

SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Nome Mini-Convention Center
Nome, Alaska
March 11, 2020
9:07 a.m.

Members Present:

Tom Gray, Acting Chairman
Deahl Katchatag
Ronald Kirk
Lloyd Kiyutelluk
Leland Oyoumick
Charles Saccheus
Elmer Seetot

Regional Council Coordinator -Tom Kron (Acting)
Karen Deatherage/phone

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

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(Nome, Alaska - 3/11/2020)

4

5

(On record)

6

7

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: If I could get
everybody to stand I'd appreciate it. Take your hat
off. So I'm going to give the invocation.

10

11

(Invocation)

12

13

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Thank you. Okay,
so I'm going to call the meeting to order so we're
official. And I get to be the guy running the meeting.
Louis is -- he called me from Ruby yesterday saying
they're stuck -- they're not stuck, they're actually
moving again but him and his brother and nieces and so
on and so forth are driving snowmachines to Nome from
somewhere, and it's taken longer than they expected.
So I get to run the meeting, I guess. And bear with me
I've run a lot of meetings but I haven't run this
meeting in a long time. And if I step out of line you
can beat up on me a little bit be careful because
paybacks are.....

26

27

(Laughter)

28

29

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So can we
get a roll call. I don't know who's going to do the
roll call.

32

33

MR. SEETOT: Region 7. Lloyd
Kiyutelluk.

35

36

MR. KIYUTELLUK: Lloyd Kiyutelluk here.
Number 2 is vacant. Number 3, Louis Green is along the
trail. Thomas L. Gray.

39

40

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes, Sir.

41

42

MR. SEETOT: Deahl Katchatag.

43

44

MR. KATCHATAG: Here.

45

46

MR. SEETOT: Leland Oyoumick.

47

48

MR. OYOUMICK: Yep.

49

50

1 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, I'm here.
2
3 Charles Saccheus.
4
5 MR. SACCHEUS: Here.
6
7 MR. SEETOT: Ronald Kirk.
8
9 MR. KIRK: Here.
10
11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So, Mr. Secretary,
12 do we have a quorum.
13
14 MR. SEETOT: Yes.
15
16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I'm just picking on
17 him.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 MR. SEETOT: Oh, okay, we have seven in
22 attendance, Mr. Chair.
23
24 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. It sounds
25 like we have a quorum. So I welcome everybody, thank
26 you for being here. So we're going to introduce each
27 other and we'll start with Tom over here and come
28 around the table.
29
30 MR. KRON: Tom Kron, OSM. And Karen is
31 not feeling well so I'm up here to help to be your
32 coordinator and make sure everything goes well so jump
33 on me if we have any problems.
34
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36
37 MR. OYOUMICK: Leland Oyoumick. AKA
38 Boop from Unalakleet.
39
40 MR. SACCHEUS: Charles Saccheus, Sr.,
41 from Elim. Subsistence hunter and whatever, okay,
42 thank you.
43
44 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So I'm Tom Gray,
45 Vice Chair and I think everybody knows me.
46
47 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., Brevig
48 Mission.
49
50

1 MR. KATCHATAG: Doug Katchatag,
2 Unalakleet.
3
4 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Lloyd Kiyutelluk,
5 Shishmaref.
6
7 MR. KIRK: Ronald Kirk, Stebbins.
8
9 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: We're waiting on
10 you.
11
12 REPORTER: Oh, me, my name's Tina, I'm
13 the court reporter for this RAC.
14
15 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli, BIA,
16 Anchorage.
17
18 MS. VOORHEES: Hannah Voorhees. I'm
19 an anthropologist with Office of Subsistence
20 Management. Good morning.
21
22 MR. WHITFORD: Good morning. My name
23 is Tom Whitford. I'm the Regional Subsistence Leader
24 for the Forest Service. I just came up here to see how
25 the National Forests are grown up here -- kidding.
26
27 (Laughter)
28
29 MS. KOELSCH: Jeanette Koelsch,
30 National Park Service, Nome.
31
32 MS. BRAEM: Good morning. Nikki Braem,
33 National Park Service, Nome.
34
35 MR. THOMPSON: Mike Thompson, National
36 Park Service, Nome.
37
38 MR. ASHENFELTER: Roy Ashenfelter with
39 Kawarek in Nome.
40
41 MR. HARRIS: Frank Harris. I'm a fish
42 biologist with OSM.
43
44 MR. ADKISSON: Good morning. Ken
45 Adkisson, National Park Service, Nome.
46
47 MS. DAMBERG: Good morning, Council
48 Chair and Council members. My name is Carol Damberg.
49 I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator for the U.S.
50

1 Fish and Wildlife Service based out of Anchorage,
2 Alaska. Good to be here.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, I think
5 that's everybody. I thank all of you for coming and
6 showing up and being part of this meeting. If anybody
7 has any concerns about where they're at on the agenda
8 or anything let us know and we'll fix it. I got a big
9 hammer that says fix it.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So next thing is
14 review and adopt the agenda. So I'm going to go
15 through the agenda and we can do whatever.

16
17 So after review the agenda is election
18 of officers.

19
20 Review and approve previous meeting
21 minutes.

22
23 Reports from the Council members.

24
25 Chair's report.

26
27 Public and tribal comments on non-
28 agenda items.

29
30 Board of Game proposal results.

31
32 Fisheries Program Information.

33
34 Call for Federal Fish and Shell
35 proposals.

36
37 FY19 annual report.

38
39 Agency reports. And there's a whole
40 list of agencies.

41
42 Future meeting dates.

43
44 And closing comments.

45
46 So one thing I would like to address
47 before we move it is I suggest, because Louis' not
48 here, let's move the election of officers to the last
49 thing tomorrow. Louis said he's going to try and be
50

1 here tomorrow. And, you know, just to be -- I don't
2 want to say fair, but why don't we put that before the
3 future meeting date, election of officers.
4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.
6

7 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes, who is this?
8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
10 Deatherage, how are you guys?
11

12 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Oh, you're here,
13 I'm sorry.
14

15 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm on the phone and I
16 just want to make sure that things move through this
17 morning and I'd like to add a couple of recommendations
18 to the agenda with the Chair's permission.
19

20 Thank you.
21

22 MR. SEETOT: I'll make a motion first.
23

24 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Well, let's make
25 the motion to adopt the agenda as revised after we get
26 done revising the agenda.
27

28 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.
29

30 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. We're doing
31 a little sideline thing here, go ahead, Karen.
32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'd like to recommend
34 that we add the Norton Sound crab fisheries discussion
35 for tomorrow, the 12th of March. Charlie Lean will be
36 available and hopefully Member Green will be on hand to
37 have that discussion.
38

39 And I'd also like to recommend that you
40 add a climate change presentation by Rick Thoman, he's
41 with -- he's here in Fairbanks and he has an excellent
42 presentation where he'll focus on Norton Sound issues,
43 and he is available to present by phone at 11:00
44 o'clock today. And he will call in, and with Frank
45 Harris' help, run a PowerPoint for that presentation
46 after the Council member reports.
47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I'm playing
2 catch up. Climate change and that's Rick who?
3

4 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, that's at 11:00
5 o'clock today. In the meeting book, Mr. Chair, there
6 is a report on Alaska's changing environment. It has a
7 lot of good information to help Council member's
8 understand what scientists are seeing on the ground in
9 Alaska.
10

11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So climate
12 change, Rick somebody.
13

14 MR. SEETOT: 11:00 o'clock.
15

16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: 11:00 o'clock.
17

18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Rick Thoman and he
19 needs to present at 11:00 o'clock today or thereabouts
20 after the Council member reports.
21

22 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Go ahead,
23 Tom.
24

25 MR. KRON: Yeah, Karen, this is Tom.
26 As of this morning, 8:00 o'clock, we had not received
27 anything from Dr. Thoman, so, again, if he's going to
28 get us his presentation he'll have to do it soon.
29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Kron, through the
31 Chair. I do have a copy of that, it was sent to Frank
32 Harris and myself at 7:38 this morning. If Frank could
33 check his email to see if he could download it that
34 would be super.
35

36 Thank you.
37

38 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So you added
39 two things to the agenda. I moved the election of
40 officers. Is there any other items we need to add to
41 the agenda or delete or whatever?
42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: I would ask that you
44 delete the Board of Game update because I don't have
45 that information on hand, under old business. Again,
46 this is Karen Deatherage.
47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Any other
2 issues, things we need to change?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Is there a motion
7 to adopt the agenda as revised.

8
9 MR. KIYUTELLUK: So moved.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: There's a motion,
12 is there a second.

13
14 MR. KIRK: Second.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Is there a question
17 -- any discussion.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MR. KATCHATAG: Question.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Question's called.
24 All those in favor of adopting the agenda as revised
25 say aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: All those opposed,
30 same sign.

31
32 (No opposing votes)

33
34 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Very good. Okay.
35 So review and approve previous meeting minutes. We
36 must have meeting minutes in here, I'm going to give
37 you five or 10 minutes to review them and we'll come
38 back and either fix them or adopt them, whatever you
39 need to do.

40
41 (Pause)

42
43 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Anybody see
44 anything that's out of line?

45
46 (Pause)

47
48 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes.

49
50

1 MS. KOELSCH: Chair.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes.

4

5 MS. KOELSCH: This is Jeanette Koelsch.
6 I was at the meeting but I forgot to sign in. So I
7 don't know if I can be added to the minutes, or added
8 to the attendee list.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep. Yep. We'll
11 add you.

12

13 MS. KOELSCH: Thank you. Sorry,
14 sometimes I forget to sign in.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I didn't even
17 -- okay.

18

19 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Make a motion to
20 approve the agenda -- meeting minutes from October
21 meeting.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And adding Jeanette
24 to it.

25

26 MR. KIYUTELLUK: With Jeanette as an
27 addition to the attendance.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Is there a
30 second.

31

32 MR. SEETOT: Second.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Motion and a
35 second. Any discussion on the meeting minutes.

36

37 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes.

40

41 MR. SEETOT: Correction on Page 5 under
42 my listing. It says Cape Dirk, it should be Cape York,
43 on Page 5.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Cape York.

46

47 MR. SEETOT: Yeah. Pretty much middle
48 of the page under my report.

49

50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Cape York, Y-O-R-K.

2

3 MR. SEETOT: Fourth line down, it says
4 Cape Dirk, that's the only addition I see there, thank
5 you.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Anybody else have
8 any comments or corrections.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: If not is
13 there.....

14

15 MR. SEETOT: Question.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Question's called.
18 All in favor of adopting the revised minutes say aye.

19

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: All opposed, same
23 sign.

24

25 (No opposing votes)

26

27 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I hear that
28 telephone thing dinging and beeping and stuff, do we
29 have somebody new on line. Karen are you still there?

30

31 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, I got dropped but
32 I'm back.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Is there
37 anybody else on the teleconference.

38

39 MR. BURCH: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
40 This is Mark Burch from the Department of Fish and
41 Game.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Very good. Thank
44 you for attending.

45

46 Okay, so now we're to Council reports
47 and at this time each Board member will give a little
48 spiel about what they saw in the last year, or last
49 season.

50

1 Tom.

2

3 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. At some point we
4 need to do election of officers, we do that every
5 winter cycle.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So when we adopted
8 the agenda.....

9

10 MR. KRON: We're going to move it to
11 the end.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY:we moved it
14 down until tomorrow.

15

16 MR. KRON: Got it. Got it.
17 Understand. Remember. Thank you.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah. So, Leland,
20 do you want to start us off.

21

22 MR. OYOUMICK: Good morning. I'm
23 Leland Oyoumick from Unalakleet.

24

25 Our year at Unalakleet was pretty good
26 except the weather was kind of cold. And we had lots
27 of people who were catching smelts and they're now
28 going after trouts up the river.

29

30 But the quota for moose was met.

31

32 I don't know, we had good fishing.
33 There was kings for once and it was nice.

34

35 Not much really, just -- I don't know,
36 we got to look into trying to find where this cancer
37 stuff is showing up because our people are still
38 getting cancer and I really know -- I really think and
39 I really believe it's from the food they eat and all
40 the food they get is from the land.

41

42 So I don't have much else to say, but,
43 thank you.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Charles.

46

47 MR. SACCHEUS: Well, I'm from Elim. My
48 name is Charles Saccheus.

49

50

1 And I work -- usually work with the
2 Alaska Beluga Whaling Committee. And when we count our
3 beluga, Eastern Norton Sound usually have about maybe
4 36 to 50,000 beluga in the bay and from Bald Head,
5 Isaacs Point on down to Cape Darby, those beluga always
6 come there every year and there's tons and tons of
7 beluga -- I mean tomcod and that's their main diet,
8 tomcod and shrimps. And every time we get beluga we
9 open their stomachs and see what they eat. Most of the
10 time they have them little shrimps and tomcods. In
11 spring time when the herring come, those belugas go
12 after the -- they don't go after the herring, they just
13 leave them alone, but they'd rather eat tomcod and
14 shrimps. But anyway our beluga, there's quite a bit
15 out in the bay when they count them. They never count
16 them for at least five years. And the way I look at
17 it, every spring we see thousands of beluga right in
18 front of Elim when the ice go out and tomcod start
19 rolling in from Cape Darby. And there's quite a few
20 tomcod between Cape Darby and that Bald Head, this side
21 of Koyuk, that's where them beluga always hang out all
22 the time. The big males and females are outside and
23 the -- further inside, those animals, them beluga are
24 pretty smart, they let their -- they stay on the
25 outside so the -- kind of watch for killer whales and
26 so -- and them young little grey ones, there's maybe
27 hundreds of them on the outside eating tomcod. Spring
28 time they don't eat herring, they never, but they eat
29 -- they eat -- their main diet is tomcod and shrimps
30 and our beluga is kind of -- you go -- there's plenty
31 of them out there if you know how to count them. If
32 you fly around with an airplane, twin engine -- once in
33 awhile we go out there and count them and there's quite
34 a bit but they're in different spots, mostly from Cape
35 Darby on up to Ball -- I mean that Bald Head, at --
36 this side of Koyuk.

37
38 So only thing that happened is that
39 Kotzebue had quite a time catching beluga up there last
40 year, last few years, and every time we have beluga
41 meetings they always stand up and mention that ever
42 since you -- they start using high powered motors and
43 them beluga don't like that high pitch sound on prop
44 and they always just go straight out -- straight out to
45 the ocean away from the noise. And anyway our beluga
46 are pretty -- population is pretty healthy but I don't
47 -- kind of don't care how they go out and shoot at the
48 beluga, whole bunch of boats, I mean I don't like it.
49 It has a -- kind of cripples some of the beluga and
50

1 they don't last too long out there when they're
2 crippled. And I wish some of the villages would get
3 together and -- and we talk about it all the time when
4 we have IRA council meetings because I -- I work with
5 the beluga with the National Marine Fisheries Service
6 for maybe 20 years and they're really afraid of them
7 high pitch props. They hurt their ears and those
8 beluga are pretty intelligent animals and you got to
9 respect them even if you want them.

10

11 Don't -- don't get any more than --
12 beluga than you can handle otherwise it'll just go to
13 waste. We got to kind of conserve our fish and game
14 and our sea mammals.

15

16 But anyway they're going to be open
17 pretty soon them belugas are going to come back and
18 start feeding on tomcods and shrimp.

19

20 But anyway I hope everybody have a good
21 beluga season this year, this fall -- I mean, yeah,
22 this summer and this fall. And best time to get beluga
23 is when the salmon first come in. Don't go out to the
24 high seas and go look for them belugas because they're
25 pretty damn smart. They'll out smart you. If there's
26 ice around, you don't even go after them, they know
27 where to go and if there's a lot of ice around they go
28 hide amongst the ice but anyway hope everybody have a
29 good beluga season this summer and this fall.

30

31 And me and my brother -- me and my
32 brother always go out there and hunt and we always
33 listen to my grandpa how to hunt the beluga. And most
34 of the time we go out my brother shoot five times get
35 five beluga, every time, and that's pretty -- you got
36 to know how to do it though, you can't -- you can't put
37 your out board motor -- when you get close to them, you
38 can't put them all the way and make that high pitch
39 sound, they'll go under and they'll disappear and
40 they'll just come up with their blow holes, you know,
41 and there's 50 or 100 beluga out there, they'll just
42 come up with their blow holes, even them young ones,
43 they always go on their mother's back and ride their
44 mother. Even sometimes you see three of them with
45 their mother, on their backs, when there's a lot of
46 boats shooting around, they're afraid of that noise,
47 high noise.

48

49 Anyway, I hope you guys have a good

50

1 season, this summer, this fall, if you go hunt beluga
2 and good luck.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So I'm Tom
5 Gray.

6
7 Charlie talks about beluga and I'm the
8 Chairman of the Beluga Whale Committee in Alaska. And
9 we had a survey in 2017 and came up with Norton Sound,
10 Yukon beluga whales, 9,200 whales. And we are on -- on
11 Sunday I start traveling to some villages to talk about
12 hunters coming together and putting together a
13 management plan for beluga whales. And this is going
14 to be a plan for Norton Sound and Yukon people, and the
15 plan will be how are we going to manage these 9,200
16 whales, Norton Sound and Yukon whales. It's -- we're
17 hoping -- even though I'm the Chairman of the Alaska
18 Beluga Whale Committee, it's not going to be their
19 management plan, it's going to be the hunter's
20 management plan. And I mean if the hunters take hold
21 of it and run it'll come together, if they don't, it's
22 not going to happen. So we're kind of in a serious
23 time to talk about it, you know, our intent is to have
24 the hunters manage the whales and not the bureaucrats,
25 so to speak. We don't need people in Washington
26 telling us how to manage whales that we live on.

27
28 So anyway that's that.

29
30 Moose hunting. You know, I think those
31 that live around here realize how fast moose hunting
32 happens nowadays. It opens and it should be open for
33 two weeks and a lot of times it's over with in a few
34 days.

35
36 Bear hunting, everybody and their
37 brother thinks there's tons and tons of bears out
38 there. I'm a hunting guide and I have different views.
39 But that's -- you know, through bear hunting, I live
40 out hunting bears all fall so I see a different picture
41 than most people. And one thing to think about is
42 everybody and their brother wants to shoot a bear and
43 they want to shoot the biggest badest bear around and
44 how does that affect the society within the bears. You
45 start killing off all the big ones, the big ones kill
46 the cubs, and the cubs -- the female will cycle again
47 and get pregnant again and it's kind of a vicious
48 cycle, well that element is being taken out of this
49 process. So anyway I don't want to dwell on bears

50

1 because I won't win that fight.

2

3 Anyway, crabbing. Crabbing has been a
4 real downhill slide issue. In fact, this winter --
5 last summer, first off, they ended up not getting their
6 quota. They had a quota of 150,000 or something,
7 pounds, and they only got 80,000 pounds and they shut
8 it down. This winter there's a bunch of politics going
9 on right now trying to shut this crab fishery down and
10 it did not get shut down. And we're going to talk more
11 about that as we get into the meeting. Charlie Lean
12 sent me a text a minute ago, he said he's free to talk.
13 He didn't plan on getting here until the noon flight
14 tomorrow and we have him on the agenda to address what
15 he would like to do so we may have to think about
16 getting him on the teleconference today, especially if
17 we're ramming stuff through and think we're going to
18 get done early to get some of these guys that need to
19 go back to Anchorage on the plane at noon tomorrow. So
20 anyway, crabbing has been pretty dismal.

21

22 You know, fishing, gosh, fishing is --
23 I can't say it's been phenomenal but it's been better.
24 We've had better fishing. And I'm a fishing guide so
25 it'll probably never be what I want it to be but that's
26 life.

27

28 You know, the weather has been
29 different. We're in changing times. A year ago we sat
30 here and talked about how the weather was so dramatic
31 and now we talk about it and we're back to 30 below and
32 on and on so what's going on, I don't know. You know
33 we're kind of back to normal. We've had three or four
34 years of more snow than we want, high river waters, the
35 water never went down in my river last year. It got so
36 hot there was lots of algae last year that it was
37 affecting the fish. So it's -- we are in changing
38 times.

39

40 And what else can I say.

41

42 Wolves. You know, we need to get rid
43 of wolves. Everybody complains about bears and doesn't
44 say anything about wolves and wolves are 100 times
45 worse than bear as far as I'm concerned. I had a
46 reindeer herd, I saw the negative impacts of a wolf.

47

48 So anyway, I'm going to pass the buck,
49 somebody else is going to talk about things I should

50

1 have talked about.

2

3

Elmer.

4

5

MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

What I was going to report, what I wrote down, I pretty much kind of reported at the last meeting.

7

8

9

Ice froze at pretty much the proper time I think, this -- this year after a long hot summer tomcod fishing wasn't too hot back home due to ice not freezing up at the proper time. One thing that I notice about weather change or climate change is that what they're talking about, beluga, we're seeing them in our area now. I mean about this time they kind -- they used to kind of pass further out in the Bering Sea, now we're able to harvest them, especially during the early spring or I -- I heard that they passed through our shores in late November, so things are pretty much changing at a rapid pace.

20

21

22

Caribou has not really been harvested by our people in Brevig and Teller. One, is snow conditions are not -- not too much on the ground, and weather played a big factor in that the end of December to kind of present now that we have had temperatures below zero, so that's a big change from what I've seen during the past five years.

28

29

30

I think the conditions are reverting back to normal like Tom is saying and hopefully that will be able to repair and mend what -- you know, the marine ecosystem, we've had too much warm weather, producing lots of rain, resulting in less berries and fish not drying up.

35

36

37

Salmon went through their normal cycle, I guess starting with the kings. The kings, the reds, humpies, the chums, and the silvers.

38

39

40

41

Unlike Tom on bear hunting, him hunting bears, in his area, in our area we talk about bears, that's about it. We rarely hunt bears. And then I noticed that there are many bears in and around Grantley Harbor, Imuruk Basin area. Port Clarence, Imuruk Basin are shallow waters and with that unrelenting sun bearing down on the waters it produces warm water and hopefully our fish will be able to survive these waters going up -- going up the Kuzitrin,

48

49

50

1 going up the Agiapuk, going -- going to Salmon Lake to
2 spawn so -- so I think that's one of the main concerns
3 that we -- that we need to talk about, is that warming
4 waters affecting the fish that we depend on.
5

6 We have had algae in Imuruk Basin for
7 as long as I can remember but it's getting more
8 frequent, you know, I even see it in our backyard algae
9 forming due to the puddles of water warmed up by the
10 sun so -- so that's something that we're constantly
11 looking at.
12

13 Other than that I have not -- nothing
14 much to say.
15

16 Thank you, very much.
17

18 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Doug.
19

20 MR. KATCHATAG: I'm Doug Katchatag from
21 Unalakleet.
22

23 My main concern right now is about gold
24 mining. They want to -- BLM has proposed gold mining
25 in the North River, head of the North River and also
26 the Golsovia River. And if this happens, all we have
27 to do is look at Columbia River, how many years they
28 went without fish and how many years was their land all
29 torn up. And if that happens in Unalakleet, all our
30 fish that goes up the main river will be killed.
31 That's the biggest concern I have. It's not only our
32 salmon, but our trout, our tomcods and everything else
33 that we depend on.
34

35 As for the ocean, sea mammals, that's
36 another big concern because I hunted all my life out in
37 the ocean and knowing that the ocean is contaminated,
38 it's putting cancer into our sea mammals and I'm afraid
39 that that's where we're getting our cancer from. Sea
40 mammals that we're not sure where to detect the cancer.
41 And I'm afraid it might be infecting the fish also.
42 The fish may have cancer, I'm not sure but knowing how
43 contaminated our ocean is, I would imagine so.
44

45 As far land hunting, we have a lot of
46 moose. We have more moose than we ever had in years,
47 so -- and besides that our -- the Federal Fish and Game
48 opened their moose season in the middle part of August
49 and it's always way too hot, the moose are still up in
50

1 the hills. During the Federal subsistence hunt there
2 was only one moose caught and I would like to see the
3 season for moose open the 15th of September for Federal
4 Fish and Game. That's when the big bulls starts coming
5 off the hills.

