are working quite closely with the
42 Alaska Department of Fish and Game is we also want to
43 do a habitat assessment. Again, this is a very large
44 range though, so it's something that we're we're
45 working on. We're looking at possibly remote imagery
46 to try to assess the habitat conditions throughout the
47 range, but we're asking a lot of questions and we've
48 got some things to look at.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I listened to the
2 teleconference and the area biologist laid out a whole
3 bunch of data. The data reflected that the fecundity
4 or the productivity of the caribou is really high. The
5 pregnancy rates, the productivity rates are really
6 high. The herd goes way down.
7

8 It was deliberated at our -- or
9 investigated at our meeting with Aaron Moses in the
10 back of the room there that -- Aaron came to this
11 meeting last March and told us they were killing a lot
12 of caribou down there out of Bethel. We heard that. I
13 remembered that. As soon as I heard this herd went
14 down, I remembered that and started cross examining and
15 trying to find out who knows -- who has this data.
16 Nobody has this data. The reality is Yukon Delta RAC
17 is well aware, they live in Bethel, they know full well
18 what's going on and they were very supportive to get
19 this reduction.
20

21 This herd needs to be protected.
22

23 One major factor on the calving ground
24 -- I used to fish at Bristol Bay and I flew across the
25 calving ground in late May and early June and I saw
26 large brown bears chasing down those calves. They got
27 big bears down there. We've got tiny bears. They've
28 got big ones. And they're real fast. When they run
29 across that tundra they can run faster than a
30 racehorse. And they were catching those caribou
31 calves. I watched them doing it.
32

33 So the reality is they got large brown
34 bears. They got the Mulchatna River full of salmon to
35 go eat in the fall, but they eat these caribou calves
36 big time in the springtime. That's -- you can shoot
37 all the wolves in the world, those bears are killing
38 the tar out of those caribou calves.
39

40 So this herd needs protection for the
41 next two years until we get to the regulatory cycle.
42 The State came on board. They were reluctant. They
43 had their heels dug in and they didn't want to go away
44 from their previous inappropriate decision to reduce
45 the bag limit to one caribou, including cows. So now
46 they've closed the season. So they've come around.
47 Everybody's on the same sheet of music. The managers
48 know we have to protect this herd. Under the Federal
49 program we need to have an in-season manager.
50

1 I'm very supportive of a special action
2 request, and is the special action request going to be
3 visited at the Federal Subsistence Board meeting in
4 mid-April?
5

6 MR. MOOS: Mr. Chair. My understanding
7 is it's probably going to be May. We have until
8 August. August is when the season opens.
9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
11

12 MR. MOOS: But my understanding is it
13 will not be taken up at that Board meeting, but by May
14 is what I'm hearing.
15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. A month and
17 a half. That happens in a month and a half. Isn't it
18 cost-effective for the Federal Subsistence Board to
19 rubber stamp this special action request while you've
20 got the Councils right there at the table.
21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 I can certainly find that out for you. My
24 understanding, however, is that there will be public
25 hearings held on this special action request, likely in
26 Bethel and Dillingham and those will be conducted after
27 the meeting cycle, when the Regional Advisory Council
28 meeting cycle is over. So that might be part of the
29 delay because we're butting up to the end of March for
30 these Council meetings now.
31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: So likely the special
35 action hearings will be held in April. And so that's
36 pushing it up to the Board meeting. But I will find
37 out why.....
38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Have the special
40 action meetings in early April. The Board meets on the
41 20th or 18th or something like that. Let's make this
42 cost-effective. I'm a fiscal conservative and all. I
43 don't like to do redundancies.
44

45 And I feel that this is a very
46 important document. I would like the Council to
47 support this special action and transmit our approval
48 to the Federal Subsistence Board.
49
50

1 The Chair will entertain a motion to
2 adopt the special action request by the Togiak National
3 Wildlife Refuge current in-season manager to have
4 management authority to protect the Mulchatna Caribou
5 Herd during this time of hardship.

6
7 MR. SIMON: So moved.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Pollock.

10
11 MR. SEMAKEN: Second.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Who seconded over
14 here?

15
16 MR. SEMAKEN: Me.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Goodwin.

19
20 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any discussion on
23 this Mulchatna special action request for in-season
24 manager authority.

25
26 MR. SIMON: Call question.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
29 Those in favor of adopting the special action request
30 to be transmitted to the Federal Subsistence Board and
31 it's -- it's in the document as before us. Those in
32 favor of the special action request, signify by saying
33 aye.

34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

38
39 (No opposing votes)

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any further
42 comments, Kenton?

43
44 MR. MOOS: Thank you for your support.
45 We appreciate it a ton.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

48
49 MR. MOOS: Good seeing you all.

50

1 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

2
3 MR. MOOS: All right, thank you.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And appreciate your
6 diligence on protecting the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. I
7 do really appreciate that.

8
9 MR. MOOS: I will say I had a wonderful
10 Staff to help me, including the guy in the back of the
11 room, Aaron Moses.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

14
15 MR. MOOS: But thanks. Appreciate it.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

18
19 Karen.

20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 If the Council would like, I can put in a request in
23 your comments since it was brought up on the record to
24 have the Federal Subsistence Board take this issue up
25 at their meeting in April.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Please do. And
30 so we can probably take a break now. It's about 3:00
31 o'clock, so we can break till about 3:20.

32
33 Would that be good, Karen?

34
35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 3:15. Karen says
38 3:15.

39
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: And then we'll be back
41 at 3:20.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So 3:15.

46
47 (Off record)

48
49 (On record)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Gerald Maschmann
2 is going to give us the Yukon River drainage -- no,
3 where am I at -- so go ahead, Gerald. I lost my place,
4 oh, fisheries. Yes, go ahead Gerald.
5

6 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair
7 and Council. My name is Gerald Maschmann. I'm with the
8 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service here in the Fairbanks
9 Subsistence Fisheries Office. I am the assistant
10 Federal in-season manager. Most of you know that I
11 worked with Fred Bue on managing the Yukon River
12 subsistence salmon fishery.
13

14 I handed out two handouts today. One
15 of those is the 2019.....
16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One moment. You are
18 the in-season manager?
19

20 MR. MASCHMANN: I am not. I am I guess
21 maybe acting, but I don't know what.....
22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
24

25 MR. MASCHMANN: I'm filling in until
26 the new Federal manager can go ahead.
27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, good. I'm
29 glad to see that you're filling in because you have a
30 lot experience and I want to see that.
31

32 Go ahead.
33

34 MR. MASCHMANN: So I gave you two
35 handouts. One is the 2019 fall season summary. Last
36 fall we did a pretty good overview of the 2019 season.
37 The summer season summary I handed out to you. At that
38 time we were still at the tail end of fall season, so
39 the fall season summary was not handed out then so I'm
40 handing out the 2019 fall season summary. The summer
41 and fall season summaries are really good overviews of
42 the season, so I would use those as your documentation
43 if you want to know what went on last year.
44

45 Today I'm going to primarily focus on
46 2020, but if you look at the second document, is kind
47 of my review today. Page two is a 2019 season review.
48 Again I'm not going to say much about it unless you
49 have specific questions. But the last paragraph on
50

1 page two has the preliminary subsistence harvest data
2 and so I think that's probably of interest to you if
3 you want to take a look at that.
4

5 But moving on to the 2020 outlook, at
6 this point the preliminary outlook is getting pretty
7 close to being finalized. At this time the 2020
8 chinook salmon run will be similar to 2019 or maybe a
9 little smaller, with a drainage-wide estimate of
10 between 144,000 and 220,000 fish. This range will
11 probably be necessary to have some, at least some
12 subsistence fishing restrictions to meet escapement and
13 harvest sharing goals.
14

15 The summer chum salmon run should be
16 near 1.9 million fish, which should provide for
17 escapement, a normal subsistence harvest, as well as
18 additional commercial, personal use, and sportfishing
19 opportunities.
20

21 The 2020 management strategies and
22 options will be similar as to what we've been seeing in
23 the last few years with fishing likely restricted early
24 in the season, possibly using selective gear to target
25 chum salmon, fishermen should expect a combination of
26 reduced or cancelled periods and gear restrictions to
27 limit the harvest of chinook salmon while still
28 allowing for the harvest of summer chum salmon.
29

30 We're going to attempt to, you know,
31 spread the subsistence fishing opportunities out over
32 the run to prevent any over-harvest on any particular
33 stock. And, again, if the run abundance indicates that
34 we're near the upper end or above that upper end of the
35 200,000, fishing opportunities with 7.5 inch gillnet
36 gear could be allowed. And, you know, we had a lot of
37 concerns last year with the water temperatures. We're
38 going to be watching that pretty closely. I don't know
39 what kind of management actions we'd take, you know,
40 depending on that water temperature, but we definitely
41 would like to hear from fishermen on the ideas that you
42 might have.
43

44 Moving into the fall season, we're
45 expecting, you know, 827,000 to a little over a million
46 fall chum salmon. That should be sufficient to achieve
47 escapement objectives and provide for a normal
48 subsistence harvest with some surplus available for
49 commercial sport and personal use fisheries. We will
50

1 be looking at the summer chum run. There's a strong
2 relationship between the summer chum and the fall chum
3 run, so as the summer chum season winds down we'll be
4 adjusting that outlook based upon that summer chum run.
5

6 Coho salmon, we're expecting to be near
7 average for 2020 and we expect to have enough for
8 subsistence and other uses for 2020.
9

10 Moving to page four, management
11 strategies for the fall season again will be similar to
12 what we've seen. We anticipate a full subsistence
13 opportunity during the fall season. Commercial fall
14 chum fishing is expected to begin at that transition
15 period between the summer and fall season and depending
16 upon that in-season projection, commercial will be
17 dependent on run strength projected from the summer
18 chum, fall chum relationship, as well as the in-season
19 indicators.
20

21 And we'll be working with fishermen in
22 Fort Yukon and Old Crow to advise us on what kind of
23 management strategies we want for the Porcupine River.
24 Unfortunately, Porcupine River fall chum in the Fishing
25 Branch just hasn't been as productive as the other fall
26 chum stocks and so, you know, we've been restricting
27 subsistence salmon fishing in the Porcupine River.
28 And, you know, we want to work closely with the
29 subsistence fishermen in that area to make sure we're
30 doing what we need to do to protect that stock.
31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have an
33 agreement with Canada for a certain passage up the
34 Porcupine River or.....
35

36 MR. MASCHMANN: The Fishing Branch
37 River does have an escapement goal, the Fishing Branch
38 weir, and in some seasons we make the goal and in some
39 seasons we don't. It's a tough system to monitor
40 because towards the end of their season they're icing
41 up and, you know, a late fall chum run could mean we
42 don't quite hit all of it. They're also -- they've
43 been working on a Old Crow sonar, so they've been
44 counting fish in Old Crow with a sonar.
45

46 So that's fairly new, so we're not
47 quite sure what that number means yet as far as the
48 Fishing Branch. But, you know, we're monitoring. It's
49 a concern. And, you know, fall chum have been -- we've
50

1 seen some good returns of fall chum, but they just
2 haven't really shown up as strongly at Fishing Branch,
3 so we don't know what's going on.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

6
7 Any questions for Gerald's
8 presentation.

9
10 MR. HONEA: Yeah. I have a question.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

13
14 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Gerald, how important is the escapement on the
16 Porcupine into Canada? I guess really our escapement
17 goal, you know, is on the Yukon but I was just -- I
18 just found out when we had a YR DFA thing in Anchorage
19 maybe a couple of years ago that they even had an
20 escapement on -- for the Porcupine into Canada. And I
21 was kind of surprised that they even had that there
22 because how important is that for a food source for the
23 Canadians as opposed to the Yukon. I mean so I guess
24 it's kind of confusing that we have two of them there.
25 And I guess the main one that we pinpoint or more
26 important to us is the escapement on the Yukon.

27
28 So I'm just wondering the importance of
29 that. And even if we did meet that escapement on the
30 Porcupine, it wouldn't have anything to do with the
31 numbers on the Yukon for that one.

32
33 MR. MASCHMANN: Through the Chair.
34 Thank you, Don.

35
36 It is a -- it's been a productive fall
37 chum stock in the past. You know, if you're from Old
38 Crow it's certainly a very important resource. It is a
39 subsistence resource for the village of Old Crow, as
40 well as there are some subsistence families who trap
41 and fish on the Porcupine on the U.S. side, so it's
42 important for them.

43
44 As I told the Eastern Interior RAC, you
45 know, we have obligations to get a number of fish
46 across the border. I think, you know, spawning --
47 every spawning group -- every spawning is probably
48 important in the overall scheme of things. How we
49 manage, you know, it's nearly impossible for us on the

50

1 Alaska side to just manage for Porcupine stocks. I
2 mean they're all mixed in throughout the whole run.
3 But it's important for the Canadians and, you know,
4 once we meet our obligations across the border it's the
5 Canadians fishery to manage for them. We don't tell
6 them what's important to them. We don't tell them how
7 to manage their fishery, so we don't expect them to
8 tell us how to manage our fishery. So, you know, if we
9 start telling them what they should be getting and how
10 many they should harvest then they might want to tell
11 you how many you can harvest.

12
13 So, you know, we try and meet our
14 obligations. We have the Yukon River Panel and there's
15 folks in this building who are on that panel and they
16 work together with the Canadians to try and come up
17 with, you know, fair objectives and using the best
18 science and the best traditional knowledge that we
19 have.

20
21 MR. HONEA: Can I ask one more?

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

24
25 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And,
26 Gerald, I'm always kind of confused by these reports
27 here because -- because of the Federal and the State,
28 you know, overseeing each other or working
29 cooperatively toward this so when you speak about the
30 2020 Yukon salmon season outlook, we wouldn't know
31 until the -- maybe the YRDFFA meeting or something when
32 Holly would -- because you really can't say that we
33 will reduce down to 7.5 or anything, the measures --
34 that's going to -- besides the numbers that you give us
35 here, those are guesstimates. And so we'd really have
36 to wait or is this -- we're going to go by this?

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MR. MASCHMANN: Through the Chair.
41 Thank you, Don.

42
43 We work -- this report has been working
44 with Holly and Jeff Estensen, Holly Carroll and Jeff
45 Estensen, with ADF&G. The numbers we got are --
46 they've been working hard -- the Department comes up
47 with the outlook. They've been working hard. It's
48 still technically preliminary until the Joint Technical
49 Committee meets with the U.S. Canadian Yukon River

50

1 Panel that's on page four. That meeting is coming up
2 on March 11th and 13th. They will be publishing a
3 document shortly thereafter called the Yukon River
4 Salmon 2019 Season Summary and the 2020 Season Outlook.
5 And the outlook again is they work with the Canadians
6 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, we all work together on
7 putting together the outlook. It's mostly a Fish and
8 Game outlook. They do -- they have the Staff, the
9 research Staff, the statisticians who do the run
10 assessment.
11

12 So at this point I would say it's
13 probably a final outlook, but it's still preliminary
14 till that document gets published. And then they meet
15 with the Yukon River Panel and they talk about the
16 outlook, they talk about management strategies and how
17 many fish we want to get across the border. So -- and
18 again that's number two there on the events.
19

20 The U.S. Canada Yukon River Panel
21 meeting will be meeting April 3rd through the 8th in
22 Fairbanks, so I would encourage if you can make it in
23 for that there is a time for public testimony during
24 that meeting. So -- and if you have been curious about
25 how the Panel works that might be a good time to come
26 to town and see what's going on with that.
27

28 MS. CARROLL: Mr. Chair. This is Holly
29 Carroll. I'd like to add something for Don if I can.
30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Holly.
32

33 MS. CARROLL: Thanks, Gerald, for that
34 summary.
35

36 Don, I feel like you were asking a
37 pretty specific question that maybe didn't get
38 answered. And some of the management strategies like
39 the actions we might take, like the use of 7.5 inch,
40 stuff like that, Gerald was speaking in generalities.
41 We haven't developed our management strategy. We will
42 do that after the Panel meeting. After we've heard,
43 you know, shared data at the Panel, and then, most
44 importantly, we then go to that pre-season meeting with
45 our fishermen on the Alaska side. We present the
46 outlook. We give some ideas about what we would like
47 to institute for the management strategy. So, you
48 know, things like, you know, should we use six inch in
49 the Upper River, reduce window scheduling, you know,
50

1 the specifics, we get the feedback from the fishermen
2 at that meeting and then we finalize our strategy and
3 we send it out as a flyer to all the households.
4

5 And so that's when you will get a
6 little bit more specific information about what kind of
7 management actions you can expect.
8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,
10 Don.
11

12 MR. HONEA: Thank you. Thank you,
13 Holly, for that.
14

15 Yeah, I was a little confused by this
16 because, you know, I mean I'm just thinking about in
17 the past it was always your call as to the numbers
18 going by Pilot Station and the type of gear that we
19 could use up river. So that's why I said I was kind of
20 confused. I know you guys work in conjunction with
21 this and so I didn't realize you were on the line, but
22 thank you for that clarification.
23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Thanks for
25 that.
26

27 MS. CARROLL: Sorry, Mr. Chair. Can I
28 follow up one more time?
29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.
31

32 MS. CARROLL: So yeah. You raise
33 another good point. So we go into the season with a
34 management strategy and it will have general things
35 like, you know, allow fishing on the trickle, but maybe
36 with a half schedule, reduce the schedule to half the
37 time. So there will be general things like that that
38 we've been doing the last five years.
39

40 But once the season starts and now the
41 assessment data is coming in from the test fisheries
42 and from Pilot Station sonar, we might have to adapt
43 those management strategies. We might have to change
44 them from what we said. We may have to be more
45 conservative. So that's when you start seeing pulled
46 periods or closures on the periods. And that's where
47 me and Gerald and the new Federal manager, we'll be
48 working day-to-day together to make those decisions as
49 a team. But we go into the season with that management
50

1 strategy and we try to stick to it unless the run
2 strength kind of forces us to do something a little
3 different or a little bit reactive.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

6

7 Any final comments from the Council.

8

9 Tim.

10

11 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
12 Gerald, and Holly.

