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WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

DENA'INA CIVIC AND CONVENTION CENTER
Anchorage, Alaska
March 7, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Jack Reakoff, Chairman
- Timothy Gervais
- Jenny Pelkola
- Darrell Vent
- Robert Walker

Regional Council Coordinator, Nissa Pilcher

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 3/7/2024)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I guess we're going to come to order. Robert's on his way. And so but we're going to get this show on the road. And so we have an invocation here. Would you like to give the invocation, Jenny.

MS. PELKOLA: Sure.

(Invocation)

IN UNISON: Amen.

CHAIR REAKOFF: So thank you so much, Jenny. And call to order and we're going to give a roll call.

Robert's here now. Okay. Cool. Where's Robert sitting? Over here. All right.

So want to call roll, Nissa.

MS. PILCHER: For the record this is Nissa Pilcher, Designated Federal Officer for this Council. Roll call. Don Honea, Jr. has an excused absence. Pollock Simon, Sr. also absent -- also has an excused absence as with Kevin Whitworth.

Jack Reakoff.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Here.

MS. PILCHER: Robert Walker.

MR. WALKER: Yes.

MS. PILCHER: Tim Gervais.

MR. GERVAIS: Present.

MS. PILCHER: Darrell Vent, Sr.

MR. VENT: Here.

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1 MS. PILCHER: And Jenny Pelkola.

2

3 MS. PELKOLA: Here.

4

5 MS. PILCHER: And then Tommy Kriska is
6 also absent, also with an excused. So with five of
7 nine Council members seated we do have quorum.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you,
10 Nissa. Welcome and introduction of (feedback) oops.
11 We're good?

12

13 REPORTER: Yes.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So welcome
16 and introduction. So we'll go around the room and
17 introduce our guests in the room. We'll start here
18 with Geoff and move on back and around to the other
19 side there. Go ahead.

20

21 MR. BEYERSDORF: Geoff Beyersdorf. I'm
22 with the Bureau of Land Management out of the Fairbanks
23 District Office.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you pick -- are
26 you picking that up on the recording? Maybe turn those
27 mics on there.

28

29 REPORTER: They need to come up.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Come up to the mic.

32

33 REPORTER: Come up to the mic. They
34 know that. You know that.

35

36 MR. BEYERSDORF: I know. Thanks for
37 teasing me though. Geoff Beyersdorf. I'm with the
38 Bureau of Land Management out of the Fairbanks District
39 Office.

40

41 Thank you and welcome.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

44

45 MR. COHN: Good afternoon. I'm Steve
46 Cohn. I'm State Director for Bureau of Land Management
47 based here in Anchorage.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Welcome.

50

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1 MR. COHN: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Steve is a Federal
4 Subsistence Board member.

5

6 MR. SANDONE: Gene Sandone, Yukon Delta
7 Fisheries Development Association. I live in Wasilla.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so
10 much for coming, Gene.

11

12 MS. KENNER: Pippa Kenner and I'm an
13 Anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
14 Management and I'm sitting in for Liz Williams who's
15 giving a presentation right now.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

18

19 MS. KENNER: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pippa.

22

23 MS. MERRELL: Good afternoon. Brooke
24 Merrell, Superintendent of Denali National Park and
25 Preserve.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good afternoon,
28 Brooke.

29

30 MR. MASCHMANN: Gerald Maschmann, U.S.
31 Fish and Wildlife Service out of Fairbanks, Fisheries.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good to see you,
34 Gerald.

35

36 MS. LaVINE: Robbin LaVine, Subsistence
37 Policy Coordinator, OSM. I'll be acting as your LT
38 person today.

39

40 Thanks.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks,
43 Robbin.

44

45 MR. PATTERSON: Good afternoon. Dillon
46 Patterson, National Park Service, Regional Subsistence
47 Program.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Dillon.

50

0005

1 MS. JULIANUS: Good afternoon. Erin
2 Julianus, Wildlife Biologist for the BLM Central Yukon
3 Field Office.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good afternoon,
6 Erin.

7
8 MR. FOLEY: Afternoon, Mr. Chair,
9 members of the Council. Kevin Foley, Fisheries
10 Biologist sitting in for Cory Graham.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good afternoon.
15 Thank you. So that's the guests in the room. Do we
16 have anybody on the phone.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And do we show
21 anybody on the phone at all.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's star, six to
26 open your phone to make introduction.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we don't hear
31 anything if you're speaking on the phone, but we do
32 show that there are how many.

33
34 MS. PILCHER: Three.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Three. Okay. So
37 maybe they're into.....

38
39 REPORTER: Can they hear us.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:voyeurism,
42 some.....

43
44 REPORTER: Ask them if they can even
45 hear you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you -- or can
48 you hear us, can anybody hear us.

49
50

0006

1 Go ahead.

2

3 MS. ROACH: Can I introduce -- hi,

4 there. I'm Emma Roach, I am the communications

5 director for BLM Alaska.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

8

9 MS. ROACH: So nice to meet you all and

10 thanks for having us.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Nice to meet

13 you, Emma.

14

15 MS. ROACH: Yeah.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks. And.....

18

19 REPORTER: Okay. No one's answering.

20 So.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So no one's

23 answering. We do get voyeurs, you know, listening in

24 on our calls and they don't like to identify

25 themselves. That's what happens.

26

27 So review and adoption of the agenda.

28 Do we have a motion to adopt the agenda that you have

29 before you. And so the highlights are action items and

30 pretty much.....

31

32 Oh, Nissa, go ahead.

33

34 MS. PILCHER: I did want to point out

35 there is an addition in -- on the third page, it is in

36 blue. It is -- what is that, number 10H. It is the

37 review your current charter, the change. We did go

38 over that at the joint Board on Monday.

39

40 MR. WALKER: It's in blue?

41

42 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, it's in blue. It's

43 like light blue on the very last page, very last thing

44 on there. And there was several things that did come

45 up at the joint Board, but I do have under 10A is

46 follow-up on joint Council action items. That would be

47 discussion of the caribou letter, the bycatch letter.

48 There's a compensation letter and a Council

49 correspondence concern letter that are written down and

50

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1 are in front of you if you wanted to go over those.

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
4 away from microphone).

5

6 MS. PILCHER: We'll get you one.

7

8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Okay.Thank you.

9

10 MS. PILCHER: And then those are the
11 additions that I am aware of.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

14

15 MS. PILCHER: But they would be covered
16 under that section 10, number A.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you say 10A?

19

20 MS. PILCHER: 10A.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So do we have a
23 motion to adopt the agenda as explained by Nissa.

24

25 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead, Tim.

28

29 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair, this is Tim.
30 May I add one agenda item. I have a Board of Fish
31 proposal that would limit chinook and chum salmon
32 interception through area M and I would like to have
33 the WIRAC discuss it and see if they want to be the
34 sponsor of this proposal. Here's a copy of it.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. When is the
37 call for this proposal?

38

39 MR. GERVAIS: I believe it's in April.
40 I'd have to research it to give you the exact time.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

43

44 MR. GERVAIS: It's in the Statewide
45 finfish meeting.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And you promulgated
48 this yourself or.....

49

50

0008

1 MR. GERVAIS: Myself and some other
2 fishermen did, yes.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.
5 Yeah, we'll take a look at that. Where do you want to
6 add that?

7
8 Go ahead, Nissa.

9
10 MS. PILCHER: There is a section, 10F,
11 consider developing State regulatory proposals, it
12 could go there.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Let's see.
15 All right. Okay. Added to the agenda. And any other
16 changes or additions.

17
18 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
19 away from microphone).

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We added it at 10F.

22
23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: 10F.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 10F under.....

26
27 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

30
31 MR. GERVAIS: This morning I attended a
32 session on Gulf of Alaska salmon and also a session on
33 hatchery production. Do you want me to just highlight
34 that in my Council member report or do you want to
35 just.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In your -- in your
38 Council report.

39
40 MR. GERVAIS: Okay.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I need a motion
43 to adopt this agenda as amended or explained.

44
45 MR. VENT: Motion.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to adopt by
48 Darrell.

49
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1 MR. GERVAIS: Seconded.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tim.

4 Further discussion on this agenda.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of

9 adoption of the agenda signify by saying aye.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So election

14 of officers.

15

16 Nissa.

17

18 MS. PILCHER: Good morning, everyone.

19 Once again Nissa Pilcher, Designated Federal Officer
20 for this meeting. Let me get there. If I have a --
21 nope, I don't have a script for it. Okay. So at this
22 time I will take nominations. This is -- this is when
23 elect -- every year we elect new officers. So at this
24 time I would like to open the floor for nomination for
25 a new or a Chairman for the next year. Once again for
26 officer elections we do not need a second so you just
27 need to nominate.

28

29 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair, how many Board
30 members are not here?

31

32 MS. PILCHER: So currently there are
33 nine seated on this Council so four are missing. We do
34 have quorum, but four are missing. But this is -- I am
35 not sure of the process if we -- if you would like to
36 skip this.

37

38 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
39 have maybe at least eight members present before we
40 have election. That's just what I ask.

41

42 MS. LaVINE: Mr. Chair -- Madame Chair,
43 through the Chair. If you wish to postpone your
44 election of officers I might suggest that you all
45 concur, agree to proceed with the officers that you
46 have until you can vote all together in the fall. That
47 would be my recommendation.