6
7 Let's see what else -- that's about all
8 I have.

9
10 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Lloyd Kiyutelluk from
11 Shishmaref.

12
13 I'll start with our last spring hunt.
14 We did pretty good. We got our bearded seal, oogruks
15 and walrus. I was out of state when they were walrus
16 hunting. My brother said they had to go 40 to 50 miles
17 out to go to the ice, they got the walrus but he said
18 coming back was a little dangerous, it started getting
19 rough on everybody. But we go with our boats together
20 so we're not alone.

21
22 And as far as fall hunting, we get our
23 caribou, moose as usual but with the warming weather,
24 the moose come down later, that freeze up and snow
25 don't come until almost November so we don't see our
26 moose like we do before falltime.

27
28 And with this winter, our ice finally
29 froze, which we're happy we'll hunt in the ocean with
30 snowmachines, we didn't do that for years. It -- with
31 the lack of snow within the last three weeks, they
32 finally started hunting caribou. So with no snow
33 conditions it was too dangerous to go out in the
34 country because we got a lot of those tussocks that we
35 got in our tundra that's too dangerous for our
36 snowmachines.

37
38 Other than that we had pretty good
39 successful year and I hope everybody have the same
40 thing again this spring.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. KIRK: Hi, Ron Kirk. Stebbins.

45
46 We had a late freezeup in our area so
47 tomcod fishing wasn't too good. But we were able to
48 gather some tomcods when the tide went out. They all
49 got jammed into this little river and everybody was
50

1 over there just dipnetting tomcods which was good.

2

3 We're having problems with wolves.
4 Like Tom say everybody's talking about bears but
5 nobody's talking about wolves. The wolves -- they've
6 been spotting wolf in my village for the past two
7 weeks, three weeks. My snowmachine was down. I
8 changed my bearings and got it running, and now that my
9 snowmachine's running I don't know where the wolves
10 are, I've been looking for them. I tracked them. I
11 tracked them and they were tracking 2 moose, and this
12 is only like two miles from my village, right in my
13 back yard. So the moose are coming down from the
14 mountains and the wolves are coming down to Stebbins
15 area. I am pretty sure they are having an impact on
16 our reindeer. Our reindeer herd should be over 10,000
17 strong. Right now the young boys are going out to
18 gather some reindeer for our upcoming potlatch, which
19 is this coming Friday, I'm one of the leaders of the
20 drumming down there.

21

22 As far as marine mammals go, I stated
23 in my last report that we had carcasses washing up last
24 summer. I hope that doesn't happen again this summer.

25

26 But hunting seals last fall and young
27 oogruks was successful, but some of the carcasses were
28 -- they still had them sores on them, they weren't
29 edible so they just let them be.

30

31 And we had some beluga wash up -- dead
32 beluga wash up during the fall.

33

34 We had this high wind, which washed up
35 our shore ice right up to the beach. It almost -- if
36 we didn't have heavy equipment, it would have smashed
37 one home, because we had to get the heavy equipment
38 there to stop the ice from smashing the home due to
39 high water.

40

41 So other than that we're trying our
42 best to survive with this climate change which is
43 affecting the whole state of Alaska, not only our area.

44

45 And I agree with him about mining. I
46 don't like this mining idea. I brought it up that last
47 time we had that meeting with BLM. I was concerned
48 about the whitefish because the whitefish are heading
49 up the Yukon River into the headwaters and once that

50

1 mining affects that headwaters, we're going to not only
2 lose the salmon we're going to lose our whitefish
3 because that's where they go up to spawn. They got to
4 the headwaters and spawn. We'll not only lose the
5 salmon and the fish, but these people living near the
6 mining, they're going to lose their fresh drinking
7 water, and all marine mammals, human beings, animals
8 that walk the planet, we all need fresh drinking water.
9 So mining is a big concern.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Well, thank
14 you everybody -- thank you all. Did anybody have any
15 second thoughts before we move on, something they
16 wanted to say and forgot to say.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: You can come up to
21 the mic and ask a question.

22

23 MS. PARLOW: No, I just wanted.....

24

25 REPORTER: Yes, if you're going to talk
26 you need to come on up.

27

28 MS. PARLOW: Well, I'm nervous.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: That's all right, I
31 like to make people nervous.

32

33 MR. KIRK: You need to turn your mic
34 on.

35

36 REPORTER: The button in the middle.

37

38 MS. PARLOW: So are you hearing me now.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Who you are, where
41 you come from before you start.

42

43 MS. PARLOW: Yeah, so my name's Anita
44 Parlow. Last year I worked on a project with the Port
45 of Nome, the ice is melting, oil gas mining, shipping
46 heating up, so what are we going to do, and I'm now
47 back here to write an article actually on warming
48 issues and the impacts on subsistence over in Savoonga,
49 in particular, and my question is:

50

1 It's remarkable what you've all been
2 saying, it's breathtaking, actually. And I wonder, to
3 what extent -- you talked about the last five years and
4 now it's kind of almost like back to normal from before
5 that, what are the dynamics of -- how different now,
6 and is now an anomaly from the last five years, and is
7 the last five or 10 years an anomaly from before that.
8 In other words, what -- what have you been sort of
9 dealing with as the changes occur and.....

10
11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So.....

12
13 ANITA:how -- it sounds pretty
14 dramatic to an outsider.....

15
16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So okay -- so.....

17
18 ANITA:so is it dramatic.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. What I'm
23 going to do is we're here for a meeting.

24
25 ANITA: Sorry.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. And you're
28 going to have plenty of opportunity. We could sit here
29 and talk for an hour on this issue but we just don't
30 have time.

31
32 ANITA: Okay, apologize.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I think you need to
35 corner as we take breaks and stuff.....

36
37 ANITA: Thank you.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR GRAY:corner people
40 and get your questions answered.

41
42 ANITA: Appreciate much. Sorry --
43 sorry to disturb.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Thank you.

46
47 MR. OYOUMICK: Not a problem.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So the next
50

1 thing on the agenda is the Chair's report and to be
2 honest until a day ago I didn't know I was going to be
3 the acting Chair, I so I really don't have a report.
4 You heard what my thoughts are in the Nome area just
5 recently but, again, I don't have a report.
6

7 You know, if anything jumps out that
8 this region is kind of up in arms about it's the
9 crabbing issue. And you know I guess one thing that we
10 need to recognize is whether it's a State or it's the
11 Feds, subsistence is the bottom line, and we need to
12 protect subsistence. So, you know, there's a lot of
13 politics going around Nome right now about crabbing,
14 and I would hope that agencies, whether State or Fed,
15 recognize that we all have a mission in life and the
16 bottom line is protect subsistence, which I don't think
17 that's happening right now.
18

19 The other issue on this crabbing thing
20 is Feds beware, because I called Karen and asked Karen
21 to make sure somebody's at the Board of Fish to testify
22 what the Feds stand is and -- and once we get too low
23 in this crab fishery the Feds have to take it over. We
24 don't have a choice. And I told Karen I'm going to
25 shove it right down the Feds throat. If they don't
26 want to get up and testify and be part of the solution
27 today, when it comes time tomorrow and our numbers are
28 too low, Tom Gray's going to be screaming and hollering
29 you better take it over.
30

31 So I just wanted to make sure that's
32 clear.
33

34 Roy, you had a comment.
35

36 MR. ASHENFELTER: Mr. Chair. In your
37 package, Page 12 through 15 is the Chair's report from
38 Louis Green, Jr., writing a letter to Ted Spraker and
39 he's talking in those pages, the moose proposal -- the
40 Board of Game action on the different proposals that
41 they took up in January of this year here in Nome. I
42 don't believe that's all the proposals, but just to
43 point out that whenever you get time there is a Chair's
44 report from Louis.
45

46 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, thank you,
47 Roy. I'm glad you pointed that out.
48

49 And, you know, keep in mind this --
50

1 Louis' report didn't address -- I'm sure it doesn't
2 address the crab issue and this crab issue surfaced
3 just recently so, again, it's -- I don't think it's
4 going to be a small issue that goes away. I think
5 we're going to see this come back to this Board time
6 and time again and if nothing else Tom Gray's going to
7 say, I want to see it on the agenda, where are we at,
8 how are we doing, where are we in being forced to take
9 it over, are numbers coming back. It looks pretty
10 dismal. The trawl surveys and everything. And we'll
11 hear more about that but it looks pretty dismal right
12 now.

13
14 So, okay, you guys have this Page 12 to
15 15. You can take a couple minutes and look that over
16 and then we'll move on on our agenda. I'm not good at
17 reading stuff so I'm not going to read it, if you want
18 to read it, that's fine. Of course we could make Tom
19 read it.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Come on now.

24
25 Okay, I'm going to take a break, you
26 got five minutes and you can read this thing, or go
27 have a cigarette, cup of coffee, whatever, and then
28 we're going to come back and start on the next thing on
29 the agenda.

30
31 (Off record)

32
33 (On record)

34
35 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I'll call us back
36 to order again. I've asked Charlie Lean to get on the
37 phone with us, he's in Anchorage, I think. So what
38 we'll do is have Charlie explain what's going on with
39 the crab issue. And I think Roy will smile.

40
41 But, anyway, Charlie are you there?

42
43 MR. LEAN: I am, yep.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So, Charlie,
46 you got the floor then.

47
48 MR. LEAN: Okay, thank you. I'm
49 Charlie Lean. I'm the Chair of the Northern Norton

50

1 Sound Advisory Committee. Roy was at our -- you know,
2 the former Chair and was at this Board of Fisheries
3 meeting with me while we were talking to the Board on
4 crab issues, shellfish issues.
5

6 So I think everybody probably in the
7 room is aware that there's just very few decent size
8 crab in Norton Sound at this time. If you've been out
9 trying to crab or know anybody that has they've
10 probably complained that they just can't find anything.
11

12 So, you know, we were start to hear
13 rumblings of this over a year ago and then we -- when I
14 started digging into the numbers we realized that it
15 was even worse than I had thought and I showed it to
16 the Advisory Committee and what we're seeing is that
17 the number of eggs on the female crab are less than
18 half of what's normal. In other words, the eggs that
19 don't get fertilized, they fall off the crab. When a
20 male and female crab mate, the fertilized eggs get
21 sticky and they adhere to the underside of the female
22 crab and she carries them for about 11 months until
23 they hatch but if they don't get fertilized they just
24 wash off. And that's what happens.
25

26 And that, to me, is the red line and as
27 it turns out, to the Board of Fisheries, that was the
28 red line.
29

30 So we went to the Board of Fish,
31 actually in February -- early February and wrote a
32 letter -- a petition to them to please close commercial
33 fishing in Norton Sound and they took it up immediately
34 but nobody told us and Fish and Game Staff, all the way
35 from headquarters down to the area office kind of
36 dismissed it and said, oh, they don't know how to read
37 graphs, misinterpreted the data, yes, that's our data
38 but, you know, they don't -- they didn't do it right.
39 And we went to this Board meeting armed with a lot of
40 graphs and we talked non-stop, so we testified to the
41 limits and talked to various Board members and
42 basically after a lot of legalistic BS, they heard us,
43 you know, and a day later they heard us -- had a
44 discussion with us again and then another day later
45 they took up our proposal, but decided that somehow it
46 hadn't been correctly done so then we got the -- the
47 issue got tabled to the very end of the meeting. So
48 the last thing in the meeting, we're sitting there
49 chewing our fingernails and we went back and forth a
50

1 little bit but we -- we put in some substitute language
2 and clause number 3 was to close the season for a year
3 and when the -- when the Board voted on whether or not
4 to accept that clause in the motion, there was one
5 Board member that made a motion to delete that clause
6 and all the other Board members turned around and
7 looked at him and there was dead silence and the motion
8 died for lack of a second. And then they voted in no
9 time flat to support the closure of the commercial
10 fishery in 2020.

11

12 So that's just for 2020.

13

14 But what's going to happen here in 2020
15 is that -- also that law won't take effect until about
16 the end of April so that means the winter fishery is
17 technically open, the winter commercial fishery is
18 technically open until some time in April but it means
19 the summer season is closed. This did not affect
20 subsistence, subsistence is -- if you want to go
21 subsistence fishing you may, I just don't think you'll
22 do very well but that's up to the individual, if they
23 want to go subsistence fishing have at it. And our new
24 regulation closes east of 167, so that's basically from
25 Sledge Island east. So this in no way affects anything
26 up in the, you know, doesn't really affect Wales or
27 Diomedes or St. Lawrence Island.

28

29 So then exactly what I was trying to
30 say is there's a review going on of some -- of a crab
31 management model, that Fish and Game depended heavily
32 on to make, what we think is a bad decision, and that
33 model is being totally redone. And the first critique
34 of that will occur in April, in late April. And we
35 anticipate and I guess are even hopeful that when they
36 consider the female information that scared the heck
37 out of me, the fact that there is no babies being made
38 and the fact that there's virtually no legal sized
39 crab, you know, they have to reconsider their model
40 because that's not what the model says. So we're
41 hopeful that, you know, by next December there'll be a
42 new model, that Fish and Game will, you know, be told
43 by numerous authorities that the old model was wrong
44 and they should get on board on this new model.

45

46 I guess for those of you that are
47 thinking about the crab, the situation is pretty poor.
48 We don't anticipate very many crab growing to legal
49 size at all this year. A number of them will grow and
50

1 become just under legal size this year. And then in
2 2021 we should start to see a few crab reach legal size
3 but not very many. 2022 we should see more reach legal
4 size. 2023 even more. There's this wave of
5 recruitment that's going to -- it's really going to
6 kick in in about 2023. So that's the point we're
7 really, in many people's mind, the commercial fishery
8 should reopen. So we need to kind of watch that.
9

10 Subsistence fishers, you know, they're
11 not confined by legal size and, really, the truth is
12 that many of us eat crab that are not quite legal size
13 and so that -- you should see things start to turn
14 around here in another year or two. But I mean for the
15 short term, right now, the majority of the crab out
16 there are about two and a two and half inch diameter
17 crab across the back and, you know, that means you're
18 picking the meat out of the legs with a toothpick, it's
19 pretty -- not desirable. You know, I think, speaking
20 as a subsistence fisherman myself, I'd much rather eat
21 a larger crab.
22

23 Anyway, that's it in a nutshell.
24

25 And it took a lot of talking and Roy
26 Ashenfelter, Jacob Ivanoff, both for the subsistence
27 fishers and to a little extent I did, but NSEDC Staff
28 was there too, Wes Jones and Scott Kent, myself, we
29 played the scientists and it was close but we closed
30 the fishery for this 2020 season.
31

32 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Well, Charlie, that
33 really sounds good to me. I'm, again, Tom Gray's a
34 little frustrated because I grew up in Nome as a kid,
35 and handlined as a kid, and in recent years, you know,
36 trying to compete with the commercial fishery for the
37 last 20 years has been just frustrating. And, you
38 know, I seen a huge difference in what subsistence
39 crabbers catch and it was rather shocking to go out on
40 the ice years ago and see all the commercial pots in
41 the middle of winter, I didn't expect that.
42

43 So I think the big thing with me
44 sitting here at this table, my big concern is
45 subsistence crabbing for our people. And, you know,
46 with this shutdown going to happen, and ironically it's
47 not going to take effect until April, there's got to be
48 something that this Board can do.
49
50

1 And, Karen, are you still with us?

2

3

4

MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

5

6

7

8

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So I'm going to --
I'm fishing for ideas, what can we do as a Board
to.....

9

10

MR. LEAN: Mr. Chair.

11

12

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes.

13

14

15

MR. LEAN: This is Charlie. So I gave
you the short version.

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

There's a couple of things you ought to
be aware of. NSEDC has financed an MSE analysis, so
what that is is that's hiring a third-party contractor
to critique crab management and suggest positive
changes. So that -- because we're the buying industry
we realize that, you know, we can't be unbiased so
we're making a contract with the University of
Washington and some big wheel consultants to do that.
So that's one positive things that's happened.

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The other angle on that is we are going
to write letters to the crab planning team that meets
in April I told you is trying to build that model and
we're going to write and say, have you looked at the
female data. You've been collecting all this data for
years and you only look at the male portion of it, so
what about the females and we're going to ask about,
you know, can you give us an answer about what you're
doing. And thirdly, unrelated to that, the Southern
Norton Sound Advisory Committee, and to some extent
Fish and Game are considering permanently closing the
winter commercial fishery. And they're worried about
the high pot loss rate, and also the damage that's done
by hand -- we call it handling mortality, people bring
crab up on the ice and sort through them and then
eventually return the unwanted crab to the water, but,
in the process those crab get frostbitten and even
though they may be alive when they go back in the
water, they may be mortally injured.

46

47

48

49

So that's one of the ideas that's
floating around, and that was originally proposed by
Southern Norton Sound AC.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So, again, you
2 know, I think because the fishery, if it falls too low
3 and the numbers get to a certain point, the Feds, at
4 some point are going to have to jump in and take over
5 management. And because of this, I think this Board
6 needs to take a stand in writing or something to help
7 this recruitment of crabs, you know, to reestablish
8 enough numbers that it's sustainable for our
9 subsistence users. Right now I don't believe we have a
10 sustainable fishery even for our subsistence users.

11
12 I'm a little bit concerned, Charlie,
13 that west of Sledge Island is still open and they can
14 have a crab fishery even in the summertime it sounds
15 like.

16
17 MR. LEAN: Yeah, that's where the blue
18 king crab live, not the red king crab, and we didn't
19 feel comfortable closing that.

20
21 So to speak to your question about what
22 can you do, I think the proper thing, if you have a
23 concern like the sustainability, is to write to the
24 STC, the Scientific Technical Committee of the North
25 Pacific Council and they'll have a meeting in early
26 summer and explain that you don't believe the fishery
27 is sustainable and that, you know, escapement -- or --
28 not escapement, but the equivalent of that, the mature
29 male biomass is incredibly low, the lowest on record,
30 and you could -- that's where you'd insert into the
31 North Pacific Council process to have them either take
32 over or to demand Fish and Game to shape up.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So, Karen, do you
35 have enough information now to -- if the Board makes a
36 recommendation to write a letter or whatever, do you
37 have enough information to address where we need to go
38 from here?

39
40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 If the Board makes a recommendation, a motion to send a
42 letter to the organization Charlie referenced, what I
43 would ask the Council to do is to confirm that they
44 are, if they are, in fact, in agreement with Mr. Lean's
45 assessment of the situation and then be as specific as
46 you can within the motion about what you would like to
47 see.

48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Roy had a
2 comment he wanted to add to this process here.
3

4 MR. ASHENFELTER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 My name is Roy Ashenfelter. I'm employed with Kawerak.
6

7 One of the things you could consider in
8 your motion is make the motion to write a letter to the
9 North Pacific Management Council, STC, and in your
10 motion, have Charlie Lean, or some biologist write it
11 so that it covers the important issues that the
12 Council, the North Pacific Council needs to hear about.
13 You then -- what I would do -- what I have done with
14 the AC's, since many times was not the expert in some
15 of these decisionmaking processes, I would then get the
16 letter, and I did this for the caribou herd working
17 group, too, is if there was a biological issue, I would
18 have the biologist write the issues down, and then I
19 would circulate that with the Council members and say,
20 this is the letter that's going to go to the North
21 Pacific Fishery Management Council, it covers the
22 specific things that would require the Council to
23 consider in a way that's helpful to -- trying to get
24 notice that this crab fishery is very poor and that
25 there has to be some recruitment. And in this letter,
26 Charlie or somebody, even that independent person that
27 they've hired out of Seattle, would write pertinent
28 information in there that would be helpful to making
29 sure that the STC understands what's going on and try
30 to get support that way.
31

32 So that would be my recommendation, is
33 that you make the motion pertinent to working with
34 biologist -- of crab biologists to come up with the
35 information and then once it's there you circulate it
36 among Council members to say this is it, you have --
37 what I've done before, just so it don't sit out there
38 all the time because you have Council members from all
39 our villages, you have three days to respond, something
40 like that, and if you don't respond within three days
41 it's going -- your non-response is going to be in
42 consideration to support this, because you need action
43 right away, you need verification right away. And
44 since I was working on the caribou working group, we
45 had members all the way from Barrow all the way to St.
46 Michael and so that was the way I did that. Notifying
47 the Council members that that's the way it's going to
48 be done so it's not a surprise that after three days if
49 they don't get a response, that that's, you know, the
50

1 intent there is to get a response back from everyone to
2 encourage what their thinking is and then if there is a
3 point or disagreement, great, then you have a chance to
4 dialogue with that person.

5

6

But that's my recommendation.

7

8

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So I'm not
9 sure, does everybody -- do all the Board members
10 understand what's going on and do you need
11 clarification on anything?

12

13

Leland.

14

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22

(Laughter)

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So red king crab females actually shed
their shells to exclude their eggs, so if you catch a
female crab and you tear it open you'll notice there's
kind of a very dark purple or black mass inside the
body and those are the undeveloped eggs, that's the
ovaries, so when they shed their shells and pull up a
large females they shed their shell in late February,
early March. And if you're a first time, just now
become mature female it's a month later, so we're
talking March, April. So, anyway, they shed their
shell, within three days they have to squirt their eggs
out through two little pin holes, they're on the third
leg back on either side, right next to the body,
there's a little pin hole, if you catch a female crab
you can find that, it's called an ogolfor (ph), and
before -- before she squirts her eggs out, a male crab
comes up and it's called grasping, and they -- the male
crab grabs the female crab by the pinchers, by the

1 (indiscernible) and basically helps her out of her
2 shell and then the male crabs have that funny weird
3 little leg that tucks up inside their shell, that's
4 like another leg, that's real skinny, it's like a straw
5 and it's a -- they put a blob of sperm on the ogolfor,
6 on either side of the female, and then she squirts her
7 eggs through that sperm and like I said, if they get
8 fertilized and the eggs adhere to the feathery little
9 legs under the flap on the female's abdomen and if they
10 don't get fertilized they just blow away in the water.
11 And so then those eggs that are stuck to the female,
12 they sit there for about 11 months, until about
13 January, and then they hatch. And when they hatch
14 they're like a little shrimp only microscopic almost.
15 I mean you have to look at a crab egg to see how small
16 the little crab coming out of that egg is, it's tiny.
17 Three months later, April timeframe, those little
18 shrimps have now grown up a little bit, so now they're
19 half the size of a pea, little shrimpy things swimming
20 around and they go into this one week long life stage
21 that's called a megalopathoid (ph) and they rise and
22 fall in the water column and then -- and every day
23 they're on the bottom poking around trying to find a
24 piece of seaweed or a big rock to crawl under or
25 something, so that's called settling. And the little
26 crab settles hopefully in a place where he's protected
27 from predators, or she, and then they grow. And it
28 takes another five or six years for them to reach
29 sexual maturity. And so they grow by molting, by
30 shedding their shells. So little tiny crabs, you know,
31 they might molt five times in a year but by the time
32 they get to be sexually mature they only molt once a
33 year, so now we're talking crabs that are four inches
34 across the back.

35
36 Male crab become sexually mature at
37 about six years, female king crab become sexually
38 mature at about four years old, so there's a size
39 difference. Male crab are generally a little bit
40 bigger than female crab and as they get older the male
41 crabs live longer because the females put so much
42 energy into eggs that they don't grow much.