13

14 I just want to pass some information
15 that I observed today or heard today. It seemed like
16 when we were watching the presentation on the Henshaw
17 Creek weir that they started getting better results
18 past -- I think it was 2009. I think that was after we
19 had started having a lot of pulse protection for the
20 first and sometimes second run coming into the river.

21

22 And then I was talking to Darrel Vent
23 from Huslia on our last break and he was commenting,
24 you know, that they felt like they had a lot better
25 chinook opportunity on the Koyukuk River and
26 potentially that's from that regulation change we made
27 where we moved the -- by allowing the drift fishing for
28 the area around Galena so that the Galena fishermen
29 could fish closer to home and not have to travel down
30 to Koyukuk to do their fishing.

31

32 My question for either of you two is,
33 is one species, either the kings or the chums more
34 resistant to thermal stress, and, then the second
35 question regarding this kind of lost fish or
36 discrepancy that we're seeing -- that we saw in 2019
37 between the Pilot Station sonar and the Eagle sonar, do
38 you feel like on that -- on the Yukon -- we know we had
39 the big die-off on the Koyukuk, are you attributing
40 some of that loss -- lost fish between Pilot Station
41 and Eagle to either thermal stress or low oxygen on the
42 Yukon for that stretch between Pilot Station and Eagle.

43

44 MS. CARROLL: Through the Chair. This
45 is Holly, summer season manager.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

48

49 MS. CARROLL: Thanks, Tim. You asked a

50

1 lot of really good questions. I hope I'll hit them
2 all.

3
4 So firstly, thanks for that comment
5 about the Galena fishing. I think you're right there.
6 Our harvest data is showing that, that, you know,
7 people were worried that if we allowed drifting up
8 river there would be great harvest. I think all we've
9 seen is a redistribution of fishermen closer to home.
10 So yeah, that may be better for the Koyukuk River. So
11 that's looking good so far.

12
13 And then -- so you were talking about
14 is one species like the king or the chums more
15 resistant to heat stress. And that -- I don't think
16 there's any conclusive data to tell us that. And
17 unfortunately what was frustrating about this season is
18 that we saw -- we know there's confirmed deaths of chum
19 and then we saw really reduced escapements of chum to
20 the Koyukuk River, in particular, but in general across
21 the board we saw reduced escapements.

22
23 Then we saw a mixed bag of escapements
24 of chinook, but not hardly any reports of dead chinook.
25 I mean after the season we heard about maybe a dozen.
26 And Dr. Von Biela, who talked to you guys I believe at
27 the fall meeting and she's done various presentations
28 and she's studied heat stress on chinook on the Yukon,
29 I think what she would say is that, you know, we don't
30 know the extent to which the kings were dying as well
31 because their bodies are more likely to sink. And even
32 one of the fishermen that reported seeing dead kings
33 noted that they were smaller, they were in eddys with
34 lower water. And that may be why he saw those bodies
35 at all, and so it's really hard for us to get a handle
36 on that. But as a biologist, when I, post-season, am
37 looking at the discrepancy that you talk about where we
38 had an in-season estimate of the Canadian origin run of
39 like 90,000 and then post-season the Canadian origin
40 run ends up being about 72,000, you know, our harvest
41 did not account for that difference. And so do I think
42 that it's attributed to heat stress? Yeah. I think
43 there had to be some level of increased mortality for
44 the kings since we saw such a huge level on the chums.
45 Do I think it accounts for the whole difference?
46 Likely not but there's absolutely no way to know. And
47 so that's what's kind of frustrating is we don't have a
48 measure of mortality.

49
50

1 And when you look through time there's
2 a lot of seasons where the data we see at Pilot Station
3 that's sort of in-season estimate, if you will, doesn't
4 always match up with the post-season estimate and we
5 don't really ever know why. We can speculate. And
6 some years with a good look at the sonar that -- okay,
7 it's viable that the sonar over counted them. This
8 year I really don't believe that the sonar over counted
9 that much. And we can see that because as Gerald
10 showed you, our subsistence harvests were the highest
11 they've been since 2007. So we took almost 50,000
12 chinook in the subsistence fishery.

13
14 And one thing I looked at -- and
15 hopefully this is okay, Mr. Chair, but I want to talk
16 about one of the things I looked at.

17
18 In 2007 we had a similar performance
19 where we failed to meet the goal with Canada by about
20 1,000 or 2,000 fish. So squeaked under the bottom end.
21 But what's different is the run size in that year -- we
22 counted at Pilot 220,000 kings. Okay. A very similar
23 run size. This year the post-season count or the
24 reconstructive count is 249,000. So this year's run
25 was bigger than 2007. In 2007 we harvested a similar
26 amount. In our subsistence fishery we took about
27 54,000. But in addition to that we were still
28 commercial fishing and we took an additional 30,000
29 chinook salmon. So as a biologist I'm looking at these
30 two run sizes which appear to be similar, but I'm
31 looking at the fact that we harvested almost half as
32 many this year and still didn't make the goal. And I
33 have to wonder what happened to that run size in-
34 season.

35
36 So, again, I have no conclusive
37 evidence. These are just kind of my gut thoughts on
38 looking at the data that I have. And so, yeah, I mean
39 we're just going to continue to look at what happens in
40 these warming years and take a conservative approach.
41 I will say that the harvest we took this year was
42 higher because of a very rare, perfect trifecta of
43 events. And that was that it was great fishing
44 weather, so not much debris in the water; it was great
45 weather for drying; and the chums were almost a week
46 late, which meant that anyone that went fishing early
47 in the season was getting almost entirely chinook in
48 their nets. And so I think their efficiency was much,
49 much higher than it normally would have been.

50

1 And so I think it's also worth noting
2 that, that even though we thought we were taking
3 conservation management actions this year, they weren't
4 conservative enough given the sort of perfect
5 environmental conditions for catching kings.

6
7 That's a long-winded answer, hopefully
8 that shed some light on the season.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for your
11 explanation, Holly. We need to move on this agenda
12 though.

13
14 And Pollock, one final statement.

15
16 MR. SIMON: Yeah. I have some
17 comments. Maybe three or four years ago, I set a 60
18 foot six inch net for chum salmon and I got over 100
19 fish, it was too much for me to pack, so I rolled up
20 two parts, still catch 50. The last couple years I set
21 the same net for chum salmon and set the whole net and
22 I got only about 50 fish. So the chum salmon, and king
23 salmon on the Koyukuk River is down, quite a bit, the
24 last couple of years.

25
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for that
29 information, Pollock.

30
31 So thanks so much, Gerald and Holly. I
32 appreciate that preseason forecast and looking forward
33 to see what the Panel and Joint Technical Committee
34 come up with.

35
36 And so moving on in this agenda we're
37 going to go to Brooke McDavid, who's been waiting
38 patiently.

39
40 MS. MCDAVID: Good afternoon, Chairman
41 Reakoff and Council members. My name is Brooke
42 McDavid, with ADF&G Division of Subsistence here in
43 Fairbanks. Thank you for squeezing me in early. I do
44 have other commitments this evening that I couldn't
45 reschedule, so I appreciate that.

46
47 I had a PowerPoint presentation, but my
48 slides are actually in your book. So in light of time
49 I'm just going to refer you to page 20 in your book.

50

1 And what you will see on page 20 is a list of current
2 and recent research projects that the Subsistence
3 Division has in the Western Interior region. And
4 you've probably heard about some of these before, so
5 I'm going to try to just focus on the most recent ones.
6

7 So on number 1, last year we did a
8 comprehensive subsistence survey in Kaltag. Kaltag had
9 never had a comprehensive subsistence survey completed
10 before, so it was a good filling of a data gap. And
11 what that survey shows is basically the entire
12 subsistence harvest and use for that community for one
13 study year, for a calendar year, and that year was
14 2018. There is some preliminary data on a following
15 page from Kaltag, but I just wanted to make you aware
16 that that had been completed.
17

18 For your reference, in your region
19 there is also another community, Koyukuk, that has
20 never had a comprehensive subsistence survey. They're
21 on our radar to hopefully work with the community to
22 document subsistence there. And also Huslia hasn't
23 been completed since 1983. So what this data does is
24 it gives us a way to kind of look at changes in
25 subsistence over time if we have data sets -- temporal
26 data sets over time.
27

28 So the next project that is still
29 ongoing, number 2 on this list, is the Yukon River
30 salmon networks project. And there were three
31 communities selected in different regions of the river
32 to participate in this project and in the Middle River
33 Nulato, which is within the Western Interior region,
34 was a participant. And the focus of this study was to
35 basically track salmon after harvest occurs. So how is
36 salmon shared within communities. With other
37 communities how is it bartered. How is it traded
38 customarily after harvest. So who else does salmon
39 reach beyond those harvesting households.
40

41 And on that note, Member Gervais, I
42 know that you had mentioned customary trade as an issue
43 that is something to be addressed. I would like to
44 mention that we did put in a research proposal to do
45 surveys in the Lower Yukon River that focus just on
46 customary trade. And that was recommended to be funded
47 and hopefully we will be hearing about that from OSM in
48 the near future. But kind of one thing that we hope to
49 do with these types of surveys is to be able to provide
50

1 some sort of quantification of customary trade from
2 people who are willing to talk to us about it. And it
3 is a difficult subject for some people to want to talk
4 about given the complexities of the legalities
5 surrounding the Federal and State regulations for
6 customary trade, but we think it's important to try to
7 document kind of the more customary ways in which it's
8 done. Of course we're not going to probably talk to
9 people who might be kind of abusing the system or
10 something, but if we're able to document what happens
11 customarily when or if it's ever decided to try to put
12 a limit on customary trade, some of that information
13 might be able to help members of the Board to decide
14 what that limit might should be.

15
16 And then moving on, number 3 on this
17 list. You heard from Lisa Stuby from the Department of
18 Sport Fisheries at your last meeting about this project
19 of tracking burbot and traditional knowledge
20 surrounding burbot, so I will skip over that one.

21
22 Number 4 on this list is a really cool
23 project that Subsistence Division partnered with Glenn
24 Stout and Division of Wildlife regarding the intensive
25 management program in the Upper Koyukuk management
26 area. And Subsistence Division did household surveys
27 in Alatna and in Allakaket for seven years and kind of
28 our component of that was to move beyond just looking
29 at what the biological response was of predator
30 control, but to see if we were able to see any sort of
31 socioeconomic response within the community. Is it
32 helping people get more moose that they need; is it
33 reducing any of the burden that it takes people to go
34 out and get those moose. So those results are still
35 forthcoming. I know they've kind of been a long time
36 coming, but we're hoping as soon as Board of Game is
37 over to be able to get those final results out.

38
39 Number 5 on the list. This is a report
40 that is soon to be published also. We looked at 25
41 years of data from the Commercial Fisheries Division
42 post-season salmon harvest survey regarding subsistence
43 salmon harvests on the Yukon River. And we were able
44 to look at trends and patterns over time and how that
45 subsistence fishery has changed by species, by numbers
46 of households fishing. And we focused also on two
47 communities in the lower, middle, and upper region of
48 the river to do a more ethnographic component of that
49 analysis and asking people about the factors from their
50

1 own personal experience that have contributed to
2 changes in salmon harvest over time.
3

4 And lastly, this report was published
5 last summer. And it was traditional knowledge of the
6 chinook salmon life cycle and it actually covered chum
7 salmon as well. And two communities, Huslia and
8 Allakaket were involved in this project and we were
9 able to get a really -- well, we got a lot of awesome
10 information from local observations and local knowledge
11 regarding the habitats and the areas in which salmon
12 spawn and especially ones that -- areas that weren't --
13 or haven't yet been included in the anadromous waters
14 catalogue, and that allowed us to pass that information
15 on to biologists that can then go and maybe focus on
16 those areas that weren't included, but that local
17 people recognize as important places for salmon.
18

19 So that concludes my update.
20

21 If anybody has any questions or would
22 like more information on any of these projects in the
23 future, we're happy to provide that.
24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
26

27 Any questions for Brooke's
28 presentation.
29

30 MR. HONEA: Yeah. I do.
31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.
33

34 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Brooke, you covered everything from wolf control here
36 to burbot and in a short amount of time.
37

38 (Laughter)
39

40 MS. MCDAVID: Yes, sir.
41

42 MR. HONEA: It's just kind of sad that
43 our meetings are only two days or something where we
44 concentrated on some subjects for a long time. But I
45 was just wondering, you know, you have a bunch of --
46 you have a -- what is protocol, what is -- how do we
47 get into it as a village. Do they pick these random
48 things, the Department does, random villages, to do the
49 comprehensive studies or something. I mean how does
50

1 that work.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

6

MS. MCDAVID: Sure. Through the Chair.
Member Honea, so it kind of depends.

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

Kaltag was chosen -- specifically we reached out to them to see if they wanted to work with us because there had never been a survey done before. The Subsistence Division has been around since 1978 and so in some communities we've been able to do multiple studies in different years. But also looking at our data, at this point, trying to fill in some of those data gaps that we don't have, we think it's important that all communities get this information documented because it shows the importance of subsistence in these communities.

20

21

22

23

24

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28

29

But in other cases it might depend on the funding source. For example, when there might be an EIS that needs to be completed, we could be contracted to collect data about subsistence in communities in the region that might be affected by a development project. But we're certainly -- if communities are interested in working with us and want to be in contact we can always try to come up with funding sources to work together.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

MR. HONEA: One more. So maybe I'm missing something here. Maybe it's coming to the tribal offices, maybe it's going to the city, how does that work for -- you know, or I mean you could say well, hey, we've been to this village here a number of times, so how do we get on the list.

37

38

39

40

41

42

I mean a lot of times like in the tribal offices there's nobody who might be in that particular, like natural resources, so how does a -- like a tribal council member like myself know that these are coming, how are we aware of it?

43

44

That's all. Thank you.

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. MCDAVID: Yes, sir. We always -- before we complete any research in the community we seek community approval whether that be through the tribal organization. In most rural Alaska communities that is who we go through. If it happens to be a

1 community on the road system we would, you know, go
2 through the municipality or the AC -- and oftentimes
3 also the AC that works in that area.

4
5 But yes, so I went to Kaltag and
6 presented to them about what time of information would
7 be collected on these surveys, how it can be used. And
8 also I will be going back in a month or two to sit down
9 with them and go over the results in detail. They will
10 get an opportunity to review the draft report before
11 final publication. So we try to engage the communities
12 at multiple stages.

13
14 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have one question
17 on your -- on the salmon -- Yukon River salmon
18 networking. You track salmon use to urban use through
19 sharing and also customary trade. Does it go that far
20 out?

21
22 MS. MCDAVID: Yes. We do.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Looking
25 forward to that report in 2012.

26
27 You got a question there, Karen.

28
29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 IS this working, Tina?

31
32 REPORTER: Yes.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, we can hear
35 you.

36
37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes. I wanted to
38 respond to Don's question as well.

39
40 If you're talking about -- if a project
41 is funded by the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
42 then this Council actually has a lot of power in
43 helping to design where projects can be or should be
44 conducted.

45
46 For example, Frank Harris talked
47 earlier about the priority information needs. If you
48 developed a priority information need say for
49 subsistence uses of salmon in Ruby, you could put that
50

1 forward. And then what would happen is you would work
2 or encourage people from Fish and Game or other
3 entities to put forth a project to meet that priority
4 information need and then get in the pool for possible
5 funding.

6
7 So does that make sense that -- that
8 we're going to be -- that this Council is going to be
9 developing priority information needs for fisheries
10 anyway eventually and you could actually put in a need
11 that a project could respond to and potentially be
12 funded through OSM.

13
14 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Karen. Well,
15 actually so, you know, there are so many projects out
16 there. There are so many different funding sources.
17 The Fishing Monitoring Program you just mentioned, I've
18 asked for years how do I -- because I mean, hey, I mean
19 if you're out there, you want to provide employment for
20 your people if you can in the fisheries and so I'm just
21 asking the same thing. And, you know, I mean how do we
22 break into that.

23
24 Like I said, I mean sometimes in a
25 tribal office we're sitting there, if we don't have a
26 director of natural resources or something and it gets
27 tossed, you know what I'm saying. So I think anything
28 like this should -- it would be great to come to the
29 AC's or all three entities, the city and stuff. I just
30 wanted to point that out. And I don't want to take too
31 much time.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We've covered
36 this -- these projects pretty well.

37
38 Thank you very much.

39
40 MS. MCDAVID: You're welcome. Thank
41 you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And for those
44 updates. Those are really interesting.

45
46 And so we're at -- did we get Bobette
47 on the phone?

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Bobette, are you on
2 the phone?