48

49 Thank you.

50

0010

1 MR. WALKER: Yes, Ms. or Mr. Chair,
2 that, you know, I think I remember this before that we
3 deferred to when we had a full member Board almost.
4 And we could just -- I think we could just appoint you
5 or somebody to be the temporary Chair if I'm correct
6 until we do get a majority of a quorum.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Main -- you can make
9 a motion to maintain the current leadership until our
10 fall meeting. So if you'd like to make that motion you
11 could.

12

13 MR. WALKER: Yes, I will.

14

15 MR. VENT: Second.

16

17 MS. PILCHER: All right. We'll do a
18 roll call vote on this one.

19

20 Robert.

21

22 MR. WALKER: Yes.

23

24 MS. PILCHER: All right. Jack.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

27

28 MS. PILCHER: Jenny.

29

30 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

31

32 MS. PILCHER: Tim.

33

34 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

35

36 MS. PILCHER: And Darrell.

37

38 MR. VENT: Yes.

39

40 MS. PILCHER: All right. So we will
41 postpone those until the fall meeting. I will make
42 sure it is on your agenda and I will make sure nobody
43 decides to have a baby in October. So.....

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 MS. PELKOLA: I have a question. Who
48 are the officers?

49

50

0011

1 MS. PILCHER: Oh, so Jack is Chair,
2 Jenny is Vice Chair and Darrell is Secretary.

3
4 So thank you very much for your
5 continued leadership on the Council.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So review and
8 approve the minutes from the previous meeting and
9 they're on page 5 of the meeting book.

10
11 MS. PILCHER: And the meeting book is
12 the large -- it's got a big black band, comb bound and
13 it's got a chum on the front, page 5.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we deferred those
16 caribou proposals which we just reviewed. Is that
17 reflected in the -- I don't see where that's reflecting
18 in this. Are we deferred -- oh, here it is.

19
20 MS. PILCHER: Your Council actually
21 made.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, we did take
24 action on.....

25
26 MS. PILCHER:made a
27 recommendation.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:we did take
30 action on that. So we actually will note in these
31 minutes the action taken today or that'll be from this
32 -- this meeting. So we amended our position that we
33 took in the fall to go with what the Board of Game did,
34 what the other three Councils, Seward Pen, Northwest
35 Arctic and North Slope, and so that's -- but that's --
36 well, we're basically overriding this action reflected
37 in these minutes.

38
39 MS. PILCHER: And there will be an
40 opportunity in -- on the agenda to address that, to
41 bring it back up and then replace it with this
42 justification.....

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

45
46 MS. PILCHER:or this
47 recommendation.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. So any
50

0012

1 further questions about the minutes.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.

8

9 MS. PELKOLA: I make a motion to accept
10 the minutes.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to adopt by
13 Jenny. Do I have a second.

14

15 MR. VENT: Second.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second by Darrell.
18 Further discussions or amendments.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question.

23

24 MR. VENT: Question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
27 Those in favor of adoption of the minutes as presented
28 in our meeting packet signify by saying aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

33

34 (No opposing votes)

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So adopt. And then
37 Council member's reports. We'll go to Robert who has
38 been -- was here for many, many years and has come
39 back.

40

41 So you want to give us a Council member
42 report, Robert.

43

44 MR. WALKER: Me?

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, you.

47

48 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
49 was just going through the reports. I read them. I

50

0013

1 was just kind of curious that -- I want to make sure
2 that everybody spoke about the salmon that did their
3 reports, your Council member and Chair report. And
4 this is really nice to know that, you know, we are all
5 concerned, we're on the same page on this too. So I
6 already read it, but, you know, it just being back to
7 where I was when I left, I mean, it took me like three
8 days to get through all this twice. And this -- you
9 know, I forgot that all these things that we do is a
10 lot of reading and basically I'm learning the system
11 all over again for me. But I don't have no problem
12 with that, it's just I have to look at the 804 and 805
13 and there's things again here where we have used as
14 tools in our Council to better our way of life. And
15 having discussion this morning with all these other
16 RACs, it's just proof of something that we can move
17 stones, rocks, whatever. We get together, we have
18 enough conversation, we all agree on certain things.
19 And one of the things that I talked to these people,
20 you know, we -- we are Indians and they are Yup'ik and
21 they are Inupiat, but it's the same thing, we harvest
22 the same thing, we do the same thing, but we're just
23 different culture. But the bottom line is it's food.
24 And that's what it is. It's nothing else, it's not
25 money, it's not science and it's not numbers.

26
27 And I -- all these 15 years that I've
28 been -- 17 years that I've been gone, I did work a lot
29 with our -- with the tribe of Anvik as the First Chief
30 and to promote and to testify at certain places with
31 Tanana Chief Conference, to work with the AYK region,
32 the Pribilof and Aleutian chain on the panhandle in the
33 southeast to work with the tribes there. So I really
34 kept myself busy with this, but a lot of things that
35 pertain that we did at the WIRAC or it didn't fall
36 through inside Tanana Chiefs in doctrine because
37 basically they do fall in step with food, but they're
38 not as in depth as we are. They don't really go out to
39 other tribes outside of TCC to work with them. They
40 work in their own region more or less. I really
41 exploited this when I spoke for TCC and when I
42 testified for the AYK region and I didn't say I'm
43 speaking for Anvik only, I said I'm speaking for all
44 the tribes because somewhere along the line we have to
45 work together. And that really impressed a lot of
46 people because a lot of people would say I am from
47 Togiak, I represent Togiak. Well, how are you going to
48 do that, you know, you're fighting the State, you're
49 fighting big government, you know, you can't do it by
50

0014

1 yourself. I told them you got to all stand together or
2 just kind of like this man and go your own way. It
3 really improved something. And to this day there are
4 people coming up to me, still shaking my hand about the
5 testimony, what I did. Because all of them thought
6 they would be like labeled as a troublemaker. I said
7 don't be afraid of that I said, you know, all they can
8 do is throw you in jail, you know, but all you're doing
9 is speaking for food.

10

11 And the State really has looked at this
12 in a sense of direction where even -- I spoke for the
13 animals, I spoke about the church like I did at our --
14 all our RACs because the government, Federal
15 government, put all the churches, put all the religions
16 in the State to try to Christianize Natives and put
17 them in the workforce. But they did a fairly good job,
18 but a lot of it is how they were treating, trade out
19 tribal people to that sense of direction. And a lot of
20 them responded of not going, but the church did hold
21 the power over the people because of land, religion,
22 baptism and they had a school. And that's what a lot
23 of people started to look at. My grandfather and
24 grandmother only went to the sixth grade and that was
25 their eighth grade graduation. My dad went to sixth
26 grade, all my uncles and aunts and all the local people
27 in the community, that's as far as you had to go, you
28 had to learn how to count money, learn how to sign your
29 name and that's it. So basically what happened with
30 this religion, but they did give us a tool. I found
31 that was interesting because they gave us a tool where
32 they said we have to eat fish on Friday or it'll be
33 like a venial sin. I don't know if you guys are
34 Christian or whatnot, but being born into a Catholic
35 system and that was debatable among your ownelves if
36 you should or how you should and it was a sin then you
37 had to go to confession, then you had to get the
38 priest's absolution, do so many Hail Marys, et cetera.
39 But then you were absolved of whatever you did.

40

41 So I used that tool the other day at
42 the RAC meeting to bring it out and I wanted those
43 people to hear it firsthand. And I was told by some of
44 the Board members from other that they were afraid to
45 use that. I said why, again don't be afraid because
46 this is us. And this is sad. I said because if you're
47 afraid you'll -- your tribe will always be last in
48 line. You have to speak up, otherwise -- I can't speak
49 up for you.

50

0015

1 So all in the 15 years that I went to
2 here, it's been pretty hard. I've seen RAC members, I
3 talk to them. We put a controlled use area in 21E.
4 Me, James Walker, Carl Morgan and we worked with
5 Glenn's last name?

6
7 MR. CHEN: Glenn Chen.

8
9 MR. WALKER: Chen. Yes. And he helped
10 us and also Geoff helped us put a Federal control use
11 area there. And this really impressed -- a lot of
12 people didn't even know it in our area. It was done.
13 And we did stop all the aircraft coming in to landing
14 on the east side of the Yukon -- I mean, the Kuskokwim
15 -- I mean, the Innoko River. And there was a State
16 controlled use area on the west side of it, but the
17 river was left wide open because it's State water. So
18 this is something like we didn't know quite how to
19 handle. And we asked the AC Board member if they would
20 put something in there to stop the planes from landing
21 in the river because that's State water. And the AC
22 Chairman said he didn't think that he could or they
23 could do that without having to go through the Board of
24 Fish. I said well, you know, we could help you write
25 it up. And he's still debating on that because
26 transporters are still using that as a corridor. And
27 we can't quite fill that in. But it did go all the way
28 down.