43
44 What's happened here in the last three
45 years is because there's so few big males, the little
46 crab just to reach sexual maturity are finding that
47 there's all kinds of female crab to mate with and so
48 they've put a lot of their energy into mating and
49 because they put so much energy into mating, they're
50

1 not growing. So one of the reasons is it can take
2 longer to recover from than it should, is because we're
3 already seeing about 10 percent of the best and legal
4 size crab, the sub-legals are skip molting because
5 they're too busy mating. So that compounds our
6 problem.

7

8

Are you still there?

9

10 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep, we are.

11

12 MR. LEAN: Okay. I thought maybe I
13 lost you.

14

15 So anyway when they don't grow then the
16 first crab that becomes legal, if you have a commercial
17 fishery or an intense fishery, let's say, then you kind
18 of select, genetically you're changing the genetic make
19 up of the crab and you could change the genetics of the
20 crab if you fish them hard right when there's no big
21 crab then you could make your population smaller. And
22 that was an issue in a tanner crab fishery at this
23 meeting in Homer that they had to change their legal
24 size, you know, half an inch smaller because those
25 crabs had been genetically selected smaller from
26 intense fishing.

27

28 So in thinking about subsistence
29 fishing and what's desirable and so forth, you know, it
30 seems to me that we don't want to limit subsistence
31 opportunity but when we talk about the availability of
32 subsistence crab, you don't want to be fishing on the
33 crab the size they are today, you want to be fishing on
34 crab that are, you know, like four inches across the
35 back or in that ball park, right. If you get them much
36 smaller than that, you're kind of -- you're working
37 really hard for a little bit of food.

38

39 So that might be a consideration for
40 you to throw around or talk to your friends about, you
41 know, what's too small, what size of crab do you think
42 is okay.

43

44 Anyway, I talk too much.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah, it's like me,
47 I talk too much too.

48

49 And I do think we need a dialogue at

50

1 some point, maybe in the fall meeting, to talk about
2 subsistence crabs, what do we expect for our
3 subsistence users to be looking for when they go
4 crabbing which will dictate the size of the biomass
5 that the commercial operators can cut it down to. You
6 know, I -- some day they're going to be commercial
7 fishing again and I hate to see us go into this low,
8 low situation that we're in and it would be good,
9 again, to figure out, yeah, we can only go so low and
10 let's not manage below that point.

11

12 So, Ron, has a comment here.

13

14 Go ahead.

15

16 MR. KIRK: Charlie, through the Chair.
17 Mr. Lean, you were talking about red king crab east of
18 Sledge Island and blue king crab west of Sledge Island,
19 now we all are aware that east of Sledge Island our
20 waters are low, and has anyone in your department do a
21 study or did a study on climate change because the sun
22 ray, when it comes out in the summer, it's hot and if
23 the water is low the rays of the sun could pop mercury
24 from the sea bottom and if the Earth shifts and the
25 ocean cracks in the bottom we still have mercury coming
26 out. Is that being studied? Is there any way to tell
27 if mercury is affecting the crabs like it's affecting
28 probably our marine life, our fish, our whales, our
29 seals, because we're not only losing crab, we are also
30 losing our marine mammals and our fish in our ocean so
31 there has to be something besides the commercial
32 fishermen that are making our crabs low in the red king
33 crab in our area, versus the blue king crab out in
34 deeper water where it's cooler.

35

36 MR. LEAN: Yeah. So I'm not aware of
37 any study currently going on about mercury or heavy
38 metals but when the West Gold Dredge was in Nome, there
39 was a six year study on what crab ate, metals and so
40 forth, and essentially what they found was there was no
41 -- I mean they were looking at where they were mining,
42 you know, where they stirred up the bottom and so
43 that's kind of the worst scenario for chewing up the
44 bottom and they didn't find mercury to be an issue even
45 though there is a lot of mercury, what they found is
46 that crab had a really high copper level but then you
47 have to remember that crab blood is based on copper,
48 not iron like ours, so they have a -- they didn't find
49 anything that was poisoning the crab that was metal or

50

1 metalloids, what -- what we're seeing more recently is
2 the change in salinity and a change in acidity and the
3 change in temperature in Norton Sound. So those three
4 things are your most likely culprit. And I'm not
5 trying to say they're -- they're scary, they're not
6 good and, you know, the temperature has changed 10
7 degrees Fahrenheit in about 10 years and so that's a
8 real deal and the salinity is fluctuating and acidity
9 is not well, I don't -- I don't have those numbers in
10 my head, maybe somebody does.

11
12 But that -- if I had to say what the
13 effects were I wouldn't think that would be so much the
14 big adult crab as those little shrimp like ones I was
15 speaking about, the settling crab and the shrimp guys,
16 I think those ones are really at risk with the changing
17 climate.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I do know we
20 have another speaker that's supposed to be coming on.
21 The million dollar question I have for the Board is, do
22 we want to write a letter to this Board addressing our
23 stance on subsistence crab. If we do, we need to have
24 a motion supporting or directing our Staff to work with
25 Charlie and his Staff or whoever the players may be to
26 create a letter and get it put together to move it
27 forward.

28
29 Did I hear somebody say um?

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is
34 Karen Deatherage.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.

37
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I did
39 want to let you know that we have contacted ADF&G to
40 ask Jim Menard to address the Council, however, because
41 I had originally thought Mr. Lean would be speaking
42 tomorrow, we asked if Mr. Menard could be speaking
43 tomorrow, would the Council be interested in delaying
44 any motion for the letter until tomorrow in the event
45 you have an opportunity to get further clarification
46 from Mr. Menard, if so, that might be an option for
47 you.

48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And yeah I -- Tom
2 Gray doesn't have a problem delaying this. I do think
3 that we're going to have to cross the bridge at some
4 time but it'd be nice to hear Jim Menard's position on
5 this issue. But it's up to the Board.

6
7 Elmer had a question or a comment.

8
9 MR. SEETOT: A comment on what Ron was
10 stating about the -- Nome -- Nome has been mining for
11 over a century. Whatever chemicals they use in the
12 creeks or whatever, you have the shark repellent color
13 coming out of sediment, they talk about every spring,
14 what else is in the bottom of our sea floor.

15
16 Nome -- port of Nome is a busy port. A
17 lot of ships do come here, what do they carry, what do
18 they discharge on the way up or on the way back. What
19 other invasive species ride on the bottom of these
20 ships that do come up here. Many ship wrecks in the
21 Bering Sea when they're commercial crabbing, what
22 chemicals or toxic stuff do they have on board that is
23 leaching into the waters.

24
25 We're so close to Russia. The Bering
26 Sea, there was a nuclear sinking of a submarine, the
27 Chernobyl accident, what else do they put into their
28 waters from their plants.

29
30 We hear about radiation, that wasn't
31 reported last summer, but it -- but it went over so
32 many miles in the air. We have a lot of low pressure
33 systems that come out of the -- what they call the Far
34 East, or from that side, what particles come to our
35 side and then settle down. Like one of the members was
36 saying, our land animals eat from the land, what else
37 is deposited on our land that is being passed on to us.

38
39 Remember that in order for anything to
40 survive it has to start at the beginning. Many of the
41 biologists that come to the table talk about pretty
42 much a life cycle of any species from birth, from the
43 start to their death, do they take into consideration
44 other factors, the ecosystem that -- the natural
45 resources. Comparison, we're holding a meeting here
46 because the air is clean and whatever, if it wasn't, we
47 would move to a different location.

48
49 So that's the thing that puzzles me is
50

1 that NSEDC doesn't have anything really to look at
2 other than maybe look at the past misdeeds by human in
3 and around the city of Nome. I'm not blaming the
4 residents, it's just that early miners, you know, put
5 anything or everything into our waters. Like Mr. Kirk
6 was saying, water, we need water to survive and pretty
7 much any living thing pretty much either needs water --
8 water to drink or a place to live in. Our oceans, our
9 waters really haven't been studied over the years, much
10 like land -- land that we see every day, we know that
11 it's white out there because there's snow. We don't
12 know what's on the bottom other than pretty much close
13 to the shoreline.

14
15 Put it in a nutshell, many ships come
16 through here. Many communities run their septic or the
17 sewer system into our waters.

18
19 Before that -- before we had water and
20 sewer, we pretty much dumped everything that was
21 considered, you know, waste, by the communities. Wales
22 used to say, oh, look, Brevig ice is coming out, look
23 at all that trash on there, I remember that.

24
25 What they need to look at is how much
26 damage has been done to our sea floor that produced
27 these, that we are seeing now. Because for anything to
28 perish there has to be a beginning. Pretty much like,
29 you know, like the crises that the nation is going
30 through with the virus, it has to start somewhere. But
31 for example to just say I don't have an answer, look at
32 what man has been doing for so many years without any
33 regard to our environment despite our cries for help
34 that, we, as Native people has been looking for. It
35 has all fallen on deaf ears. One, there is money to be
36 made and where money is to be made everything is shut
37 out.

38
39 So I would appreciate any help or I
40 would consider looking at the past mining activities,
41 projects, stuff going through, whatever's going
42 through, Russian activities, that's not being contacted
43 over about what they're doing on their side, 56 miles,
44 that's pretty close to St. Lawrence and Cape Prince of
45 Wales. When I do go around Cape Prince of Wales to do
46 marine mammal hunting you could see the mountains in
47 the background, Diomede is just another -- yet when --
48 when -- I think we are very slow to address climate
49 change because no one really has said, okay, this is

50

1 what needs to be done, many discussions have been done
2 in the past but that's pretty much all it is,
3 discussions without any action by any countries other
4 than what has been done in the past, but I -- I think
5 the ecosystems, both the marine waters or land needs to
6 be examined in order to get at the problem of what
7 we're facing. Everything has a beginning and that
8 beginning has to be researched pretty much to the
9 point.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, very good.

14

15 I'm not sure, you guys as a Board, do
16 you want to address a letter, do you want to put it off
17 until after Menard's here, and then address whether
18 we're going to write a letter; how do you want to
19 handle this, I'm.....

20

21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Tom.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes.

24

25 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen

26 Deatherage.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.

29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 I do want to stress that there's no guarantee that Mr.
32 Menard will be available but he was told that if he
33 were available that the discussion would be tomorrow.
34 So I just want to clarify that for the Council.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Well, I'm
39 going to just say we will bring this issue back up
40 under agency reports, Department of Fish and Game,
41 tomorrow and if Jim shows up, that's great, if he
42 doesn't show up we can talk about how we're going to
43 deal with this letter.

44

45 And, Karen, are you going to be on
46 board tomorrow or what's your plans?

47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 I'm pretty sick so I'm not sure but if I'm not, the

50

1 information that I need to produce this will be in the
2 transcripts and with Mr. Lean's help and others we
3 should be able to put together a good letter.
4

5 I think the other point to ensure that
6 the letter references is the need for subsistence,
7 that's really the purview of this Council. And I heard
8 from many people that subsistence users are not getting
9 their crab and I think it's really important, in
10 addition to the biology, to include that information in
11 the letter.
12

13 Thank you.
14

15
16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes. And, again, I
17 think it's very important.
18

19 I mean we've had people from town here
20 dabbling out on the ice all winter long not catching
21 crabs and getting frustrated and pulling their pots.
22 That's not the intent of managing this fishery. So we
23 need to stress that point. You know, subsistence is a
24 big issue in all of our lives and if we don't protect
25 subsistence I might as well not be sitting here talking
26 to you. So we need to address that.
27

28 Tom.
29

30 MR. KRON: Yeah, this is Tom Kron. And
31 hello, Charlie, are you still on the phone, Charlie?
32

33 MR. LEAN: Yeah, hi, Tom.
34

35 MR. KRON: Hi. You've been doing king
36 crab work here in Norton Sound for over three decades,
37 I think you're the local expert. Would you be
38 available, if there is a letter, and a decision is made
39 tomorrow by this Council to do a letter, would you be
40 available to work with Karen to help her put together
41 the biological information for the STC at the North
42 Pacific Fishery Management Council?
43

44 Thank you.
45

46 MR. LEAN: Yeah, I am and, yeah, four
47 decades, not three.
48

49 (Laughter)
50

1 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair. This is Mark
2 Burch at the Department of Fish and Game in Palmer.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.

5
6 MR. BURCH: Yeah, I just wanted to let
7 you know that I heard a lot of the discussion here and
8 unfortunately I wasn't able to hear all of it and I
9 have not been able to connect yet with Jim Menard to
10 find out if he'll be available tomorrow, and under
11 relatively short notice, I just heard about this
12 request yesterday, but I just wanted to let you know
13 that we're working on that and I'll let him know what's
14 generally happened and what to expect for tomorrow if
15 he's available.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: You're a God-send,
20 I sure thank you for digging into this.

21
22 And, you know, you can tell Jim we're
23 not going to beat up on him.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So.....

28
29 MR. BURCH: I'll tell him that and I'm
30 sure he'll appreciate it.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep. Yep. You
33 know, the big.....

34
35 MR. BURCH: Thank you.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR GRAY:thing this
38 Board's interested in is subsistence, and, you know,
39 that's the bottom line, is I -- I per se don't want to
40 take over this fishery and have the Feds manage it, but
41 I don't mind shoving it down their throat if we
42 subsistence users can't get what we want.

43
44 So life goes on.

45
46 And thank you, again, for trying to get
47 a hold of Jim.

48
49 So I think we've got somebody waiting

50

1 that -- Rick somebody is he on the phone?
2
3 MR. THOMAN: Rick Thoman is here, yes.
4
5 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Awesome.
6
7 Okay, Charlie, I appreciate you taking
8 time to meet with us and tomorrow we will cross the
9 bridge about a letter and thank you for all your
10 efforts in trying to protect subsistence for us.
11
12 MR. LEAN: Thank you, and you're
13 welcome. I'll talk when we're back in town.
14
15 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Thank you
16 again. So the next guy is Rick Toman -- Thoman, Rick
17 Thoman. Are you the guy that puts all this stuff out
18 on Facebook on weather change and stuff?
19
20 MR. THOMAN: I do. I do put stuff up
21 as well as my colleague Brian Brettschneider.
22
23 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah, I think
24 you're the guy I see on Facebook or something all the
25 time, good job.
26
27 So you've got the floor, sorry we got
28 so wrapped up in this other crab issue and kind of went
29 into your time but, anyway.
30
31 MR. THOMAN: No problem at all, Mr.
32 Chair. Let me ask, does -- do folks have the slides
33 that I sent for this meeting?
34
35 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So I see something
36 on the wall behind us so I think we do have something
37 -- somebody's going to run a computer and I guess
38 you'll be doing the talking.
39
40 MR. THOMAN: Okay.
41
42 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So.....
43
44 MR. THOMAN: And it should say Seward
45 Peninsula Climate Review.
46
47 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: It sure does, yep.
48
49 MR. THOMAN: All right. The miracle of
50

1 technology.

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ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, you got the floor.

MR. THOMAN: Okay, thank you very much and good morning everyone and thank you for letting me take a little bit of your time. I've been asked to give kind of a review of what's happening with climate in Western Alaska and I also will throw in a little bit of what the future may hold.

So on slide number 2 there, just a quick overview of what most of this -- most of this, of course, you already know, in Western Alaska, it's warmer than it used to be, it's wetter than it used to be, sea ice is decreasing, our oceans are warming and the future is short to bring more of all of these. That is a certainty.

On slide three is just a graphic showing the annual average temperature at Nome for the last 95 years and the way I like to do these, the red dots there are the 10 warmest years, the blue dots are the 10 coolest years and the green line is just kind of the running average, the smooth average. And, of course, as everyone knows, the last few years have been all exceptionally warm. I would point out that three of the last six years have been warmer than any year was in Nome prior to 2013. So it's not just a one off warm spell. It's not like we don't have cool times and this has been a chilly, if not an extreme winter for Western Alaska compared to the historical record, but the trend is up. And importantly and I think this is going to become really important for subsistence. You'll notice there on the far right hand side of the graphics, those last few years that have been very warm, the red dots there right at the right edge of the plot. Those are temperatures right around freezing, the average annual temperature and that, of course, has massive ecosystem importance. 32 fahrenheit is not just another number on the graph because that represents the melting point of freshwater. As the ecosystem crosses that there is going to be many changes associated with that, whether it's melting permafrost or just the underlying that, the changes in seasonality.

On the next slide, is the average

1 precipitation, again, the last 95 years, and so here
2 again the green dots are the wettest years, 10 wettest,
3 and the orange dots are the 10 driest years.
4

5 Now, here the trend is not quite so
6 dramatic as with precipitation but it is definitely up
7 over the last, oh, say since the mid'70s, Alaska
8 averaging about 15 to 20 percent more precipitation for
9 the year, this is annual precipitation. And
10 importantly there hasn't been a top 10 driest year now
11 since the mid-90s whereas since then three of the 10
12 wettest years have occurred, including, of course 2019
13 which was one of the top 10 wettest years.
14 Precipitation, of course, is much more spacially
15 variable than temperature, while the absolute values of
16 temperatures of course vary over short distances, their
17 departures from normal are smoother precipitation, not
18 that way. So we have more availability there and with
19 time we do expect that wetting trend to increase, but,
20 again, with the potential for changes in seasonality.
21

22 On the next slide here I just thought
23 I'd post you here the latest on the Bering Sea ice
24 extent from this past weekend. The blue line is this
25 year, the red and green lines are the previous two
26 years. Obviously there's way more ice. At least in
27 the two dimensional, just the horizontal extent of ice.
28 But I do want to point out, the blue line there, it is
29 above that thick black line, which is the long-term
30 average value but it's not particularly fall above
31 that, and that comes in spite of the very cold weather
32 we've had at least since mid-December. Now, because if
33 you trace back that blue line, back in through to the
34 late last year, into December, of course sea ice was
35 very low to get going reflecting the very warm ocean
36 temperatures that we had, also the weather pattern was
37 not good ice making weather for the Bering Sea through
38 mid-November. And so the ice that we have out there is
39 likely to be thinner than previous years that had this
40 much ice. So, of course, that thinner ice is more
41 subject to disruption by storms and even without the
42 storms, if you got thinner ice, of course, it will melt
43 sooner. I will point out on this year, you'll notice
44 that dip in sea ice that occurred in mid-January,
45 fairly substantial dip, we lost almost a quarter of the
46 aerial extent of ice. And, you know, that was the
47 result of two run of the mill storms, and that was
48 reflecting that those very typical storms acting on
49 very thin sea ice. So, yes, the aerial extent looks
50

1 good, but we have every reason to believe that it's
2 quite thin. Having said that, we're in better shape,
3 of course, ice wise, than we have been the last two
4 years. But the fact that we're a little bit above the
5 average probably is somewhat deceptive in that the ice
6 is not as thick as it would have been in previous
7 years.
8

9 On slide -- the next slide there. An
10 aerial illustration of the ice on the left is from 2013
11 on March 4th. That was pretty typical ice extent.
12 There's probably -- normally there would have been more
13 ice in Bristol Bay than on that 2013 picture but,
14 otherwise, fairly typical and then last year on the
15 same date, of course, there was almost no ice in the
16 Bering Sea except for what had gotten packed up by the
17 incessant south winds on the south side of the Seward
18 Peninsula and south side of St. Lawrence Island and
19 then over on the Russian side in the Gulf of Anadyr and
20 on the western side of the Bering Strait there. But
21 really hardly any ice. Obviously this year looks a lot
22 more like 2013 but 2018 and '19, of course, just
23 amazingly, amazingly different than anything we've seen
24 in the past.
25

26 On the next slide, I wanted to show you
27 this. As everyone on this call is aware, that we are
28 seeing big changes in seasonality in the sea ice. And
29 this just shows the change through the course of the
30 winter, basically the cold season, from October through
31 June, how the sea ice over the last 41 years has
32 changed in the course of a year. Again, this is just
33 the sea ice extent. And what we're seeing here is what
34 everyone knows, we have much less ice early in the
35 season than we used to have. The trend is strongly
36 down here. This trend is relative to the average over
37 the course, for whatever time of the year is indicated,
38 and so really while mid-winter is decreased, you know,
39 January, February, March, even into April there's not
40 been dramatic changes. Very dramatic early in the
41 winter, 40 to more than 100 percent decreases in the
42 ice extent. And the same in the spring, once the melt
43 season gets going, May and then through June, we have
44 much less ice now, historically, the trend has been
45 down but not -- even with the last two winters before
46 this, with their very low ice extents, less of a trend
47 in mid-winter but this change in seasonality in ice is
48 very important, of course, going forward for
49 subsistence activities.
50

1 The next slide just illustrates when
2 the Bering Sea loses most of its ice, this -- again,
3 this is from the satellite derived daily sea ice extent
4 data that starts in the fall of 1978, so we've got 41
5 years here now, and I picked a date -- the first date
6 in the spring when ice basically gets down to less than
7 the area of the Seward Peninsula. And you can see
8 that, you know, from the start of the satellite record
9 really up until the late '90s, you know, sometime
10 around Summer Solstice, some years later, some years a
11 little bit earlier, was about when the Bering Sea
12 became largely ice free. And that has really changed
13 dramatically in the last few years. And you'll notice
14 there on the far right hand side of that slot, every
15 single year since 2015 the ice has been basically gone
16 from the Bering Sea earlier than it was in any year
17 before. It's not just, oh, the last couple of years
18 have had early melt outs, the last five have been, not
19 just early, much earlier than not only the historical
20 average and earlier than any other year. Really just
21 dramatic, dramatic change in a very short time. We can
22 all remember the late 1990s, that wasn't that long ago.
23 And instead of the Bering Sea becoming ice free around
24 Summer Solstice we have lost a month now with the green
25 line there being the smooth average, we've lost almost
26 a month in the typical melt out date of Bering Sea ice.
27 Very dramatic.

28
29 Now, I do want to touch on the Chuckchi
30 Sea as well. Chuckchi Sea north of the Bering Strait
31 is, of course, also experiencing very dramatic changes
32 in their sea ice. And one of the ways that directly
33 affects what happens farther south is freeze up in the
34 autumn. Basically to get ice to move south through the
35 Bering Strait and to St. Lawrence Island and beyond, we
36 really need the Chuckchi Sea to become mostly frozen
37 over. And just like that Bering Sea melt out plot,
38 this is showing this very dramatic change in when the
39 Chuckchi Sea becomes almost completely iced over, about
40 change of about three weeks since the early 1990s.
41 This past winter we did not have the Chuckchi Sea
42 become more than 95 percent ice covered until December
43 22nd, and that is the third latest in the satellite
44 record and the top three earliest have all been in the
45 last four years. Again, very dramatic change over a
46 very short period of time.

47
48 Turning now to the oceans and the warm
49 season. Everyone knows that our oceans have been
50

1 extremely warm and last year was the warmest for the
2 northern Bering Sea. This is a plot of the average May
3 through September, ocean surface temperature, basically
4 from the Pribilofs northward here, calling this the
5 northern Bering Sea. But again the red dots are the 10
6 warmest and you can see every year since 2014 is
7 amongst the top 10 warmest years for Bering Sea ocean
8 temperatures going back to 1900 and we haven't had a
9 cold -- a cold season there since the early 1970s. The
10 top 10 coldest. Really very -- again, very dramatic.
11 And the impacts to fisheries, to subsistence activities
12 for species in the ocean, you folks were just talking
13 about that prior to the start of this, very important
14 subsistence impacts and this is not going to change.