3
4 MS. DICKERSON: Sorry. I was muted.
5 Yes, I'm here.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead.
8

9 MS. DICKERSON: Okay. So I'm going to
10 be talking about the Salmon River Pitka Fork weir.
11 It's run in conjunction with ADF&G and MTNT and it was
12 initially funded by the Chinook Salmon Research
13 Initiative, but for the last three years it has been
14 funded by the Fisheries Research Monitoring Program.
15 And we hope to get funding to move on for four more.
16

17 I'm going to move through these slides
18 relatively quickly just in interest of time. So the
19 Salmon River Pitka Fork weir is part of the Kuskokwim
20 River escapement monitoring -- both the weirs and the
21 aerial surveys.
22

23 And so from traditional knowledge in
24 weirs that were in there -- there was a weir in there
25 in 1980 and '81 -- we got the general idea that most of
26 the chinook salmon that are heading up into the
27 headwater are actually heading into the Salmon River
28 Pitka Fork area. And we did some tagging work and
29 found that a large number of -- a larger number of fish
30 were heading up into the headwaters than had initially
31 been suspected based on the tagging work that was done
32 in the early 2000s. So 2014 we started doing more
33 tagging. Decided we needed to put a weir up here. And
34 in 2015 the weir went in and I figured out that
35 approximately 40 percent of the chinook salmon that
36 head up into the headwaters actually go into the Pitka
37 Fork.
38

39 I'm going to skip to the next slide.
40 That's just talking about the tagging.
41

42 One more thing that I want to talk
43 about about the importance of the Pitka Fork weir is
44 that those salmon are actually genetically distinct.
45 So what you're looking at here is a neighbor joining
46 tree, and what it's showing is really just the genetic
47 relatedness of these fishes. So if the lines between
48 them are really close in terms of across the page, then
49 they're closely related. So the chinook salmon at
50

1 Salmon Pitka Fork are falling out with the other
2 headwaters fish as genetically distinct from the mid-
3 waters fishes, so it makes them that much more
4 interesting to us.

5
6 So this weir has been going on since
7 2015.

8
9 Next slide.

10
11 This is just a picture of the camp set
12 up, what the weir itself looks like.

13
14 The next slide is what it looks like.

15
16 Next slide is just a picture of a moose
17 at the weir. I just want to show you guys some pretty
18 pictures.

19
20 Next slide is them actually counting
21 the fish.

22
23 So we count fish that come across this
24 weir, once, again, primarily chinook salmon although we
25 do get some chums through and you'll get the occasional
26 sockeye that wanders up there. The weir goes in in the
27 middle of June and comes out in the middle of August,
28 so any coho movement that would occur up there we're
29 not going to see.

30
31 Next slide is just another picture of
32 folks counting fish.

33
34 Next slide.

35
36 So we do ASL sampling. We take scales
37 for age and gender and length on all -- just on the
38 chinook salmon that come through. Also that is a
39 picture of a chum.

40
41 Next slide.

42
43 I was just going to show you guys
44 because it's fun to look at scales and aging, but we
45 could move on.

46
47 Next slide.

48
49 Okay. Here's the juice of what I've
50

1 got to show you. So the counts are the actual number
2 of fish that were counted. The estimates are the
3 estimates that we make when we have a flooded weir or a
4 hole in the weir. The reason that counts and the
5 estimates don't total the total is because on days when
6 we have a hole in the weir we still count fish. And if
7 the estimate is lower than the count we go with the
8 actual count because we know that number of fish went
9 through.

10
11 So at this point if you concentrate on
12 the totals you'll see that we do have a significant
13 number of fish that are moving up past the Pitka Fork
14 weir. I would hesitate for anyone to read anything
15 into these numbers in terms of increase or decline
16 because this data set is so small. I mean you're
17 looking at approximately one generation of chinook
18 salmon, so until we have a larger data set we really
19 can't say anything about increase or decrease in these
20 numbers.

21
22 It is also important to point out,
23 sorry, I'm trying to rush, that in 2014 that was the
24 first year that they did the closures in the Lower
25 River for the early run. Because they're showing that
26 those early fish are primarily headwaters fishes. So
27 they did those early closures in the hopes of
28 bolstering the population in the headwaters. Like I
29 said, we can't really read much from these data at this
30 point. We're going to have to wait until we get more
31 data in to say much about them, but these numbers are
32 quite encouraging.

33
34 So next slide.

35
36 So as part of this project we also
37 wanted to involve the local community. Oh, and I
38 should have mentioned this to begin with, sorry, once,
39 again rushing. Fish and Game provides one of the techs
40 at the site, there's two techs out there and the other
41 tech is provided by MTNT. And it is our goal that it
42 is somebody from the community that goes and does it.

43
44 So the other thing that we try to do to
45 involve the community is an outreach project where we
46 design -- so we go and talk to the schools about the
47 weirs and how they function and what we do at them.
48 But then also we put together a game for -- it's called
49 Salmon Life History. And the kids are given a red, a
50

1 cup full of eggs and they roll a die and it has
2 mortality events on it and they lose so many eggs and
3 then eggs grow into fry, et cetera, through the stages
4 of their lives. And we talk about sources of mortality
5 and life cycle and what the fish are doing at the time
6 and where they are in the river and these kinds of
7 things. And the kids really seemed to enjoy it, as did
8 the teachers.

9
10 And that's kind of what I have for you
11 in a nutshell.

12
13 Next slide's just what it looks like
14 when we have to make estimates.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so
17 much, Bobette.

18
19 Any questions on her presentation.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we followed you
24 with a printout of your slides, so that worked real
25 well.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MS. DICKERSON: Okay.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So questions.

32
33 Tim.

34
35 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Thanks for your presentation, Bobette. We've been
37 hearing about this weir for a long time from Ray
38 Collins.

39
40 MS. DICKERSON: Yeah, you have. Yeah.

41
42 MR. GERVAIS: So it's nice to see some
43 of it. Can you explain -- do you have a picture on the
44 page before the chinook passage by year that has the --
45 that's a fin with the growth of rings?

46
47 MS. DICKERSON: Oh, okay. So that's a
48 scale. So when we do the age, sex, length sampling,
49 yeah, they pull a scale from approximately the midline

50

1 of the fish.

2

3

MR. GERVAIS: Right.

4

5

6

MS. DICKERSON: And then that scale gets cleaned up and it gets burned into a piece of plastic and then put under an old microfiche reader and blown up. So that's a fish's scale blown up.

7

8

9

10

MR. GERVAIS: And.....

11

12

13

MS. DICKERSON: And then the rings get put on throughout the year. And in the summertime when there's lots to eat the rings are really thick and in the wintertime when there's not much, they're thin. And so by looking at those patterns of rings you can tell how old the fish is.

14

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19

MR. GERVAIS: And how is that -- you have this point here, age structure provides hints to how abundant salmon returns will be the following year. What are you -- what's the hint?

20

21

22

23

24

MS. DICKERSON: Well, if you -- so if you know how many fish approximately came -- well, you know how many fish came and spawned, so you can make an estimate of how many fish went out. And then you can monitor -- so we'll just pretend this was 2019. If we know how many two year olds, three year olds, four year olds have come back in the past we can get an idea of how many five year olds and six year olds are still out there.

25

26

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34

MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Thank you.

35

36

MS. DICKERSON: You're welcome.

37

38

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other questions.

39

40

(No comments)

41

42

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't see any, Bobette. Thanks so much for your presentation.

43

44

45

MS. DICKERSON: Great. Thank you.

46

Bye-bye.

47

48

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're moving to number 4, or my note here is the 23-year review of the

49

50

1 Andrafsky -- East Fork of the Andrafsky and Gisasa
2 River weirs by Randy Brown.

3

4 Welcome, Randy.

5

6 So we've got a slide presentation
7 behind us. I'm going to stand up, so go right ahead.

8

9 MR. BROWN: Mr. Chair. Members of the
10 Panel. My name is Randy Brown. I'm a fisheries
11 biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service here
12 in Fairbanks. I've been working mostly on Refuges and
13 along the Yukon for the last 25 years or so. And I
14 worked with a couple of my colleagues, Catherine
15 Bradley and Jeff Melegari on kind of a review of -- a
16 long term review of these two weirs that have been in
17 place since 1994.

18

19 Just to give you the geography, the
20 Gisasa River is about 900 kilometers up the river and
21 flows into the Koyukuk drainage and then down into the
22 Yukon to the mouth. The East Fork Andrafsky is the
23 east fork of that river, it's about 175 kilometers
24 upstream from the Bering Sea. And I point out Pilot
25 Station. It's a location along the Yukon River. It's
26 just a little upstream from the East Fork Andrafsky
27 River there.

28

29 Now these weirs were funded by a number
30 of different organizations over the years, but mostly
31 by the Fishery Resource Monitoring Program. And we
32 appreciate any support you have offered over the years.
33 This has been really important.

34

35 One of the things about weirs is they
36 provide a really good platform for sampling so we can
37 look at -- we can close the front door of the trap and
38 then wait for a certain number of fish to come through
39 and close the back door of the trap and then we get a
40 good picture of the age structure and size structure of
41 whatever species we're working with at the time.
42 Certainly a more precise estimate than comes from main
43 stem sampling where you have selective issues with
44 gillnets and other methods of sampling. This would get
45 all of the fish. The big fish, the little fish. And
46 of course the way this sampling is conducted matters as
47 well, but the previous speaker talked about sampling
48 the scales. And we measure the fish, identify the sex
49 of the fish, and turn it loose above the weir and they

50

1 keep going up.

2

3

4 One of the questions we had as we
5 looked into this data was does a large run in the main
6 stem Yukon mean a large run in all the tributaries or
7 are they completely separate. And with chinook salmon
8 on the top there we have the two different weirs, the
9 East Fork Andreafsky and the Gisasa compared to Pilot
10 Station estimates and there was really no correlation
11 whatsoever. And this is for chinook salmon.

11

12

13

And then we compared those two.

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Those are called correlation plots. And if you do have a correlation that means that if Pilot Station is showing a good run we should see Gisasa or Andreafsky also showing a good run. And we don't see that at all. There is no relationship. They can be high when Pilot Station is low. They can be low when Pilot Station is high or whatever, so they appear to be completely separate populations and not necessarily related to the main stem.

The summer chum salmon, on the other hand, are very tightly correlated with Pilot Station and with each other. That center plot there is the Gisasa River and these are abundances in thousands. But the Gisasa River and the Pilot Station have the closest affiliation there. But there is still a pretty strong affiliation between Gisasa and the East Fork Andreafsky and also between East Fork Andreafsky and Pilot Station. And we think this is because of the different life histories of these two species.

Chinook salmon spend a year in fresh water before they go to sea mostly within their natal streams and so if one stream has a big flood or is really low and hot you might have a different survival probability than another stream that may be having just enough rain to stay cool, but clear, so the sight feeding works out okay.

Summer chum salmon, on the other hand, go to sea right away after they hatch in the spring and so they don't have that fresh water year and they all go to -- each brood year all populations within a brood year go to sea and experience whatever survival issues they face out there all together. And so they either all survive or they all have a hard time with it. And

1 so they tend to come back as low runs together and as
2 high runs together through the drainage.
3

4 We were thinking about if the warming
5 trend might be driving the timing of migration into
6 these systems earlier because they would -- the ice
7 would go away on the Bering Sea. Now we've had a big
8 warming trend out in the Bering Sea and so we thought
9 are they coming back any earlier or is it really
10 stable. And this is chinook salmon run timing trends
11 for East Fork Andreafsky and Gisasa River and those
12 little dots with the wings are the midpoint of the runs
13 and the lower one is the first quarter point and the
14 upper one is the third quarter point. So that's the
15 central half of each run there. And you can see that
16 they vary from year to year by as much as about a week,
17 but there was no trend long term in these data at all
18 for chinook salmon.
19

20 Gisasa River tends to come in about
21 three and a half to four days later than the East Fork
22 Andreafsky and so at the migration speeds that chinook
23 salmon have in the river it takes about 18 days for
24 them to migrate from the mouth of the Andreafsky up
25 into the Gisasa River. So those fish are having to
26 start their migration -- the Gisasa River fish have to
27 start their migration about two weeks earlier than the
28 East Fork Andreafsky chinook salmon.
29

30 We found a similar result with the
31 summer chum salmon runs in the East Fork Andreafsky and
32 Gisasa. East Fork Andreafsky, again, start arriving on
33 the spawning grounds earlier and it's about a five-day
34 lag time in run timing for the Gisasa River, so they
35 also are coming in somewhere around two weeks earlier
36 -- and that is entering the Yukon about two weeks
37 earlier than the East Fork Andreafsky River
38 populations.
39

40 So we had a theory that, well, it was a
41 hypothesis that we should see an increase in average
42 age of chinook salmon over that period of time because
43 we know that gill netting with the large mesh nets in
44 the lower river takes out the larger and older fish
45 preferentially. Not exclusively, but it tends to be
46 bigger fish and older fish that get caught in those
47 nets. And the whole reason for doing that is -- well,
48 partly to catch the big chinook salmon, but also to
49 avoid catching the smaller summer chum salmon that are
50

1 migrating at the same time.

2

3 And early in our time series there was
4 heavy fishing. We estimated somewhere between 33
5 percent and 40 percent exploitation rates in the East
6 Fork Andreafsky and Gisasa River weirs. In the early
7 period from 1994 out to about 2000, when he had the big
8 crash in 2000. And the exploitation rates tapered off
9 and got to be somewhere around 15 to 20 percent in that
10 mid period, the middle 2000s when it hadn't quite sunk
11 in that we were in a crisis. And then in the later
12 period there was almost no exploitation, under 5
13 percent for both of those populations.

14

15 And so we thought with that relaxation
16 of the fishery that was taking out larger and older
17 fish that we should see an increase in the age
18 structure, in the average age of these populations.
19 But at the same time what was happening was the Bering
20 Sea was getting warmer and there was a -- I believe
21 I've got a slide showing -- I don't here.

22

23 But there was a paper that was done
24 recently looking at growth patterns of chinook salmon
25 out in the Bering Sea during the warming periods. And
26 when there was a warm year what happened is that the
27 juveniles that were rearing out there grew faster and
28 they reach a size threshold that flips them into
29 spawning mode. You know, that they're going to -- it
30 triggers them to go to spawn. And what they found was
31 that there would be an earlier maturation. In other
32 words, a fish that might in a cool year spawn at age
33 six grows fast enough that they're ready to go at age
34 five and they come in at age five. And we think that
35 this is what's causing this decline in the average age
36 of chinook salmon in -- and both systems were
37 identical. Significant declines in age structure. We
38 think that the environmental controls or influence on
39 their maturity was a stronger influence than the
40 relaxation of the fishery.

41

42 With chum salmon it's a slight decline,
43 but it's not significant. And you can see, it's a
44 pretty wild situation. Most of the chum salmon average
45 ages for the two systems are fluctuating up and down
46 together. And what's happening with these summer chums
47 is the primary age classes are four and five. This is
48 brood year four and five. There are zero threes and
49 zero fours, but four years and five years from when the

50

1 eggs were laid.

2

3 And there were quite a number of cases
4 where the escapement was almost all age fours and then
5 the next year it would be almost all age fives, so it
6 was a single brood year causing most of the escapement
7 for two years running. And that's why you see some of
8 these paired average ages way up high, almost at five
9 -- because -- so because they're almost all fours and
10 fives, we've got less than five percent sixes and
11 threes put together. And so when you have one that's
12 almost five it means that the entire run is dominated
13 by five-year old fish versus dominated by four year
14 olds. And it's a really kind of an interesting
15 phenomenon for these chum salmon.

16

17 We didn't really see a lot of decline
18 or change in mid-eye to fork length by age and sex.
19 Five year olds to some extent in both female and male.
20 Sixes really didn't change much and four year olds
21 increased just slightly. But the size of the chinook
22 salmon in the two systems were pretty much stable.
23 Like I say, aside from the five year olds that declined
24 just a little bit.

25

26 Chum salmon was a little bit different.
27 They had a -- both populations showed this curved
28 relationship for the age fours and fives. There aren't
29 very many sixes, but they didn't really change that
30 much. But the curved relationship was at a peak in
31 2002 for all two populations, both sexes. And Gisasa
32 River fish were significantly larger at age for both
33 sexes than the Andreafsky and we think it's probably an
34 adaptive response to the longer migration distance.
35 That's our guess on why that is, but it's a pretty
36 significant difference that showed up.

37

38 Now we did look at production. In
39 other words, the number of returning fish for every
40 spawner in these two systems. And this was with the
41 chinook salmon here. And it's a difficult calculation
42 to make because we have to estimate the harvest of, for
43 example, East Fork Andreafsky fish that takes place
44 downstream from the Andreafsky River and then use that
45 data and have the age structure of that data. It
46 requires a bit of assumption, which is true of all of
47 the production type analyses that are done with salmon.
48 But what we found was that the East Fork Andreafsky had
49 an average recruit per spawner of 1.36 recruits. In

50

1 other words, that's returning adult fish entering the
2 Yukon River. And there was no real trend in the
3 escapement of Andreafsky River fish over time. In
4 other words, it varied from year to year, but it was
5 not declining.

6
7 In the Gisasa River the production was
8 a lot lower. It averaged only one recruit per spawner
9 which is not really enough to support a fishery. And
10 the escapement over the period -- over the 23 years was
11 declining at about 4.5 percent annually. And so
12 they're showing the result of a low recruitment rate
13 for chinook salmon in the Gisasa River.