29
30 The Kuskokwim Native Association was
31 trying to put a road from the Kuskokwim to the Yukon,
32 we stopped that. That controlled use area put a stop
33 to that. They had a blueprint where they were going to
34 put an airport, a 3,500 foot runway on the mountain
35 with lights powered from Kalskag. And they were going
36 to put a landing dock there on State land and they had
37 it all settled, cut, dried, they even had a helicopter
38 survey crew going through that area and survey the
39 whole thing. And they spent according to the
40 transportation person that we have at TCC he said they
41 spent almost like \$10 million or more putting that
42 plans together. And we shot that down. We didn't use
43 TCC because they didn't have the experience that we had
44 as the WIRAC crew we had. And I did tell TCC that, I
45 said you guys -- we can't even go to you for help to
46 put -- stop something for our way of life. And they
47 wanted to know what they could do, I said maybe you
48 might lend us a lawyer, that's all we need. But we had
49 lawyers with our OSM. So this really helped us a lot
50

0016

1 and we did stop that.

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we've got quite a bit of agenda. I would like to know your feelings on the bison issue and the ANILCA. That's -- I'm concerned about the allocation part and I would like to know your -- I would like that read into or spoken into the record. And then I need to move down the line here.

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MR. WALKER: Okay. Well, anyway I've attended something like three or four meetings with Luke. You know, his dad ran -- Randy ran the program. And there'd be times when I'd talk, I'd call Luke Randy, you know, he would take that as compliment. But yes, I work with -- and also Geoff Beyersdorf worked with us on this also. And it went from good to good and then went bad because as of the last meeting we had I did extensively try to make some kind of a deal with Al and Pete, they're on the Game Board and every which way we spoke, there was about 110 with us and there was this lady, Michelle Quillin, that was there too. And we talked every which way because I said we're not looking for trophy, we're not looking for the hide, I said as far as I'm concerned the tribes would let you have that, we just want the meat. Because this would be a meat source for us because when you look at all the other things that's going on, look at the caribou herd, down to 152,000. I mean, when they come to our area there was like 50,000 that came down the Anvik River. Now we're -- I don't think we're even -- they're even going to come down that far. But bison would be something like a third leg for us. We would ensure our tribe that we had something that we could fall back on because right now hunting for moose is really a high priority. They're really taking a lot. I went to Galena and I spent three days there on the bank watching people come out of the Koyukuk River and from the lower Kusk -- lower Yukon and all the tributaries around there and haul their meat to Galena and throw it overboard. I was just astounded. You could see the splashes where they're throwing out the legs, the -- everything they're throwing out. And I walk over to their boat and I had a camera and I lost it, I would just take a picture, there would be only antlers in there. High as maybe 70 inch, 60 inch antlers, that's it.

But the bison right now it's an

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1 endangered species so to speak. But why does the white
2 guy get to hunt it and we have to -- couldn't use it as
3 a customary and traditional use for ceremonial
4 potlatch, ceremonial funerals. And that's what I
5 pushed on. But Al and Pete, they came to me and said,
6 you know, Robert, if you get -- write a proposal to the
7 State Board of Game, emphasize that point on customary
8 and traditional use. Maybe we'll look at it. I mean,
9 maybe.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that -- the
12 Board of Game has got to make an allocation or this
13 Council needs to think about how that allocation is
14 going to go for those GASH communities. And I --
15 that's why I wanted to bring that on to the record
16 because that animal is under the 14J. We have -- this
17 Council drove that 14J position so that we could get
18 them as an experimental population. We worked with
19 Randy Roger, we've worked with the U.S. Fish and
20 Wildlife Regional Director to get the 14J status. And
21 that was instrumental in getting that herd released
22 into that area. We accepted them, the Western Interior
23 Council, Robert was on that, we accepted them, but we
24 need to make sure that there's a fair allocation.
25 They're predominantly living half their time on the
26 Parklands and half their time on the other lands. And
27 so that's going to be an issue in the future.

28

29 But we need to move on. I don't.....

30

31 MR. WALKER: One more thing. I just
32 want to say that the fish, how are you going to do
33 this, we testified last February and everything --
34 every proposal that we had that we went to the Board of
35 Fish was declined. We even went and asked if we could
36 have windows like six hour windows for the tribe to
37 fish, that was shot down too. So how are we going to
38 do this. And there's one thing I did find out is that
39 the Federal government has waterways there. I don't
40 know if anybody has a map of this here where we could
41 look at that, but there's lot a three mile shoreline of
42 Federal land there. And they mentioned when I was at a
43 meeting that okay, what we're going to do if you shut
44 the Federal -- State water down we're going to go into
45 Federal waters. Now how that, I didn't know there was
46 Federal waters there. But again the AYK region, we
47 don't have no fish. And it's something that how are we
48 going to do this, I mean, do we have to sue the
49 government, can we sue the Federal government, can we
50

0018

1 sue the State, because OSM should be jumping and
2 they're -- and looking at this at a harder point
3 because that's a food source.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The ANILCA law
6 requires the Federal government to maintain healthy
7 populations of fish and wildlife using recognized
8 scientific principles. And there's not been a --
9 they're not making escapement, they had 14,000 kings
10 got into Canada last time. So there can't be any
11 harvest anytime soon, but there's a seven year plan and
12 I have not heard too much of, but I do know that the
13 Commissioner's office and the -- what is it, the Yukon
14 Panel has been working on this seven year strategy and
15 that's going to be coming up. But I -- we don't know a
16 lot, we're going to have to get that presented to us in
17 the fall meeting.

18

19 But we have a lot of stuff to do right
20 now.....

21

22 MR. WALKER: Yes.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:I need to move
25 forward, Robert.

26

27 Jenny.

28

29 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. I'll make mine
30 short. Since our last meeting I just want to say that
31 we did get a lot of snow around our area, cold weather,
32 and I'm sure the other people around our area got that
33 too. But yesterday I talked to someone at home and we
34 got six more inches of snow and more snow coming down.
35 So I don't know how the fall -- I mean, the spring
36 break is going to go. I don't know if we're going to
37 have flood again or what, but I think we need to start
38 preparing. I know because of the cold and all the snow
39 I don't think -- I haven't heard, I know there were a
40 people that went out and got some wolves, but sounds
41 like there was just too much snow to, you know, really
42 do that and then we had that cold weather there for
43 about three weeks so that shut a lot of that down, the
44 hunting for the men.

45

46 And then there was potlatch memorial or
47 stick dance in Nulato and -- and just all this
48 different stuff that was interrupting our way of life,
49 that we had to be there to pay respect to our -- you

50

0019

1 know, to our people. And so that slowed down a lot of
2 men and I'm sure there are some women that would go out
3 hunting.

4

5 I haven't heard too much about
6 trapping, probably for the same reasons.

7

8 But I know there's a hardship on some
9 families for -- during the cold weather with getting
10 wood and keeping their stove and -- you know, going.
11 They had to go miles and miles and it's getting harder
12 and harder to do that. So eventually someday we might
13 all be fighting about wood or something. Gas and oil
14 are so expensive in the village -- in all the villages.
15 And people are having a hard time, but they just keep
16 chugging along and, you know, but we do help each
17 other. We try to help each other.

18

19 Last fall -- I reported it before, I
20 wasn't -- my husband and I weren't able to go out for
21 moose, but we had relatives that shared their catch
22 with us. And which is getting us through the winter.

23

24 So with that I just want to say welcome
25 to all the Staff and the Council members. Thank you
26 for coming. And it always breaks my heart when we
27 don't have a full Council. And if they're on the radio
28 -- not radio, if they're on the phone it's so hard to
29 -- for them -- for us to hear them and we try -- you
30 know, we don't see them, we're just talking to a little
31 machine and it makes so much difference that if we
32 could all try to be here, we are all -- we all filled
33 in paperwork to come and be on this Board and for some
34 reason or another we can't be there and that really
35 hurts the rest of the Board. We have to work harder
36 and try to get things done in -- you know, on time. So
37 I would just encourage the Board -- I know there are
38 sometimes I had to miss too, but I'm not blaming the
39 Board, it's just that -- things that happen like babies
40 coming up and funerals and med -- you know, medical.
41 So but I just wish that someday I think when we're all
42 together we're nine people or 10 people I think I'd
43 have a drink. Excuse me, but I don't drink. Anyway it
44 would make me so proud and happy. So I just want to
45 thank all of us that showed up.

46

47 I better stop talking. Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny,

50

0020

1 appreciate your report.

2

3

Tim.

4

5

MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

I'd like to welcome Robert back on the RAC. We've --

7

many dozens of times we've wondered what is going on

8

down in GASH area. And now we're privileged to have

9

your opinion and subsistence history back on the

10

Council. It's going to fill a big hole for us.

11

12

I'd like to thank OSM for putting

13

together the All RAC meeting. It's my first one and

14

it's been very fascinating to hear the opinions and

15

meet the members from the different parts of the State,

16

helps us all realize that we're all really just working

17

for the same thing, but it's really great to actually

18

meet these people and talk with them and talk about our

19

similarities and differences.

20

21

I would just like to express

22

appreciation for the presentation yesterday on ANCSA

23

and ANILCA. That one statement out of ANCSA that says

24

the Conference Committee expects both the Secretary and

25

the State of Alaska to take any action necessary to

26

protect the subsistence needs of the Natives. Really

27

powerful. I didn't know that existed, but that's

28

really the crux of things we're trying to get done on a

29

regular basis, but we see just in this meeting alone

30

with salmon and with the caribou. So we need to all

31

keep that as an underlying thing. And then as that

32

morphed into ANILCA in 1980 we see again where Section

33

(a)(1)(5)(3) where the restrictions can be put in place

34

to maintain healthy populations of fish and wildlife or

35

for the continuation of subsistence uses. So those are

36

-- those are big items that should guide us and direct

37

us in our deliberations.