15
16 One of the advantages, of course, of
17 satellite derived data is when things are working we
18 can get continuous time series of things that would be
19 hard to measure. Here is one of them on the next slide
20 there. We have western Norton Sound sea surface
21 temperatures. This is from a point about 30 miles
22 south of Nome. And so kind of like those Bering Sea
23 ice extent plots, here you have every year plotted in
24 kind of the grey lines since 1982 and the red line is
25 last year, the green line is the year before and the
26 thicker black line is just the long-term average. And
27 you can see, as you know, both 2018 and '19 extremely
28 warm. For parts of the year warmer than any year since
29 this goes back to 1982, which really captures all of
30 the warmest years. If we had this kind of detail back
31 to 1900 those green lines would look effectively the
32 same as the last two years would be, excessively warm.

33
34 This is just a point south of Nome,
35 there are differences across the region and you can see
36 that on the next slide here with -- this is just the
37 last six years since 2014, when we've had these very
38 warm years, this is just the larger view around Alaska
39 of the average warm season temperature departure from
40 the long-term normal. And your eye, of course, is
41 immediately drawn to most of the Bering Sea over the
42 last six summers, has been much warmer than normal and
43 eastern Norton Sound as well as Kotzebue Sound, have
44 been excessively warm for the warm season. You'll
45 notice there is a small area there, kind of southwest
46 of Diomede north of St. Lawrence Island that actually
47 has not been very much warmer than normal, it's been a
48 little bit but not much. But otherwise, the whole
49 Bering Sea, the whole Chuckchi Sea has been

50

1 significantly warmer. And, again, this is over six
2 years. These are extremely large departures for --
3 these would be -- these would be very large departures
4 for a single year, much less a six year average and
5 really reflects how our oceans are warming.

6
7 Now, as I've mentioned, we do see some
8 variability in both the timing and the aerial extent of
9 this warming. This is just a plot from eastern Norton
10 Sound in this case, so this is a point about 30 miles
11 to the west of Unalakleet and the red line is August
12 average sea surface temperatures, the blue line is June
13 and you can see, while August has warm some, the
14 biggest change really is in June where temperatures now
15 are not only much warmer than they used to be in June,
16 but you'll notice the last several years would have --
17 June temperatures would have been typical for August
18 temperatures prior to the mid-90s. The warming is
19 really very, very dramatic. Some of this is tied to
20 sea ice loss, some of this is also tied to warm water
21 inflow from the rivers into eastern Norton Sound.

22
23 The next slide does show how this isn't
24 quite the changes -- the monthly change in sea surface
25 temperatures is not uniform across the region. The way
26 to read this chart, the kind of light blue colors are
27 eastern Norton Sound again, that point about 30 miles
28 west of Unalakleet, the red line is the point about 30
29 miles south of Nome, and then the purple is a point I
30 called it the southern Bering Strait, it's about 40
31 miles say northeast of Savoonga. So you can see that
32 big warming in June and July in eastern Norton Sound.
33 Similarly for the point south of Nome there. But then
34 the warming tails off in the late summer, August and
35 into September for the Norton Sound points, but you'll
36 notice for the southern Bering Sea, it actually -- the
37 largest change over the last 38 years is actually in
38 September, it changes earlier in the summer, at least
39 southern Bering Strait are less in the spring and more
40 in the fall, whereas in Norton Sound the biggest
41 changes are in early summer. Consistent with earlier
42 sea ice loss and warm water inflow from the rivers.
43 Again, very -- I think these are very important changes
44 for subsistence considerations, this change in
45 seasonality.

46
47 Last couple of slides will just be to
48 peer into the future. I've got a couple of plots here.

49
50

1 One of the big confusions with climate
2 models is that you often see in the media things like,
3 oh, you know, this happened and the climate models
4 weren't forecasting that until 2060, that's actually
5 very misleading because what the climate models always
6 are forecasting are things like long-term averages and
7 not the year to year variability.
8

9 So what I've done here is I've taken
10 temperature for basically the Nome area, the green dots
11 are the historical past and in this case, on this
12 slide, the orange line and the orange dots -- orange
13 line is the future projection assuming that the world,
14 not just the United States, but the world took fairly
15 aggressive actions to reduce carbon emissions and
16 transition to less of a fossil fuel burning economy.
17 And then the orange dots just superimpose a -- the same
18 kind of year to year variability that we see in the
19 historical record. So each of the green dots is an
20 annual temperature just like we started the
21 presentation with and the orange are just what -- if we
22 have that orange, what would the year to year
23 availability look like assuming it's the same as in the
24 past. Now, you can see that we still have years that
25 the average temperature is below freezing in this
26 aggressive mitigation strategy through the rest of the
27 century, although the second half of the century, those
28 get pretty unusual and we do get some years, certainly
29 by mid-century significantly warmer than any year that
30 we've seen in the past century in Nome.
31

32 And, again, this is a fairly aggressive
33 global mitigation strategy.
34

35 The next slide is what perhaps is a
36 worst case scenario, this would be -- isn't quite
37 business as usual but this -- and I hesitate to use the
38 word, worst case, worst is pretty bad, we may not know
39 what worst is, but this would be a pretty dire
40 scenario, and in this case you can see we don't ever
41 get below freezing years again by after -- much later
42 than 2060 and we wind up with a climate, an average
43 temperature by the 2080s that's similar to present day
44 Homer, and you think about how different the climate is
45 in Homer compared to the coastal Seward Peninsula, but
46 that -- in this worst case scenario, that's the kind of
47 thing that would -- that we would be looking at. Of
48 course it's not exactly analogous, Homer's a little
49 different geographic situation, but just looking at
50

1 average temperature, that's what we're looking at.

2

3

4 So just in summary, our oceans are
5 warming and the climate warming, both in the oceans and
6 the atmosphere, that is locked in for decades to come
7 because of all the heat in the ocean. If we were to
8 disappear from planet Earth today, the climate would
9 continue to warm because there is so much excess heat
10 that didn't used to be there in the oceans that would
11 have to get worked out.

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I've stressed it through this. I think it's really important. One of the biggest impacts aren't going to be just increasing precipitation or average annual temperatures going up but these seasonal shifts when -- when things happen in the environment are shifting already, everyone knows it, and that is going to continue to happen.

Sea ice is going to continue to decline.

We just had a recent paper out that suggests that the kind of ice conditions that we saw last year and in 2018, by the time we get to the 2040s, those may be typical ice seasons and by the time we get to the 2060s they may be on the high end of sea ice conditions in the Bering Sea. Those would be, of course, tremendous, tremendous ecological and subsistence impacts for the region.

Having said that, the oceans are going to continue to warm, that is a certainty for the -- for our purposes for the future.

So with that I'll stop there and be happy to take any questions for you.

(Pause)

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Anybody have any questions. It never ends. I was on the phone dealing with another meeting I got to be in. Anybody have any questions or comments or thoughts for the guy that knows the weather.

MR. OYOUNICK: With this being a fact that we have climate change did anybody open up any of those fish that went belly up to make sure that it was

1 from climate change?

2

3

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I know I didn't.

4

5

6

MR. OYOUMICK: I asked the question because I didn't.

7

8

9

MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, this is Karen.

10

11

12

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, go ahead, Karen.

13

14

15

16

MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Leland, are you referring to some of the fish that were found dead along the banks?

17

18

19

MR. OYOUMICK: Yes, Ma'am.

20

21

22

23

24

MS. DEATHERAGE: My understanding is the studies that I've seen out there anyway, some of those deaths were attributed to the warming and some fish were believed to actually have had heart attacks as a result of the warming waters.

25

26

27

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29

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ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, thank you.

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MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah. Since you're doing climate change studies are you taking samples from the land and the waters as to what's coming out of the permafrost that's been frozen for millions of years and also have you made any comments or anything on the ice that was broken up in the Arctic by the Russians and the whole world, going around from south to north, going all the way around from the Bering Sea to the Atlantic Ocean. And, you know, that the ice is moving south, so is everything, and that'll tilt the Earth.

42

43

44

Have you made any comments about that.

45

46

47

MR. THOMAN: So thank you very much for your questions.

48

49

50

As far as what's coming out of the thawing permafrost that is very important, of course

1 thawing permafrost is a potential -- potentially will
2 release methane, which is a very powerful greenhouse
3 gas. It is a fairly short lived gas in the atmosphere,
4 but it is much more potent than carbon dioxide, and,
5 that, unfortunately in the older -- the older versions
6 of the climate models, methane was not handled, that
7 has improved dramatically. We'll see how that works
8 out. So we are well aware that that could be a
9 significant player.

10
11 Sea ice, of course, on the Arctic scale
12 is decreasing very rapidly and is probably lower now in
13 the late summer than it's been for a number of
14 thousands of years.

15
16 Impacts of shipping are, of course,
17 under -- that's an area of considerable study. Many of
18 the ships, of course, that -- I think at this point,
19 all of them that are doing the Bering Sea to the
20 Atlantic are going through the Northwest Passage in the
21 late summer and, of course, there's not much of those
22 that are ice breakers, they're of course ice hardened.
23 The northern route, or the Northeast passage, of course
24 along the -- mostly along the Russian coast, which is,
25 of course, of considerable concern for Alaska and
26 subsistence activities since every ship that takes the
27 northern Siberian and Kamchatka Coast route has to go
28 down through the Bering Strait. Again that is --
29 that's mostly during the ice free season, but there's
30 certainly lots of interest on the Russian side to push
31 that season out as well.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead. If you
34 want to ask a question I'm curious how you can relate
35 it.....

36
37 ANITA: Yeah, I want to.....

38
39 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: You have to come to
40 the counter.

41
42 MR. THOMAN: I'm sorry I couldn't hear
43 there, was there a question?

44
45 ANITA: The question is actually for
46 the room. I wonder from the context that has just been
47 described, in the continuum of things and what has
48 happened up until now, particularly recently, and where
49 it seems to be going, how you all or some of you all

50

1 are experiencing this. You've talked about crabs, et
2 cetera, and where do you see this going in terms of the
3 -- the situation of people having a protein supply.
4

5 Thank you.
6

7 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Let's --
8 again, when we break out of the session you can talk to
9 the individual people, we're dealing with somebody on
10 the telephone and if you want to pry at individuals,
11 you can do it.....
12

13 ANITA: I'm just asking.....
14

15 ACTING CHAIR GRAY:you can do it
16 on the.....
17

18 ANITA: I'll just ask it a different
19 way.
20

21 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, if you can
22 relate.....
23

24 ANITA: Sir, thank you very much for
25 your remarkable presentation. So I wonder how you see
26 this unfolding in terms of both commercial, and
27 particularly subsistence off shore, whaling, hunting,
28 walrus, seal, fish, crab.
29

30 Thank you.
31

32 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: State your name.
33

34 ANITA: (No microphone)
35

36 MR. KIRK: Turn the mic on.
37

38 MR. OYOUMICK: Microphone.
39

40 ANITA: (No microphone)
41

42 MR. KIRK: Mic.
43

44 REPORTER: So you need to turn the
45 microphone back on.
46

47 ANITA: Jeez.
48

49 REPORTER: It won't be heard if you
50

1 don't, or go in the record.

2

3

ANITA: Is it on?

4

5

REPORTER: Yes, it is, go ahead.

6

7

ANITA: Forgive my incompetence. My
8 name is Anita Parlow, I'm from Washington, D.C. I
9 worked on a project with the Denali Commission, the
10 Tanana Chiefs and the Port of Nome over the last two
11 years. I used to cover war zones.

12

13

Thank you.

14

15

16

MR. THOMAN: And this is Rick Thoman.
Was that question to me?

17

18

19

20

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes, it was.
Because if she wants to get questions answered from the
Board members, I've directed her to do it off.....

21

22

MR. SEETOT: Our Board time.

23

24

MR. KIRK: Yeah, our Board time.

25

26

27

ACTING CHAIR GRAY:record, off
our Board time that we're talking here so.

28

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MR. THOMAN: Okay, thank you, Mr.
Chair. I am a climate person, not a biologist or a
subsistence hunter so I would defer to the experts on
those particular issues. But we can -- what I can say
from my expertise is it is a certainty that over the
next couple of decades that the oceans on that time
scale will continue to warm. It doesn't mean that
every year is warmer than the last. Sea ice will
continue to thin. Sea ice extent will continue to
decline on that scale as this year is a good example,
it's not -- every year isn't less than the previous
year.

41

42

43

44

The changes in seasonality with less
ice in the fall, earlier ice loss in the spring is
going to continue as well.

45

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48

49

Land changes will continue to occur,
those may be a little different. For instance, we may
wind up with -- not so much this year, but the last
couple of years, with more snow on the land that takes

50

1 longer to melt, just because we've got water, lots of
2 water during the cold season instead of more ice, and
3 so there's more water vapor available for storms that
4 come along to dump snow, so that, again, could be a
5 change in seasonality, could be also increased rain on
6 snow events in winter, which could have significant
7 impacts on things like reindeer and caribou.

8
9 So the environmental trends that we
10 have seen, we need to plan that those are going to
11 continue a pace. It's not that we're at a new normal,
12 but rather that the changes that we've seen, those
13 kinds of changes will continue.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Any other
16 comments, concerns, questions for Rick.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Well, if there's no
21 other questions, Rick, I don't know if you remember, I
22 think you're the one that gave a presentation at the
23 caribou meeting, Western Arctic Caribou meeting.

24
25 MR. THOMAN: Yes, I did.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah, and I'm the
28 beluga guy that came and talked to you about coming to
29 the beluga meeting and doing a report with us, so just
30 so you know, I guess. Because I asked you earlier if
31 you were the guy putting stuff on Facebook and so on
32 and so forth and your work, you've done a really great
33 job.

34
35 MR. THOMAN: Great, thank you very
36 much. And I wish I could have been there with you
37 today, busy week, if you'd picked a different week
38 would have been, but I appreciate the opportunity to
39 speak with you and happy to help any way I can.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, well, thank
42 you so much for taking the time and enlightening us on
43 what you think we're going to see in the future.

44
45 MR. THOMAN: Okay, great. Well, thank
46 you.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep, bye. So next
49 thing on the list is public and tribal comments.

50

1 Austin, do you want to come back after
2 lunch or do you want to go now.

3
4 MR. AHMASUK: Now.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: You'll go now,
7 okay. So we're going to let Austin get up and talk and
8 he works with Kawerak but he can introduce and tell us
9 what he's all about.

10
11 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
12 Chairman. A couple of you have mentioned BLMs Resource
13 Management Plan.

14
15 And at Kawerak, several Staff, mostly
16 myself have dedicated a lot of time towards addressing
17 resource management plan issues, the BLM resource
18 management plan for the Bering Sea Western Interior.
19 Some of you are aware of it.

20
21 I serve as Staff person for a brand new
22 tribal commission called the Bering Sea Western
23 Interior Tribal Commission and its focus is entirely
24 this BLM resource management plan that impacts our
25 region directly from Elim down to Stebbins. I work with
26 other folks in other Alaska Native organizations, TCC
27 and AVCP on this issue. And this tribal commission was
28 formed because of the RMP and issues that some of you
29 have identified related to mining.

30
31 Just a little bit of background, I
32 won't take too much time.

33
34 But the scoping for the resource
35 management plan began in and around 2015 and during
36 that time a whole suite of issues were identified. But
37 what resulted in 2019 was something very, very
38 different from scoping. So during scoping, the scoping
39 comments were in one area and then the eventual
40 resource management plan looked totally different from
41 the scoping. And so what Kawerak did, beginning in the
42 early part of 2019, we began working with communities
43 to address these issues and hopefully mitigate BLMs
44 very drastic change in land management for that area,
45 which extends from Inglutalik all the way down to the
46 Yukon Mouth, over to the Yukon, roughly some 13 million
47 acres. The BLM RMP is over 3,000 pages. Over the
48 course of several months Kawerak identified 100 -- over
49 100 really significant failures and criticisms of the
50

1 resource management plan. BLM did not provide adequate
2 public process. They did not provide meaningful tribal
3 involvement. BLM did not have a Native person on the
4 development team. They never had a tribal liaison on
5 the development team. They never had an anthropologist
6 or an archeologist on the development team. And so
7 what we saw in 2019 was something that concerned a lot
8 of communities. And so this tribal commission was
9 formed.

10

11 If you want to know what Kawerak's
12 comments are, they're published on our website. But
13 each of the tribal coordinators -- each of the tribes
14 in the region received copies of the joint comments
15 that were submitted over the course of the resource
16 management plan.

17

18 Again, our comments were very
19 significant. There are people actively working on this
20 resource management plan. The commission has met with
21 the BLM director once. It's met with BLM Staff a
22 number of times. Some of you have gone to some of
23 those consultation meetings. You know that they're
24 very difficult. The BLM has required, throughout this
25 entire RMP process for tribes to appoint specific
26 advisors just so that those advisors can have some sort
27 of say so or advice to tribes, like myself. Other
28 tribes have formally requested cooperating agency
29 status and so there are now presently some 11 or so
30 tribes that are cooperating agencies which have
31 contributed to the plan but they have not had
32 meaningful involvement. So for instance, from the time
33 that the RMP was issued back in June to the time when a
34 pre-public draft was issued to the cooperating
35 agencies, tribes only had four days to comment on a
36 very complex resource management plan. And so the
37 public process simply has been very frustrating.
38 Kawarek and tribes that commented on the BLM resource
39 management plan, we didn't pull any punches, we
40 identified those deficiencies as significant failures
41 of BLM to provide for public process.

42

43 So I just wanted to assure you that
44 Kawarek Staff are working very hard to try and make
45 sure that communities are well represented in this
46 phase of the RMP.

47

48 BLM tells us that sometime in --
49 sometime this year, sometime in 2020 or perhaps as

50

1 early as August the BLM will issue a finalized
2 environmental impact statement.

3

4 That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Any questions.

9

10 Go ahead.

11

12 MR. KIRK: During -- sometime in
13 August, I think it was in August, Senator Dan Sullivan
14 came to Stebbins and I brought up this issue with BLM
15 concerning the mining and he said he would have his
16 Staff look into it. I'm wondering can Kawarek contact
17 Dan Sullivan's Staff and get their support on this
18 issue concerning mining in that area. Because
19 subsistence is a big issue and we need all the support
20 we can get. So I brought it up to Dan Sullivan and his
21 Staff at Stebbins, Senator Sullivan was there. Can you
22 guys check into that?

23

24 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah, well, thank you. I
25 will tell you that at every stage of every comment
26 period Kawarek has courtesy copied Sullivan, Murkowski
27 and Young on every single stage so they're aware of our
28 comments.

29

30 The problem with this RMP is that it's
31 larger than Alaska Congressional Delegation politics.
32 It appears that it's the Trump Administration, which
33 has requested fasttracking of things of -- Federal
34 decisions like this. It appears that it's even higher
35 than them.

36

37 MR. KIRK: Senator Sullivan also
38 notified us that us on his Staff, he has a Native
39 American lawyer that's working for him that's also
40 working on issues concerning indigenous lands and
41 tribes throughout the nation so maybe you could get a
42 hold of him.

43

44 MR. AHMASUK: I will, thank you.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Any other
47 questions, comments.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So before you go, I
2 heard rumors through scuttlebutt and maybe I'm creating
3 gossip, but there's scuttlebutt of off shore mining
4 down by Elim, which, you know, I hate to see it happen.
5 I know Elim people are not very happy about this and,
6 you know, I just want to make you aware of it, I guess,
7 that this thing's out there and I don't know if you can
8 help or whatever, but, you know, it's our region, we've
9 lived here all our lives, and for some outsider from
10 the Lower 48 to come up and mess up our subsistence
11 lifestyle, it's not right.

12
13 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
14 Chairman. I am aware of the Elim issue. What we
15 should keep in mind, though, is off shore is managed by
16 State DNR, right, and so the area that -- the area of
17 the BLM RMP is all on land, right, and it's just BLM
18 managed land so it doesn't impact Native Corporation
19 lands, you know, directly. Although where BLM lands
20 and Native Corporation lands adjoin, you know, maybe
21 there's issues there but -- so, yeah, but I'm aware of
22 the Elim issue.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Doug.

25
26 MR. KATCHATAG: Yeah, Austin, how many
27 mining developments are going to take place within the
28 next 10 years in our Bering Straits region alone. I
29 know of three, four of them so far.

30
31 MR. AHMASUK: That's a tough question.
32 On the Seward Peninsula there are over 1,700 State
33 mining claims. Those are State mining claim leases.
34 There are many more thousands of acres of historical
35 mining claims, mineral surveys that people can mine,
36 right. In the BLM RMP area there's very little mineral
37 potential. There are actually only two resource data
38 files for any kind of mining potential in the entire
39 Bering Sea portion of the RMP, Upper North River and in
40 the Nulato Hills. But if you look at what happened in
41 the Yukon area, right, where they turned on BLM leases,
42 what happened was that Federal mining claims became
43 entered into the record, or Federal mining claims
44 became part of the land management process. For the
45 Bering Sea portion of the RMP mining has always been on
46 a case by case basis, so -- but if you -- if the BLM
47 turns on the land management imperative to open up
48 mining and oil and gas leasing, it's hard to say what
49 could happen.

50

1 MR. KATCHATAG: The mining -- all the
2 mining that's taking place will kill all our sea
3 mammals, all our fish, and all our land. It's not only
4 just gold but other things.

5
6 MR. AHMASUK: Yes, thank you.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Ron.

9
10 MR. KIRK: I have another concern.
11 This mining is going to -- it is a big issue, we need
12 to put a stop to it somehow.

13
14 My concern is the land.

15
16 Once BLM authorizes mining in the land,
17 the caribou and my reindeer herd from about three
18 entities in Stebbins along with Tom Gray's reindeer
19 herd, whoever owns reindeer, if they're mining on BLM
20 lands they're destroying our lichen. And once our
21 lichen is gone, our food supply on our table is gone.
22 We no longer have the protein necessities that we need
23 to sustain our human way of life, our body of life. So
24 it's very important that we get on this issue because
25 you're not only destroying the lichen for the reindeer
26 you're destroying the food for the moose, which also
27 lives on the land.

28
29 MR. AHMASUK: Just one comment, Mr.
30 Chairman, and I'll maybe shut up.

31
32 The area of the Bering Sea portion of
33 this RMP, as you know, is incredibly remote. And so
34 monitoring and enforcement is probably going to be
35 extremely difficult and maybe even non-existent. So
36 that's one of the concerns that this commission has,
37 this new tribal commission, is monitoring and
38 enforcement.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Well, if
41 there's no other comments I do have to give Tom a lot
42 of credit here, he's been listening through this whole
43 process and I'm sure he's ankle deep or knee deep in
44 this whole issue so I don't know if you want to respond
45 or talk later during the.....

46
47 MR. SPARKS: I can during agency
48 reports.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah, yeah, if you
2 want to talk about it then you can talk about it, and
3 these guys can pull teeth getting it.

4
5 Okay. If -- thank you, Austin.

6
7 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair, this is Mark
8 Burch from the Department of Fish and Game.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep.

11
12 MR. BURCH: Yeah, I was wondering if
13 you could ask Tom, perhaps, to give me a call during
14 the break, at lunch or whenever it works for him.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Tom -- we have
17 three Tom's in the room -- four Toms.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MR. BURCH: Oh, the coordinator, the
22 serving coordinator, I'm sorry.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So he heard
27 you, do you have a phone number for him to call?

28
29 MR. BURCH: I don't know if he has it so
30 I better give it to him I suppose.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep.

33
34 MR. BURCH: 907-863-8518.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: An who -- you were
37 with Fish and Game, or who?

38
39 MR. BURCH: Yes. I'm the liaison from
40 the Department of Fish and Game.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Awesome. Okay.

43
44 Sounds good.

45
46 MR. BURCH: Thank you.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, thank you. I
49 think it's lunch time. What time do you guys want to
50

1 come back from lunch.

2

3 (Pause)

4

5 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, we'll come
6 back from lunch at 1:30.