14
15 And for the chum salmon, they were
16 really well correlated. In other words, high years in
17 East Fork Andrea -- high production years East Fork
18 Andreafsky were very similar to high years in the
19 Gisasa. Gisasa in 2001, the production was, it was
20 like 20 -- almost 24 recruits for the number of
21 spawners. It was an amazing year. We think it was a
22 total anomaly and we don't really have an explanation
23 for it, but our data was solid going into that.

24
25 But the 2000 -- in East Fork Andreafsky
26 River the chum salmon highest production was in 2001 as
27 well, but it was considerably moderated. And the mean
28 recruit per spawner in the Andreafsky was 1.4 and in
29 the Gisasa was 1.35, so it's much more in line with
30 normal production in other systems as well.

31
32 And no trend in escapement. They vary
33 wildly from year to year in escapement. They've been
34 as high as around 250,000 in both systems and as low as
35 about 10,000 or 15,000 in both systems. And that's
36 simply because of that phenomenon of all of these
37 broods going out into the Bering Sea and sometimes they
38 hit conditions that are not good and most of them die
39 off. And other times they're very good and they
40 produce a lot of fish. And it's the whole drainage
41 deal.

42
43 This is our stock recruit curve. This
44 is the classic Ricker curve. And I show this -- you
45 know, it's a numerical way of looking at the
46 recruitment given a certain spawner. And it doesn't
47 dictate how you manage the fishery, but for the chinook
48 salmon in the East Fork Andreafsky River our data fit
49 these pretty well. What these are is mean values of
50

1 recruitment with the standard error either side of that
2 and mean value of the number of spawners with -- there
3 are error bars in there, but because the weir is so
4 precise in counting it's almost like a census with the
5 exception of when a storm stops you from counting a
6 little bit or you missed the first part of the run
7 because of high water or something. It's very precise.
8 So there's very few horizontal bars there. And those
9 that are present are due to floods that closed down
10 part of the season -- and we have to estimate those.

11
12 But what this would suggest is that the
13 escapement level when you would get maximum recruitment
14 -- or not maximum recruitment, but maximum harvest
15 possibility, on average would be about 1,600 -- almost
16 1,700 spawners. Right now there was a quant -- what
17 did they call it, a quantile method of calculating the
18 sustainable escapement goal for chinook salmon in the
19 East Fork Andreafsky and they classified it as about
20 2,100 to 4,900 spawners. And you can see that the
21 lower end of that certainly fits into where most of our
22 data are falling. They are between about 2,000 and
23 4,000 spawners produces relatively high escapement.

24
25 And looking at the -- we were not able
26 to calculate this for chum salmon -- I mean for chinook
27 salmon in the East Fork, I mean in the Gisasa River.
28 It didn't lend itself to this type of analysis.

29
30 And I'm being told that I got to cut
31 this back, but this is the last slide and essentially
32 this is how the spawner recruit curves fit for the chum
33 salmon in the East Fork Andreafsky River at the top and
34 the Gisasa River at the bottom.

35
36 And we don't have any sort of
37 escapement goal for the Gisasa River. Both systems
38 appear to show a similar pattern. The sustainable
39 escapement goal for chum salmon in the East Fork
40 Andreafsky is greater than 40,000. We found our
41 maximum sustained yield -- spawner numbers at maximum
42 sustained yield to be about 24,000 spawners, so our
43 estimate is a little lower than the sustainable
44 escapement goal, but both would fit right in there.

45
46 So anyway, that's the essence.

47
48 We have produced a manuscript on this
49 data and it's in review at the Journal of Fish and
50

1 Wildlife Management and when we have that published we
2 will be sharing it with you.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so
5 much, Randy. That was interesting information.

6

7 Any questions on the presentation.

8

9 Tim.

10

11 MR. GERVAIS: I'd just like to say
12 thanks, Randy. And, yeah, we would definitely like to
13 see that manuscript when it gets cleared or vetted.
14 Thanks so much for your hard work during your entire
15 career. I don't know if you guys see Randy's name
16 around much, but he's dedicated his life to the fish in
17 Alaska and figuring out what's going on. So if you've
18 got a fish question.....

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MR. GERVAIS: How many more years are
23 you going to keep working?

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MR. BROWN: Mr. Chair. Tim, thank you
28 very much, I appreciate the comments. Well, I don't
29 have any immediate plans to quit. I'm enjoying my
30 work.

31

32 MR. GERVAIS: All right. Thanks for
33 your update.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question, Don?

36

37 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Randy, I guess a couple of years back Hunting and
39 Fishing Task Force or whatever we had, there was a
40 presentation on the university campus, I believe it was
41 yours. I believe it had to do with chinook salmon and
42 the tributaries and, you know, the numbers that you --
43 I was just wondering how you derived those numbers
44 because, you know, I'm from Ruby and I'm pretty close
45 to the Nowitna River. You even had some -- you know, I
46 -- I believe it was you, right? Was that your study?

47

48 MR. BROWN: Yes.

49

50

1 MR. HONEA: Okay. But the numbers --
2 and I'm just wondering how they -- how you came up with
3 the numbers. And maybe -- okay -- there's a big
4 question of, you know, the -- getting by the sonar at
5 Pilot Station or Pilot -- where is that.

6
7 MR. GERVAIS: Pilot Station.

8
9 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Pilot Station.
10 Okay. And up into Canada. So -- and the numbers
11 dropped dramatically and, you know, maybe they went
12 into those tributaries.

13
14 But I was just wondering. Those
15 studies -- whether it was the Tozitna River or the
16 Nowitna or something, did people actually go out there
17 and measure those?

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MR. BROWN: Mr. Chair. Don, so that
22 paper that you're talking about is the catalogue at
23 chinook salmon spawning areas in the U.S. and Canada.
24 And mostly we didn't do any counting of actual fish, we
25 looked at literature reports of weirs or counting
26 towers or sonar operations, but we were mostly just
27 identifying areas that had been documented as chinook
28 salmon spawning areas and identifying those.

29
30 We did do -- we did classify them as
31 either high producers or low producers based on counts
32 of aerial surveys or escapement data from weirs or
33 counting towers or sonar. And if those systems showed
34 a -- we had a cutoff point in each of the ways we
35 looked at abundance and classified them in that way.

36
37 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We've got a
40 lot of agenda.

41
42 And so thanks so much. Appreciate
43 that.

44
45 MR. BROWN: Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And -- yes, Karen.

48
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 As you can see, it's 4:30 already.

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

4

5

6

MS. DEATHERAGE: And we have a number of agenda items. And the recommendation has been made that we focus next on action items that the Council must finish and complete at this meeting -- or should.

7

8

9

10

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

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18

MS. DEATHERAGE: And then the two action items that are still left on the agenda are the fisheries special action request if the Council wishes to comment on them. And there's also choosing the next meeting date and time and location for the fall meeting cycle. So those are the two action items left on the agenda.

19

20

21

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Where is the special action request?

22

23

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MS. DEATHERAGE: You should have three documents. They are in the green folder. They are the Kuskokwim River special action requests. You've seen these in the past I think before.

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

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MS. DEATHERAGE: But there is some new information. And Frank Harris with OSM is going to be talking to you about it. We can also capture any comments just like you did on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd -- capture any comments you wish to make on these proposals. Public hearings because of the timing are being scheduled now or have been scheduled for these fisheries special actions.

42

43

44

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you're going to make comments on -- or presentations on this, Frank?

45

46

47

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49

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MR. HARRIS: If the Council would like it, yes.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

MR. HARRIS: All right. This is somewhat lengthy because I go over the special action requests. But for the record, my name is Frank Harris.

1 I am going to provide an overview of the temporary
2 Special Action Request 20-01, 20-02, and 20-03 related
3 to the Kuskokwim chinook salmon subsistence fishery.
4

5 Temporary Fisheries Special Action,
6 FSA20-01 was submitted by the Akiak Native Community
7 Council on February 21st, 2020 and requests the
8 following. Close the Federal public waters of the
9 Kuskokwim River drainage to the harvest of chinook
10 salmon except by Federally-qualified subsistence users
11 possessing a community harvest permit between June 1,
12 2020 and July 1, 2020. Reduce the pool of eligible
13 harvesters based on the Alaska National Interest Lands
14 Conservation Act, ANILCA, Section .804 subsistence user
15 prioritization that was implemented in 2017 and consult
16 with 33 Federally recognized Kuskokwim River tribes
17 named in the 2014 Office of Subsistence Management
18 Section .804 analysis to establish an appropriate
19 harvest allocation of chinook salmon to be distributed
20 among communities within the Kuskokwim River drainage.
21

22 Temporary Special Action FSA 20-02 is
23 very similar. It was submitted by the Organized
24 Village of Kwethluk on February 26th, 2020 and requests
25 the following. Close Federal public waters of the
26 Kuskokwim River drainage to the harvest of chinook
27 salmon except by Federally-qualified subsistence users
28 between June 1, 2020 and July 1, 2020 and reduce the
29 pool of eligible harvesters within the Kuskokwim River
30 drainage based on the ANILCA Section .804 subsistence
31 user prioritization.
32

33 The proponents state chinook salmon
34 subsistence harvest within the Kuskokwim River drainage
35 has declined precipitously within the last decade. The
36 last time the amount necessary for subsistence was
37 achieved for chinook on the Kuskokwim River was 2009.
38 The harvest outlook for chinook salmon for 2020 should
39 trigger the responsibility of the Board to restrict the
40 taking of chinook salmon for subsistence uses on public
41 lands of Alaska per the responsibilities specified in
42 Section .802 of ANILCA.
43

44 Failing to first restrict chinook
45 salmon harvest to Federally-qualified subsistence users
46 foregoes the Board's additional responsibility to
47 restrict within subsistence users when necessary.
48

49 Temporary Fisheries Special Action
50

1 request FSA20-03 was submitted by LaMont Albertson of
2 Anchorage on February 26th, 2020, and requests the
3 following. Close the Federal public waters of the
4 Kuskokwim drainage to the harvest of chinook salmon
5 except by Federally-qualified subsistence users at the
6 beginning of the 2020 chinook salmon run. Conduct an
7 ANILCA Section .804 subsistence user prioritization
8 analysis to reduce the pool of eligible harvesters and
9 request that the Federal in-season manager continue to
10 implement emergency special actions to ensure that
11 conservation mandates under Section .815 (1) and (3) of
12 ANILCA by following the model from 2019 where the
13 Federal in-season manager worked with the Kuskokwim
14 River InterTribal Fish Commission, the Alaska
15 Department of Fish and Game, and other stakeholders to
16 determine when harvest opportunities should be
17 provided.

18
19 The proponent states based on new
20 information regarding a set of risk factors including
21 critical sources of uncertainty and the decade long
22 decline presented below argue herein that there is a
23 lack of justifiable evidence to support a pre-season
24 decision on the 2020 run of chinook salmon will be or
25 is highly likely to be sufficient to support the
26 harvest demands of all user groups authorized by the
27 State on Federal public lands and waters without
28 endangering the health of these populations.

29
30 Of the four risk factors listed below,
31 note the first three risk factors all function on
32 drivers of decline negatively impacting the abundance
33 and/or productivity of the stocks. He states risks to
34 stock productivities from high harvest rates are not
35 currently accounted for. The mandate for protecting
36 population diversity is found in Title III of ANILCA
37 and the Alaska Board of Fishes Sustainable Salmon
38 Policy Act. A new paper by Connors, et al., of 2019
39 identifies several Kuskokwim River chinook salmon sub-
40 stocks are currently less productive and therefore at
41 risk of unintentional over-harvest under high
42 exploitation rates within the main stem mixed stock
43 fishery.

44
45 Number 2, significant decline in the
46 body size and caloric value of chinook salmon is not
47 currently accounted for. The observed decline in the
48 body size and reduced proportion of female chinook
49 salmon across the time series result in number 1, a
50

1 decline in both the number and average size of spawned
2 out eggs; number 2, reduce the caloric value of the
3 smaller size of subsistence salmons harvested in recent
4 years requires an additional chinook salmon -- requires
5 additional chinook salmon to provide the same caloric
6 value from 30 years ago.

7
8 Two different teams of scientists who
9 are currently analyzing transient implications of
10 declining salmon will have results relevant to this
11 special action request in spring of 2020.

12
13 His third point is impacts of climate
14 driven heat stress on migrating salmon. During heat
15 events in recent years freshwater temperatures have
16 significantly exceeded species thresholds above 18
17 degrees Celsius or about 65 degrees Fahrenheit. This
18 is known to cause heat stress and mortality of
19 migrating salmon including before spawning or dying
20 with eggs retained which can bias biological reference
21 points. Heat stress is an especially problematic
22 driver of decline because much of this impact on
23 migrating salmon likely occurs after the fish have been
24 counted.

25
26 Number 4, his fourth point. Critical
27 sources of uncertainty fuel risk. The Kuskokwim River
28 salmon pre-season forecast and in-season management
29 operates under a very heavy degree of uncertainty which
30 translates into risk. The proponent does not contest
31 the methods used to estimate the 2019 run and
32 escapement numbers; however, he is concerned that the
33 true uncertainty associated with the performance of the
34 prior year forecast method when applied to the
35 Kuskokwim River salmon data set may actually be
36 significantly higher than the level of uncertainty
37 being assigned to it. This is an important question to
38 be evaluated. Due to its high degree of uncertainty,
39 use of the 2019 total run estimate by the Federal
40 subsistence management program to justify the 2020 pre-
41 season or in-season harvest management decision poses
42 unacceptably high risks to the viability of the
43 populations and the harvest needs of the priority
44 consumptive uses.

45
46 Now we'll briefly consider some
47 background information to inform the Council and then
48 you can discuss.

49
50

1 Background. If adopted by the Federal
2 Subsistence Board affected Federal public waters would
3 be those waters within and adjacent to the exterior
4 boundaries of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.
5 These waters are generally described as a lower
6 Kuskokwim drainage from the mouth upriver to and
7 including about 30 miles of the Aniak River. All
8 permitted residents of the Kuskokwim management area
9 are Federally-qualified subsistence users, including
10 residents of the 40 communities, roughly 17,500 people.
11

12
13 The Federal in-season manager, with
14 guidance from the Board, has closed Refuge waters to
15 the harvest of chinook salmon except by Federally-
16 qualified subsistence users each year since 2014 and
17 further allowed Federally-qualified users to harvest
18 chinook salmon during two to five opportunities in
19 June. The Federal in-season manager and the Kuskokwim
20 River InterTribal Fisheries Commission have consulted
21 and determined when these opportunities occur with the
22 input of Alaska Department of Fish and Game managers.
23

24 I'll provide a little biological
25 background. Current sustainable escapement goal for
26 the Kuskokwim River chinook salmon was set in 2013 by
27 ADF&G with a range of 65,000 to 120,000 chinook salmon.
28 This goal has been met every year since 2014 with
29 returns ranging from 37,000 in 2013, which is well
30 below the escapement goal, to approximately 182,000 in
31 2019, which is above the upper end of the goal.
32

33 Total run sizes, which consist of
34 escapement and harvest, have slowly increased since a
35 low of approximately 79,000 in 2012. The total run has
36 remained fairly consistent recently, ranging from
37 125,000 in 2015 to a preliminary estimated size in 2018
38 of 141,000. In 2019 there was a fairly large jump in
39 the estimated total return to approximately 234,000
40 chinook salmon. That's a preliminary estimate at this
41 time.
42

43 Subsistence harvest. Since 2012 the
44 annual subsistence harvest of chinook salmon has been
45 well below the 1990 to 2009 average of 73,303 fish,
46 including the lowest annual harvest on record in 2014
47 of 11,234 fish. Subsistence harvest from 2014 to 2018
48 has ranged from 16,000 to 31,000 chinook salmon. An
49 estimated 40,000 chinook salmon were harvested during
50

1 the 2019 season from six fishing opportunities between
2 June 11th and June 22nd within the Federal public
3 waters of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.
4 This does not include harvest from the waters above the
5 Refuge or occurring after July 1st, 2019.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll stop you right
8 there. We're really tight on time. And so the Council
9 is aware of the performance of the chinook salmon on
10 the Kuskokwim River.

11
12 You've read through the three special
13 actions requests. I support the premise of the Federal
14 priority in-season. I feel that Mr. Albertson's more
15 detailed special action request should be looked at
16 carefully because it points out some very pertinent
17 issues that are not considered in the other special
18 action requests.

19
20 So I feel that the Council should
21 support all three special action requests for Federal
22 subsistence priority. I feel that -- I don't know the
23 number of Mr. Albertson's -- it's not on -- what's the
24 number assigned to his?

25
26 MR. HARRIS: 20-03.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 20-03 should be
29 looked at seriously for the additional mortalities.
30 And his four risk assessments, I feel that those are
31 pertinent information that was not considered at the
32 previous special action requests by the Federal
33 Subsistence Board.

34
35 Comments.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We need a motion to
40 adopt the special action requests.

41
42 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.

45
46 Do we have a second.

47
48 MR. GERVAIS: Seconded.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tim.
2
3 Any questions, discussions.
4
5 MR. SIMON: Question.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. No. This --
8 any discussions on the.....
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 REPORTER: He's moving it along.
13
14 (Laughter)
15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So -- okay.
17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Go, Pollock.
19
20 (Laughter)
21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I want to make the
23 record clear to the Federal Subsistence Board that
24 these are issues that are of high priority and that I
25 would like the Federal Subsistence Board to be aware
26 that Mr. Albertson brings up some pertinent points that
27 were found in last year's fishery.
28
29 So any further comments by the Council.
30
31 (No comments)
32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock's called
34 question. Those in favor of submitting our position on
35 the special action requests for the Federal Subsistence
36 Board, signify by saying aye.
37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.
41
42 (No opposing votes)
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Frank. But
45 we're tight on time.
46
47 MR. HARRIS: All kinds of good data in
48 there yet.
49
50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we -- where are
4 we at? We're going to go into Kanuti?