38

39

I spoke with the Solicitor yesterday,

40

Ken Lord, regarding the exclusive economic zone, the

41

three to 200 mile Federal boundary of Federal fisheries

42

for the United States. So that was created in 1976

43

after the pass -- passage of ANILCA. And the Solicitor

44

said that that water is not considered public lands,

45

but I think through either a different legal opinion or

46

through a court case potentially that EEZ, exclusive

47

economic zone, could be determined by a court or the

48

Supreme Court to be public lands. And I think the only

49

reason people are leaving it out right now is because

50

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1 it came into play after ANILCA and it's never been
2 challenged in court that that is public lands. If that
3 could be public lands that would help the subsistence
4 users a lot out with the bycatch debate.

5
6 I also realized yesterday that we need
7 to at some -- some level we need to get Department of
8 Interior and Department of Commerce to maybe come up
9 with a memorandum of understanding on this migratory
10 behavioral pattern of the salmon where they're spending
11 significant and critical parts of their life in both
12 marine and freshwater. Right now that's -- that
13 particular behavior is the reason why -- one of the
14 reasons why the Department of Commerce and North
15 Pacific Fishery Management Council are saying they
16 don't need to reduce their trawl efforts very much
17 because they don't care about or they say they're not
18 responsible for the amount of fish that are reaching
19 the spawning grounds. But in the code of Federal
20 regulations the 10 national standards, we talked about
21 it yesterday, number 8 for communities it says the
22 economies of fishing communities should not be affected
23 by Federal fisheries policy. But we know for -- in the
24 WIRAC region and many other parts of the State that
25 Federal fishery policy is adversely affecting the
26 fishing economies by not having chum and king salmon
27 available for subsistence needs and also for biologic
28 escapement goals.

29
30 And we're -- later on in the meeting
31 we're going to talk about a Board of Fish proposal that
32 I put together with some other fishermen and it should
33 limit the -- it addresses reducing the length of seines
34 and the depth of seines in area M which should have
35 some positive affect in reducing the amount of king
36 salmon and chum salmon interception in area M while
37 still allowing those fishermen to catch their sockeye
38 and pink salmon. So that'll come up later in the
39 meeting.

40
41 That's it for my report.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim. A lot
44 of good points there. And I think there are a lot of
45 needs, fishery needs, especially where salmon rear in
46 their marine phase. There's a lot of issues that need
47 to be -- questions that are not answered with any
48 science that are actually affecting how the salmon
49 stocks are managed. And an understanding of how the
50

0022

1 marine cycles actually work, we need to have a much
2 broader understanding of how salmon survive in
3 different marine phases. There's El Nino, La Nina, and
4 how those are affecting the salmon impulses and how
5 hatchery influences are affecting those cycles.

6
7 So one final comment. Go ahead.

8
9 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I forgot to mention
10 so this morning in lieu of the caribou discussion and I
11 apologize for not being around for a hundred percent of
12 that, but I was attending a fishery discussion. And
13 one of the presenters was talking about how over the
14 last 40 or 50 years the size of chinook salmon in the
15 AYK area has decreased by 6 to 8 percent in length, but
16 they extrapolated that length to the egg quantity or
17 fecundity of the females. And that 6 to 8 percent drop
18 in length translates from 1970 to 2020, so a 50 year
19 span, that is 40 percent less eggs on a spawning
20 grounds. So that's a -- that's a huge reduction in the
21 reproductive capacity in the Yukon and Kuskokwim River
22 and probably Unalakleet River. So that's -- we need to
23 -- other than talking about numbers getting across the
24 border, we need to look at the amount of eggs getting
25 across the border. And that has not been at the
26 forefront of our discussions on quality of escapement
27 to date.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a good --
30 that's a good point.

31
32 It's your time to talk there, Darrell.

33
34 MR. VENT: No, no. They just had to
35 call at the.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I know.

38
39 MR. VENT:wrong time.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It always happens.

42
43 MR. VENT: Okay. Now it's my turn,
44 right. Okay. Let me get rid of that. All right.
45 Thanks for the time to speak here. I've been kind of
46 busy these last probably three years I've been really
47 -- I've been advocating. And so my first -- you know,
48 I'm on the Yukon River in the tribal watershed and
49 we're working on d(1) lands and also the water rights.
50

0023

1 And we're trying to figure out, you know, what's wrong
2 with the -- going on with the animals. So, you know, a
3 lot of this pollution and stuff that happened at -- on
4 the rivers it's affecting our way of life, also global
5 warming. And then I've also been on the Bering Sea
6 Commission working on the d(1) lands and Ambler Road
7 that they're proposing. And so, you know, I -- my --
8 you know, I wear a few different hats and I'm on the
9 Bering Sea Commission, I'm on the Committee there. And
10 I went to Washington DC and we spoke with a few people
11 down there. Yeah, he was -- he was involved in one of
12 our meet -- couple of our meetings so he knows I've
13 been around -- around the block a little bit. But it's
14 just because I -- you know, I feel it's important that
15 we have to work on all these areas. You know, it's not
16 only one thing, you know, we're all -- we have a whole
17 environment out there that's affecting us, whether it's
18 global warming, whether it's, you know, the caribou,
19 whether it's, you know, the water or, you know, it's --
20 a lot of things are me working in a fast track. And
21 I'm learning a lot as I go along.

22
23 I worked -- let's see, I went to
24 Fairbanks, I'm on the Fish Commission, and the hunting
25 and fishing task force for TCC. And we were meeting on
26 the fish. There's some people going up to the Yukon
27 River Fish Panel so I was giving them information. And
28 a lot of it has to do with how we were treating all our
29 animals. I mean, you know, we look at -- we look at
30 how the depletion is going on and we started looking
31 back in the years and I start coming up with some
32 solutions that, you know, this is how we've been
33 treating them. They -- you know, we've been taking
34 those big, healthy males and females and you put them
35 out of the picture, when it comes to fish king salmon.
36 And then that's where we started hurting them. We
37 didn't let them replenish. The State was supposed to
38 manage that and that wasn't happening. That left us in
39 a gap saying that hey, these fish are going to come
40 back, these fish are going to come back and it didn't
41 happen.

42
43 So we -- we hurted like, you know, like
44 I'm looking at the caribou now. I'm saying hey, this
45 looks like the same exact way that we treated the fish.
46 And I want to avoid that because we -- when the
47 pipeline went through we lost our herd and, you know, I
48 always talked to -- my grandpa always told me about
49 that herd, you know, he said they come through at a
50

1 certain time and they're fat and, you know, they're
2 all, you know, healthy food. And our people were
3 healthy then, they were -- you know, they had a lot of
4 nutrition compared to what we're living on today.

5
6 We're really depleted of our food
7 sources, our -- you know, our -- the only thing our
8 basic plate that -- you know, amount necessary for
9 subsistence is not an example of what's going on or
10 sustained yield. We're operating -- the State is
11 operating on a different level which is most likely
12 maximum yield. And that's really hurting our food
13 sources. So that's some of the things that I've been
14 working on with the Fish Commission.

15
16 And then also on the Co-Management
17 Symposium I went to in Fairbanks, we started talking
18 about how all this is affecting us and how we're being
19 represented. And everything we looked at in there, we
20 talked about advisory only. That's the only thing that
21 was wrong with the system that seems to work against us
22 is they give -- we give them advice, but that advice
23 only goes so far. There's management that has to deal
24 with it. And that's where we're having the problem.
25 And so when ANILCA and ANCSA came in to agreement our
26 rights was taken from us, our aboriginal rights. So if
27 the State is not going to comply with what they're
28 supposed to manage we need to go back and rethink about
29 our rights because if we have rights then we have the
30 right to protect what we got, but they took that away
31 so we can't really have a say in what's going to
32 happen. We need to go back to the drawing board and
33 say we need these rights back so we can protect these
34 resources because the State is not doing that. For
35 example with the fish. We -- we're -- we haven't -- we
36 can't fish in the rivers, but they can fish out there
37 in the ocean. And it's all about money, it's a billion
38 dollar operation. Caribou, they don't want us to hunt
39 cows they say. They don't say anything about the bull
40 population. And we -- we're at -- we give them advice
41 and they shoot us down. That's a problem.

42
43 So, you know, when we talk about co-
44 management we're looking at something that's beyond
45 that because it doesn't seem to affect the State, they
46 don't care one way or another of what's going to happen
47 at that level. We need to, you know, work on a
48 different level with them. Whether we sit at the table
49 with the Federal and the State and get our aboriginal
50

0025

1 rights back, maybe that might work, we don't know yet.
2 But we have to go somewhere besides what's happening
3 right now.

4
5 And then I went to Anchorage and was
6 sitting on YR DFA. I'm on the YR DFA. And so we started
7 talking about fish and I gave them my spiel on fish so
8 they know where I'm coming from. They like what I have
9 to say, they put me on another meeting board so I've
10 been calling in to different meeting boards and just
11 trying to work to try to get our fish back because we
12 had chum salmon in our river, that was our main supply.
13 I remember in the summertime we used to have plentiful
14 and then in the falltime we'd get our eating fish and,
15 you know, the -- we put them away for the winter and
16 they'd last until fall. We don't get that no more.
17 The last two years, three years there's nothing.
18 Hopefully we'll get something this year, but, you know,
19 there's always promises, but we can't live on promises.