7

8 (Off record)

9

10 (On record)

11

12 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I'm going to call
13 us to order and I need to find out where we're at here.
14 I think -- I think we -- public and tribal comments.

15

16 Do we have anybody on line, on the
17 telephone.

18

19 MR. BURCH: Hello, Mr. Chair, this is
20 Mark Burch with the Department of Fish and Game and I'm
21 still here.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Oh, you're back
24 again, okay, welcome home.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And do we have
29 anybody else.

30

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Do we -- I'm
35 going to get us back into the meeting again and we are
36 at public and tribal comment on non-agenda items.

37

38 Do we have -- go ahead, come on up --
39 Roy is going to be a public person.

40

41 MR. ASHENFELTER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 My name is Roy Ashenfelter. I work for Kawarek so this
43 will be a tribal comment on non-agenda item.

44

45 And as many of you may already know,
46 and some of you don't, IPOP has been trying to set up a
47 mining operation in the Solomon, Safety Lagoon area for
48 the last three years, and that is a real concern to
49 many of us and the people down there that use that

50

1 place to subsistence hunt for birds, for fish. It's an
2 estuary, saltwater/freshwater mix. They've submitted a
3 couple applications and unfortunately for the world
4 they have managed to not complete those applications to
5 the point where the Corps of Engineers has rejected
6 their current application. Now, having said that they
7 could submit another one. They just reject the ones
8 that they were working on, weren't able to get data in
9 by the deadline that the Corps had established. And so
10 right now what they're permitted to do is do what's
11 called an exploration.

12
13 They did exploration last year, this
14 time of the year, they went down there and did some
15 core sampling. We did, through a lot of effort,
16 receive their core sampling data and right now, even
17 with geological report -- oh, by the way, IPOP, IPOPs
18 intent to mine in the estuary is to mine for gold. I
19 didn't say that at the outset, so their intent there is
20 to mine for gold. The core samples that they managed
21 -- that we finally got data from show no mineralization
22 for gold of any kind, even the thing that you look for
23 that gold is in, none of that is in existence.

24
25 What Kawarek has been doing through the
26 Corps of Engineers has been after them, after the
27 Crops, after IPOP and trying to make sure that we're up
28 to date on what IPOP's intent is. They've come back
29 with a couple drawings on trying to mine in the
30 estuary. One of the big dilemmas for them is the plume
31 that would be created in mining in the estuary and
32 there are some legal requirements, the way I understand
33 it, in that, they could only move so much dirt with the
34 -- with the extraction of plume -- plume that would
35 move out from where they're mining. And fortunately
36 they haven't been able to find a method to mine in the
37 estuary without creating a big plume. So they've come
38 up with a fencing thing and a few other things that may
39 meet their mining standards. So -- or be able to mine
40 without creating a plume.

41
42 One of the things that we currently are
43 working on with the Corps is if the drilling samples,
44 the core drilling bits that they're pulling up out of
45 that area show no gold, can the Corps deny them their
46 mining permit, because that's what they're after.

47
48 In the real world, when you're out
49 there mining, at least in Seward Peninsula, where
50

1 there's real gold and a real miner with real intent and
2 knowledge, the reason you do core drilling is to
3 minimize your work as you -- if you got a patent, got
4 so many acres, you go out and do your coring, that
5 coring results directs you to the gold that you're
6 trying to get so when you get down there you could
7 maximize your effort for mining and be able to pay off
8 and maybe get rich finding the gold, that's the general
9 intent behind core sampling.

10

11 So that's where we're at right now. We
12 are working with Solomon Native Corporation, the
13 Solomon tribe, Bering Straits is on with us, but they
14 -- we, Kawerak has -- and a few other organizations and
15 I believe even APMA, Alaska -- whatever that mining
16 organization have all objected to the IPOP doing
17 exploration at Solomon in the lagoon. They've been
18 very persistent. They've got lots of money. They've
19 got several million dollars of mining equipment setting
20 over there. But they've somehow scaled down to a very
21 small operation so we don't -- so that's basically
22 where I can give this Board up to date on what's going
23 on that's not part of the agenda, we believe it's
24 really important because whatever they plan to do down
25 there will impact subsistence.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Anybody have
28 any comments or thoughts on what Roy just presented.

29

30

31

(No comments)

32

33

34 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So, you know, I
35 think you bring a real important issue to the table
36 here and I don't know that we've addressed or looked at
37 this issue. And, you know, granted there are State
38 lands involved and State waters and yadayada but it all
39 ties back to our subsistence lifestyle. And foods that
40 we -- that we're sitting here at the table because of
41 that, and they're going to have impacts on those foods.
42 So I would say that it would be smart for us to work
43 with Kawerak in coming up with how can we help this --
44 your venture to intercede in this thing. How can this
45 Board, because of subsistence, write letters or be a
46 player in addressing issues.

46

47

48

49

50

MR. ASHENFELTER: So really appreciate
that. We'll try to figure out a way to make sure that
the RAC is involved.

1 As you well know, I didn't speak to
2 some of the subsistence uses down there.

3
4 Starting off in spring there's the
5 migratory bird resource that we hunt down there in the
6 spring time. And then shortly thereafter there's the
7 natural fish runs, salmon, chum, pinks, and just a few
8 kings, but they are abundant down there in the
9 resource. As a resource, there is lots of natural
10 freshwater fish. There's also fish that hang out in
11 the estuary where the freshwater/saltwater mix is and
12 that's tomcod and then there's herring. This is an
13 estuary so there's also a few seals that go in there,
14 not very many, but there are a few that go in there.
15 And then in the fall time, the migratory birds come
16 back in abundance, same time in the spring. There is
17 resident swans down there from spring time until fall
18 that create pledgings and stuff like that. So this is
19 a real estuary.

20
21 What's significant about this one in my
22 opinion, is that because of its location on the Seward
23 Peninsula as the migratory birds come up from the
24 South, if they miss St. Michael and Stebbins area, the
25 first thing they hit is our area. It's not the
26 greatest and biggest estuary but it gets flooded with
27 all kinds of migratory birds. So what we've been
28 trying to do is get the migratory bird people from Fish
29 and Wildlife, I don't know which exact agency's
30 involved, making sure that the Corps has those
31 agencies, whether it's seals, because there are
32 endangered seals, the bearded and ringed, and polar
33 bear, that IPOP has to deal with. You put those
34 agencies on notice that those resources, to some
35 extent, exist down there, that IPOP has to deal with
36 them. They've been asking us to help them but we're
37 not going to, they have to figure out how to make those
38 agency hurdles themselves. The migratory bird one, we
39 just managed within the last year to get them involved,
40 still, we'll see where that goes, there might be the
41 spectl -- there is an endangered spectacle eider. We
42 don't know if that's a particular area that they use,
43 I've seen them there, but not in abundance, but they
44 are there.

45
46 So we've been trying to get agencies
47 involved that are responsible for the different species
48 that need to be contacted and worked through by IPOP
49 themselves. We, ourselves, Kawarek, has made sure that
50

1 the Corps understands that there needs to be tribal
2 consultation from IPOP through us. They've come up to
3 our region a few times and tried to have meetings with
4 us. What we found out is that we've -- we've had three
5 meetings with them and we've been like a checkoff list.
6 In their last letter to the Corps, they denied any
7 subsistence activity there in the estuary, basically
8 wrote it off, there's no subsistence activity there.
9 We've had three separate meetings with them, and the
10 reasons for our meetings was to talk about the various
11 subsistence resources we gather there. So the last
12 meeting they had in January of this year, Kawarek
13 refused to meet with them, because they need to get on
14 board with our subsistence activities and what they
15 were trying to do, the way I figured it was that if
16 they met with us, regardless of what we said to them,
17 because they met with us, and we were doing the tribal
18 consultation, we were a checkoff and that met their
19 intent. That's not how things work.

20

21 So we'll be glad to try to work with
22 you -- with the RAC in getting involved and making sure
23 whatever data information letters that need to go out,
24 that we will inform you of the help that could be
25 needed from the RAC.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So is -- how do I
28 say this -- I want something but.....

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 ACTING CHAIR GRAY:I actually
33 want the Board to throw it out. Is there any interest
34 in going further with this.

35

36 MR. OYOUMICK: Tom.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.

39

40 MR. OYOUMICK: Yeah, in speaking with
41 some of the locals, the action put on by miners and
42 stuff detours the migration of belugas so that's a
43 thought.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah. So I will
46 entertain a motion, I can't make a motion, but I'll
47 entertain a motion that we direct Staff to work with
48 Kawerak through -- with Roy and Kawerak, to see how we
49 can work together to address this IPOP issue to -- so

50

1 it doesn't interfere with our subsistence lifestyle.
2
3 MR. KIYUTELLUK: I make the motion.
4
5 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, there's a
6 motion.
7
8 MR. KATCHATAG: Second.
9
10 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And a second. Any
11 discussion.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Question.
16
17 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Question's called.
18 All in favor say aye.
19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.
21
22 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: All opposed, same
23 sign.
24
25 (No opposing votes)
26
27 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So will that work?
28
29 MR. ASHENFELTER: Yep, thank you.
30
31 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Thank you. Okay,
32 so anybody else.
33
34 (No comments)
35
36 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I want to see
37 another tribal issue or public issue, all you guys
38 sitting in the audience, you can all say public issues.
39
40 (Laughter)
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So, okay, no tribal
45 or whatever, we're going to move on then.
46
47 (Laughter)
48
49 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Old business. Old
50

1 business, we have Board of Game proposal results and we
2 do not, for some reason have that, I guess.

3
4 MR. KIRK: We struck that out.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: It got struck out,
7 that's right.

8
9 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Karen said she had no
10 data on it.

11
12 MR. SEETOT: We moved that. Oh, okay,
13 this is what we were trying to get done, now we --
14 okay, I got it.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So I know we
17 have some new business so let's move on to -- who's
18 going to talk about Fishery Program Information Update.

19
20 There you are, welcome.

21
22 MR. HARRIS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
23 Members of the Council.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Take your time,
26 we're moving way too fast.

27
28 MR. HARRIS: Okay, I will.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead, you have
33 the floor.

34
35 MR. HARRIS: Yeah, I just want to
36 introduce myself. My name's Frank Harris for the
37 record. I'm the Yukon area fish biologist. They sent
38 me out here and I'm going to check things out, new
39 country out here. I've been to the Norton Sound a
40 little bit before, mainly doing some fishing, but never
41 been to Nome, so pretty cool country around here, I
42 like it.

43
44 So we'll get on to business here.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay.

47
48 MR. HARRIS: We'll start with I'll be
49 providing an update on two programmatic areas,

50

1 including fisheries regulatory cycle and Fisheries
2 Resource Monitoring Program. These will be brief.
3 Please ask questions, go ahead and interrupt me if you
4 want. They're pretty self-explanatory, but if you have
5 questions just go ahead and ask.
6

7 So with the Fisheries Resource
8 Monitoring Program, this is an update. We're currently
9 in the final phase of the 2020 Monitoring Program
10 funding cycle. The Federal Subsistence Board met on
11 January 28th through the 30th and made recommendations
12 about the final funding plan. Once the Office of
13 Subsistence Management has a final budget, which should
14 be any day now, that may have already happened, I
15 haven't heard, but we're waiting on the final budget,
16 the Assistant Regional Director will approve the
17 funding plan and all applicants will be notified of the
18 status of their submissions.
19

20 With the 2020 cycle nearing
21 finalization it is time for Councils to begin to
22 develop their priority information needs for 2022. The
23 2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program call for
24 proposals, and that's due out this November, November
25 2020. Priority information needs, or PINS, as they are
26 known, are an important component of the FRMP programs
27 as they identify issues of local concern and knowledge
28 gaps related to subsistence fisheries based on input
29 from Regional Advisory Councils, so that would be this
30 Council here. The priority information needs determine
31 the types of projects that the Councils for each region
32 consider important and provide a framework for
33 evaluating and selection project proposals.
34

35 Now, I'm not sure if this Council had a
36 2020 meeting in the summer for the 2018 program, but
37 similar to the 2020 monitoring program -- or the 2018
38 program cycle, we are asking for several Council
39 members to volunteer to meet programmatically,
40 telephonically over the summer -- sorry, telephonically
41 over the summer, to identify knowledge gaps and
42 information needed for management of subsistence
43 fisheries in the region. Volunteers will review a list
44 of the PINS from the last few FRMP cycles and a list of
45 what projects have been funded from those PINS, then
46 they will discuss whether the FRMP funded projects have
47 addressed the previous PINS, the potential to reuse
48 previous PINS and the development of new PINS to
49 address issues Councils have identified.
50

1 The result of these telephonic meetings
2 will be presented to each respective Council, so it'll
3 be presented to this Council, during their fall meeting
4 to help jump start discussion on the topic. Councils
5 will formally make a motion to adopt priority
6 information needs at the fall meeting and will start
7 whole new monitoring program funding cycle.
8

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

14 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So here we go, Tom
15 Gray, for 20 years has said, we need help with our
16 salmon fishery, king salmon. We had a fishery that was
17 a nickel and dime king salmon fishery and over the
18 years the escapement goal that the State had for that
19 king salmon fishery got wiped out. I protected it, I
20 went to an escapement goal meeting one time and I
21 protected it, I salvaged it, they left it alone until I
22 didn't show up at an escapement goal meeting, poof,
23 gone.
24

25 The -- and you know the hurdle that
26 I've heard from folks like you is that's State area,
27 that's State land. Quit your squawking.
28

29 Well, the area that I keep bringing up
30 and the area I keep talking about is in the Bendeleben
31 Mountains, and you have Federal lands in the Bendeleben
32 Mountains, and these fish are spawning in there, silver
33 salmon are spawning in there. Why can't we get a
34 project in there. We need a project in there. And I
35 have been banging at the door for many, many years over
36 this and to no success.
37

38 One of the frustrations I have is once
39 you leave the Nulato Hills, there's not a whole lot of
40 Federal lands around. You know, we've got the Park up
41 north but, again, I know there's Federal lands in the
42 Bendeleben Mountains and there's fish spawning in
43 there. We need to address that.
44

45 So anyway.
46

47 MR. HARRIS: Okay. Thank you. This --
48 right now we're looking for volunteers to come up with
49 these priority information needs. So appreciate that.
50

1 That, in the fall meeting is when we'd really want to
2 talk about these priority information needs, that's
3 when we'll be discussing those, but appreciate that.
4

5 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Right. Right.
6 Well, I'm going to bring this out every meeting, I
7 don't care, fall, spring, whatever, you know, and I
8 hate to be a bad penny but it's -- some day I'm going
9 to meet the right guy that will say, okay, let me make
10 a phone call and I'll straighten things out for you but
11 I haven't met that guy yet.
12

13 So, anyway, you know, is anybody on
14 this Board interested in sitting on this thing?
15

16 (No comments)
17

18 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Why don't you
19 explain what you're looking for. You're looking for
20 two guys did I hear?
21

22 MR. HARRIS: Typically we like to have
23 at least two people from each Council, so two would be
24 fine, I mean even if there's one. But basically it
25 reviews the previous PINS from years past, it talks
26 with managers, get some ideas for PINS coming up,
27 priority information needs for the next round.
28

29 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Explain what PINS
30 is.
31

32 MR. HARRIS: Priority information needs
33 are the information needs that each Council needs, like
34 areas they think are very important to them for
35 information to be researched by researchers for the
36 FRMP, the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
37

38 So for a project, not necessarily to be
39 funded, but one of the things a project needs to be
40 funded is they -- okay, let me start over here.
41

42 (Laughter)
43

44 MR. HARRIS: The Council's come up with
45 these.....
46

47 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Let me say, you're
48 talking way up here half the time and you need to come
49 to my level.
50

1 (Laughter)

2

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MR. HARRIS: Sorry about that. You work with something every day, sometimes you start in -- in different spots.

Okay.

So the way the FRMP Program works is OSM comes to the Councils to come up with priority information needs for projects. Okay. And then once the information needs from the Councils are voted upon and come up with, then these are put into a notice of funding opportunity that goes out to researchers in the fall and this is going to happen in the fall, and they look in the region they look in and then they look at these priority information needs, which is basically a list of, you know, like not specific projects but areas where people, the Councils want these projects done, and then the researchers look at these and they think, okay, oh, this is a good idea, and this is a really good idea and we've been kind of wanting to work in this area, so then they put in an application that deals with that priority information need to come up with a project. Now, researchers don't have to go with a priority information needs to get funded but it's highly advised that use these priority information needs for projects. Now, they might come up with something that nobody's thought of and it's a really really good idea and that's why it's not limited to just addressing these priority information needs, but if it's not something that addresses a priority information needs and it's not some novel thing that people haven't really been thinking about, it's really going to be difficult to get funded. I'm not saying it won't happen but it's going to be difficult. So these information needs, these priority information needs that these Councils come up with, the basis for projects that are funded in your region.

So when a Council comes up with these information needs, these are like very important, they're baseline starts for the whole program.

Does that make a little more sense now?

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So I've got a couple of questions.

1 One question, you want somebody to sit
2 on a board to evaluate the needs, so to speak. And
3 those needs are going to be addressed this fall so that
4 person's going to sit on a board this winter, where --
5 what -- are you looking for somebody to sit on a needs
6 thing that's already happened, what's -- where are we
7 at here?
8

9 MR. HARRIS: So these volunteers would
10 meet once during the summer, by telephone, to discuss
11 PINS that had been used in the past in the region, you
12 know, and whether or not projects have addressed those
13 PINS, and then come up with a list to bring up to the
14 Council in the fall. And the Council is more than
15 welcome to add to this list, shrink this list, do
16 whatever they want to do with this list at their next
17 fall meeting to officially name them priority
18 information needs. They won't be official until the
19 Council makes them official in the fall meeting.
20

21 So this person would just be one
22 meeting, by telephone, once during the summer, probably
23 July or August if I had to venture a guess.
24

25 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Now, the
26 next question is, the Chairman didn't make the meeting
27 for some reason, I think we ought to make him sit on
28 this board.
29

30 (Laughter)
31

32 MR. HARRIS: As the acting Chair I
33 would say that's probably up to you.
34

35 (Laughter)
36

37 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So I don't have a
38 problem submitting Louis' name in there, I really
39 don't.
40

41 (Laughter)
42

43 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I think he'd be
44 good for us.
45

46 MR. HARRIS: I will certainly write his
47 name down, what's his last name now?
48

49 MR. OYOUMICK: Louis Green.
50

1 MR. HARRIS: Green, okay.

2

3 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair.

4 Hannah Voorhees, OSM.

5

6 I just wanted to add that the priority
7 information needs stage of the Fisheries Resource
8 Management Program is -- or Monitoring Program, rather,
9 is really the Council's opportunity to steer our
10 research goals and outcomes. I hear, just in
11 conversation with all of you, a lot of concerns and
12 ideas and I think this would be a great opportunity to
13 work collaboratively to develop those ideas into --
14 PINS -- we can really just substitute, you know,
15 research themes, species and regions, and usually these
16 projects are kind of arbitrarily divided into stock,
17 status and trends and traditional ecological knowledge.
18 So there's an opportunity for systematically
19 documenting local knowledge as well.

20

21 And ideally, as we move forward in this
22 program we're really trying to integrate those two
23 dimensions of the projects so that we can combine
24 conventional scientific and local scientific research.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So, you know, I've
29 sat on this Board for a long time and this -- strange
30 to me, this is the first time I've heard this, we need
31 somebody to sit on the committee to evaluate projects.
32 I've heard all kinds of stuff about projects and I've
33 heard lots of excuses why I don't get projects and I
34 tell you I hope Louis accepts this thing because you're
35 going to dread the day he took this position.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: But irregardless,
40 you know, is this a new side, a new twist, or has it
41 been there a long time?

42

43 MS. VOORHEES: Yes, Pat would like to
44 say something.

45

46 MR. HARRIS: So this aspect of it is
47 new in terms of coming up with like meeting during the
48 summer but the priority information needs has been part
49 of this program for a long time.

50

1 MS. PETRIVELLI: And this is Pat
2 Petrivelli with BIA.

3
4 And the idea of evaluating projects,
5 you're not evaluating projects, but what you are going
6 to do is evaluate what you need for projects. And two
7 years ago it would have been Karen Hyer that would have
8 asked for volunteers to work with her. Because it was
9 just the work groups that were started two years ago
10 and they were just started just barely two years ago.
11 We always had priority information needs and then they
12 were put together and some people developed strategic
13 plans but I don't think this region has and maybe
14 because there's so little Federal public waters in this
15 area that they probably -- they ran out of money before
16 they got to you, but with this strategic -- with these
17 priority information needs yours is for the northern
18 region and you share them with Northwest Arctic and
19 North Slope, so all three Councils come up with
20 priority information needs and so your -- all your
21 needs will be put together and then that's what will go
22 out for the funding opportunity and that's where
23 researchers would get a focus so you're just
24 identifying the areas that should be investigated.

25
26 And then I have the list, I think, from
27 last year, the last cycle, but I had the one that was
28 for -- and it was looking at the northern -- it said
29 inventory and baseline data fish assemblages in major
30 rivers of northern Seward Peninsula tied to subsistence
31 use including Shishmaref with the intent to add to the
32 anadromous fish catalog. Because I think you had an
33 annual report issue about adding fish streams and I
34 think that's how your PIN got in there and that's how
35 it ended up -- because it was an annual report issue.

36
37 So I'm not sure who worked with Karen
38 to get that PIN on there but -- and then there's a few
39 others but I don't -- it says coho salmon abundance
40 estimates for Paragon, Boston and Wagon Wheel Rivers, I
41 don't know where those are but that was for your region
42 also. And then I think there was one -- for one -- I
43 think it was from Northwest Arctic and then I think a
44 North Slope priority information need.

45
46 But this committee, this subcommittee
47 that would meet this summer would just come up with
48 research needs that would -- that you think is a
49 concern for your region. So -- and it does have to
50

1 have the nexus of Federal public waters, but like you
2 pointed out the fish spawning in those mountains,
3 whoever's on your subcommittee, and I think it would be
4 Karen Hyer and then I think they're hiring a fish
5 biologist for the northern region.

6
7 MR. HARRIS: They haven't specified it
8 yet.

9
10 MS. PETRIVELLI: Well, if not, Frank
11 will do it.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MS. PETRIVELLI: And he'll become
16 familiar.....

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 MS. PETRIVELLI: And he will be come
21 familiar with your area.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MS. PETRIVELLI: And he'll know all the
26 Federal nexuses by the time he's meeting with you this
27 summer.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So Paragon and
32 Boston and that's all my grumbling and bitching over
33 the years. And anadromous, or cataloging, that was
34 OSM's, okay, we're going to pacify him a little bit and
35 we're going to catalog some fish or something. I don't
36 know what it was. But I still -- I'm still after --
37 you know, it just frustrates the dickens out of me that
38 I have a king salmon run that is getting washed out of
39 the system because nobody cares.