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Perhaps those Kanuti and Nowitna might want to come up
8 together. And if you could be brief on your reports,
9 that would be very much appreciated.

10

11 And thanks so much for sticking around
12 this entire time. We really appreciate it.

13

14 MS. FOX: That's okay. I can be very
15 brief.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay.

18

19 MR. REBARCHIK: I can be even briefer.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MS. FOX: So this is last fall's
24 report. Did we give this out at last fall's meeting?

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah. You did.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

29

30 MS. FOX: Okay. So.....

31

32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Just in case.

33

34 MS. FOX: We brought copies of it just
35 in case people wanted to refer to it.

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

40

41 MS. FOX: Thank you. For the record,
42 Joanna Fox, Refuge Manager at Kanuti Refuge. And I can
43 keep this very short because I don't have a lot to
44 report.

45

46 The biggest thing I'm sure you guys are
47 interested in hearing about would be a moose survey and
48 unfortunately we did not have the conditions this fall
49 to conduct a moose survey in the Refuge. So we were

50

1 working cooperatively with Glenn Stout, ADF&G, and he
2 had his crews all ready to go, we had crews, planes
3 ready to go and we waited and we waited and we did not
4 get the conditions. So I wanted to let you guys know
5 that that survey is one of our very highest priorities
6 at Kanuti Refuge and it will remain a very high
7 priority for us and we will make every resource we can
8 available to get that done this coming fall.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate you
11 being here during the meeting to hear our discussions
12 about the snow depths in the Koyukuk -- especially in
13 the Kanuti, and I'm -- maybe you could brief the
14 Council on your snow tracking this winter for Kanuti.

15

16 MS. FOX: Yeah. So we did just --
17 we've only gotten one snow survey completed so far this
18 winter and that was just last Friday. And the pilot
19 reported that he thought that the snow is as deep as
20 he's ever seen it before in the Refuge, but he has not
21 been our regular snow survey pilot either. So he has a
22 long history working out of Fairbanks. That's Dave
23 Sowards, who used to fly for Arctic Refuge and still
24 flies for several Refuges, so he has extensive
25 knowledge of Kanuti Refuge and he reported that the
26 snow was high, that moose were troughing and he did
27 report that they saw a pack of I believe seven wolves
28 on a kill.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So did they take a
31 -- do they have measurement bars?

32

33 MS. FOX: They have a measurement bar
34 and I have not yet seen the results.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

37

38 MS. FOX: They went into our biologist
39 and they have to do some math to compute what the
40 actual snow depth was. So I have not seen that. But
41 my understanding is that it's not as deep as it was
42 last winter, but it's another deep year.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

45

46 MS. FOX: Aside from that we did have a
47 number of people call this last fall about harvest
48 permits since we went to the new -- we got rid of the
49 Federal harvest permits and so there was a little bit

50

1 of confusion. I was happy that people reached out and
2 they knew who to call. And overall the feedback that
3 we got after the fall hunt last year was very positive.
4 People are very happy that our regs are more in
5 alignment with the State now. And it sounds like the
6 process is easier and less confusing for everybody and
7 I think that's the case on our end, too.

8
9 So I think any time that we can produce
10 more alignment in our seasons and harvest ticket
11 requirements that's a good thing. So when it makes
12 sense I like to see that.

13
14 And finally I'll report our Staff is
15 continuing to shrink. We get smaller and smaller.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 MS. FOX: We are now down to one
20 biologist, Deputy Manager Tina and myself. Our pilot
21 biologist position was just converted to a full time
22 pilot position that now supports about half of the --
23 it will be supporting about half of the Refuges in the
24 Region. Still based out of Fairbanks, so we will get
25 to tap into that. But we are not going to have a pilot
26 of our own anymore.

27
28 So I'm not anticipating that we are
29 going to be filling any positions in the near time, but
30 we will be continuing to fight for that.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What is your LE
33 status?

34
35 MS. FOX: LE has gone also to -- it's
36 gone to a system where management or supervision now of
37 our law enforcement officers is being done by our law
38 enforcement program regionally.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

41
42 MS. FOX: So we're in what they call
43 the northern zone. And we have a zone officer who
44 reports to the chief of Refuge Law Enforcement in the
45 regional office. And the zone officer -- or the zone
46 officer supervises all of our northern zone law
47 enforcement officers now, including Bob, Koyukuk,
48 Nowitna Refuge. A law enforcement staff that he
49 doesn't actually have right now, I think.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MS. FOX: So yeah. They're starting to
4 zone or hub a lot of specialty functions just because
5 our resources are so thin. And it allows them to cover
6 larger areas with fewer resources, but still maintain
7 some level of expertise in those areas, I think.

8

9 And that's all I really have.

10

11 I'm happy to be working with this
12 Council again. I think my history goes back 22 years.
13 This is the first RAC that I worked with when I moved
14 up to Alaska starting in '98. I think there are some
15 people on this Council that have been here that long
16 and to me that is very, very impressive. That shows
17 dedication.

18

19 So I'm very pleased to be working with
20 you again. And that's all I have.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You were a
23 subsistence coordinator at Koyukuk Refuge then. Is
24 that what you were in those days?

25

26 MS. FOX: I was a subsistence
27 coordinator at Koyukuk Refuge when I moved here, yep.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I want the
30 Council to be aware of your subsistence background,
31 because I was there.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MS. FOX: I think you and Pollock were,
36 I think.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. So any
39 questions for Joanna Fox on the Kanuti presentation.

40

41 Pollock.

42

43 MR. SIMON: I've got a question on
44 some, it's like 40 percent of square mile, on moose.

45

46 MS. FOX: Can.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock, are you
49 referring to.....

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: What's going on with
2 the moose thing.

3
4 MS. FOX: Oh, yeah.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're referring to
7 this graph here, Pollock, where it says 40 calves in
8 2017? Or which one? Oh, down here. So for 2017?

9
10 MR. SIMON: Yes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And a .48 moose.

13
14 MR. SIMON: Per square mile.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Per square mile.

17 But that's.....

18
19 MS. FOX: Per square mile?

20
21 MR. SIMON: Uh-huh.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's almost three
24 years ago now.

25
26 MS. FOX: It's almost three year ago.
27 And I think at the time they considered that estimate
28 -- that the population was at a low density, but
29 stable. Maybe slightly increasing. But again we don't
30 know what has happened since then. So that's been two
31 plus years ago.

32
33 MR. SIMON: Has that (indiscernible)
34 moved up since that time?

35
36 MS. FOX: We don't know.

37
38 MR. SIMON: Okay.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The deep snow has
41 been killing the moose off. So that's killed a lot of
42 the calves. And we lost a lot of younger animals. We
43 lost a lot of older animals. So now the moose
44 population -- it would be my impression that the moose
45 population's quite a bit smaller than it was then. It
46 might even be -- after this year it might be half of
47 what that was.

48
49 Because Tommy's looking at the dead

50

1 moose, I saw dead moose myself last winter. They had a
2 hard time.

3
4 So other questions, Pollock? Any other
5 questions?

6
7 MR. SIMON: No.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So thanks so
10 much, Joanna.

11
12 MS. FOX: Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And welcome back.

15
16 MS. FOX: Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Bob.

19
20 MR. REBARCHIK: Mr. Chair, Council
21 members. My name is Bob Rebarchik. I'm the Acting
22 Refuge Manager for the Koyukuk, Nowitna, and Innoko
23 Refuges. I'm not going to go into too much detail.

24
25 We did conduct moose surveys this last
26 fall. Bottom line our moose populations are stable,
27 but we saw low recruitment and fewer young last year.
28 I expect the same this year with the deep snow and the
29 extended cold that we've had. Because of that we
30 recommended no Federal hunts in the areas that I have
31 management authority on. And I guess we wait and see.

32
33 We have actually just hired a fisheries
34 biologist, so we did gain a position on our Refuge.
35 Wyatt Snodgrass is his name. He's coming to us from
36 fisheries office-- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service out
37 of Ohio. He has experience on weirs in Alaska down on
38 the coast, but it will be the first time he's been in
39 Interior Alaska. But he's coming to us -- that
40 position has been vacant for about three years, since
41 Frank Harris left. But -- so we did gain one.

42
43 Update on our -- the position I'm
44 currently acting in has not been flown. I've been told
45 it will happen soon, but I can't tell you what soon
46 means because they've been telling me that since the
47 first week of December. So I don't know.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you apply?

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. REBARCHIK: Huh? I can't apply
4 till they fly the job.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you going to
7 apply?

8

9 MR. REBARCHIK: Yes. I am going to
10 apply.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good.

13

14 MR. REBARCHIK: My personal plan is to
15 work for two more years. Whether I'm in the manager
16 role or in the deputy role, I'll work at least two more
17 years up here in Alaska before I retire.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

20

21 MR. REBARCHIK: So other than that I
22 don't have a lot of other updates. I would certainly
23 answer questions if you have any.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Questions for Bob.
26 Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko.

27

28 Go ahead, Don.

29

30 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 Bob, what is Ken Chase's position?

32

33 MR. REBARCHIK: Ken Chase is a Refuge
34 information technician.

35

36 MR. HONEA: Okay. Okay. That being
37 said, so is he just assigned to the Innoko? I mean it
38 seems like the Koyukuk and the Nowitna have been
39 without -- is there any chance of anyone filling that?

40

41 MR. REBARCHIK: We have had a Refuge
42 information technician position into the Regional
43 office for hiring a position in Galena. It's been in
44 our human resources department for two years. All that
45 has to happen is for them to fly the position so that
46 we can fill it. That's the only thing that remains.
47 It's been in the Regional office for two years in that
48 status.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Just a last
4 question. Okay. So if someone wants to assume that
5 position they would have to move to Galena? I remember
6 there was somebody out of Huslia. So it's open to the
7 villages.

8

9 MR. REBARCHIK: Yeah. When we
10 advertise it, it will be advertised to support
11 basically about four villages in the Galena area, Ruby,
12 Galena, Koyukuk, and Nowitna -- or Nulato -- excuse me.

13

14 And Ken Chase is actually helping us
15 support. He went and helped do surveys in Tanana this
16 last summer. His specific area is for the GASH
17 communities, Grayling, Anvik, Holy Cross, and Shageluk.
18 But he has also helped to support in McGrath and
19 last summer in Kaltag, Koyukuk, and Tanana. So we
20 utilize Ken because of his extensive knowledge and
21 expertise wherever we can use him, but our intent is to
22 get the Galena position filled. That person may not
23 actually be in Galena. That would be our desire, but
24 they may be in Ruby. They may be in Nulato. They may
25 be in Kaltag or Koyukuk -- excuse me.

26

27 But we want that position filled. We
28 need that support.

29

30 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Having listened to
33 the two Refuges present, this Council should make the
34 record clear that the Regional Office should start
35 filling the positions for Kanuti and Koyukuk, Nowitna,
36 and Innoko. Especially these critical information
37 technician positions. The subsistence relation and the
38 management of the resources on those Refuges are
39 critical to the subsistence users within this region.

40

41 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
42 write a letter to the Regional Director in support of
43 filling these positions that are in the wings, just
44 sitting there waiting to be filled. They need to be
45 filled. And so.....

46

47 MR. HONEA: I'll make that motion.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Make a motion to

50

1 send a letter to the.....

2

3

MS. PELKOLA: Second.

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.

6

In support of our Refuge systems that have had
7 positions just sitting there waiting to be flown,
8 waiting to be published. It's getting to be critical
9 in many ways for the managers to work for the resources
10 on the Refuges and the subsistence users.

10

11

12

So any further discussion on -- we'll
13 write that letter, it'll be brief, to the Regional
14 Director, but it's getting to be a critical issue.

15

16

Other comments.

17

18

Don.

19

20

MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
21 one comment. You know, I appreciate the Wildlife and
22 the Staff there at Nowitna Wildlife Station. I mean
23 you're office there being help and being open to coming
24 up and visiting to us. We never set a date or anything
25 like that, but I could see where that Refuge
26 Information Technician, whatever they're called, RIT,
27 would be able to make more visits. And whether you
28 lived in Ruby -- if I lived in Ruby or Nulato and was
29 able to travel there. So I think it's vital.

30

31

And thank you.

32

33

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

34

35

MR. REBARCHIK: On our priority list it
36 was number 2. We felt the fisheries biologist position
37 was more critical because of the fishery that we have
38 to deal with on the Yukon River and the Koyukuk River
39 and the Innoko River. But the number 2 was our RIT for
40 Galena and it -- now it is our priority to fill, in
41 addition to the manager position.

42

43

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Wasn't there an
44 Innoko position for McGrath also waiting in the wings?

45

46

MR. REBARCHIK: We filled the park
47 ranger position in McGrath a little over a year ago.

48

49

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

50

1 MR. REBARCHIK: And Kelly Pearce is in
2 that position and doing an exceptional job. She's
3 taken the bull by the horn, so to speak, and really is
4 doing a super job of supporting us down there in
5 McGrath.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Good. Okay.
8 Do we got a question on writing that letter. Ready for
9 vote.

10
11 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
14 Those in favor of submitting that letter to the
15 Regional Director in support of moving these hirings
16 forward for these -- for the Refugees -- for Kanuti and
17 Koyukuk and Nowitna, signify by saying aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

22
23 (No opposing votes)

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much for
26 your presentation and being here. And I hope you're
27 permanently hired at our next meeting.

28
29 MR. REBARCHIK: Appreciate your time
30 and thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

33
34 Thanks, Joanna.

35
36 MS. FOX: Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we've got Yukon
39 Kuskokwim Delta.

40
41 So Aaron.

42
43 MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll
44 be real quick. I know now -- and this fall I'll give
45 you a guys a comprehensive rundown of what we did for
46 the summer and give you guys the results from the
47 summer.

48
49 So I'm just going to talk a little bit.

50

1 I was just working with Fish and Game and they got the
2 2019 preliminary harvest for chinook salmon on the
3 Kuskokwim. And so for the Kuskokwim River as a whole
4 for the 2019 season, 37,941 chinook salmon were
5 harvested from Tuluksak down to the mouth to Tunt
6 33,197 were harvested, and from Kalskag on up to
7 Nikolai 4,744 were harvested. So roughly about 38,000
8 chinook salmon got harvested least year in 2019, which
9 was a lot more than we've had in the past, last few
10 years.

11
12 Our bird crew surveys are going to be
13 out again doing emperor goose. Our emperor goose
14 population went back down into the management action
15 level, so we're working with the migratory bird
16 councils trying to figure out strategies on keeping
17 emperor goose populations above the management action
18 level so we don't have to close it down to hunting for
19 another 30 years or.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

22
23 MR. MOSES: Because it takes them a
24 long time for them to rebuild their population.

25
26 Kenton talked about Mulchatna Caribou.
27 On our side of the mountains, we tried to go to every
28 single village as fast as possible to try to get the
29 word out.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

32
33 MR. MOSES: It took a long time, but we
34 got snow this year so it made it a lot easier to get to
35 the villages. And they were very receptive of keeping
36 it closed and they're looking into the future and
37 seeing how much longer it will take for the population
38 to rebound. So we'll be hearing a lot of that
39 discussion is going to be going on throughout the year
40 and into the future.

41
42 One of the big things that's going on
43 this year is for the fifth year we're going to be
44 helping out the Bethel Native Coun -- or Orutsaramiut
45 Native Council with their science camps. It's a fun
46 way to get all the kids from the Delta into Bethel and
47 learn about science and try to hopefully get them into
48 our -- work for Fish and Wildlife Service. Mostly our
49 -- since our Staff shrunk since we lost Alissa. Alissa

50

1 Rogers moved on, so we're down to bare bones.

2

3 So yeah, in the fall time I'll have a
4 more comprehensive report for you guys on results of
5 what we're doing at the Refuge.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I'm happy to
8 hear that you're going out to the villages to inform
9 them about the caribou need for protection. I really
10 appreciate that because in the conference calls I've
11 heard a lot of people on the Bristol Bay side were
12 completely confused. They thought they got hoof rot.
13 They ran off to McGrath. They had no idea what was
14 going on with these caribou at all. And that's
15 important for the village people to understand that the
16 herd just is down big time and they need protection.
17 And so I really appreciate you getting the word out on
18 your side and the Kuskokwim Delta Refuge that there's
19 need for protection. Thank you.

20

21 And I appreciate you being on the call
22 last fall and helping us out with identification of the
23 over-harvest aspect. That was integral to this
24 Council's work with the Mulchatna -- and with the
25 YKDelta Regional Council.

26

27 MR. MOSES: It was.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

30

31 MR. MOSES: Yeah. I'm finally getting
32 my feet in the door of the subsistence, so I get a lot
33 of ground level from the community members, you know,
34 know what's going on. So a lot of the times it's been
35 really beneficial learning what's actually happening
36 from what's being presented and the face value of
37 everything that's coming -- it is coming through the
38 communities.