20
21 Then let's see, where did I go.
22 Northwest Arctic Caribou Working Group. I've been in
23 the meetings in there and I spoke on behalf of our, you
24 know, Western Interior. Not Western Interior, but
25 Pollock's seat was.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Koyukuk River
28 Advisory.

29
30 MR. VENT: Koyukuk River Advisory, yes,
31 that's it.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

34
35 MR. VENT: That's -- thanks for.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And you're actually
38 because you're on this Council I consider you our
39 representative also to the Western Arctic Caribou Work
40 Group. Because Pollock actually represented us as a
41 Council member, but Pollock's health is not where it
42 used to be.

43
44 MR. VENT: Yeah, I'm glad, you know, I
45 get to be able to help our -- you know, because it's
46 concerning our people and I -- you know, I really -- I
47 really had to focus on what's going on because I have
48 to see the big picture, I have to see what's happening
49 all over. And if we can look at it that way I think we
50

0026

1 can accomplish things. It's just that we have to try
2 and put our heads together. And, you know, I get
3 information from a lot of people and it really helps.
4 And I appreciate, you know, what they -- what they're
5 -- you know, they're letting me do. And later on --
6 later on I'm the Koyukuk River Advisory, we had a
7 meeting there. And if there's any proposals, you know
8 what, I'd like to be involved in that.

9
10 And I think, you know, that's all I
11 got. Just.....

12
13 y CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrell has done a heck of a
14 lot of work in this Council and the Koyukuk Advisory
15 Committee. And he came to a meeting in Galena, I
16 thought well, let's give this guy an application, you
17 know, on the Council. He keeps getting better all the
18 time.

19
20 So the Chair report is I -- I'm on the
21 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission.
22 The State wanted to do a collaring project on dall
23 sheep east and west of the -- of basically the road.
24 They wanted to collar 25 rams in the Park and 25 rams
25 to the east and where it's really heavily hunted. And
26 so I made motion to allow that. They collared those 25
27 sheep in the Park and in the -- in the eastern area.
28 My position is that we have a Federal closure because
29 there's not enough adult rams in the Dalton Highway
30 corridor, there's lots of poaching that goes on, every
31 ram that gets over three-quarter curl gets killed.
32 That's just a fact. And so the Department's like well,
33 how can that be, we have a trooper. Well, the
34 trooper's got 78,000 square miles and he cannot control
35 thousands of hunters that come up the road.

36
37 East of the road we got -- we got
38 presentation east of the road. The Department of Fish
39 and Game found nine lambs per 100 ewes which is really
40 bad and the ewe likes have fallen dramatically this
41 last year. We're not -- we're not recruiting any lambs
42 into that -- any recruitment into that population. And
43 west of the road over basically getting into the Park
44 where we have lambs that survived the deep snow, they
45 were young rams, now they're 10 and 11 year old rams.
46 We have 35 lambs per hundred ewes. Ewe likes have
47 stabilized and they're now starting to increase. So
48 it's graphic as to scorched earth falling sheep
49 population. West where you have conservation we have
50

0027

1 growing sheep pop -- recovering sheep population after
2 two brutal winters. '18/'19, '19/'20, five and a half
3 feet of snow standing 12 and a half feet fell with rain
4 on snow. Climate change at its absolute worst phase,
5 six inches of crust on top of snow killing most of the
6 sheep and half our moose.

7
8 So we have a proposal before the
9 Federal Subsistence Board to continue that if the
10 Council supported that. The Board of Game was kind of
11 made on ACR, agenda change request, that we submitted
12 to eliminate eight year old counting of sheep by sport
13 hunters. The Board failed the proposal. So with this
14 kind of sheep condition we have plenty of ammunition
15 for -- to attend the Federal Subsistence Board in the
16 first part of April to continue the closure. It's
17 imperative to continue the closure.

18
19 I'm on the Koyukuk Advisory Committee.
20 We had a meeting in January to set up a meeting on a
21 teleconference and we also visited the two Western
22 Arctic Caribou proposals. We made recommendations on
23 those. The Board just -- will address those.

24
25 On February 20 we had a Koyukuk River
26 Advisory Committee meeting in Fairbanks. I wanted it
27 to be in Fairbanks because we get better attendance.
28 And so we reviewed various proposals. And the worst
29 proposal that's going to highly effect this Council and
30 this region is the proposal for -- the Central Arctic
31 Caribou Herd resides east and west -- well, they calve
32 east and west of Prudhoe Bay and they come over the
33 Brooks Range into our region. So the Central Arctic
34 Caribou Herb fell to 22,500. We put cow closure on for
35 harvest, that herd has now recovered to 35. Now the
36 Department of Fish and Game has submitted a proposal
37 for five caribou, including cows, for all the resident
38 hunters with unlimited access. Last fall I thought
39 there were 3,000 hunters that came up the road, this
40 fall I anticipate more. So we oppose -- we modified
41 the proposal to five caribou, but only one may be a cow
42 and it can only be harvested after October 1. They
43 also wanted to increase the nonresident harvest in unit
44 26B to two bulls for nonresidents. We -- they -- we
45 suggested that the Board of Game stay with one caribou.
46 Michelle Quillin is an alternate on our Advisory
47 Committee, she will address the Board of Game at the
48 upcoming Board meeting in 10 days or a few days from
49 now.

50

0028

1 The caribou are on the south slope of
2 the Brooks Range, we've got Porcupine Caribou Herd to
3 the east of the road, we got Central Arctic and
4 Teshekpuk west of the road. No Porcupine Caribou have
5 crossed the road. The snow is only 26 inches deep. We
6 had snow over -- we have 26 inches of snow and it's
7 dry. So the caribou can dig that snow and the wind
8 blows it off the mountain. So the sheep are doing real
9 well. The caribou or the wolves are moving around a
10 lot because we have caribou east and west of the road
11 so the wolves are going every which way. And I'm
12 trapping wolves and Lynx. And I caught -- we caught a
13 lynx that had broken canines which is indicative of
14 killing big game animals. And lynx have been
15 documented killing adult dall sheep rams and adult
16 caribou. So the other mortalities can be from lynx.
17 And so we are -- there's a few lynx around.

18
19 The hare population is low and the
20 ptarmigan and grouse population is exploded because
21 there are no aerial predators. There's very few hawks
22 and owls and ravens. Even the raven population
23 dispersed or declined with the low hare population. So
24 the ptarmigan and grouse population has absolutely
25 exploded.

26
27 So that would be the Chair's report.
28 And so we're going to continue on with this agenda. So
29 we're on review and approval of the annual report which
30 is on page 20 of our meeting book. And this is our
31 annual report topics that's -- that we developed last
32 fall predominantly.

33
34 MR. WALKER: (Indiscernible - away from
35 microphone).

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay.

38
39 MR. WALKER: (Indiscernible - away from
40 microphone).

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead with
43 your question there, Robert.

44
45 MR. WALKER: Michelle Quillin, I see
46 that she worked for TCC.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: She used to work
49 for.....
50

0029

1 MR. WALKER:the Tanana Chiefs
2 Conference.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: She used to work for
5 TCC.

6
7 MR. WALKER: Okay. Who does she work
8 for now?

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't know who she
11 works for now, but she's not working for TCC. She's
12 from Hughes and she.....

13
14 MR. WALKER: Right. Yeah.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:we had a
17 representative from Hughes on the Koyukuk River
18 Advisory Committee, but he has health issues and we
19 cannot get a representative from Hughes. And she's
20 actually an alternate for Council -- for Committee
21 members. So she's a really good -- she was willing to
22 get on our Advisory Committee, she's really good and
23 she's going to the University of Alaska as a --
24 she's.....

25
26 MR. WALKER: Well, the reason I asked
27 was because she was representing Tanana Chiefs when we
28 had the bison meeting.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, well, that was
31 -- that's over now.

32
33 MR. WALKER: Oh, it is?

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, she's not
36 working for them anymore.

37
38 MR. WALKER: So nobody never told me
39 that.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you turn your
42 mic on Robert.

43
44 MR. WALKER: Nobody never told me that
45 see.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, she did --
48 well.....

49
50

0030

1 MR. WALKER: I mean, I just back on the
2 RAC.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:I mean, if
5 somebody.....

6
7 MR. WALKER:I find out today.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:somebody quits
10 their job they -- well, she didn't post -- she posted
11 on Facebook. You got to get on Facebook.

12
13 MR. WALKER: I don't have Facebook.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrell. Darrell
16 just left.

17
18 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

21
22 MR. GERVAIS: Michelle's on the Koyukuk
23 River RAC or this RAC?

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. No, Koyukuk
26 River Advisory Committee as an alternate.

27
28 Darrell took off. He came in and then
29 he took off. Went to go get coffee. Okay. We need
30 him in here. No chitchatting at the water cooler.

31
32 MS. PILCHER: Mr. Chair, I can go ahead
33 and get started.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead. Yes,
36 go ahead, Nissa.