40
41 I mean you take Golovin, White
42 Mountain, Council, we all look forward to the king
43 salmon coming, that river -- the people that live on
44 that river look forward to those king salmon, they're
45 not coming anymore. And they have been coming for a
46 long, long time. And why aren't we taking care of
47 them. You know there's fish spawning in Federal lands
48 that we can address so I mean we can bring this topic
49 back up next fall and get it aired out, you know,

50

1 again, I -- if Louis accepts this, which I think he
2 will, I think he will be a real asset for this Board,
3 you know.
4

5 Let me ask, is there anybody else, I
6 mean they could take two people or more, probably
7 sitting on this thing, is anybody else interested? And
8 I -- my plate is so full I really don't want to
9 volunteer for anything more.
10

11 MR. SEETOT: Let your plate overflow.
12

13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Uh?
14

15 MR. SEETOT: Let your plate overflow.
16

17 (Laughter)
18

19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: The Lord has got me
20 going.
21

22 Roy.
23

24 MR. ASHENFELTER: Mr. Chair. Just a
25 couple of thoughts on consideration. I believe the
26 Unalakleet River qualifies for wild and scenic and so
27 to me someone from Unalakleet would be invaluable on
28 this committee.
29

30 Here's what I've learned.
31

32 When I first saw this process, oh,
33 maybe 10, 15 years ago, what I found out is that all
34 the research projects went up to Kotzebue area and up
35 to Arctic Slope area. And then I tried to speak out
36 about why isn't Seward Peninsula getting its, at least
37 one research, and the answer was there's hardly any
38 Federal waters. Well, there is, there's Shishmaref,
39 you know, there's that Arctic -- whatever you want to
40 -- Bering LandBridge, there's the wild and scenic
41 river, Unalakleet has had a huge, many years of
42 depressed king runs, so to me adding funds to get a
43 better hold and how do we get the kings to return would
44 be invaluable research in my opinion.
45

46 There used to be a commercial fishery
47 for kings, just to give you an idea of how much kings
48 they had down there.
49
50

1 So, to me, if you can get Louis and
2 another person from Unalakleet that would be really
3 helpful.
4

5 The one thing that I've learned from
6 this -- the reason I came up here in the first place --
7 it's almost like the squeaky wheel gets the money. It
8 was Willie Goodwin in the Northwest -- in the NANA
9 region that was on this committee, literally on this
10 committee about -- I'll just say at that time almost
11 all the research was being done in their area. Well,
12 they do qualify, the NANA region, because they got
13 many, many acres of Federal lands.
14

15 So, anyway, the point I'm trying to
16 make is that, to me, someone from Unalakleet would be
17 invaluable.
18

19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I've got
20 Leland and then I want to ask a question so, Leland.
21

22 MR. OYOUMICK: How soon do we have to
23 let you know we're interested?
24

25 MR. HARRIS: If you could let Karen
26 know, you know, even in a few weeks if you wanted to,
27 that'd be fine. It doesn't have to be right now.
28

29 MR. OYOUMICK: Thank you.
30

31 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So the two guys or
32 three guys, or whatever, the membership you're looking
33 for to sit on this committee, does it have to come out
34 of this Board or can it come from the public here in
35 Nome or what's the story there?
36

37 MR. HARRIS: It needs to be members of
38 the Council here.
39

40 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Okay, any --
41 on this issue, any other thing.
42

43 Elmer.
44

45 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46

47 Tom mentioned Bendeleben. I met Tom
48 maybe a couple, more than a couple times out in the
49 Bendeleben Mountains going after muskox and other
50

1 things, he's talking about the Boston Creek area on the
2 south side of Bendeleben Mountain.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep.

5

6 MR. SEETOT: Going from south to north
7 on that creek, that's horrible with a snowmachine with
8 minimal conditions. And then you have the Kuzitrin
9 River that -- that probably starts at Kuzitrin Lake,
10 pretty much eastern portion of Bendeleben Mountains. I
11 travel through there, Kuzitrin River area, for a long
12 time, and I know it's pretty rotten but I know that
13 there's fish that go up there and -- and any fish that
14 starts their livelihood or their lives, I think, come
15 from the small streams and that's where Bendeleben,
16 what do you call it, the headwaters.....

17

18 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Uh-huh.

19

20 MR. SEETOT:or the Kuzitrin River
21 headwaters, I guess, pretty much if I'm using the term
22 right starts within the Federal lands. That's where
23 all -- everything starts from.

24

25 The other -- just State and maybe
26 Native Corporation lands that the fish go through but
27 that place is remote and then so it's -- it's a long
28 travel by snowmachine from Brevig to maybe Bendeleben
29 Mountains so that's 65 almost 75, 100 miles just -- not
30 as the crow fly but, you know, the trail so there's --
31 there's many creeks or rivers that do not qualify but
32 at least some portions of these creeks or waterways are
33 in Federal lands. Agiapuk River, that doesn't have --
34 have some portions of their land in Federal, I -- I
35 know looking at that map, Kuzitrin River pretty much
36 starts I think at Kuzitrin Lake, so I think you --
37 whether you say that they shouldn't be researched, I
38 think you need to put that in, you know, where they
39 originate from, pretty much, you know, like any species
40 that want to start off, they start in a protected area,
41 pretty much like the -- like the bearded seal, that our
42 born in the Bering Sea, they find safety in the small
43 creeks wherever -- wherever, or wherever they were
44 coming from so that's their safety net. I think what
45 the small -- the small fish that are coming out, or the
46 eggs are laid that turn into small fish, those areas
47 need to be protected, Imuruk Lake, Imuruk Basin is a
48 huge area that's -- that's pretty shallow but it has
49 numerous pikes and beaver dams. Will the State or

50

1 Federal agencies do something about the beavers that
2 pretty much are blocking maybe the -- the waterways
3 where these fish spawn instead of trying to say, oh,
4 there was overfishing in the Bering Sea. Look at where
5 these fish originate from, is there something blocking
6 the fish from going all the way up to spawn like the
7 beaver dams, they're very numerous now in and around
8 Kuzitrin. They're in our -- they're within five miles
9 of Brevig Mission and probably even further north.
10 Same way with pike. Nome is going to have a pike --
11 pike, whatever, a jamboree or something telling them to
12 fish all the pike they can get, you know, for their
13 outing next month. I read it in the Nome Nugget last
14 year that they go up to Pilgrim and that area, go for
15 the biggest fish, the longest or whatever, what about
16 the mostest, you know, what about the more fish that
17 you catch, you know, it -- it would help the fish in
18 our streams.

19
20 The people that passed on in Mary's
21 Igloo kind of kept the fish in stock, I mean in place
22 because they were continually fishing for pike kind of
23 yearround if they were in and around that area. I have
24 come to, you know, oldtimers that stayed up there in
25 the springtime when I managed to pass through, you
26 know, you want to -- whatever -- you know, the style,
27 the eggs that they -- skein of eggs or whatever they
28 call them, do you want some eggs from these pikes, and
29 that's the way that I think that they kept many of
30 these predatory fish, such as pike, in check, because
31 the egg sacs of these pike, millions, or I would say
32 thousands and they're pretty much -- so we're not
33 really doing too much in this area, I mean Nome -- Nome
34 people use Imuruk Basin, Pilgrim River a lot of times.
35 We use that place to fishing and whatever, but we're
36 kind of restricted in that -- in going to certain areas
37 because that's a restriction placed by Native
38 Corporations that own these lands. It was free reign
39 before 1971, I remember going up there and drinking
40 water right at the mouth of -- or somewhere around the
41 mouth of Kuzitrin River because we knew that was fresh
42 and that times -- times when it got -- maybe it was a
43 little cooler at that time because we didn't have very
44 much algae in and around Imuruk Basin. But over the
45 years it got so warm that a couple times the algae has
46 spilled out into Grantley Harbor so I know that Imuruk
47 Basin is shallow but everything is growing up there at
48 a rapid pace. I'm not really too sure if it's due to
49 the fact that NSEDC has been putting fish -- fish food
50

1 into Salmon Lake. And I have a question that technique
2 put out by this organization, what other side effects
3 do food fertilizer for the small fry have on the river,
4 those are -- does it induce plant growth, plant weeds
5 around the river system or does it do -- or, like they
6 say, it doesn't have any effect at all.

7

8 These are some of the things that, you
9 know, that needs to be looked at.

10

11 I would think that Native people are so
12 naive that, oh, yeah, we pretty much have been doing
13 things put forth by the State and the Federal
14 government, we just said okay this is what you need to
15 do, went along willingly because at that time, you
16 know, we didn't have very much voices or people to
17 stand up for us. Nowadays people with education, our
18 young people are getting college education, you know,
19 compared to 20, 30 years ago and are really talking for
20 our people now and not just for their -- they're really
21 going for issues that have alluded us for so long. Now
22 we're kind of tackling them head on and then the other
23 side is trying to figure out where do we go from here
24 and -- and I know that trying to talk about some of
25 these difficult issues, you know, it -- it brings us to
26 a point sometimes where we're just combating, you know,
27 like Tom say, we talk about this stuff for so long
28 they've just become natural just to talk about them.
29 But things are changing now and I think that something
30 needs to be done.

31

32 I guess our Native people are no longer
33 just sitting back and saying, okay, they'll be able to
34 do the job that they're looking at, they're talking to
35 us more instead of saying, oh, we got the decision made
36 and Washington, D.C., or in Juneau, this is what we're
37 going to do and then hopefully the people accept that,
38 nowadays it's pretty much going back and forth --
39 dialogue is going back and forth between any interested
40 agency or any Federal agency that is willing to make
41 sure that things go right.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Before we
46 move on, it just dawned -- you know, sometimes it takes
47 a light to turn on in my head and it takes a little
48 while for that light to work. You know Roy's
49 suggestion of somebody coming out of Unalakleet was

50

1 right on. I mean Unalakleet and Shaktoolik, lots of
2 Federal lands. The thing that I see sitting at the
3 table is we have to put two or three people on this
4 Board, it has to come out of this Board to sit on his
5 board. And out of Unalakleet there's two guys sitting
6 at the table, and, you know, I'm I guess pushing the
7 button here to see if one of you guys want to step up
8 and sit on this board because once we leave I hate to
9 see it forgotten.

10

11 MR. OYOUNICK: I need to talk to folks
12 at home first before I decide. So I'll be deciding
13 soon.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. And there's
16 nothing that says both of you can't sit on there as far
17 as I understand. So if you're ready to step up he'll
18 take your name.

19

20 MR. KATCHATAG: That's a good one, I
21 don't know.

22

23 What do you need to know about the fish
24 there? I know we've got the king salmon, our river's
25 been too high for any counting. I know they're going
26 up and I know there was a lot last summer because the
27 ones that were subsistence fishing caught a lot of
28 kings from small to big. So what do we -- what role do
29 we need to play with you?

30

31 MR. HARRIS: So essentially what
32 information do you feel that you need for the river.
33 That's what we're looking for. We're looking for what
34 people, the information people on the Council want for
35 their area.

36

37 MR. KATCHATAG: Information about the
38 fishing, I have mixed feelings about that. So I'll
39 have to really consider this. I've been a commercial
40 fisherman all my life and I've been subsistence because
41 I had dogs before and I know what I'm up against now
42 and it's giving me mixed feelings.

43

44 MR. HARRIS: Well, that's why we're
45 asking now for people to volunteer for this so that
46 people can think about it. You're going to have, you
47 know, all spring, all summer, until the meeting happens
48 and once the meeting happens then we'll come with a
49 list to the Council in the fall and the Council can

50

1 deliberate whether they want to adopt all these
2 information needs or just a few of them. It's
3 basically up to the Council. This is the Council's
4 input into the program. So you don't have to decide on
5 what information needs are needed right now, you'll
6 have time to think about it.

7

8 MR. KATCHATAG: Another question is how
9 often would you be meeting?

10

11 MR. HARRIS: In the past it's just once
12 during the summer.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So both of
15 you guys from Unalakleet will get back to Karen or Tom
16 or somebody and go aye or nay or whatever it is.

17

18 So, okay, I think we kicked that horse
19 to death and you got another one to beat up on.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. HARRIS: All right, so we're going
24 to talk a little bit about the fisheries regulatory
25 cycle.

26

27 The Federal Subsistence Board is
28 accepting proposals this spring to change Federal
29 regulations for the subsistence take of fish and
30 shellfish on Federal public lands and waters for the
31 2021 to 2023 regulatory cycle. You can find a flier
32 starting on Page 17 of your book that describes how to
33 submit a regulatory proposal.

34

35 The Board will consider proposals to
36 change Federal fish and shellfish seasons, harvest
37 limits, methods of harvest and customary and
38 traditional use determinations until April 20th. So
39 that would mean you'll have until April 20th to submit
40 these proposals.

41

42 There are a number of ways you can
43 submit proposals. If you have a fishery proposal that
44 you'd like to submit as a Council or as an individual
45 we can discuss that right now. You can also submit
46 proposals to OSM through your Council coordinator by
47 hand, by mail, and we can assist you in drafting your
48 proposal if you'd like. There's also an online process
49 outlined more clearly on the flier in your books.

50

1 These proposals will be analyzed and
2 presented to the Council during the fall meeting cycle
3 this year for Council recommendations. Proposal and
4 analysis and Council recommendations will be presented
5 to the Federal Subsistence Board for their action at
6 their January 2021 fisheries regulatory meeting.
7

8 This concludes the Federal regulatory
9 cycle update.
10

11 Any questions.
12

13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Anybody want to
14 talk proposals, now is the perfect time to -- we got
15 the right guy in front of us to help us make a
16 proposal.
17

18 Anybody.
19

20 MR. SEETOT: Do you have last meeting,
21 or last October's proposal made -- proposed by RAC,
22 Seward Peninsula or was there no -- nothing submitted?
23

24 MR. HARRIS: So as far as regulatory
25 proposals, I wasn't here and I haven't gone through the
26 transcripts so I don't know if you guys were talking
27 about any regulatory proposals from October. We could
28 certainly go back through and look at that at a later
29 date.
30

31 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Anybody.
32 This is the opportunity to change the regulation book
33 if it's blessed. If you -- go ahead.
34

35 MR. SEETOT: Elmer again. Many of the
36 proposals that do come through State and Federal
37 agencies are pretty much fishery proposals, life cycle,
38 harvest requirements, this and that, when you do that
39 is there anything that you're looking at marine
40 ecosystem or contaminated waters that are out there,
41 stuff like algae bloom, are those taken into
42 consideration when you're saying, oh, there's a big
43 crash or fish are flipping over due to warm water, are
44 they starting to keep track of some of these events
45 because I know that around -- or between Teller and
46 Brevig, that channel, there's been some tomcod die-off
47 over the summer, not in great numbers but at least
48 probably has something to do with water quality or just
49 maybe temperature of the water. And other than that --
50

1 prior to that, in the spring, it was pretty much
2 auklets, or the murrets that were pretty much swimming
3 around in a stupor condition, you know, due to the lack
4 of nutrition or something else.

5
6 I know that pretty much everything kind
7 of starts right at the bottom, from the algae -- I'm
8 glad that we had a winter sea cover up because I would
9 assume that being open, you know, would produce more
10 warmer waters and then anything associated with warmer
11 waters would kind of come around to our area. And they
12 mentioned something about the cold water separation
13 that -- in and around the Bering Strait so there's
14 something, you know, that you need to look at, even
15 though you probably don't have the jurisdiction for
16 that so that -- that's what I'm -- I'm trying to make
17 sure that, you know, when you're considering or making
18 recommendations or requirements for us to harvest or do
19 something with the natural resources, are you looking
20 at other external factors that do come into play that
21 we're so aware of, climate change, this and that, that
22 we talk about so much.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MR. HARRIS: Thank you. For -- when a
27 biologist analyzes the proposals, they analyze and take
28 into account all data that they can find and then they
29 come up with an OSM preliminary conclusion and this is
30 taken to the Board and then the Board votes upon the
31 proposal based on data and input from the Councils. So
32 all that information is taken into account during the
33 regulatory process through the analysis.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I'm going to
36 shorten this up and get to the point. Does anybody
37 want to talk about a proposal of any kind to submit by
38 April, if not, we're going to move on.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Five, four, three,
43 two, one.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Boom. Take a

50

1 break.

2

3

(Off record)

4

5

(On record)

6

7

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Annual report.

8

Okay, where am I finding our -- go ahead.

9

10

11

12

13

MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. And I'm not sure if Karen is on the phone -- Karen, are you on the phone.

14

(No comments)

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

MR. KRON: Okay. My understanding is that at your last meeting you decided not to do an annual report. You don't have to do an annual report but you can. But there's nothing in your book because my understanding is you decided not to do an annual report at your fall meeting. You could decide that you want to add something or do an annual report at this meeting, it's up to you.

25

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27

28

29

30

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Here we go now.

31

32

33

34

35

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I want to hear it from you guys, though. Do you guys want to do an annual report. You know, you've heard a lot of issues here, what do you want to do?

36

37

38

39

40

41

MR. SEETOT: Karen used to kind of remind us during the course of the meeting, you know, what issues were kind of important to us, so far I'm not really too sure of anything that has stuck out so far.

42

43

44

45

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, Karen.

46

47

48

49

50

MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. You've talked about a number of things this morning.

I heard possibility of letters. And,

1 again, every year and a number of the Councils -- not
2 every year -- but a number of the Councils have chosen
3 over the years not to do annual reports, you don't have
4 to do an annual report if you don't want to, but if
5 there are issues that you want to hear from the Federal
6 Subsistence Board on, you're welcome to submit those
7 issues and Karen will check the transcripts and
8 implement your annual report for you, if you like. But
9 it's based on this meeting. This meeting would be
10 where you would implement the idea, talk about it, make
11 a motion, if you choose to, and actually this is the
12 meeting to vote on the annual report items.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And refresh my
17 memory, are these items current items that are
18 happening, like we talked about crab, we talked about
19 fish, scenic waters, we've talked about Federal waters,
20 yadayada, so enlighten me.

21

22 MR. KRON: Yes. Current items. And,
23 again, basically this would be going to the Federal
24 Subsistence Board so it would be going to the Fish and
25 Wildlife Service, Park Service, Bureau of Land
26 Management, U.S. Forest Service, BIA. So those are the
27 agencies this would be going to.

28

29 And I think, you know, the issues that
30 they could address related to ANILCA would be the kind
31 of thing that you would want to propose.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So, now, you know,
36 let's take the crabbing thing. We can make that an
37 issue but we're not going to address anything in our
38 world in this book because we're not commercial
39 crabbing so to speak, so if we made that a point in an
40 annual report, is it worth putting it in the report,
41 number 1. You know, I guess we always hear that the
42 Feds and the State should mirror each other and work
43 together and blah, blah, blah, is it worth putting
44 crabbing in a report.

45

46 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. What I heard
47 discussion about was the possibility of doing a
48 letter.....

49

50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes.

2
3 MR. KRON:to the North Pacific
4 Fishery Management Council. And, again, because it's
5 essentially a State issue, it's a NMFS, National Marine
6 Fisheries Service issue, that makes sense. You can put
7 it in your annual report, too, but I think doing the
8 letter to the people that have the jurisdiction over it
9 makes a lot more sense because, again, your Federal
10 Subsistence Board doesn't have direct jurisdiction over
11 that issue. But, again, it's your call. You can put
12 anything in your annual report you want, it's up to
13 you, Sir.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Anybody have
16 any thoughts here. Speak up or I'll move on.

17
18 MR. SEETOT: I'm not too sure if, you
19 know, climate induced, you know, fish kill off, I'm not
20 too sure if that was addressed in the past. I know
21 that walrus were addressed or sea mammals, I'm not too
22 sure about the recent die-off kind of period some of
23 these rivers where the water temperatures, you know,
24 spiked up considerably. Would that be an issue, or do
25 you think that it's going to pass by?

26
27 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.

28
29 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. That is an issue
30 that I've heard discussed at the Yukon Councils, I've
31 heard it discussed on the Kuskokwim. I think that that
32 issue is going to show up in their annual reports.
33 And, again, if you want to include it as the item or
34 one of the items in your annual report, it's your call,
35 but remember, anything that you add, I'm going to give
36 to Karen and so Karen is probably going to be upset
37 with all of us if she has to work on writing this up.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: You know, I think
42 God put me here on Earth to piss off people like Karen.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And, you know,
47 along with the overheating of the water is the algae in
48 the rivers. I mean my river system was just full of
49 algae last year, total, I mean all -- I do a water
50

1 quality thing with some local -- I'm the transporter
2 and we had a hard time finding sandbags, can't see them
3 because of the algae in the water and that's been
4 around for two years now. So, you know, it is and
5 should be a concern, I guess.
6

7 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Real quickly,
8 and I know Carol has something she wants to add, too,
9 but, again, we had that presentation this morning on
10 climate change. You know I've been involved in
11 drafting information for annual reports, reviewing
12 annual reports, likely if you were to ask about climate
13 induced changes and impacts on resources under ANILCA,
14 you're probably going to get a response similar or
15 related to or referring to what you heard this morning,
16 so, anyway, again, I thought that was an excellent
17 presentation this morning, but think about what --
18 you've seen lots of annual reports before, so what are
19 you going to see in that if you ask this kind of
20 question, what are you going to learn in addition to
21 what you learned this morning, I don't know.
22

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24

25 MS. DAMBERG: Through the Chair. This
26 is Carol Damberg with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
27 Service.
28

29 I was just going to make sure that
30 folks knew that they may also include other subsistence
31 related concerns like Tom just said that are not
32 addressed in the regulatory process, and in my
33 conversations, I think it was with Leland, and I know
34 Elmer spoke to this as well, there was concern over the
35 food resources that you're eating and the contaminant
36 loads that they may hold. So as a future meeting topic
37 or area of interest, that might be something you would
38 ask for more exploration to maybe bring to the meeting
39 to inform the Council.
40

41 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Is somebody
42 writing down these items here.
43

44 MR. KRON: Tina's getting everything.
45

46 (Laughter)
47

48 REPORTER: Recording it all.
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1 (Laughter)

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ACTING CHAIR GRAY: You know, okay, so we have the contaminants, we have the algae, the river, warm water, and there's two different kinds of algae in that river. I mean one kind of algae is like dust in the river and the other kind is a green grass kind, and it's been terrible for a couple years. Anything else. Anything else that we can put into this annual report.

(No comments)

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: You know I would say maybe just mention that we have sent a letter addressing subsistence crab issues so that's up on the table. Of course we haven't made a motion yet to adopt that but I'm sure it's going to happen.

Okay.

MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chair. And, again, this, at the winter meetings, this would be the meeting where you would actually vote to approve the annual report items.

What I have so far is climate induced changes, algae, fish kill-offs as one.

Contaminants of food items, contaminants affects on food items that these subsistence users depend on.

And, then, again, mentioning the letter that's going to be discussed more tomorrow about crabs and the crab fishery and protecting the resource for subsistence users.

And, again, my intent will be to shovel these off to Karen and she will write the letter, you'll sign it, but, again, your Council would need to vote on it today. You'd vote to say this is our annual report.

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.

MR. KATCHATAG: How about effects from the contaminants you get from the ocean, radiation fallouts in Japan, Siberia, how is it affecting our fish. That's something that needs to be brought up to

1 everybody, not just here. And if we learn more about
2 it I think we could really help everybody.

3
4 MR. KRON: So that's the fourth item on
5 the list. And, again, basically what Karen will do is
6 look at what Tina puts in the transcripts, your word
7 for word presentation of this, and then compile this
8 into a letter, which will be combined with all other --
9 10 [sic] other Councils, the other 10 [sic] Councils
10 are doing annual reports, and, again, like I said, we
11 had understood that you didn't discuss any annual
12 report items in the fall but I've heard four items here
13 so you would have an annual report, just like the other
14 10 [sic] Councils do, if you decide to vote.

15
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Ron.

19
20 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. On this -- we're
21 talking about an annual report concerning our
22 subsistence way of life, what about thinking about the
23 permafrost, we're getting global warming. The sun ray
24 is a lot hotter than it used to be and it's melting our
25 permafrost and when it does that, we don't what kind of
26 -- what do you call those, what's the fancy word --
27 anyway, we don't know what kind of contaminants are
28 coming out from the ground. You know, we're eating
29 plants, picking berries off the ground. And back in
30 the 1800s when they had an epidemic, you know,
31 everybody was getting sick from who knows what and if
32 this sun is melting the permafrost and we got all this
33 stuff coming out of the ground, we don't know what's
34 under there and we don't know what kind of contaminants
35 are being exposed to our plants, our berries and
36 animals that live off the grasses and the trees. We're
37 gathering that and putting it on our table to eat it.