39

40 So it's been real nice working with our
41 RITs and we're making it a priority to visit every
42 single village on the Refuge at least once every two
43 years. So it's -- and we haven't had that in quite a
44 while, so we're focusing on trying to get to the
45 communities as much as possible.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Questions, comments.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,
2 Aaron. Appreciate that.
3

4 So Gates of the Arctic National Park --
5 Marcy.
6

7 And I appreciate all of the agency
8 people that have waited so patiently to present to the
9 Council for the last two days.
10

11 Go ahead, Marcy.
12

13 MS. OKADA: Okay. My name is Marcy
14 Okada. I'm the subsistence coordinator for Gates of
15 the Arctic National Park and Preserve. And I'm going
16 to try and summarize the summary that's being handed
17 out to you right now.
18

19 The Subsistence Resource Commission for
20 Gates of the Arctic met here in Fairbanks on November
21 13th to 14th. The Commission heard updates about the
22 four Arctic caribou herds, Teshekpuk, Western Arctic,
23 Porcupine, and Central Arctic Herds.
24

25 SRC also took action on the Federal
26 subsistence 2020 to 2022 wildlife proposals and the
27 Board of Game Western Arctic and Interior and Eastern
28 Arctic Regional proposals. The next SRC meeting is
29 scheduled for April 15th to 16 in the Upper Kobuk River
30 Community of Shungnak. And Jack Reakoff is our Vice-
31 Chair on our SRC and Pollock Simon is appointed by the
32 RAC to our SRC.
33

34 So moving on to four Western Arctic
35 caribou projects that NPS biologists are currently
36 working on. At Onion Portage on the Kobuk River this
37 past fall 43 GPS collars were put out. The second
38 project focused on statistically analyzing the seasonal
39 aspects of caribou survival by using data locations
40 where GPS satellite collars have stopped moving.
41

42 Last summer NPS biologists teamed up
43 with the University of Cincinnati to initiate a study
44 on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd using dropped
45 antlers in order to understand how long the herd has
46 been using its calving grounds. So this is done by
47 extensively surveying areas that are good at preserving
48 antlers and then radio carbon dating the antlers
49 themselves.
50

1 And then lastly this project is not
2 your update, but for approximately one week starting
3 this middle of March Park Service biologists will be
4 conducting a non-invasive fecal sampling project in the
5 northern and southern portions of the Western Arctic
6 Caribou Herd's range. Biologists will fly to recent
7 feeding craters of caribou and collect fresh fecal
8 samples and they will be analyzed for pregnancy rates,
9 stress hormones, and diet.

10
11 And I lastly have an update, a one
12 sentence update for the Ambler Mining District Road.
13 The comment period for the Draft Environmental and
14 Economic Analysis closed on October 29th of last year
15 and the final analysis is expected to be complete
16 sometime this month. Or I should say -- yeah -- the
17 final analysis report is expected to be complete
18 sometime this month.

19
20 So I'll take any questions and then
21 we'll have Will, our biologist, talk about sheep.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Questions on
24 Marcy's portion of the report.

25
26 Don.

27
28 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 Marcy, I see that you guys have four caribou herds that
30 you're monitoring. And should -- is there any cause
31 for concern in like the Western Arctic or any of them
32 where the population might be in jeopardy or anything
33 like that?

34
35 MS. OKADA: So Mr. Honea, just for
36 clarification, our Gates of the Arctic biologists
37 mainly study the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. So the
38 other three herds that information was shared about
39 those were ADF&G biologists that came to our meeting to
40 provide updates on the Central Arctic, Teshekpuk, and
41 the Porcupine.

42
43 So in regards to the Western Arctic
44 Caribou Herd, they were able to do a census last July
45 and complete it and it looks like the herd population
46 is stable at this time.

47
48 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions
2 for Marcy.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, go
7 ahead.

8
9 MR. DEACY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
10 the record, this is Will Deacy, a National Park Service
11 biologist. I'm just going to give a quick summary of
12 the 2019 surveys that we did on Dall sheep. There's
13 more detail on this sheet that I've handed out that has
14 the maps and the graphs.

15
16 This summer we surveyed the
17 northeastern part of Gates of the Arctic, so an area
18 around Anaktuvuk and the Killik Preserve. And the
19 number one takeaway is that sheep numbers appear to be
20 stable over the last five years, but that still means
21 that they're down about 50 percent compared to the
22 numbers before 2013. Now the ratio of lambs to ewelike
23 is slightly above average still, but that doesn't seem
24 to be translating to increases in the number of adult
25 sheep.

26
27 This next summer in 2020 we're going to
28 continue to survey those two northeastern areas, but
29 we're also going to do an expanded survey through most
30 of the rest of Gates of the Arctic. And we're hoping
31 that that will address some of the concerns about deep
32 snow on the southern part of the range that would have
33 affected -- that may have affected sheep.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My comment would be
36 that a lot of the upper drainages were -- there was
37 almost a line near the divide, just right on the south
38 of the divide where the snow wasn't nearly as bad.
39 Everything to the south last winter was really deep
40 snow. And so are you going to survey to the southern
41 edge of the park, like down to at least Wiseman or down
42 that far into the mountains?

43
44 MR. DEACY: Yeah, Mr. Chair. That's
45 the plan. I was hoping that there was going to be some
46 time at some point to sit down and have you look at a
47 map and just get your sense of the areas that are
48 priority, but ideally we are surveying the entire Gates
49 of the Arctic.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The entire park.

2 Okay. Good.

3

4 MR. DEACY: Yeah. Uh-huh.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other questions on
7 the sheep.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead. Continue.

12

13 MR. DEACY: That's the core of what I
14 have. If there's any more -- if you want more detail,
15 please take a look at this sheet.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

18

19 MR. DEACY: But I'm happy to answer any
20 of your questions.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think these -- the
23 park surveys show what the -- it's kind of like a
24 control area. You know, there's light harvest.
25 There's sheep population. If it declines dramatically
26 that's typically weather-related or predator and
27 weather-related.

28

29 And I'll state again, I don't know that
30 you were here, I was talking about the GPS collars on
31 lynx show that there's a lynx showing a lot of affinity
32 to go way up on top of the mountains. And my opinion
33 is that specific lynx are predatory on Dall sheep and
34 so it's kind of the perfect storm; two deep snow years
35 back on back on the south slope with high hare
36 population with really a high wolf and lynx population.
37 And these lynx keep wanting to go -- you can get all of
38 that data off of -- if they're hanging out on top of
39 the mountains they're up there hunting sheep. Right
40 now, if they're there in the winter, there's no ground
41 squirrels, they're up there hunting sheep.

42

43 So it's something to consider as the
44 predation increase and, you know, why are these -- some
45 of these populations not growing with the kind of
46 recruitments especially in the upper drainages.

47

48 So these are something that we'll talk
49 about at the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource

50

1 Commission, but it's good for the Council to hear those
2 kinds of things also.

3

4 So any other questions for Gates Staff.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none. Thanks
9 so much. I'll be on the conference call with the Gates
10 of the Arctic meeting in mid-April.

11

12 MR. DEACY: Okay.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we've got BLM and
15 that would be Tim Hammond for the BLM Central Yukon
16 Office.

17

18 Go ahead, Tim.

19

20 MR. HAMMOND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 Members of the Council. I'm Tim Hammond, I'm the
22 Assistant Field Manager for BLM Central Yukon Field
23 Office. I think you have a copy of our report in your
24 folder. Is that correct, Karen?

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right here. Yep.

27

28 MR. HAMMOND: Okay. In the interest of
29 your time I'm going to kind of hit the things I think
30 are most important to you, but happy to answer
31 questions about anything on here. I will also point
32 out that there is contact information on each section
33 here. You're always welcome to call any of our Staff
34 on there if you have questions. And if they can't help
35 you out, tell them you'd like to talk to me and we'll
36 get you the information you need.

37

38 In our planning shop the Central Yukon
39 Resource Management Plan which we've been working on
40 since 2013 -- actually I think 2012 -- with a number of
41 speed bumps along the way is starting to roll again.
42 We're hoping there will be a draft out sometime in
43 2020, but we don't have a date set for that yet and
44 there will be a 90-day public review period when that
45 comes out. It is available -- or progress documents
46 are available on the web. There's a link in your
47 handout there.

48

49 Our recreation program. We have 30

50

1 special recreation permits operating in the Western
2 Interior Region for 2020. Nine of those are commercial
3 hunting guides and 21 are tour operators. And five of
4 those hunting guides are permitted in the Dalton
5 Highway Corridor. There is a list of them in your
6 handout there. I won't read through each one of them
7 but it does have harvest information per guide there if
8 you want to dig into those a little bit deeper.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have one question
11 on these dog mushers. Are they transporting hunters
12 outside of the corridor or are they just recreational
13 taking people on dog trips or.....

14
15 MR. HAMMOND: They are explicitly not
16 authorized to transport hunters. They're taking tour
17 groups out.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

20
21 MR. HAMMOND: I believe they camp
22 overnight.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

25
26 MR. HAMMOND: But they're not
27 transporting hunters.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

30
31 MR. HAMMOND: Yeah. On the realty
32 program, skipping over a couple of pages.

33
34 We did authorize to the North Slope
35 Borough as the applicant a winter snow road permit to
36 Anaktuvuk Pass taking off up near Galbraith Lake, that
37 road is authorized for use by convoys run by the
38 Borough only. It's not open for general use by the
39 public or anyone. So people using that road have to be
40 part of a convoy run by the North Slope Borough. If
41 you want more details on that we can definitely get you
42 the whole boundaries on that. But it's closely
43 monitored and run by a contractor to the North Slope
44 Borough.

45
46 We've had interest from more than one
47 entity in commercial leases for the Mulizitna Hot
48 Springs so we've begun the process for putting out an
49 advertisement for competitive bids on that. It's a

50

1 long process. It's unlikely we'll have a bidding
2 process this year, most likely it will be next year.
3 The first step is to publish a notice of realty action
4 in the Federal Register, which is a long process in
5 itself. But there is interest showing up there.
6

7 And then what's listed on here is under
8 multi-year projects we've got three environmental
9 impact statements we've been working on, the Alaska
10 stand alone gas pipeline, which is a small -- or
11 relatively small, 36-inch gas pipeline that would run
12 down the Dalton Corridor. The EIS is completed. The
13 applicant has requested that we not move forward with
14 issuing them a grant of right-of-way because they have
15 business interests with one that's still in progress
16 for the Alaska liquified natural gas pipeline, which is
17 a larger pipeline runs essentially the same route.
18 FERC is the lead agency on that, we're a cooperating
19 agency. And that EIS is still in progress. The target
20 for publishing the final EIS is this month, March 6th,
21 I believe, and likely to have a record of decision out
22 in June on that one. And then the Ambler Road Draft
23 Environmental Impact Statement, as Marcy mentioned,
24 with the Park Service companion to that is due to be
25 completed this month and then 30 days after the final
26 EIS is out we can publish a record of decision. We've
27 spent a lot of time going through public comments on
28 that for the last couple of months since the comment
29 period closed and there will be responses to all the
30 substantive public comments published in the EIS
31 itself, so you'll be able to see the responses there.
32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And that will be
34 published on that website link?
35

36 MR. HAMMOND: Yes, it will.
37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
39

40 MR. HAMMOND: Yes. And there will also
41 be news releases out and letting people know when it's
42 available.
43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
45

46 MR. HAMMOND: Probably skipping ahead
47 to the wildlife section. We conduct all sheep surveys
48 in the Central Brooks Range on BLM managed lands. This
49 year we got smoked out, it was a heavy wildfire year
50

1 and we had an expensive aircraft sitting up there for a
2 couple of days unable to fly just because of the smoke,
3 so we weren't able to complete that this year.
4

5 We're also looking at identifying,
6 locating, and characterizing sheep mineral licks, which
7 are used by other species obviously, but they're very
8 important to Dall sheep. So we've got a lot of lab
9 samples collected and camera traps set on those to see
10 how and when they're being used and whether they're
11 unique or not in terms of mineral content and what have
12 you.
13

14 We did a fall composition survey in the
15 Ray Mountains on Hodzana Hills Caribou Herds in
16 conjunction with Fish and Game and we purchased 37 GPS
17 collars that will go on those herds. State Fish and
18 Game is going to put them out. I'm not sure when
19 they're deploying those, but we got the collars. They
20 came in in November, so we'll hand those over to Fish
21 and Game when they're ready to put them out there and
22 then monitor those herds together.
23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those will be
25 deployed equally between the two herds or weighted
26 towards Ray Mountain or.....
27

28 MR. HAMMOND: Glenn's gone, isn't he.
29 I don't know the answer to that. Glenn's kind of in
30 charge of the project, so.....
31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
33

34 MR. HAMMOND: And we weren't able to do
35 a moose trend count in the Middle Fork this year
36 because of Staff scheduling conflicts. Basically we
37 had everyone dedicated to these EIS projects and no one
38 available to work on those. But conditions weren't
39 really good anyway. And we did support Fish and Game
40 and the Koyukuk River check station this fall.
41

42 In the ecology section, this will be
43 the fourth year of some herbicide treatments that we've
44 been doing on a small vetch (ph) infestation in a
45 closed mineral material pit along the Dalton Highway.
46 And we've added six new potential treatment sites in,
47 also in material sites, hoping that we can get
48 primarily vetch but also sweet clover under control
49 where they're hauling gravel out and potentially
50

1 transferring those weeds to other places. Those are
2 closely monitored. I think some of you were in the
3 public meetings we held when we did the EA for doing
4 these weed treatments. One thing we're doing that we
5 constantly get push back on, people telling us oh, it's
6 not necessary, you don't need to worry about that. But
7 every time we spray we are monitoring soil and water to
8 see how long that's persistent in the environment and
9 whether it's transporting anywhere. So we're trying to
10 make sure that it's staying where we put it and that
11 we're not getting unexpected results out there.
12

13 This is the fourth year of inventorying
14 and monitoring white sweet clover north of the Wiseman
15 corner. Prior to '13 we didn't have any record of
16 white sweet clover up there and it's spread fairly well
17 up there. One thing of interest is it's much heavier
18 on the east side of the road than the west side of the
19 road. So we don't have proof, but there's kind of
20 evidence of what types of activities may be moving it
21 forward and.....
22

23 Go ahead.
24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I told them eight
26 years ago that the DOT equipment takes the -- wings the
27 snow off the road in the spring, the white sweet clover
28 grows and it's all headed and seeded. The equipment in
29 the spring -- the snow is real wet and sticky and they
30 push the white sweet clover to the end of their
31 section. So they took it from Coldfoot and they pushed
32 it all the way up to Dietrich. And it's lighter
33 dissemination and there's fewer on the west side
34 because they go all the way to the north and then they
35 come back. I told them clean their machines and push
36 from Dietrich south. Push it down. Don't push up. We
37 don't want to get cross-headed with the DOT, well,
38 here's where we go. We have sweet clover everywhere.
39 It has 600,000 seeds per plant. The stuff's
40 everywhere. It's a mess.
41

42 MR. HAMMOND: And those seeds are
43 persistent for 75 -- or viable for 75 years, too.
44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 75 years.
46

47 MR. HAMMOND: So it's definitely an
48 issue.
49
50

1 The last couple of things I'd like to
2 point out is we did hire a pilot ranger last may that
3 came in from a different agency, so there's a lot of
4 training they have to do before they can operate as a
5 BLM ranger or pilot. But Steve Mosher is his name.
6 He's made two ground based patrols up the Dalton now,
7 so he is operating as a law enforcement ranger. We're
8 still working on getting him up in the air in a plane,
9 but it's been challenging to keep law enforcement --
10 dealing law enforcement on -- I think we've got a
11 really good guy. I think you'll be happy when you meet
12 him. And so.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I met him. He came
15 to my house. BLM -- we'll make a comment. The BLM
16 needs to have more presence. The State Troopers have
17 virtually no presence during moose season. There were
18 a lot of hunters hunting moose and there's only 20
19 permits issued north of Coldfoot, but there's way more
20 than 20 hunters up north of Coldfoot but I don't have
21 the ability to check the permitting. So there's a real
22 need to have -- our Trooper left. We don't have a
23 Trooper and so it's a real need to have presence of the
24 BLM -- symbols on the door of a car make a big
25 difference to the attitude of those hunters. If they
26 think that there's no Trooper or no enforcement of any
27 type, they just do whatever they want. They'll hunt
28 with permits that are supposed to be south. They hunt
29 at the north. There's people going everywhere. I
30 don't even know if they all have permits at all.

31
32 I talked to -- I did contact some guys
33 on the Nolan Road and they didn't have permits, I says
34 do you got a permit, no, they don't have permits. They
35 were planning on walking outside the corridors. I says
36 it's half a mile outside the corridor and you're going
37 to have to pack the moose from the Haul Road six miles.
38 Oh, they didn't know that part. Their friends from
39 Wasilla told them to go up there. They says they got a
40 moose up there. I says well, they killed it illegally.
41 This was like the year before.

42
43 So we need to have enforcement's
44 presence. If the Troopers are going to back off around
45 us there, then we need to have enforcement presence.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 Just making my comment there.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. HAMMOND: All right. I will
4 definitely pass that on.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

7

8 MR. HAMMOND: Last couple of things. I
9 sent paperwork today to HR to hire a recruit for two
10 fish biologists. We just had two retire. I don't know
11 if you all knew Bob Carlin and Dave Parker, both just
12 retired. So we will be trying to fill behind them.

13

14 We also recently hired a fire fuel
15 specialist who's going to be, among other things,
16 contacting communities about working on community
17 wildfire protection plans. So hopefully figuring out
18 how we can provide some assistance to communities to be
19 better protected from fires as they go on.