37
38 MS. PILCHER: All right. So I'll get
39 started while he's gone. So of course Jack said what
40 page it's on, but just as a reminder, good heavens,
41 page 20 of your meeting book you'll find the draft of
42 the Council's annual report. You guys outlined eight
43 topics that were raised at your fall meeting. That is
44 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council's recent
45 conservation measures are lacking leaving the burden of
46 conservation on subsistence users. Alaska Board of
47 Fisheries recent conservation measures are lacking
48 leaving the burden of conservation on subsistence
49 users. The loss of faith in regulatory processes due
50

0031

1 to continual subsistence fishing closures in the
2 Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers. Continue to encourage
3 Federal agencies to assist in salmon recovery. Also
4 you highlighted again your sheep management strategies
5 for unit 24A and 26B. The accumulative effects of
6 climate change on subsistence resources and users. You
7 also included a request to request a priority hire to
8 recruit a Refuge Manager for the Yukon Delta National
9 Wildlife Refuge. And you expressed concern over
10 Council correspondence routinely and answered from both
11 the State and Federal agencies.

12

13 Just as a reminder at the fall meeting
14 I did let you guys know that no additional topics were
15 going to be added to the annual report. In previous
16 years I've been told you could add stuff during this
17 meeting. But now if you do have things to add or if
18 you do have things that you're interested in adding
19 what I can do is I can take them down and remind you of
20 that when you guys are doing your -- at your next
21 meeting when you're prepping your next annual report.
22 So but if you want to make any edits to any of the
23 language that's found within there, please do let me
24 know and we can make those changes. And this is an
25 action item.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you,
28 Nissa. So I reviewed the annual report, we discussed
29 this same annual report last fall. And so I don't see
30 any -- anything that really needs to be changed.
31 Robert's looking at it for the first time, but I
32 pointed it out a little bit ago so he could sort of
33 review it while we were doing Council member reports.

34

35 You got a comment, Darrell.

36

37 MR. VENT: Yeah, you know, we were just
38 in that caribou meeting earlier and they're supposed to
39 bring us some information. Are we going to be looking
40 at that later in the new....

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that's on
43 agenda item 10F or something I think it was. So let's
44 see. No, no. No, that's a different one. Oh, it's
45 right here, it's 10A.

46

47 MR. VENT: 10A.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we put that under

50

0032

1 10A. So on the annual report do we have a motion to
2 adopt the annual report as presented in our meeting
3 book on pages 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, the eight topics.

4
5 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Tim. Do we
8 have a second.

9
10 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.
13 Any comments or discussion.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MR. WALKER: Call for question.

18
19 MR. VENT: Yeah, just one. I know we
20 talked about something that -- you know, in that order
21 of guides and transporters. Are we going to bring that
22 up on this 10A too?

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That -- yeah, that's
25 under that 10A.

26
27 MR. VENT: Okay.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those are part of
30 those letters. And we're basically going to
31 appoint.....

32
33 MR. VENT: Write a letter.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:we're going to
36 appoint a -- each Council's going to appoint somebody
37 to work on this letter and discuss these -- those
38 letters that will then go -- they will be reviewed by
39 the Councils.

40
41 MR. VENT: And then go on to OSM?

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then go on to
44 OSM.

45
46 MR. VENT: Okay. Got it.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So yeah, but on the
49 annual report we have a motion on the floor. Any
50

0033

1 further discussion on the annual report topics.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MR. VENT: Question.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's
8 called. Those in favor of submitting the annual report
9 to the Federal Subsistence Board as found with the --
10 in our meeting packet signify by saying aye.

11

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

15

16 (No opposing votes)

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. So that
19 covers the annual report. Call for fisheries
20 proposals. And so, Kevin and Pippa, are you going to
21 make presentation. Go ahead.

22

23 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
24 members of the Council. For the record my name is
25 Kevin Foley and I'm a Fisheries Biologist with the
26 Office of Subsistence Management. And I am accompanied
27 by Pippa Kenner, Anthropologist with OSM as well.

28

29 I'm here to announce our call for
30 Federal fisheries proposals. The Federal Subsistence
31 Board is currently accepting proposals to change
32 Federal regulations for the subsistence take of fish on
33 Federal public waters for the 2025 through 2027
34 regulatory cycle. The Board will consider proposals to
35 change seasons, harvest limits, methods and means and
36 customary and traditional determinations for Federal
37 fisheries. If the Council wishes to submit a proposal
38 you will need to do so during this meeting. The public
39 may also submit proposals to change Federal fisheries
40 regulations. OSM will conduct outreach for how the
41 public can submit proposals in the near future once the
42 call for proposals is published in the Federal
43 Register.

44

45 The proposals will be analyzed by OSM
46 Staff and presented to Councils during your fall
47 meetings for Council recommendations. Proposal
48 analyses and Council recommendations will be presented
49 to the Federal Subsistence Board for their action

50

0034

1 during the January, 2025 fisheries regulatory meeting.

2

3

4 Does the Council have any regulatory
5 proposals to put forward?

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Council has
8 discussed promulgating this proposal for the Bonanza
9 Creek and Kanuti River and it's in our supplemental
10 materials.

11

12 Where is that, Nissa?

13

14 MS. PILCHER: It's this nondescript
15 white packet. It's in the sea of other papers on your
16 desk. I have additional copies if you guys can't
17 locate it. Darrell, do you have this one?

18

19 MR. VENT: Find it?

20

21 MS. PILCHER: Yes, there we go.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, this one?

24

25 MS. PILCHER: Yeah.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Page 1
28 of this. So it would be on the nondescript packet, it
29 would be page 1 right under the cover letter. And we
30 would like to submit this proposal to align regulations
31 that were passed by the Federal Subsistence Board for
32 the Jim River drainage. So that's -- and did you
33 promulgate this, did you write this proposal for us?

34

35 MR. FOLEY: Chairman Reakoff, no, sir.
36 That was I believe Cory.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

39

40 MR. FOLEY: Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So yes. So I feel
43 this -- I live in this area. This is sort of a -- more
44 or less it was slipped under the wire, it should have
45 been done when we passed the Jim River drainage
46 proposal. But -- and there was concern of overharvest
47 by subsistence users, but that's -- there's very little
48 harvest. But when people are there these bag limits
49 should apply for Federal subsistence users. So I would
50

0035

1 like to submit this proposal to be included in the --
2 into the Federal subsistence proposals for fisheries.
3 And so review of the proposal by the Council. Do we
4 have a motion to submit.

5

6 MR. VENT: So moved.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Darrell.

9 Do we have a second.

10

11 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.

14 So basically this Council reviewed this similar
15 proposal for the Jim River two years ago. So any other
16 discussion.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's

23 called by Jenny.

24

25 MR. VENT: Oh, hold on. Okay.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Darrell.

28

29 MR. VENT: Well, I just, you know,
30 we're all bound by, you know, what preference we have
31 in our fishing and when it comes to, you know, not
32 allowed to be fishing on the Yukon River whereas
33 there's supposed to be no -- no fishing anywhere with
34 preference. If that was, you know, in the -- in the
35 writing, but now when we look at it the State is allow
36 -- I mean, not the State, but the area M is allowed to
37 fish and we're not allowed to fish. You know, it's --
38 it's backwards. How do, you know, we -- because I know
39 TCC's been really fighting this. They had to even get
40 out of AFN just to get to -- you know, to represent
41 themselves because AFN didn't want to support them.
42 And we want, you know, to fish, but they're allowed to
43 fish out there and they're fishing, you know, their
44 full season. We're not even allowed one day under the
45 preference that we're supposed to be, you know, a
46 priority. And how do we get back to that with the
47 State, do we have to ask the Federal to help us with
48 that or how do we implement that.

49

50

0036

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We basically have to
2 get salmon to come back so that we can get a prior --
3 there's a proposal for rural preference on the Yukon
4 River drainage, rural harvest only if there's enough
5 fish, but we have to have enough fish and we have not
6 been meeting escapement needs. And so there's -- it's
7 in statutory that we can't fish unless there's enough
8 fish to -- for maintaining healthy populations of fish
9 and wildlife using recognized scientific principles.
10 This proposal is for grayling and it's because I -- we
11 used to go down to the Yukon River and fish and we
12 can't fish on the Yukon River this has become more of
13 an important issue because this is freshwater stocks
14 and there's lots of grayling. So.....

15
16 MR. VENT: Yeah, it's -- I know that,
17 but we never did get back to our salmon or any kind of
18 wording, you know, to the Federal OSM. The thing that
19 I wanted to, you know, address is that we need to try
20 to address them to see if they could help us in any
21 kind of way with the State. Is there anything that
22 they could do because it's.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Federal
25 Subsistence Board has closed nonsubsistence users in
26 certain portions of the Kuskokwim River and Yukon River
27 drainage. That's what the Federal Subsistence Board
28 has been doing to -- for Federal priority. That's been
29 happening and there's another proposal to do that
30 again. So that's how the Federal Subsistence Board --
31 that's about the only thing the Federal Subsistence
32 Board can do, In-Season Federal Manager works with the
33 State In-Season Manager, but both those -- both those
34 -- all three of the vendors, the fall season State
35 Manager, their hands are tied, they have to meet
36 escapement needs. There's no leeway, there's no
37 additional to give. And if there is additional it'll
38 be rural priority on Federal managed waters.