38
39 So that's another thing we need to look
40 at besides the ocean and the water temperature heating
41 up the ocean floor and it's shallow where the kelp is.

42
43 We also have to think about the
44 radiation coming out of the water and into our kelp for
45 herring eggs that crab live off of.

46
47 Thank you.

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49 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Any other

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1 thoughts.

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MR. SEETOT: It might be out of our jurisdiction but Mr. Oyoumick mentioned something about cancer. Military has done a lot of stuff in World War II, I think.....

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: In I.

MR. SEETOT: World War I and World War II and over the years the Federal government, excluding these U.S. agencies, you know, that are present right now, have done things that might have polluted the waters, contaminated the land and such, yet we don't hear about it, only when something is uncovered do we really know about it.

Russia is pretty much covering everything up on their side. Military has been doing that on our side for a number of years. Why do we have, you know, all the cancers within Mary Igloo, it used to be a military site, I think or military supply depot in and around these areas. Many people have been dying from cancer, kind of unheard of throughout the life cycle of the Alaska Natives dating back so many years, not until they came into contact. The 1918 epidemic, flu epidemic pretty much right now, too, according to this virus, is like Western society likes to say is history repeating itself, I think -- pretty much, I think in order for us to look at these things, we need to look at the past.

I kind of mentioned earlier this morning, something about the crab, when Mr. Lean was talking, most of the time biologists talk about the, you know, life cycle, this and that, about the natural resources. What -- I think what is missing in these conversations is 50, 60 years ago, what -- what happened in that time to make things happen or to make things look very odd right now. So I think you need to look back to really understand what is really happening right now. In the past, erosion, erosion wasn't too much -- wasn't so much in our area because weather was a lot tamer. Now, we got system after system, low pressure coming in from the western portion of our state, from the other side of the world and we really don't know what's happening over there. I'm happy that, you know, that there's no war -- there's no conflicts in and around our area, shells going off,

1 whatever they use in their bombs or whatever, military
2 artillery, weapon -- their weapons. But we also have
3 to consider, you know, natural disasters, natural
4 things happening, volcanos putting up smoke plume way
5 up in the sky, it's going to cover half of the world.
6 Many things that were talked about by our ancestors,
7 many of these Council members know what they talked
8 about in the past, it was going to happen, and we're
9 starting to see some of that.

10

11 And that can be correlated, you know,
12 between one area and then the other area because at
13 that time they were pretty much in the central region,
14 I would think towards Mary Igloo, Kawarek -- Kawarek
15 meaning where the sand bars meet, or that -- that
16 interpretation of the word but they -- they kind of
17 went from there and then kind of spread out so that's
18 something that needs to be looked at.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.

23

24 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. And, again, I'm
25 just trying to condense and consolidate so that when
26 Karen puts this together for your review and signature.

27

28 The first item we talked about was
29 climate induced changes, you know, to the fish, fish
30 kill-offs, algae, and it seems like the permafrost loss
31 and the effects on people, of climate change, those are
32 all -- that's like one topic, so my suggestion would be
33 to combine that as one topic, the climate induced
34 changes.

35

36 The second part, I heard contaminants
37 to foods and I would suggest lumping the cancer chan --
38 you know, people getting cancer and as a result of what
39 they eat, that we include that in with the contaminants
40 of foods. Because that is where the concern is coming
41 from.

42

43 The third, the letter concerning crabs,
44 which you'll talk about tomorrow.

45

46 And then the fourth, the contaminants
47 from the ocean, radiation, things like that, that are
48 not -- it's not a climate issue, it's just poison in
49 the water and what impact is that having on salmon, for
50

1 example, or dropping out of the sky.

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So those four items but, again, I'm going to hand this off to Karen -- I don't know if she's on the phone -- Karen, are you on the phone?

(No comments)

MR. KRON: Yeah, she was not feeling well and, again, that's why I'm here. But, again, I'll pass this off to her and she'll draft a letter for you to review and sign and -- but this, again, is the meeting when you would actually approve the annual report items.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. We got -- Ron was waving his hand at me a while ago, and Leland will be next.

(Laughter)

MR. KIRK: I have one more comment. Elmer brought up something that I never thought of until now concerning Cancer.

Way back when the military first came and the Gold Rush started, they all settled in St. Michael. Now people over there are dying from cancer so you had these people -- the military had a base in St. Michael and I don't think they ever did a really good job of cleaning up where they were so they had a tie-line going from St. Michael up that way into the Interior, for communications; that's being cleaned up, slowly. So a lot of this stuff that's happening now is coming from the past into the future. And our elders used to warn us about it, and he's right, we heard about it when we were young and now we're dealing with it today.

So we need to do a study on our lands, what's coming out of the grounds from the permafrost and also the ocean. We need to have our water tested like we test -- we have our drinking water tested, they're always taking our drinking water samples and sending them out to the labs to get tested, why not take our ocean water sample and test it out -- send it out to the labs to get tested for radiation. We live

1 off that table, that's our table out there.

2

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Leland.

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MR. OYOUNICK: The reason I mention the
8 contaminants in the land is, I don't know, last year or
9 the year before our IRA had a meeting with the people
10 who go around checking for PCBs, they're an outfit out
11 of Anchorage. They take samples from the ground and
12 send them in to see what's in it and if it's bad they
13 let the IRA know and then the IRA informs the Army
14 Corps and then they fund the project. That's why I
15 brought this to our attention because I took them to
16 two places and both places had bum stuff in there.

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So that is a fact.

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ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Elmer.

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And, again, the Federal Board will do
its best to try to respond to each of those topics as

1 best they can.

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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6 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So let me jump in
7 here. My understanding of this walrus die-off was a
8 bloom and the shellfish got toxic and the walrus ate
9 the toxic shellfish and boom we had a die-off. So, you
10 know, I'm not 100 percent sure on that but I thought I
11 heard that out on the street. So, you know, there was
12 an answer, I think, over that.

12

13

Leland.

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MR. OYOUNICK: I forgot to mention I
took these people up with my boat so it's real close to
the edge of the water where this stuff was.

19

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ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.

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MR. KATCHATAG: I would suggest that,
you know, when the climate change really started, it
started back in 1957 when Russian sent Sputnik into
orbit. There was an old scientist that said, the world
will experience changes throughout the years, and we
have.

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I've been commercial fishing since the
'50s and we used only gunnysacks for our anchors, and
after 1957 we had to start getting metal anchors to
hold our nets, and now the currents are outrageous out
there.

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And throughout the years they've sent
so many satellites up into orbit, we have no ozone
layer, so we're -- so we could expect the sun to beat
down on Earth with the intense heat and we're trying to
discuss what's happened, we're not trying to do
something about what's happening. What we need to do
is find a way to learn to adjust to the changes. We
can't stop it. We just have to learn to adjust. And
the best way I was told is to watch the animals. Watch
the animals and learn and live by them because we can't
change nothing, it's too late; far too late.

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As for global warming. Global warming
started back in the Stone Age time, and there's nothing
we could do about that either, but continue to learn.

1 We need to -- what you need to do is
2 put out this information in the paper so that the
3 people will learn what started it all, curiosity of man
4 started it all. Money started it all. So we just have
5 to learn to live with it. We're doomed as it is now.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. We have a
8 few things on the list and if we want it to become an
9 annual report we need to make a motion to adopt that
10 list. So.....

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12 MR. KIRK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. There's a
15 motion, is there a second.

16
17 MR. OYOUMICK: I second.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Read the
20 list off to me so we're all on the same page.

21
22 MR. KRON: Okay. And, again, you know,
23 you can decide how you want to put this together. What
24 I heard were four items.

25
26 The first item is climate induced
27 changes and it's having an effect on algae, and fish,
28 permafrost and all that relates to the food items that
29 subsistence users are able to get for their subsistence
30 needs. So that's one.

31
32 The second is contaminants.
33 Radioactivity. Chemicals. Petroleum. And how those
34 may relate to cancer that people are seeing in the
35 villages. So that would be number 2.

36
37 The third is the crab issue, which
38 you're going to vote on tomorrow.

39
40 The fourth is the contaminants issue.
41 So separate from climate, or the contaminants of food,
42 but contaminants in ocean, radiation, et cetera and I
43 guess what -- I'm looking at it now, maybe two and four
44 could be combined a little bit, I don't know.

45
46 But there are three or four items.
47 And, again, you would need to decide if you want to
48 vote on this. You've got a motion and a second.

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1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Is there any.....
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3 REPORTER: Tom, turn your mic on.
4
5 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: She wants me to
6 push the button.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Any more
11 discussion.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: If not I need a
16 question.
17
18 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Question.
19
20 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Question's been
21 called. All in favor say aye.
22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.
24
25 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: All opposed, same
26 sign.
27
28 (No opposing votes)
29
30 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Ah, come on, we
31 need one no.
32
33 (Laughter)
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35 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So we're
36 going to have an annual report.
37
38 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair.
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40 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.
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42 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. And, again, as
43 always, you submit an annual report, this is going to
44 force the Federal Subsistence Board and the Staff at
45 OSM to put together the response, which ultimately the
46 Board will respond to and approve, and there will be a
47 response back from the Federal Board for these issues.
48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Man we're
2 almost done with this meeting.

3
4 (Laughter)

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6 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So I am down to
7 agency reports. And tribal governments. Anybody from
8 a tribe want to get up and talk about something.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I can't pick on
13 Roy.

14
15 MR. ASHENFELTER: I did mine earlier.

16
17 (Laughter)

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19 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. No tribal
20 governments.

21
22 Native organizations. Anybody
23 representing a Native Organization here.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Nobody wants to
28 talk. I don't want to talk. I'm a Chairman of the
29 Council Native Corporation but I'm not too interested
30 in talking.

31
32 So, the next thing on the agenda is
33 National Park Service.

34
35 MS. KOELSCH: Council and Chair. I'm
36 Jeanette Koelsch, and I'm the Superintendent of Bering
37 LandBridge. Nikki Braem is our anthropologist and
38 Letty Hughes is our biologist, and they will give some
39 information on projects that are going on in the
40 Preserve.

41
42 I just wanted to let you all know that
43 we have a new District Ranger for the Park, which is
44 our law enforcement Park Ranger. You saw him earlier,
45 his name is Mike Thompson. He comes to Nome from Sitka
46 National Historical Park. And he has worked at Bering
47 LandBridge, I believe from 2005 to 2008 previously and
48 he has been other places since. But he is now
49 stationed in Nome. And he took, after many years, of

50

1 trying to replace him, Walker Gusse, who now works for
2 the BLM, who's back there.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MS. KOELSCH: But so that's who our new
7 Park Ranger is. And then I'll let Letty and Nikki give
8 you guys some info on some wildlife projects and some
9 other projects that might be of interest to the
10 Council.

11

12 MS. BRAEM: Hello, again, I guess I'll
13 kick this off. For the record my name's Nikki Braem,
14 I'm the cultural anthropologist at Bering LandBridge.
15 I also work with the permitting process. We allow
16 research activities to happen on Bering LandBridge
17 lands, they have to go through a process, apply and
18 there are some hoops to jump through.

19

20 So we're not going to tell you -- kind
21 of give you an overview for this coming summer field
22 season. We're not going to talk about everything.

23

24 In terms of research that happens in
25 the Park, we're talking about with physical things,
26 biology, land, water, animals, that sort of thing.
27 You can put the two types of research we do into two
28 categories. There's the long-term stuff that's
29 National Park Service research, like a -- they call it
30 a vital sign. So there's like a lake vital sign and
31 there's a vegetation vital sign and there's a lagoon
32 vital sign. That happens -- it's going to happen
33 throughout time at regular intervals. I won't spend
34 much time on that because that's just kind of regularly
35 occurring stuff.

36

37 But there are four projects in
38 particular that I just wanted to mention that'll be
39 happening this year in the Bering LandBridge. The
40 first one is going to occur in April. And this one is
41 looking at contaminants that are being deposited
42 atmospherically, you know, they can travel very long
43 distances. And it's focusing on lichen, well, moss
44 actually too, largely because of their importance in
45 the food chain. So this particular project is going to
46 take samples of snow at 15 locations that are across
47 the Northern Seward Peninsula. They'll be looking at
48 sulphur, nitrogen, and some heavy metals that are --
49 can be atmospherically deposited. They're doing this

50

1 in the wintertime because they want to be able to take
2 it at different times of the year to determine its
3 sourcing. Is it happening in the winter months when we
4 don't have ships coming through. It may also allow
5 them to determine the source -- by this testing, they
6 might be able to determine where, in fact, these are
7 coming from, be it the United States, Lower 48, Russia,
8 Southeast Asia. So that's the goal of that one. The
9 main concern for us in all these projects is how do
10 they affect people out on the land. Aircraft can be
11 quite a disturbance, particularly helicopters, we're
12 very cautious about permitting them. So our concern,
13 and we've already consulted with both the Native
14 Village of Wales and Shishmaref, because they're the
15 most directly impacted by research in our Park, about
16 -- concerns about them doing this in April and April we
17 finally have snow, people can finally get out on a
18 snowmachine and go caribou hunting. So one of our
19 stipulations is going to be about them sort of scouting
20 out an area and looking to see if there are people out
21 on the land trying to hunt and maybe avoid that area
22 for a period of time and not disturb people who are
23 trying to do their spring hunting. The same thing
24 happens in June. We always ask people to be mindful of
25 how their activities might affect local folks doing
26 their thing.

27
28 The next project is an emperor goose
29 project. Tyler Lewis at Fish and Game is going to put
30 transmitters on -- their goal is 15 to 20 emperor
31 geese. The idea is to figure out where they go. Are
32 they a distinct population from the one down on the YK-
33 Delta, which is quite large. They may also do some
34 blood draws and things like that. In talking with
35 Shishmaref, they were concerned because they have to --
36 basically they have to treat it -- it's a surgery with
37 a veterinarian and so they have kind of like to sedate
38 the goose, capture the goose, sedate the goose and
39 then, you know, anesthetic so they can put the
40 transmitter on, and then something to help them
41 recover, there were concerns about would they, if
42 somebody shot one, be safe to eat. So they're changing
43 the labeling on the transmitters which are visible,
44 letting people know about this, the fact that they had
45 to use some drugs on the geese to do this.

46
47 Let's see what else we got.

48
49 Two more I'll tell you about then I'll

50

1 let Letty talk.

2

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I'm giving her a little break.

4

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(Laughter)

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8 MS. BRAEM: We also have a seabird die-
9 off survey. As you know the last few years we've had
10 issues with different species of bird washing up dead
11 or in very bad shape. In most cases when they've
12 tested them it's been related to starvation, unlike the
13 walrus where there was the concern about the algae and
14 the toxins. This is, so far, it looks to be
15 starvation. And the Park Service hasn't had dedicated
16 funding to respond to this, but the researcher,
17 Bakanstow (ph), has funding so that we can be a little
18 more reactive when something happens and go out and do
19 aerial surveys and then land and get -- take samples of
20 these birds and test them as these things are
21 happening.

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The final one is, you were talking
about contamination, and that could be any variety of
things. We already talked about the contaminants with
moss. In terms of the changes in the ocean and the
lagoon environments, ocean acidification, changes in
the water chemistry, Tasi Jones has a project, which
will be sampling lagoon water and looking at changes in
the actual chemistry of the water. They take other
things too, they'll get what's in the water, they look
at -- they take water temperature and things like that,
but they will be looking at the actual chemical
composition in some of the lagoons so that relates to
some of the stuff you've been talking about.

I think that's all I want to talk with
you about right now. Letty will talk about some of the
wildlife projects that are going on.

MS. HUGHES: Thank you. For the
record, this is Letty Hughes, wildlife biologist for
Bering LandBridge based here in Nome.

I'll just briefly mention this, I'm
just going to leave it to Bill with Fish and Game to go
into more detail if he wants. We have been working
with Fish and Game on aerial population moose survey
for Unit 22D and E. So that's currently ongoing. And
like I said, anything else I'm just going to let Bill

1 talk about it.

2

3 We do have coming up in mid-May with
4 Park Service here with Bering LandBridge, also some --
5 the bear biologist out of the Fairbanks office and Fish
6 and Game, we're going to do a brown bear survey and
7 that's going to start mid-May and the last time we did
8 this was in 2015 so it's going to be the same area
9 that's covering up from pretty much the central Seward
10 Peninsula so that -- it can be close to two week
11 project because the biggest thing is to, you know,
12 complete it before leaf out and then it becomes a lot
13 harder to find those bears when doing the aerial
14 surveys. So it's a pretty big project. It's a good,
15 you know, six, seven Cubs that are, you know, flying so
16 that'll be -- and we'll put out notices also with, you
17 know, Shishmaref, Wales and folks so people are aware.

18

19 Right now what I've been working on, it
20 doesn't necessarily relate to the Seward Peninsula, but
21 it's working with doing muskox population survey out of
22 Kotzebue area, so that's with the Cape Krusenstern
23 population. So that's actually where I've been most of
24 my spring and I'll be going back there again to
25 continue working with the muskox out in that area.

26

27 So -- and I'll just mention really
28 briefly and, you know, they had talked about the fish
29 inventory for the FRMP project. So one of the
30 inventory needs was this fish project to come out of
31 Shishmaref to work with a baseline inventory and study.
32 So that was taken on but we also added on to it to look
33 at genetics of the salmon and also age, sex, length of
34 salmon as well so it can be compared to other areas
35 around the Seward Peninsula and also like with Kotzebue
36 when it comes to the genetics. So that is going to
37 occur starting in late summer or early fall.

38

39 MS. BRAEM: One last thing I'll add.
40 You guys were talking -- there was some conversation
41 about the question of wild foods and contaminants and
42 concerns about that. We were kind of talking amongst
43 ourselves, it might be possible, I think Norton Sound
44 Health Corporation has some folks who talk about what's
45 been done in terms of studying wild food, subsistence
46 food versus store bought food and the relative health
47 of each and contaminants loads in each and so it might
48 not be a bad idea for someone to reach out to Norton
49 Sound and have them maybe give a presentation at the

50

1 next meeting about what's known right now about
2 contaminants in subsistence, different types of
3 subsistence foods.
4

5 And that's all I have unless you have
6 any questions.
7

8 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: All right, guys.
9 Bear study, whooo.
10

11 (Laughter)
12

13 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Anybody have any
14 questions.
15

16 (No comments)
17

18 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: I'm going to be
19 looking for the end result of the bear study so I'm
20 glad it's happening because I've been a critic of the
21 last few years here.
22

23 Okay, well, thank you girls, and thank
24 you for getting up and enlightening us.
25

26 So where's our BLM guy.
27

28 MR. SPARKS: Waiting patiently.
29

30 (Laughter)
31

32 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Waiting patiently.
33 We are rolling too fast, that's for sure.
34

35 (Laughter)
36

37 MR. SPARKS: Mr. Chair, pleasure to see
38 you again. Council members. I have Walker next to me,
39 some of you recognize him, he's been up the last couple
40 of years since he joined BLM, it's good to have him
41 here.
42

43 I passed around a little update of the
44 field office. Just want to mention a few things.
45

46 I know in the past the Council's wanted
47 an update on special recreation permits that we give
48 out and those are for the primarily big game guides.
49 There were three that we did this last year that are in
50

1 your guys' area, if you will. We gave a renewal to Bob
2 Hanana of Koyuk and a renewal to Lance Kromberger, and
3 he hunts primarily Nulato Hills. And then another one,
4 it was a new one, to Johnny Richardson, and he's
5 hunting out of St. Michael. And many of you might know
6 him, he was hooked up with Jerry Austin's group so he's
7 been around that country quite a while.

8
9 That's the only ones that directly
10 effect -- we have a couple more permits, including
11 Acting Chair has one with the BLM, so there are a
12 number that we have currently besides those. But I
13 told the Board here that I would update you as far as
14 any new proposal or what not.

15
16 We did give out six muskox permits this
17 last year. We haven't had a report of harvest yet. I
18 think it's a difficult snow year. We are expecting a
19 storm this weekend. The season closes this weekend,
20 too, so we're hopeful that those people that got a
21 Federal tag can get out and harvest those animals.

22
23 So the only other thing I wanted to
24 mention was the Bering Sea Western Interior, it's in
25 the little flier here that I handed out. The next step
26 on that is the actual release of the document and then
27 there's a 30 day public protest period after that.

28
29 I did want to mention a few things.
30 Our land use plans are very large documents that kind
31 of give us some guidance as far as Staff and the Bureau
32 is how we're going to manage your public lands in the
33 areas. This is the last one for Alaska. It's one of
34 the largest that we had left. The current land use
35 plan that's in place for that area is called the
36 Southwest Management Framework Plan and that one was
37 done in 1981. So from my perspective it's good to have
38 an updated plan, it's almost 40 years old. It really
39 doesn't address things that are happening today. So
40 from my perspective as a Staff member in Nome, I've
41 been with BLM almost 17 years now, I think it's a
42 really good thing to help guide the future management
43 of those lands. So we have taken some criticism, as
44 you heard this morning, from Mr. Austin, and we've
45 heard that out there, we, you know, try to please
46 everyone but honestly that's a difficult bar to reach
47 but we are trying our very best. Again, it's a very
48 large document, if any of you have gone in and looked
49 at it and there's a website that you can look at there
50

1 that has the current information.

2

3 So with that I'd be happy to answer any
4 questions or maybe, Walker, if you have anything to
5 add.

6

7 MR. GUSSE: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,
8 Council members, Walker Gusse for the BLM, Anchorage
9 Field Office, for the record.

10

11 I don't have anything specific to add.
12 My general message when I come to the Resource Advisory
13 Council meetings is the same message, which is, from
14 the law enforcement standpoint, we really appreciate
15 and we really need cooperation and timely reports. If
16 you see things happening in the field, give us a call.
17 If you don't have our phone number, on the back of the
18 sporthunting regs, is the wildlife safeguard 1-800
19 number, call that, let them know, someone will come
20 out. We work closely with the State Troopers. I'll
21 come out. Maggie will come out. Someone will be out
22 to help.

23

24 MR. SPARKS: I did forget, Mr. Chair,
25 I'm sorry. We did also continue the moose tags in
26 Unalakleet this last year, so we've been doing that for
27 quite a number of years.

28

29 So with that I'd be happy to answer any
30 questions.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead.

33

34 MR. SEETOT: You still -- or BLM still
35 issue permits for the reindeer grazing, up to this
36 point, you know, even though most of them are out with
37 the caribou?

38

39 MR. SPARKS: Yes, we do.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Any other
42 questions. Comments. One report for muskox was handed
43 to you the other day so you had one -- yeah, my wife's,
44 Katia, remember.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MR. SPARKS: I'm raising my eyebrows.

49

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3

MR. SPARKS: Was.....

4

5

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: That's when I
picked up John's permit.

6

7

8

MR. SPARKS: That's when you picked up
John's, awww, well, I stand corrected.

9

10

11

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah.

12

13

MR. SPARKS: We've had one harvest out
of six.

14

15

16

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Any other comments,
concerns. BLM's got a lot of land, they got lots of
issues.

17

18

19

20

MR. OYOUMICK: Hey, Tom.

21

22

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go.

23

24

MR. OYOUMICK: Do you know much about
the reindeer -- I mean the caribou they collared, what
the collar that they use, what it entails, what goes
into it?

25

26

27

28

29

MR. SPARKS: I'd like to defer to Fish
and Game, to Bill, to do that. We cooperate with them,
mainly on a financial way, but those are their collars,
so if I could defer to our State agency on that. I
think Bill's back waiting patiently to get on board
too.