20

21 And then this year we did have a big
22 fire year in Alaska. 2.6 million acres burned in the
23 State but I thought it was of interest that 33 percent
24 of that burned in the Western Interior Region. So
25 there was some large fires. There's a map in your
26 handout here showing where those were, but it was a
27 challenging summer in the fire front. And I think we
28 had a really safe year, which is always good with the
29 fire.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

32

33 MR. HAMMOND: So that's the highlights
34 of the report here. As I said, happy to answer
35 questions on anything you want. And feel free to give
36 a call if you think of something later.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay. Thanks so
39 much for that, Tim.

40

41 Questions on BLM's report.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, thanks
46 so much.

47

48 MR. HAMMOND: Okay.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate it. So
2 we've covered those. We covered -- the Wood Bison
3 Reintroduction Program is -- Tom Seaton was going to
4 present that or.....
5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Mr. Seaton was going to present over the phone, but we
8 have no people remaining on the phone.
9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

11 (Laughter)

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're to Tom
15 Doolittle's going to give us subsistence management
16 update or overview.
17

18 MR. DOOLITTLE: For the next few hours.

19 (Laughter)

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure. I'm the
21 Energizer Bunny. I'll be here all night.

22 (Laughter)

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've done Koyukuk
24 River Advisory Committee meetings all the way until
25 12:30 at night.

26 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair and Council.

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Go right
28 ahead, Tom.

29 MR. DOOLITTLE: We'll go right ahead
30 here with this. Tom Doolittle, Acting Assistant
31 Regional Director for the Federal Office of Subsistence
32 Management.
33

34 As most of you are aware that we had to
35 reschedule this meeting and then also that -- you know,
36 that we just got the official Council nomination
37 letters in, you know, last week. But in this process,
38 as you know, there was a handout that Karen had for
39
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1 everybody that went through, you know, kind of all the,
2 you know, the steps that go through everything for 16
3 months. And in early December I was privy to the --
4 you know, the list of RAC appointments statewide. And
5 I asked that we not, you know, not formally respond and
6 ask the Department to re-review the candidates that the
7 Board had recommended for selection. And they did add
8 more people in, but that took a longer period of time.
9 And so if there was a serendipitous aspect toward, you
10 know, anything about rescheduling, it gave the time for
11 the additional people being added. And even though it
12 wasn't ideal it was a lot better than what I had seen
13 before.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

16

17 MR. DOOLITTLE: My main criteria that
18 I, you know, questioned and I pointed the Department in
19 the direction and for the White House liaison who's
20 kind of the determinate on, you know, back to the
21 Department on who to recommend, is I said, you know,
22 that we really need to maintain, you know, the tenure
23 in our ranks. We need people with experience. We also
24 need young people. We need a breath of, you know,
25 experience, you know, that comes into Regional Advisory
26 Councils. But you just can't kind of clinch out one
27 way or the other.

28

29 Also, one of the important, you know,
30 and especially for North Slope, Northwest Arctic was
31 the component of the commercial sport interests and I
32 looked again -- I was like gee, we want to maintain and
33 kind of strive to have that balance on our Councils so
34 we have that perspective for decision-making. So I
35 questioned whether that balance was there and meeting
36 the goals that we had for the program.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the 70/30
39 split.

40

41 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah. The 70/30 split.
42 And that's not steadfast. That's what it says. The
43 verbiage is actually that we'll strive toward that
44 goal. So sometimes we get the correct amount of
45 nominations and sometimes you don't.

46

47 The bigger one was that I requested
48 that I understood for, you know, through the scrutiny
49 of the cost of the Regional Advisory Councils and there

50

1 was -- there is scrutiny nationwide on all Federal
2 Advisory Committees on cutting costs and the expense
3 and so I could see that there wasn't going to be, you
4 know, this -- that everything was going to be lots of
5 people vetted. And so -- but I didn't want to see
6 Alaska Regional Advisory Councils cut by 40, 50 or even
7 60 percent. It depended on the Regions. And so I said
8 if you had to do it please, you know, if there's a
9 reduction make it not that drastic. And so for most of
10 the ten member Councils it was about a 20 percent
11 reduction. A little bit more for a few because people
12 in the time we were doing the discussion residency
13 changed, and, you know, one person went to Anchorage in
14 one of the Councils, so was no longer eligible to
15 serve. And so we went through, you know, that process
16 of saying hey, you know, we need to have that
17 proportion. And again for 13-member Councils was to
18 have, you know, was to have at least ten people, you
19 know, on those Councils, so it wasn't as drastic. And
20 some like Southeast and Southcentral took a real hit.
21 And so again those two Councils we added -- yeah.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you're telling us
24 that we just got a bunch of Council members cut from
25 our Council?

26
27 MR. DOOLITTLE: No. No. You have --
28 this Council is what it is right now.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. But we've
31 got these vacancies.

32
33 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes. And so again.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are those permanent
36 vacant -- some of those permanent?

37
38 MR. DOOLITTLE: I am hoping not. And I
39 hope that there is a lesson learned from what we're
40 doing. And again the more applications that we can
41 provide with good justification the better off we are.
42 I think that regardless through the process, and there
43 was a number of people that helped out. The whole
44 package cleared from the Alaska Region -- from the
45 Department within two days of submission in September
46 of 2019, so I couldn't be more happy with the response
47 of what we had relative to, you know, the Alaskan side.

48
49 And -- but again I think, you know,

50

1 from misinformation and the adherence to the executive
2 order put out by the administration was you're to
3 review these FACA Councils essentially and to me it
4 says under basis of -- you know, of law and statute,
5 but this is a non-discretionary Council. This one is
6 set forth in statute, you know, under Title VIII of
7 ANILCA.

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

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MR. DOOLITTLE: And Section .805 is that authority. And it says, you know, we shall have those Regional Advisory Councils. We also have a NEPA process that defined that there would be ten Councils in Alaska as well. You also received a charter that is, you know, good for the next two years that says -- you know, that actually met some of the goals that this actual Council asked for, which was additional representation. And some of the recommendations -- ironically which was to vet additional people if somebody passed on or there was a permanent vacancy that there be additional people. So I'm a little distraught that we have charters that are in conflict to what reality happened relative to the number of appointments this year.

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

MR. DOOLITTLE: But it was a lot better that we did get additional people and that it really brought the attention, you know, to some of the issues and to this Advisory Council from a wide perspective. We had the Senior Advisory Councils pushing it. We had private members of -- that went to -- you know, to the legislators and said hey, this is an issue. We had multiple directors from, you know, that sit on the Federal -- you know, the Federal Board that chased to see where our documents were and to shake it looks from, you know, the scrutiny that was going on.

We had Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council hold an extra -- you know, it wasn't an extra meeting, it was actually a continuation of an existing meeting they had weather conditions and they didn't finish an agenda, so they, you know, rescheduled the meeting. and it was like well, you guys -- you know, was that a rare and exceptional circumstance to be able to do that and I said yes, it is.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: But the determinant on
4 that was being made, you know, at 3,000 miles away on
5 what rare and exceptional was. So if you look at the
6 new Federal Register document and the proposed rule
7 that was passed, it says that that discretion is now
8 the ARD's purview of OSM.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

11

12 MR. DOOLITTLE: And so again we're
13 trying to put local -- get more local controls on
14 understanding the realities and the advisement of our
15 Councils And that's really critical and that took, you
16 know, took some leg work to get that through.

17

18 So it wasn't a perfect situation, but
19 it was a -- you know, combined effort from -- and it
20 wasn't just the Department of Interior. It's also the
21 Department of Agriculture is really scrutinizing FACA
22 Committees as well. And again there's the directive
23 that, you know, came on from on high.

24

25 But we were -- we should say we -- the
26 Councils of Alaska, you know, are an exempted group
27 because we are statutorily based.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's right.

30

31 MR. DOOLITTLE: But we're governed by a
32 series of laws and -- but it wasn't going to get us out
33 of the woods for that critical eye coming down on the
34 programs as it did to other FACA Committees that might
35 serve as an example of the National Institute of
36 Health. You know, so we have -- you know, so we're in
37 this -- we're part of this big bundle and regardless we
38 have to really adhere to some of these things.

39

40 And that's really, you know, my job to
41 make sure (A) that we're legally compliant, which by
42 the time we had our meeting we are to the letter and
43 law to FACA, which is a good thing and that we have
44 additional appointments.

45

46 But I am hoping through the, you know,
47 2020/21, as we go through the new vetting, that
48 everybody is wiser for it and that they will take the
49 recommendations of the Federal Subsistence Board. I

50

1 guess I can say that because as you know on my -- my
2 part of my report is that my acting role will be done
3 here in another about 30 days. And so I've been acting
4 as the Assistant Regional Director for what will be
5 about 21 months. It's been 20 months, you know, to
6 date. And it's really been a hoot doing it. And
7 really it's about, you know, getting through a lot of
8 these issues to preserve what you all do and especially
9 the people that you represent in the field as
10 Federally-qualified users. So if I have any stock and
11 trade in my advice is keep the applications, stimulate
12 people. Even if people are turned down, you know, we
13 had folks at Eastern Interior that have applied three
14 times and then this time they got in. You know, so
15 don't let that be the discouraging part. Always
16 educate people about Alaska subsistence.

17
18 The Federal Board turns over, you know,
19 with individuals, you know, every few years. So again
20 there's going to be constant education. With Federal
21 employees coming in and out there's going to be
22 constant education. But don't let that defeat
23 anybody's idea and purpose.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to comment
26 on this appointment and application process, nomination
27 process. People put in these applications and they
28 don't hear anything back. And they submitted those and
29 the appointments were supposed to be made in December.
30 People are calling me or messaging me on Facebook,
31 what's going on, what's going on. OSM needs to get
32 back to those applicants and say the Secretary of
33 Interior is not making appointments. Washington's
34 screwing up. They have to get communication back. You
35 just bum them out. If they don't think they're getting
36 any response -- they need to have a response.

37
38 And if they file an application and are
39 passed over that should be on file. There should be --
40 when our call for the next round, do you want to still
41 submit that same pro -- an application, don't make them
42 fill it all back out again. It's a nightmare trying to
43 get it in there. Put it in the file. Call the
44 applicant up again and say you weren't appointed last
45 time, but do you want to submit again. What's wrong
46 with that.

47
48 MR. DOOLITTLE: There isn't anything
49 wrong with that, Mr. Chair.

50

1 But in this situation if we had gone
2 and didn't ask for a reevaluation of the original
3 submission of all the people that the Board had
4 recommended we would have been in far more sorry shape
5 for the overall program.
6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I applaud that. I
8 do applaud that. But there's people that -- they're in
9 limbo, they don't know what's going on. I know people
10 that -- Darrel, he's running around here, he's got an
11 application in and he doesn't know what's going on,
12 he's messaging me, what's going on. How do I know
13 what's going on.
14

15 (Laughter)
16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So OSM needs -- if
18 it's coming down in December -- if nobody knows what's
19 going on and you know what's going on by January 1, get
20 a hold of the applicants. Have the coordinators for
21 that region get a hold of the applicant and say yeah,
22 we're on hold right now, give a status update. That
23 would be fair to the applicants.
24

25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes. I agree. And
26 then I didn't know about the second round until
27 actually -- you know, actually the first week in
28 February. But again the formalities of going through
29 the official announcements take longer than that. And
30 one of the promises that -- you know, under the
31 direction -- and as Karen knows is that we want to make
32 sure that we give a courtesy call especially to people
33 that applied and didn't get selected to (A) encourage
34 them not to be discouraged and to personally connect
35 with them. But in the official context it's not
36 official until, you know, the letter has been emailed
37 with the Secretary's signature on it.
38

39 So there I might know on a premature
40 basis about, you know, the likelihood that somebody is
41 going to be selected or not. I really -- you know, we
42 really can't release that information publicly. And
43 that creates a difficult circumstances. The real true
44 solution is getting these things done on time with the
45 proper vetting process, you know, in early December and
46 on the original time lines. And so that would be, you
47 know, one of my recommendations to folks. And it goes
48 out of our control the second it leaves Alaska and it
49 goes to -- at the Department level -- as you can see
50

1 through the flow level to the Administration and then
2 it comes back and then it goes through the -- you know,
3 what your letters go through to make sure that all the
4 Is are dotted and Ts are crossed for each individual
5 that's selected.

6
7 So by far this was not a perfect year
8 and -- and so we did our darnedest to look at the
9 program.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate all
12 that OSM does to cajole Washington into getting the
13 appointments that we got. We wouldn't have Pollock.
14 We wouldn't have Don here. I appreciate that.

15
16 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah. Just.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But I.....

19
20 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't want to bum
23 out the applicants who aren't selected. I want them to
24 be contacted and say you weren't selected, but we
25 really want you to apply again because we do -- we have
26 more open seats. We have another round. So we want to
27 work on that one, too.

28
29 So we're coming down on 6:00 o'clock.
30 So do you have -- continue?

31
32 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah. This will be --
33 the rest of it will be fairly short.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

36
37 MR. DOOLITTLE: And one is you know
38 that our staffing has been down. It got as low as 41
39 percent down. And now we have a new Assistant Regional
40 Director, Susan Detwiler, and so that's a really good
41 change and -- and good news. So it will be good to,
42 you know, bring Susan in.

43
44 You have a person that was with the
45 Federal program when there were two people at OSM at
46 the transition after the McDowell Decision that
47 essentially where the Federal government re-assumed the
48 program that we have today. And -- and you have
49 somebody that's really worked in policy and regulation

50

1 for the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service
2 for a very long tenured career. Over 30 years in
3 Federal service. And she's been a long term Alaskan,
4 you know, during that period as well.
5

6 She will start on March 30th. And you
7 can read, you know, all the different things about
8 Susan and I assure that she will make all the rounds to
9 meet all the Councils as -- you know, as the ARDs do.
10 And I hope -- you know, and again we'll bring her along
11 and bring these issues right to her and we'll throw her
12 right into the fire.
13

14 (Laughter)
15

16 MR. DOOLITTLE: It will be good.
17

18 Last -- and then also we've hired two
19 administrative assistants. I got really good at
20 answering the phone there for a little bit and saying,
21 how I can help you as a government official. We had
22 Michelle Saint Peters actually leave her position and
23 came back as a grants and agreement specialist, so we
24 are actually moving out all the Fishery Resources
25 Monitoring Program funding for the 20 proposals that
26 the Board recommended by this Friday because we're
27 going through a new type of grants program and we
28 wanted to get it out before the government tested a new
29 program on us, to be honest with that.
30

31 And so we're going to get those monies
32 out to the field as soon as possible. And that was a
33 great thing. We also had our main budget officer who
34 was Kari Crow, went for another position with Fish and
35 Wildlife Service, but we are doing a direct lateral
36 transfer of Tina Baker into our program to replace her.
37 And in the next few weeks we'll be advertising a 7-9-11
38 fishery biologist as a regional priority. And my other
39 goal was to see two more positions. The way things are
40 going with our hiring it's extremely slow with the
41 reorganized hiring process as we reported in the fall.
42 It hasn't speeded up. It's actually slowed down from
43 the last time I talked to the Council. And -- but my
44 goal is if we can hire the anthropological lead and a
45 Council coordination lead as the two next priority
46 organizational positions we'd be down to about 28
47 percent by the end of the calendar year.
48

49 So we're, you know, working all the
50

1 angles we can. Special hiring authorities -- you name
2 it. So that's essentially what we're doing.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I hope you're going
5 to teach Susan all these ropes to get the right tack on
6 running OSM.

7

8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Oh, I will, uh-huh.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So appreciate that.

11

12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yep.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council questions
15 for OSM's.

16

17 Tim.

18

19 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Well, I don't know where you're headed in 31 days, Tom,
21 but thanks for what you did in your acting job. And I
22 thought you did a good job and good luck with your
23 future.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: He'll be a deputy.

26

27 MR. GERVAIS: Oh, you'll be deputy. So
28 you'll be in the program still. I didn't know if you
29 were going to a different agency or what.

30

31 MR. DOOLITTLE: No. I'll be the deputy
32 dog here for a while, but I kind of like it in the
33 world of sitting out in the tundra with pointing dogs
34 and my grandkids.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. I will
39 reiterate that. We appreciate your work you've been
40 doing with OSM to keep it on -- trying to -- trying to
41 keep it on track. It's hard to work with all the
42 various pressures around you and budget and all that.

43

44 So any other questions, comments.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we'll be seeing
49 you down there at some point.

50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Oh, yeah.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

4
5 MR. DOOLITTLE: Remember look up that
6 -- you know, if anything comes available in Wiseman,
7 man.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're coming down
12 on the end of our meeting here.

13
14 So we need to confirm the fall and
15 winter meet -- fall 2020 and meeting date and location
16 for both of those meetings. The calendar is on page 30
17 and 31. So our calendar selected place was in Aniak
18 and October 14, 15. Has there been any outreach to
19 Aniak to see if they have an acoustically compatible
20 building there, Karen?

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MS. DEATHERAGE: It's outside. No.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 Yes, there actually has been. In fact, Dan Gillikin,
30 who was on the phone today is now my new Aniak contact.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, cool.

33
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Because he's gold.
35 And he's told me about the Kusko [sic] school group has
36 a place that could possibly fit our group.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay.

39
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: So I will be pursuing
41 that after this cycle. And I also know an Iditaroder
42 up there who is going to also help figure out some
43 other logistical things.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

46
47 MS. DEATHERAGE: So it's moving forward
48 at some level.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's good
2 to hear.