39
40 MR. VENT: So that's all or nothing,
41 it's not on area M or anything like that?

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Now we tried with
44 area M. This Governor appoints a Board that's
45 basically not going to do anything about area M. They
46 also have seats on the North Pacific Fisheries
47 Management Council, they're not going to do anything
48 about bycatch. We got -- we got political problems,
49 that's political issues. I can't -- we can't do
50

0037

1 anything about that. We tried at area M, we really
2 tried hard. And the -- I fished in Bristol Bay. I'll
3 say they have a transportation corridor where the chums
4 and the chinook are going through the south Alaska
5 Peninsula and what they should do is pull that fleet up
6 the Alaska Peninsula and put them out of those river
7 corridors. From Cape Menshikof to Port Heiden they
8 should be harvesting the -- they're intending to catch
9 sockeye. You push them away from the passages and make
10 them fish up the Alaska Peninsula they don't -- they
11 don't intercept chums and kings. It's not rocket
12 science.....

13
14

MR. VENT: Yeah.

15
16

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:but oh, gee,
17 what of our area. Well, that's the way it goes. They
18 pulled us in the Naknek River where it's really tight
19 in there to fish. You got to do what it takes. And if
20 the management of the State of Alaska has got like no
21 foresight and no understanding of how to avoid bycatch
22 in area M. And so it really annoys me to no end when
23 they get like a rock in their head and they have to
24 fish in the passage where we have -- where we have
25 passages. They can fish up along the north side of the
26 Alaska Peninsula, there's no bycatch up there. Well,
27 they'll get some Nushagak chums and Kvichak chum, but
28 you wouldn't be getting Yukon and Kuskokwim chums. But
29 that's not going to happen and OSM can't and the
30 Federal Subsistence Board can't do anything about it.
31 Don't get me started on that one.....

32
33

(Laughter)

34
35

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:I don't want to
36 go there. We've got a lot of agenda. So we need a --
37 we need a -- we have a motion on the table to -- we
38 have call for question on submitting this proposal.

39
40

MR. VENT: Question.

41
42

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's
43 called. Those in favor of the proposal submission
44 signify by saying aye.

45
46

IN UNISON: Aye.

47
48

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

49
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0038

1 (No opposing votes)

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(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I see these other Nome Creek and the Delta River. We deferred these proposals, why are these back here again.

Go ahead, Kevin.

MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. These proposal -- these closure reviews are here for your knowledge and the knowledge of the Council. In the event should you decide to submit a proposal speaking to these two closure reviews now would be the time to hear the information to better inform your decision.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the reason this Council deferred is because Nome Creek, Beaver Creek and the Delta River are in the Eastern Interior region which is really nowhere where we fish at all. And it's a nonconflict and we deferred that to Eastern Interior and they would have a better understanding of the uses of those drainages. And so we've -- I have no intention of submitting any proposals for those closure reviews.

So thank you for bringing them before our attention again though. Appreciate that.

And so we -- I think we've covered -- that's -- are there any other Federal fisheries proposals that the Council would like to submit. And when is the opening, the -- how long do we have -- how long is our window for submitting proposals again?

MS. KENNER: Yeah, hi. For the record this is Pippa Kenner. So it's -- we try to keep it open for 60 days, but because we don't know exactly when it's going to open we don't know exactly when it's going to close.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

MS. KENNER: There's a backlog at the Federal Register office, that's why this is happening with an unknown date.....

0039

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

2

3 MS. KENNER:for the opening.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Probably
6 all those Federal Subsistence Board proposals for
7 additional members and so forth bottling up the system.

8

9 So the -- any Council members have
10 anything to submit Federal subsistence proposals on?

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none, moving
15 on to this -- down this agenda, develop information
16 needs for FRMP, selection of volunteers.

17

18 Go ahead, Kevin.

19

20 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
21 members of the Council. OSM is currently in the final
22 phase of the 2024 Monitoring Program funding cycle.
23 The Federal Subsistence Board met early February and
24 approved the final Monitoring Program funding plan.
25 With the cycle coming to an end it's time for Councils
26 to begin developing priority information needs for the
27 2026 Monitoring Program call for proposals. Priority
28 information needs which you might hear referred to as
29 PINs, are an important component of the Monitoring
30 Program. They identify issues of local concern and
31 knowledge gaps related to subsistence fisheries.
32 Further priority information needs guide the Monitoring
33 Program funding process by determining what types of
34 projects are submitted for funding and providing a
35 framework for evaluating and selecting project
36 proposals.

37

38 We are asking for one or more volunteer
39 from both the Yukon and Kuskokwim drainages to meet by
40 telephone this summer to identify knowledge gaps and
41 information needed for management of subsistence
42 fisheries. The draft lists of priority information
43 needs that is developed by the volunteers from each
44 drainage will be presented to the Councils for final
45 approval during your fall meetings. This is not an
46 action item, but if there's anyone on this Council that
47 would like to volunteer to help develop priority
48 information needs for the next cycle it would be
49 greatly appreciated.

50

0040

1 This concludes my.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Kevin.

4

5 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
6 concludes my presentation. Are there any questions or
7 volunteers to help develop priority information needs.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, they need a --
10 they need a volunteer. Would anybody like to volunteer
11 to work on this subgroup to develop priority needs.

12

13 MR. GERVAIS: What month?

14

15 MR. FOLEY: We would speak -- through
16 the Chair, Council member Gervais. We would discuss
17 with you on a time that is most convenient for the
18 volunteers to meet.

19

20 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead, Tim.

23

24 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I've done this in
25 the past. We've been able to have conversations in
26 June. So potentially I could assist in this, but
27 sometimes I start fishing as early as June 5th. So
28 just depends on the run strength, if I'd be available
29 by phone to participate or not.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Would you -- would
32 you volunteer though?

33

34 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim volunteers. We
37 should have an alternative. I would prefer to have an
38 alternate also in case you can't do it.

39

40 And who would like to be an alternate?
41 Should be a.....

42

43 MR. VENT: Robert's got a lot of
44 experience.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yukon River Fishers
47 would be a -- kind of a -- so no volunteers. I'll
48 stand in as an alternate if no one else will do it.
49 And so.....

50

0041

1 Tim, go ahead.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: Since Robert's had a long
4 break from the Council he must be pretty fresh.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He seems pretty
9 lively. I thought he sounded lively.

10

11 MR. GERVAIS: He looks lively.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think he could
14 probably do it.

15

16 MR. WALKER: It's easier said than done
17 I believe.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So.....

20

21 MR. WALKER: I -- yeah.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:would you be an
24 alternate, Robert.

25

26 MR. WALKER: I'll work with Tim on
27 this, yes.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

30

31 MR. WALKER:Mr. Chairman.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Great.
34 So some of the information needs that I have are
35 probably in the bigger picture. A need for
36 understanding of migratory rearing in the ocean phase
37 and life cycles of the Yukon chinook, chum and coho.
38 We need better DNA or more robust DNA sampling
39 especially in the south Alaska Peninsula. As we have
40 movement through there the State is refusing to do DNA
41 sampling down there. We need to understand the trophic
42 level of the marine system with La Nina and El Nino
43 oscillations and the decimation and promotion of the
44 trophic level meaning the food chain in the north -- in
45 the north Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea. And we
46 have to know what the hatchery release impacts
47 astronomically increasing hatchery releases of chums
48 and pinks and basically from Kodiak all the way down to
49 the south -- southern/southeastern hatcheries all the
50

0042

1 way down to the end of Alaska at Ketchikan.

2

3

4 These are huge questions and these have
5 to have big -- these are absolutely necessary when you
6 look at that -- those hatchery releases skyrocketing
7 like that and hatchery was supposed to be to rebuild,
8 they were rebuilding hatcheries, they weren't supposed
9 to be dominating the high seas. They're supposed to
10 rebuild previous to 1972, '73, '74, they were supposed
11 to rebuild the stocks, they weren't supposed to
12 dominate the stocks rocketing beyond and the
13 productivity of the ocean is not there. It's hurting
14 the wild stocks. That's what it's doing. So I would
15 like OSM Staff, our fisheries people, to look at that
16 hatchery release and graph that against what are
17 chinook -- at the same time frames, chinook, coho and
18 chum salmon declines. I bet you could correlate them
19 exactly. This is not a little problem, this is a giant
20 problem. And this is something that needs to be in a
21 letter to the State Board of -- to the Federal
22 Subsistence Board to -- these are informational, huge
23 questions that are completely unanswered. This DNA
24 issue, some of these FRMP things, these DNA questions
25 and these hatchery impacts, those could be understood.
26 The marine phase, they need to work with NOAA or take
27 those trophic levels and they -- these are those high
28 sea inventories. There's information there.

28

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 This siloing of these agencies has got
to stop. Federal agencies are siloed off, they know
about the trophic levels, but you don't and the State
doesn't and nobody talks to each other. That's a big
problem in this big question.

Pippa.

MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
This is Pippa Kenner for the record. So you were
probably in the caribou meeting this morning and I know
that the Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea fishery meeting by
NOAA and other Federal Staff was going on. I don't
have my schedule in front of me, but I also would have
really enjoyed to have been at that meeting because I
bet a lot of information was disbursed. But on this
schedule if you can make it to one of those and to --
and contribute to that discussion I think would be very
helpful.