30

31

32

33

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35

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah, Bill can
answer that question. So if there's no other questions
I want to thank you guys for coming in and being
patient and waiting.

36

37

38

39

40

41

(No comments)

42

43

MR. SPARKS: Thank you. And my office
is right there on Front Street if anybody wants to stop
by, more than welcome any time.

44

45

46

47

Thank you.

48

49

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: All right, we are

50

1 moving way too fast.

2

3

(Laughter)

4

5

6

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: You guys that got
per diem, you're going to have to turn in some of your
per diem.

7

8

9

(Laughter)

10

11

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, Fish and
Game. Bill.

12

13

14

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16

17

MR. DUNKER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.
For the record I'm Bill Dunker, I'm the Unit 22 area
biologist. I'm joined here also with Sara Germain, our
assistant area biologist here in the Nome office.

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I apologize, if any of this is
redundant, I know you guys covered some of the
regulatory changes that were adopted by the Board at
our January meeting here in Nome, actually right here
in this room, but I did want to just recap at least the
proposals that were adopted by the Board and some of
the other actions that the Board took on some of those
proposals.

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So Proposal 31, right out of the gate
there, was a proposal that was submitted by the Middle
Yukon Advisory Committee to establish a registration
permit hunt for muskox in Units 21D, 22A, and 24D.
That proposal was deferred to the Fairbanks meeting so
that they could deal with the proposal in its entirety.
The 21D and 24D portions of that proposal weren't on
the call for proposals at our meeting, so the Board
actually took that proposal up yesterday and as part of
they had to address the lack of a C&T or customary and
traditional use determination for that portion of the
proposed hunt area in 21D and 24D. They found a
negative C&T determination for 21D and 24D. And in
their deliberations yesterday adopted regulations to
implement a draw permit for Alaska residents in 21D and
24D. That portion of the proposed hunt area in 22A is
currently included within the definition of the Seward
Peninsula muskox population and has a positive
customary and traditional use determination. As a
consequence, subsistence uses are provided for above
all other uses and the, Board, in their deliberations
yesterday adopted regulations that would implement a

1 hunt in 22A based on the current ANS for the Seward
2 Peninsula muskox population of 100 to 150 and so with
3 that we will start off with a Tier II muskox hunt in
4 22A. That hunt will likely be included in the
5 subsistence supplement this coming fall and folks will
6 have the opportunity to apply for hunts that'll take
7 place in 2021 and 2022 in November and December of this
8 coming year.
9

10 The next proposal, Proposal 30, that
11 was a proposal to include muskox on a list of species
12 that can be taken under a proxy permit. That proposal
13 was deferred to the statewide meeting and will be
14 considered at the next statewide meeting.
15

16 Proposal 33 was a department proposal
17 that was submitted both to the State Board of Game and
18 to the Federal Subsistence Board to modify the season
19 dates and permit requirements for moose hunting in 22D
20 remainder. The Board adopted that proposal as written,
21 basically. And followed suit with a similar
22 recommendation that you guys put forward to the Federal
23 Subsistence Board. So with that, this coming fall, the
24 22D remainder hunt area will be included as a separate
25 hunt area within the RM840 permit hunt and will be
26 administered accordingly. Along with that change in
27 the regulation, we do have plans to travel to Brevig
28 and Teller during the time period that we'll be issuing
29 those permits to do some outreach with folks in those
30 areas that maybe aren't as familiar with the
31 registration permit, how it works, the requirements
32 that go along with it so that folks in those
33 communities are well aware of what the changes are and
34 how it might affect them.
35

36 The next proposal would be Proposal 35.
37 It was a public proposal that sought to change the
38 availability of Unit 22 registration permits for moose
39 hunting. Basically the proponent of the proposal
40 sought to limit the timeframe in which those permits
41 were made available. The Board ultimately adopted the
42 proposal with an amendment to allow for those permits
43 and we're only going -- this will only affect the RM840
44 registration moose permits. Those permits will be made
45 available from July 25th to August 25th and will not be
46 made available thereafter or during the course of the
47 season and portions of the hunt area there. So folks
48 will have to pick them up basically before the start of
49 the hunt in most, if not -- in most of the hunt areas
50

1 there.

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I'm skipping over a lot of these because most of them -- a good number of them were not adopted by the Board or not passed. So these are specifically the ones that will change this coming year.

So Proposal 38 was a proposal that was submitted by the Department to, in reality, kind of address some housekeeping issues related to the RM841 moose permit in the Unalakleet area. We've had a long history of issuing season extensions for the hunt in that area in order to allow for folks to take advantage of the opportunity provided and harvest the available surplus of moose in that area. The season was extended from a closing date of September 20th to a closing date of September 30th during the RM841 season, and the winter season was extended from December 1st to December 31st, December 1st to January 31st. The intent there was to basically include the full range of season dates that have been administered historically through season extensions.

The Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee also provided an amendment to that proposal that was adopted by the Board to modify the northern boundary of that hunt area to basically deal with an issue that has come to light in recent years related to sort of some of the traditional hunting areas for folks in Shaktoolik that basically have been overlooked for a number of years and were a part of that RM841 hunt. And so the boundary, the northern boundary was subsequently changed by the Board from south of the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik River drainage to south of and including the Agavaik (ph) Creek drainage. So it cuts out a very small portion of the hunt area and puts it in that northern portion, in the Shaktoolik area and it was supported by all the members of the Southern Norton Sound AC down there. They subsequently submitted a wildlife special action request to the Federal Subsistence Board that is, as I understand it, hasn't been taken up by the Board to align that season date -- or excuse me, to align that boundary with the State and Federal regulations. And so if it's not dealt with the by Board this year I would expect to address that in future regulatory cycles.

And the last couple here related to

1 brown bears.

2
3 Proposal 41 was a proposal that sought
4 to extend the season dates for brown bear hunting in
5 22B and C. The season date for Alaska residents was
6 extended to June 30th in that area and the season dates
7 for non-residents was extended to June 15th in that
8 area. They also adopted a regulation to require a
9 registration permit for all brown bear hunting that
10 takes place in Unit 22C so in the local area here
11 around Nome. That was part of a separate proposal, it
12 was ultimately worked into the proposal as amended for
13 Proposal 41.

14
15 And lastly, Proposal 39 was a proposal
16 -- public proposal that sought to extend the season for
17 brown bear hunting in 22D and 22E and also had an
18 increase in the bag limit from one bear every
19 regulatory year to two bears every regulatory year and
20 the season date changes in that proposal were to extend
21 the closing date for both residents and non-residents
22 from May 31st to June 15th.

23
24 So that's all of the regulatory changes
25 for -- that were adopted by the Board that relate to
26 Unit 22 specifically.

27
28 I talked about that one -- all right,
29 let me get back to my notes here.

30
31 As Letty mentioned, we're currently
32 under way with a cooperative project with contributions
33 from both the Park Service and BLM to estimate moose
34 abundance in Unit 22E and 22D. We've implemented a
35 different sampling strategy for this year compared to
36 what we've done in past years. We've kind of shied
37 away from the GSP technique and are utilizing an
38 adaptive cluster sampling methodology. So this is the
39 first go around for this type of sampling and I can
40 tell you right now that there will be plans, once we're
41 completed with the project, to share all the results
42 and some of the things that we learned from this
43 project with you guys in the future. We're not done
44 with it as of yet, we're fourth and goal at this point,
45 I've been using football metaphors all week, so I'm
46 just going to keep going with it. But we're very near
47 to completing the project in both 22D and E. And thus
48 far, things are looking good in that neck of the woods.
49 All the pilots and observers that I've talked to that

50

1 have participated in the project have noted just how,
2 in what amazing condition the animals are, with as
3 little snow as we've had, they've been able to stay in
4 some of the upper drainages where they typically can't
5 due to snow conditions in most years. So really good
6 looking crop of moose calves this year, good condition,
7 and hopefully we'll get a better understanding of that
8 once our research biologist, Warren Hanson, gets out
9 into the field to weigh some of those moose calves this
10 coming spring.

11

12

So future activities.

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Letty also mentioned the bear survey. Fish and Game will be participating in that project this coming spring and that'll be hopefully the second time we've been able to complete that survey and then we'll be basically making preparations for survey and inventory activities this coming fall. Our plan at this point is to do a fall composition survey in 22A, in the Unalakleet drainage, followed by a moose survey in the area the following spring, which will be paired up with a Seward Peninsula range-wide composition and abundance survey in the spring of 2021.

So those are a couple of things just to be looking forward to.

Along those, I guess, same lines in terms of some of the recent regulatory changes and some of our plans for outreach, we do plan on traveling down to Unalakleet and Shaktoolik to talk with folks in those areas, again, to just make sure that hunters in both communities are aware of the new regulatory changes related to both the season dates and the boundary changes in that northern and central 22A hunt areas.

And then lastly, you know, along the same lines as our plans for survey and inventory activities related to the moose population in 22A, we are currently above the population objective for moose in 22A. And so part of the discussion moving forward will have to include both with members of this RAC and our local ACs and local community members in Unalakleet, is the understanding that one of the things we'll need to start considering is sort of the ultimate, I guess, carrying capacity of moose in that area and evaluating potential resource limitations in

1 the future in the event we reach a point where we have
2 too many moose in that area and have to take management
3 actions to reduce the population in order to maintain
4 it within a reasonable level that doesn't result in
5 degradation to the habitat in that neck of the woods.
6

7 So I guess that's just something to be
8 aware of down the line, you know, with more moose,
9 there comes some other opportunities for hunting and
10 the real consideration of resource limitation concerns.
11 And so I just wanted to put that out there right now so
12 that folks are aware when we start talking about all
13 these different things coming down the line, that it's
14 not the first time you've heard of them. These are all
15 kind of things that come along with improving and
16 growing moose populations.
17

18 So I guess with that that's all I had
19 to share with you guys today. I'd be happy to answer
20 any questions that you might have about some of the
21 regulatory changes and our plans for the future.
22

23 So, thank you, Mr. Chair.
24

25 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: We want to hear her
26 talk.
27

28 (Laughter)
29

30 MR. KIRK: Yeah. Yeah, Bill, let her
31 talk.
32

33 (Laughter)
34

35 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: She can answer all
36 the questions.
37

38 (Laughter)
39

40 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead, Leland.
41

42 MR. OYOUMICK: Almost since I first
43 heard about your people collaring caribou, I wondered
44 if there was other capabilities that collar has, is
45 there capability of that collar being able to herd a
46 caribou and then the rest would follow; that's how
47 caribou would go, they follow a leader. So I was just
48 curious about that for my own information, you know. I
49 don't know that fact. I never seen a schematic or a
50

1 drawing of the -- whatever's inside there. But I don't
2 think there is but I just wondered from inception of
3 this kind of thing.

4
5 MR. DUNKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
6 the collars that we typically deploy are a combination
7 of different technologies. They have a VHF transmitter
8 on them, which is just a very high radio frequency that
9 admits a beep that allows us to locate that animal in
10 real time using an aircraft and then the vast majority
11 of the collars that we put out there are also either
12 GPS or PTT collars, and I can't remember what PTT
13 stands for, but basically they're taking locations of
14 the animals and communicating that back to us via
15 satellites and so we are able to sort of monitor the
16 movement of these animals throughout the season to
17 determine if they're, you know, changing their
18 distribution or utilizing different portions of their
19 wintering range, you know, calving in different areas
20 which they're not, they're in the tradition calving
21 area, but if they were to start calving someplace else
22 that's some of the information we would be able to
23 glean from those collars.

24
25 There's no, you know, there's no two-
26 way sort of communication with us or any sort of, you
27 know, technology or accessories on those collars that
28 would influence the animals behavior. Our ultimate
29 goal is ultimately the exact opposite, when we put
30 these collars on animals the expectation is that they
31 are representative of the population as a whole,
32 they're not going to be negatively impacted by the
33 collars and they're not going to influence their
34 behavior in any way. So they're intended to be sort of
35 silent observers as they go for a ride with the caribou
36 that's wearing the collar.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Very good. You're
39 too thorough.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Anybody else have
44 any questions.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So I thank you all
49 and next year she's got to give the report.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay, thanks so
4 much. So I'm going to call for a smoke break, I don't
5 smoke but you guys -- you don't want to take a smoke
6 break, okay.

7

8 MR. SEETOT: We could finish.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Everybody's wanting
11 to finish.

12

13 MR. SEETOT: I mean for today and
14 tomorrow we still got something tomorrow.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So it's a quarter
17 after 4:00 right now, we have Office of Subsistence
18 Management. Oh, he's all ready, look at him.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Tom wants to get
23 this over with.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Come on now let us
28 pick on you a little bit at least.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. We're going
33 to let him -- he's up next.

34

35 MR. SEETOT: Okay.

36

37 MR. KIRK: He's got his hat on.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Go ahead, Tom.

40

41 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Members of the
42 Council. Again, I've passed out copies of the OSM
43 report.

44

45 And I'll start off first talking about
46 the meeting schedules. I think as some of the Council
47 members across the state are aware, OSM had to
48 reschedule the winter 2020 Council meetings into March
49 and the first week of April to ensure compliance with

50

1 the Federal Advisory Committee Act. And, again, thanks
2 to all for their patience and for working with us to
3 get these meetings rescheduled so that they would be in
4 compliance with this act.
5

6 Updated Council charters have been
7 included in each Council book which includes new
8 provisions to allow Councils to have alternate members.
9 Pages 41 through 45 of your Council book includes your
10 charter for this Seward Peninsula Council. We are
11 pleased that the Secretary of Interior signed the
12 Council charters making them valid through December
13 2021. Last year the Federal Subsistence Board received
14 63 applicants to fill 46 vacant or expired seats. The
15 Board recommended to the Secretaries of Interior and
16 Agriculture to appoint or reappoint 42 incumbents and
17 new applicants to the 10 Councils. Of these 22
18 appointments were approved and arrangements were made
19 for these individuals to participate in the winter 2020
20 Council meetings.
21

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

28 I think as many of you know, Gene
29 Peltola vacated the Assistant Regional Director
30 position at OSM in June 2018 and over the last 21
31 months, Tom Doolittle did an outstanding job leading
32 OSM as the Acting Assistant Regional Director for OSM,
33 thanks much to Tom for all of his good work.
34

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

1 Ms. Detwiler has over 30 years of
2 Federal service. She has a Master's Degree in natural
3 resource policy from the University of Alaska-
4 Fairbanks, and a Bachelor's degree in wildlife
5 management from Humboldt State University. Most
6 recently, Sue comes from the Director for the Alaska
7 Operations Office. Sue said that she enjoyed her time
8 with the Subsistence Program and is very happy to be
9 coming back. Please join us in welcoming Sue back to
10 OSM.
11

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

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

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

43 With the new arrivals, OSM is still
44 down about 35 percent, however, by the end of this
45 calendar year we hope to fill an additional three to
46 four additional vacancies. OSM is currently waiting on
47 human resources to advertise one fishery biologist
48 position, and the anthropology and Council coordination
49 supervisor positions leaving us down 28 percent.
50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
2 Council.
3
4 I'd be happy to answer any questions
5 that you have.
6
7 Thank you.
8
9 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Very good.
10 Precise, to the word there.
11
12 (Laughter)
13
14 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Anybody have any
15 questions.
16
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I thank you
21 so much. Okay, we've got a few things left that I see
22 on my thing and I got a feeling we can be done with
23 this meeting today if we just keep at it.
24
25 So one thing I have is election of
26 officers.
27
28 The next thing I have is a letter
29 talking about the subsistence crab issue.
30
31 Then future meeting dates, fall and a
32 winter date. And I just looked at dates, I'm going to
33 be in Mexico at the next meeting so buyer beware.
34
35 (Laughter)
36
37 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Of course that all
38 depends on the Corona virus, uh. So, anyway, what do
39 you guys want to do, you want to keep rolling, you want
40 to stop and come back in the morning, what do you want
41 to do.
42
43 MR. KIYUTELLUK: Be done for the day.
44
45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Uh.
46
47 Roy.
48
49 MR. ASHENFELTER: Mr. Chair. I thought
50

1 the Council, or the RAC took action on the letter to
2 the crab.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: No, not yet.

5

6 MR. ASHENFELTER: Okay.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So what we were
9 going to do is wait for Jim to come in and give a
10 report on whatever he wanted to do and then we were
11 going to talk about a letter, whether or not we wanted
12 to draw something up and send it on. But, you know, if
13 we keep pushing on today we're not going to hear Jim
14 tomorrow. It's -- do you guys want to hear Jim or do
15 you want to keep pushing and be done. It's up to you
16 guys, I'm easy.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. I'm going to
21 make an executive decision. I'm going to -- we don't
22 know if Jim's going to show up or not so I'm not going
23 to put our eggs in a basket and wait until tomorrow,
24 we'll finish up the meeting and be done with it.

25

26 Okay.

27

28 So now the next thing on the agenda is
29 do we want to send a letter addressing the crab issue.

30

31 MR. KIRK: From Roy.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: And the letter is
36 going to the Board, remind me where we're writing it
37 to.

38

39 Go ahead.

40

41 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. My understanding
42 from the discussion this morning was that this would be
43 a letter to the scientific committee.....

44

45 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yes, okay.

46

47 MR. KRON:of the North Pacific
48 Fishery Management Council. And basically raise the
49 concerns that subsistence users in the Norton Sound

50

1 region have and ask for consideration and help. You
2 know, again, my understanding, I called during the
3 lunch break and talked to the ADF&G representative,
4 liaison, and he was going to -- he was still trying to
5 get a hold of Mr. Menard and my suggestion, when I
6 talked to him at lunchtime was that he be here at 9:00,
7 try to be here at 9:00 because I was guessing, again,
8 this might be the very first item you'd take up. But,
9 again, I don't -- I assume that he is still trying to
10 get a hold of Jim Menard, but, again, I don't know if
11 that has happened.

12
13 But back to your original question, the
14 letter that was discussed was to the scientific
15 committee of the North Pacific Fishery Management
16 Council and raising concerns, requesting help in
17 dealing with the crab resource, to protect it for
18 future generations.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So my
23 remembrance is we are writing a letter in support of
24 shutting down the crab fishery. And using Roy and
25 Charlie to help us correctly write that letter so it
26 will impact or it will have the impact that it needs
27 for future, you know, and the bottom -- if you listen
28 to Charlie it's going to be -- they're going to try and
29 shut this thing down for two or three years, and right
30 now the only thing that has been blessed is the summer
31 crabbing. They're not going to be able to shut down
32 the crabbing that's happening now. And so the only --
33 in April it'll shut down and it'll be shut the rest of
34 this year.

35
36 So the intent of the letter that I
37 vision is to support shutting it down for commercial
38 fishing until it's viable, the fishery is viable to
39 sustain a commercial fishery. And in the mean time we
40 need to ensure that our subsistence users are put on a
41 pedestal, or whatever, you know, I'm not good at
42 writing letters, I'm good at criticizing them.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: So, anyway, Roy.

47
48 MR. ASHENFELTER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 Members of the RAC. I was at the meeting yesterday

50

1 with the Board of Fish. I do have the letter from
2 Kawerak in our efforts to encourage the Board of Fish
3 to take action to close the commercial fishery for
4 crab.
5

6 My recommendation for those that would
7 be really critical and helpful in drafting a -- oh, the
8 other thing I wanted to mention was, there was Charlie
9 Lean there, Scott Kent and one.....
10

11 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Wes Jones.
12

13 MR. ASHENFELTER:Wes Jones.
14 Those are the guys that I would really recommend having
15 help draft the letter. When I was there, I was lost,
16 because they were talking recruitment, eggs, the
17 studies, you know, they're talking the biological
18 information that I don't have any expertise in. And
19 with their efforts today, from what I heard -- and we
20 all heard from Charlie Lean, they were able to get the
21 Board of Fish to close the commercial fishery for one
22 year starting, you know, later on after the winter crab
23 fishery. So my recommendation would be to use the
24 biologists that are knowledgeable about the details
25 that would be helpful for this RAC committee to submit
26 to the STC of the North Pacific Fishery Management
27 Council. Kawerak would be willing to help, but our
28 only -- the point I'm trying to make is -- we're all in
29 agreement that our subsistence crab fishery is
30 important, that the subsistence crabbing so far has
31 been poor, limited and there's been limited success.
32 That's what we've been able to say and, you know,
33 because that's just what's happening. And I'm hoping
34 that you'd allow Charlie to work with those that would
35 best come up with the information that would be really
36 helpful.
37

38 And then the only other recommendation
39 would be that the RAC would then review it and the
40 Chair would sign it and then it would go on.
41

42 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yeah, so, you know,
43 what I'm fishing for and what I am looking for in a
44 letter is I would like to see language in this letter
45 eluding to a sustainable commercial -- what do you call
46 it -- sustainable commercial number of crab out there
47 before it's opened up. So the letter is directing this
48 scientific committee, or Board of Fish, or whoever,
49 that it's not a one season thing, it's as long as it
50

1 takes to bring it back.

2

3

Does that make sense to you?

4

5

(Council nods affirmatively)

6

7

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Yep. Tom.

8

9

10 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. And, again, I
11 think Mr. Lean offered to help with this. I'd like to
12 get a copy of the Kawerak letter from Roy to give that
13 to Karen, but, again, my intent, assuming you decide to
14 move ahead with this, my intent would be to give all
15 this information to Karen and when she gets well she'll
16 work with you, you would sign it on behalf of the
17 Council, so your editing and review skills are going to
18 come into play like you talked about.

18

19

(Laughter)

20

21

MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

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33

So anyway we need a motion that alludes
to that.

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MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair, this is Mark
Burch, if I might interrupt if you don't mind.

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Hop in there.

MR. BURCH: I have been able to confirm
that Jim intends to be there along with Jenn Bell in
the morning, if you're still working on this subject.
The only thing that would mess that up is if his flight
is delayed. So that's what I can tell you about Jim's
intention as of now. I don't know that that's helpful
at this point but I just thought I'd pass it along.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. So he's on

1 tomorrow morning's flight?

2

3 MR. BURCH: Sounds like either late
4 tonight or tomorrow morning is what I'm inferring.

5

6 Thank you, again.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Because if
9 he makes it in tonight then he'll be here at 9:00
10 o'clock. If he doesn't make it here tonight it will be
11 noon, 1:00 o'clock before we see him.

12

13 MR. BURCH: The note I have says that
14 he'll be there in the morning unless his flight's
15 delayed. So that would tend to make me think that he's
16 flying tonight.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Awesome. Awesome.
19 Okay, well, I don't have a problem resuming in the
20 morning and just letting go now and finishing up, it
21 shouldn't take a couple hours in the morning and that
22 way we'll -- we wanted Jim here to talk to us, so I
23 think that's fair to him.

24

25 What do you guys -- how do you guys
26 feel?

27

28 MR. KIRK: Recess until tomorrow. So
29 moved.

30

31 MR. SEETOT: Second.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: All in favor say
34 aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. What was
39 your name, Mark, that interjected.

40

41 MR. BURCH: Yes, I'm sorry, Mr. Chair.
42 For the record my name is Mark Burch, B-U-R-C-H.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Well, thank you for
45 jumping in there. Because of you jumping in we decided
46 to wait on any action on a letter until tomorrow.

47

48 MR. BURCH: Well, thank you. That's
49 what I'm here for and I hope for good weather tonight.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Thank you,
2 so much. We'll see all of you -- everybody tomorrow.

3
4 MR. BURCH: Good night.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR GRAY: Okay. Tomorrow.

7
8 (Off record)

9
10 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered _____ through _____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 11th day of March at Nome, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 27th day of March 2020.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22