3
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah. I.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think it's
7 important to meet down there in that end of the Region.

8
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

12
13 MR. GERVAIS: So we didn't -- our joint
14 meeting with Yukon Delta didn't happen.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They seemed to blow
17 us off. When they had their meeting, I called her, I
18 told her.....

19
20 MS. DEATHERAGE: I know.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:and she just
23 blew us off, so whatever. They didn't want to meet
24 with us apparently.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No notification
29 either, so I guess they didn't want to meet with us.

30
31 So our Council had discussed, sort of
32 on the side, sideboard about meeting in Bethel jointly
33 with the YKDelta RAC, but they just seemed to have like
34 -- she -- she was excited, but her Council probably
35 wasn't so they set different meeting dates and so
36 that's not going to happen.

37
38 So we'll meet in our Region. We'll go
39 back to Aniak. And we've got Vince, the Warden, known
40 as the Warden for many years here.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. I don't want you
43 to change your dates even though I'd love you to change
44 them.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MR. MATHEWS: The reason I bring this
49 up is if you are dealing with wildlife -- well, let's
50

1 do fisheries. If you're dealing with fishery proposals
2 and you're meeting concurrent with the Eastern and
3 Western Interior, those fisheries Staff can't be in two
4 places at once. I will indicate that the Park Service
5 is in the same situation because their Staff on
6 proposals may have to be at both meetings. So maybe in
7 the future, and maybe Karen or Tom, one of the Toms can
8 speak.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We were on this
11 sheet.....

12
13 MS. DEATHERAGE: First.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:first.

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And EIRAC jumped on
20 top of us.

21
22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Jack.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you tell Sue
25 tomorrow.....

26
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:that she can
30 change her date, don't come here and tell us that.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We had these
35 selected and she knew it. They knew it. So EIRAC's
36 got to change their date.

37
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Well, but what I'm saying
41 is that somehow there has to be an understanding that's
42 -- that Staff.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I understand that.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Apparently EIRAC did
49 not.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Get off mic there,
4 Vince, and you go downstairs.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: Go downstairs.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go downstairs with
11 the big fancy room that they pulled out from under us.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're not going
16 there. So is that acceptable to the Council to meet in
17 Aniak on those dates.

18

19 (Council nods affirmatively)

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be
22 October 14, 15, which we selected.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MS. PELKOLA: That we selected first.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's agreeable.

31

32 (Council nods affirmatively)

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so the winter
35 meeting, good dates for me are like mid-February, mid-
36 week, like 17, 18 -- something like that or 10, 11.
37 Those kind of dates are good.

38

39 What is the Council's preference in
40 February meeting.

41

42 MR. GERVAIS: Either of those are good
43 for me.

44

45 MR. HONEA: Which dates are you looking
46 at.

47

48 MR. GERVAIS: 17, 18 or 10 and 11.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: February 10 or
2 February 17, 18.
3
4 MR. HONEA: That's fine.
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tommy?
7
8 MR. KRISKA: That would be fine. As
9 long as it's not in March.
10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh, right.
12
13 (Laughter)
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, March is no
16 good.
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock.
21
22 MR. SIMON: That would be fine.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So 17, 18. Select a
25 place. Probably Fairbanks.
26
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: Uh-huh.
28
29 MR. KRISKA: Yes.
30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fairbanks is
32 logistically.....
33
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Easier.
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:easier to get
37 to and we get good participation of agencies, people
38 and all that.
39
40 So is Fairbanks acceptable.
41
42 MS. PELKOLA: Uh-huh.
43
44 MR. HONEA: Yes.
45
46 (Council nods affirmatively)
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So sounds good.
49
50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: And I'll get this in
2 tonight before EIRAC decides.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Yeah. You'd
5 better get that in there.

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's the end of
10 our agenda.

11
12 We have closing comments by the Council
13 members.

14
15 MR. GERVAIS: I've got a question on
16 the scheduling.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Go ahead,
19 Tim.

20
21 MR. GERVAIS: If it's fisheries meeting
22 -- oh. Eastern Interior is in Fairbanks. I was just
23 wondering if we should just maybe joint with Eastern
24 Interior, but they're going to be here and we're going
25 to be in Aniak so that's not going to work out.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

28
29 MR. GERVAIS: All right. Scratch that.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They have a staffing
32 conflict according to Vince, but that's their mistake.
33 I'm not going to worry about that.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So somebody's got to
38 change and it's going to be them because we selected
39 first.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So they got that
44 room downstairs before we did, so we're up here.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So closing comments.
49 We'll start on this side of the room on the closing

50

1 comments.
2
3 Tim, only one page.
4
5 (Laughter)
6
7 MS. PELKOLA: One page per person.
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 MR. GERVAIS: All right, I'd like
12 to.....
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, maybe a
15 quarter page.
16
17 (Laughter)
18
19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Poor Tim.
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim, go ahead.
22
23 MR. GERVAIS: I'd like to thank the
24 community of Fairbanks for hosting us and for all the
25 agencies and Staff to come and do their presentations
26 for us and for everybody else on the Council for
27 adjusting your schedule to come even after the change
28 of date. I appreciate your knowledge and experience.
29
30 I would be interested in getting a
31 report from Angela Matz for our fall meeting. I don't
32 know if it's a report or a call in or what's best on
33 what's the prevalence of the PFAS toxic environment
34 that may be present at Galena Air Force Base and any
35 other -- maybe McGrath, wherever there would be an
36 exposure risk for the Western Interior. I know they
37 have contamination here in Fairbanks and I'm wondering
38 how transmittable that is for going down river as we
39 are just upriver from the Yukon here.
40
41 I didn't mention in the opening
42 comments we're still seeing low black bear population
43 in our region and I'd like people to pay attention and
44 try to figure out what the cause is on that. I talked
45 to Sara during one of the breaks and they're just not
46 -- they don't have the data or the resources to put
47 forth any kind of causation on it.
48
49 I'm going to make some trips this
50

1 spring and in the fall into 21C since we seem to
2 getting more proposals regarding that area. So I'm
3 going to get reoriented with what's going on over there
4 with the -- regarding the vegetation and this Proposal
5 75 of Glenn on what's going on with the habitat for the
6 Wolf Mountain Herd.

7
8 And I wish everybody a nice trip home
9 and enjoy the increasing daylight as we come into
10 spring.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you for those
13 comments. Good suggestions for the next meeting, Tim.
14 And I always appreciate your input into this Council.
15 And so it was a trying meeting. We had a lot of
16 proposals and a lot of stuff, but you brought -- you
17 bring out a lot of -- you pry out all the puss and we
18 debride the whole thing so good job.

19
20 Don.

21
22 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 Yeah. We really covered a lot of proposals here.

24
25 And I just -- my main thing coming out
26 of here is to Tom or the powers that be, I think it's
27 really important and vital that we get somebody from
28 the Kuskokwim. It's really hard enough for us to go
29 through the hunting -- those proposals, much less the
30 fishing issues that they have. And I wish somebody
31 would come out of Aniak or something.

32
33 You know, I attended a meeting in
34 McGrath one time and one of the Board members, he's
35 since not on the Board anymore, but he said hey, Don.
36 You got to remember that you're talking about, you
37 know, you're representing -- I don't know what's going
38 on in this Region much less a village below me. I
39 don't know their needs. So that's why I'm saying I --
40 I think it's a moot point, it's unfair for us to speak
41 for them. I mean if they -- they know the issues. Ray
42 Collins was on top of all those issues. So my main
43 thing coming out of here, if it makes any difference,
44 please let's have representatives from the areas, from
45 each area.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for your

50

1 comments, Don.

2

3

Jenny.

4

5

I don't know what happened to Goodwin.

6

He disappeared.

7

8

(Laughter)

9

10

MS. PELKOLA: I would like to thank the
11 Staff for putting this meeting together and everyone
12 who gave their reports. We had a -- well, I suggest
13 when we have a lot of proposals like we did, because we
14 didn't go through all of them, that maybe our meetings
15 can be two and a half day. We were just jumping around
16 and so maybe that would work out a little better.

17

18

Let's see. I miss Ray on this Council.

19

I forgot his name, my cousin over there, I forgot his
20 name.

21

22

MR. KRISKA: Don.

23

24

MS. PELKOLA: Don?

25

26

(Laughter)

27

28

MS. PELKOLA: He knew a lot. See what
29 you guys did to me.

30

31

(Laughter)

32

33

MS. PELKOLA: I miss him a lot because
34 he was very knowledgeable and he knew a lot of stuff
35 and I don't know if our Council ever did send him a
36 letter, but I think maybe, you know, a signed letter
37 from all of us. A card or something. Maybe that would
38 be a good idea.

39

40

Make the Council comments a little
41 shorter. I think, you know, sometimes we get caught up
42 in things and I think it needs to be more generalized,
43 you know, because we just had a meeting in October and
44 I think from the way I look at it I just picked up
45 things from our last meeting and then to here, so
46 that's the way I do it. You don't have to follow what
47 I do though.

48

49

Meeting in Bethel -- oh, I was going to

50

1 ask about meeting in Bethel, but we already did that.

2

3 Oh, and I need to say one thing here.

4

5 This was from an elder who said this
6 years ago that for every one hot day you have in the
7 summer you'll have one cold day in the winter. And it
8 seems like we've had -- last summer we had a hot
9 summer, really hot, and now we're having really cold
10 weather this winter.

11

12 But I just want to thank everyone again
13 and thank the Board Members for your patience in
14 sitting in. And I know I get impatient sometimes. And
15 I don't really speak too much, but I listen and because
16 I listen to what my people are saying, my Board
17 Members, and sometimes we just repeat what they said
18 and it just goes on and on. So I listen for that.

19

20 But I just wanted to thank you again.
21 And I don't want to make this too long, but -- oh,
22 another thing. I would like to see another woman on
23 the Board.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MS. PELKOLA: And I'm always pushing
28 for that, so remember that.

29

30 Thank you again. Bye.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you get a woman
33 to apply?

34

35 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah. I got one.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Good, glad to
38 hear that. We really appreciate your perspective,
39 Jenny. You've been on this Council quite a while and
40 you're an important part of our Council deliberation
41 process.

42

43 So Tommy.

44

45 MR. KRISKA: I'd just like to thank the
46 Board for having me on this Board. Well, it's just the
47 people that I'm here for and the people that I
48 represent and they're always pretty happy with the
49 things we do and we try to accomplish on this Board.

50

1 And all the different Departments here for being here
2 for the things that we're talking about. And like
3 Jenny said, we didn't really have a lot of time for
4 their proposals and sometimes I think we should go into
5 a little longer meetings, not enough time here.
6

7 And another big thing that was -- this
8 is half of the area that we serve right here. There's
9 a boundary line, but this one belongs to the BLM and it
10 says field office boundaries. And the Central Yukon
11 Field Offices, but if you just use that to -- for the
12 boundary line, there's a boundary line that runs right
13 through the middle of it. And it's a -- their area is
14 bigger than what we're representing and we don't have
15 no representatives from here and which is causing us a
16 lot of issues. And it caused me a little bit of heart
17 pain because those guys are always on the phone and
18 wanting this and that. Maybe I'd better not answer to
19 them anymore so they'd be here and answer for
20 themselves, I guess. I don't know.
21

22 (Laughter)
23

24 MR. KRISKA: I mean I'm on the phone
25 with them all the time. They're telling me can you do
26 this, can you do that. But I think -- I just text one
27 of them a little while and told them about the
28 importance of this. And we're always saying that we'll
29 get younger people but there's a lot of people out
30 there that probably you're going to hopefully talk to
31 and then OSM to maybe influence who they work for these
32 applicants that had these applications in because I
33 think we had quite some applications. I think there
34 was quite a bunch -- up to over 50.
35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's the whole
37 thing.
38

39 MR. KRISKA: Yeah. Well, that's the
40 whole thing but still there was a lot of applicants and
41 not -- there's not one person here.
42

43 And then going to the -- a little bit
44 of -- you know, the meeting dates. This March deal
45 right here, this is kind of messing up what we're
46 supposed to be doing. I mean the boys are out there
47 and I'm here. We do a lot in March.
48

49 And sort of on the predator control
50

1 deal, we do it right from March 1st because it's just a
2 better time to do things. And we had a lot of plans
3 with Galena, Koyukuk, Nulato, Huslia, just forming this
4 little hunting thing just to target some of these areas
5 where these wolves are sitting. And they're just
6 sitting there on these moose. And they're not going to
7 go anywhere. When you're eating good, why go
8 somewhere.

9
10 Another -- one of the bigger things I'm
11 concerned about for a lot of the people there -- and
12 the fish -- you know, all the spawning grounds that a
13 lot of the places -- I was told by an elder a long time
14 ago when these places freeze, the creeks I'm talking
15 about the spawning ground, they freeze right to the
16 bottom. And they get flushed out in the springtime by
17 high water, it totally takes everything along with it
18 because of all the rumbling of the ice. If you ever go
19 to Gisasa and Kateel in the springtime and watch that
20 thing come out when it bust out with the amount of snow
21 you have, you will be amazed. What happens is it busts
22 out so much. And this is before the ice even melts or
23 goes out on the Koyukuk River. What happens is the
24 river busts out and it runs right on top of the Koyukuk
25 River. Whatever fish is up there, they used to, a long
26 time ago used to just go there with the dog teams and
27 pick up the fish right on the ice. But you can imagine
28 that that river is so powerful everything -- the river
29 is so powerful with all the water behind it, it just
30 flush all the chunks of ice right on top of the Koyukuk
31 River. So there goes all our, you know, spawning fish
32 and everything there.

33
34 There's other things here, but I just
35 kind of want to -- I just want to be thankful, you
36 know, that this -- we have this meeting.

37
38 And just when you go back to your
39 places make sure that you understood what we had to say
40 and we understood what you brought here. And when you
41 -- like Jenny said, by an older person, for what they
42 told me is that when you leave a meeting make sure that
43 you first -- that the guys that you went there to meet
44 understands you before you leave. And this is very --
45 not enough time to understand each other for our
46 points.

47
48 So that's just what I wanted to say.

49
50

1 I guess that's five minutes then, Jack.

2
3 (Laughter)

4
5 MR. KRISKA: Thank you.

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock.

10
11 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
12 mentioned several things, that other members did
13 mention.

14
15 First is, it's a quarter after 6:00,
16 and, again, we adopted the agenda, the time is from
17 9:00 to 5:00 p.m., and we agreed that we voted on that
18 to be here during that time. So firstly I think if we
19 pass 5:00 o'clock time we need to amend the agenda.
20 But that's -- we're in overtime now.

21
22 I think looking at this paper it says
23 agency reports, 15 minutes each unless approved in
24 advance. So the agencies have to be careful not to
25 take too much time. And I saw that yesterday that Game
26 Board proposals took a lot of time. One yesterday, the
27 Dalton Highway yesterday took over an hour, so that
28 needs to be considered, Jack and Karen.

29
30 But anyway, I'm glad to be here and
31 yesterday it was kind of crowded in this little room.
32 I miss the big room downstairs.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MR. SIMON: Yesterday, I couldn't even
37 walk to the coffee stand and for several us to get to
38 the coffee, I didn't get to drink much coffee
39 yesterday.

40
41 And also I'd like to mention, that we
42 had good Board members from Aniak, Holy Cross, and
43 Anvik, those guys, but we don't see anybody from there
44 no more. I know we talk about some issues that
45 concerns the areas so I wanted to mention, too, that we
46 need people from that area, that's a big area, that
47 area. It's supposed to be Shirley from Grayling, but
48 she didn't show up. Before we had Carl Morgan from
49 Aniak, and Walkers from Holy Cross, they were good

50

1 members. So that takes a lot of time when we have to
2 -- the issues are important, talking about their areas.
3 And like Tommy said earlier, we have to answer their
4 questions and it's not too good.

5

6 Well, I don't want to talk too much.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.

11

12 My closing comment would be I
13 appreciate the Council's diligence to stay during the
14 meeting and tough it out and make sure that we get
15 through the entire agenda. I mean it's -- 5:00 o'clock
16 is the proposed time, but we have no clue the amount of
17 -- well, we start getting into an issue how long that's
18 going to take. That's the variable of a meeting.
19 That's just the way it goes. But we do need to finish
20 the work, and we did, and I applaud the Council for
21 doing that.

22

23 I do appreciate all of the agency
24 people that stay and come to the meeting to assist us
25 to make sure that we get all of the correct information
26 and keep us up-to-date on all the various issues.
27 That's important for the Council members for their
28 ongoing education on what's going on in the science
29 world and we know what's going on in the traditional
30 world, we're on the ground. So that's very important
31 to have the Agency people here at these meetings.

32

33 And I really appreciate OSM support.
34 Without this program the Council couldn't meet, we
35 couldn't have our correspondence and all that stuff,
36 that's provided and so I appreciate Karen's work. She
37 works real, real hard for this Council and I appreciate
38 that.

39

40 So I'm looking forward to everybody
41 having a great summer, good spring, good hunting, good
42 fishing this summer. And we'll see you in the fall
43 after everybody's got their cache full.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Chairman will
48 make a -- take a.....

49

50

1 MS. PELKOLA: I'll make a motion to
2 adjourn.
3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to adjourn,
5 Jenny.
6
7 MR. GERVAIS: Second.
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tim.
10 Those in favor of adjournment, signify by saying aye.
11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.
13
14 (Off record)
15
16 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

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

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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 12th day of April 2020.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22