Thank you.

0043

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I intend to do that,
2 but I was tangled up with caribou. So I -- I'll do
3 that tomorrow.

4
5 Tim, you got a comment.

6
7 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. For future
8 planning purposes I don't think these informational
9 sessions should be in conflict with required Council
10 sessions at the same time. That was -- I was -- I
11 missed what turned out to be official RAC business this
12 morning because I was attending that fishery thing.
13 And then I got pulled out of the fishery meeting right
14 when we were getting on the subject of freshwater heat
15 stress on the fish. So that -- I think that was bad to
16 have a conflict of time. And looks like there's -- all
17 the Council members have conflicts. They have -- those
18 informational sessions are going on with every RACs own
19 personal meeting. So hopefully the future or record
20 those things or something, make them available.
21 Everybody in that All Council meeting should have got
22 all that information that I was getting this morning.
23 It's all critical and useful to being a good RAC
24 member.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll state it for
27 the record. I felt that the training should have been
28 provided for freshmen Council members, five years or
29 less, and that the experienced Council members should
30 have been -- should have been in a -- have those
31 presentations with the main Council leadership that's
32 experienced, has all that kind of training under their
33 belt. And so these kind of meetings are important for
34 the Councils to understand. And these are -- these
35 NOAA presentations and so forth.

36
37 So I'd like Nissa to take note of what
38 I was just rattling off there for our informational
39 needs, but we need to move on with this agenda. But we
40 do have informational needs and Tim and Robert can
41 expand on those at -- at the -- in your summer
42 sessions.

43
44 So anything else there, Kevin.

45
46 MR. FOLEY: That's negative, Mr. Chair.
47 Thank you for your time.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.
50

0044

1 Appreciate your presence here, appreciate OSM Staff.

2

3 And future meeting dates, confirm the
4 fall meeting.

5

6 Nissa, you want to go over some of this
7 stuff.

8

9 MS. PILCHER: I sure can. So it's
10 going to take me jumping back and forth a little bit
11 since Bristol Bay did meet this morning. You guys
12 requested -- you only have your next meeting planned
13 out. And that is -- I believe it is October 2nd and
14 3rd in Galena. It is -- you can look on page 222 of
15 your books, that's where that meeting calendar is.
16 Yep. So Wednesday and Thursday, October 2nd and 3rd in
17 Galena. Does this still work and in the event that --
18 in the event that -- too many books. In the event that
19 there's funding issues would you tell me if Fairbanks
20 is okay to meet. My intention is to get you to Galena.
21 I would like to go to Galena.

22

23 MR. VENT: What page?

24

25 MS. PILCHER: 222.

26

27 MR. VENT: Yeah, just depends if we get
28 stuck there an extra four days when we're -- you know,
29 like it.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Galena's easy to get
32 into because it's basically ILS approaches and stuff.
33 It doesn't -- it's not like Ruby or Anvik or places
34 like that up on the hills, Nulato. So I'm good with
35 Galena. I lived in Galena for two years when I was
36 like 10, 11 years old, 12. So that's why old Sydney
37 with -- I used to hunt little songbirds and Sydney
38 would chew me out every time about shooting those
39 songbirds when I was a kid. I was just a kid with a BB
40 gun. And so I'm good with that Galena meeting.

41

42 Any comments from the Council, I think
43 we're good with dates.....

44

45 MS. PELKOLA: I just have.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:and everything.

48

49 MS. PELKOLA: I'm sorry. I just have

50

0045

1 one.

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

4

5

6

MS. PELKOLA: Like I said there was a lot of snow so in case of a flood we need a backup.

7

8

9

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You know, we don't actually have that much snow in the mountains.

10

11

12

MS. PELKOLA: Well, we do in Galena.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, but most of the big water comes down from -- those big flood years are coming out of Canada. The main drainage is coming off of the Alaska Range. The Alaska Range doesn't have that much. And so I'm not sure if you'll get floods or not, that depends on how late the break up timing is and whether the ice stays hard and but we should have an alternate, you're exactly right.

21

22

23

MS. PELKOLA: Okay.

24

25

26

27

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I don't want to -- I do -- I will -- I do think Fairbanks is a good alternate, it's one of our hub communities, it's.....

28

29

MR. WALKER: (Indiscernible - away from microphone).

30

31

32

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, the other community is.....

33

34

35

MS. PELKOLA: McGrath.

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:McGrath. And so we can -- but that's even harder, but, you know, Wright Air is now working flights down to McGrath, they actually bought that McGrath Hotel down there. And so that's something for these Coordinators to be aware of that you don't -- we don't actually have to go all the way around through Anchorage, I think we can go out of Fairbanks down there.

44

45

46

MR. WALKER: Jack.

47

48

49

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead, Robert.

50

0046

1 MR. WALKER: We also have right into
2 Anvik, Grayling, Shageluk and Holy Cross too also.
3 They started the schedule up a month ago.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, they did.

6
7 MR. WALKER: Yes, the RAC -- the tribal
8 councils met with the owner and we discussed the
9 options. And they wanted to put manager, we told them
10 no, just use your office to make -- you be the manager
11 and we'll just call up here where to pick them up. So
12 this is more efficient for us. TCC pays like I think
13 \$800 round trip. And I don't know how about the
14 Federal government, I think about the same. I think
15 you should check into that also, Nissa, because Lake
16 and Pen, it's a lot quicker for us to travel with Lake
17 and Pen from the villages, just go right straight to
18 Anchorage if we have to rather than have to go through
19 Bethel with Alaska Airlines. So yes, this is something
20 that we did -- we really intensively did this with our
21 four tribes, we went out and we lobbied for these
22 pilots and these organizations to do this for us. So
23 that's what we did.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, with that
26 Wright Air option going to McGrath is a lot easier
27 because they could fly you over to McGrath and us we go
28 all the way -- all their flight down to -- down to
29 McGrath. So we.....

30
31 MR. WALKER: (Indiscernible - away from
32 microphone) get connected from the four villages right
33 to Galena too.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, really.

36
37 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we could -- we
40 could have McGrath as an alternate over Fairbanks if
41 you would like to go to McGrath as an alternate over
42 Fairbanks if Galena's a no go. I really hope you don't
43 have a flood there.

44
45 MS. PELKOLA: I hope so too.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Probably praying
48 about that one. My daughter was down there in '13,
49 that was a bad one.

50

0047

1 MR. WALKER: I don't mind Galena, you
2 know, the last time I was there I got stuck there like
3 three days. So but it's fine, you know. It's just I
4 -- this time I have to be working so I got to get out
5 of there right on time, I can't be the last one out.
6 And then, you know, we're talking about all the, hey,
7 we could, you know, like the tribes and corporations,
8 go down to Vegas and -- no, I'm just kidding.

9
10 (Laughter)

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, right.

13
14 MR. WALKER: Take all these guys with
15 us.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So.....

18
19 MR. VENT: They'd probably all be in
20 agreement.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: October 2 and 3, we
23 can get to McGrath, we can change that to McGrath if we
24 had to. Is that okay with the Council.

25
26 MR. WALKER: We cancelled out our Aniak
27 one too, we never did discuss that. And that's going
28 to be on the next -- the next cycle, right?

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We were going to go
31 to Aniak, got weathered out from going down there and
32 then we diverted over to Anchorage. And so but Ani --
33 I'm not sure how to get to Anvik other than with that
34 charter. Maybe Wright's would be willing to charter
35 down from McGrath down there or something.

36
37 MR. WALKER: So.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You have to talk to
40 them about that one.

41
42 MR. WALKER:I got one more
43 sug.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But are we okay with
46 the fall meeting, let's finish this fall meeting,
47 October 2 and 3, Galena or McGrath, that's all good.

48
49 So then we need a window in -- for the
50

0048

1 spring meeting. Window opens on and closes on April --
2 opens on February 17, closes on April 4.

3

4 MS. PILCHER: And just so you guys know
5 the only Council so far that has met is Bristol Bay and
6 they did choose to meet February 18 and 19th.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

9

10 MS. PILCHER: But other than that it's
11 wide open.

12

13 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

16

17 MR. GERVAIS: My preference would be to
18 meet that last week of February. I know at some point
19 you had mentioned that you didn't -- you like to meet
20 in February because of -- you didn't like to be out of
21 your cabin during January and February. I don't know
22 if that's still the case or not.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: January is really --
25 was really cold and early February was 50 -- 55 below.
26 But late February has been a little tamer lately.
27 Although it was 40 -- 45 below at the end of February
28 this year. I mean, it was 45 below just the other day
29 before I came down here. So if you want to do the
30 26th, 27th, we want to travel kind of more in mid week
31 because I -- planes don't fly on Saturday up where I'm
32 at. So these marked out windows. So 26, 27, that's
33 okay with the Council.

34

35 MR. WALKER: That's leap year.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, this was leap
38 year. It would be 29 on the calendar. This year was
39 leap year.

40

41 MR. WALKER: (Indiscernible - away from
42 microphone).

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then location.

45

46 MR. WALKER: Next year.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Next year. Winter
49 of 2025 meeting. February 26, 27. Where do you want
50

0049

1 to go.

2

3 MR. WALKER: 26, 27, Wednesday,
4 Thursday and travel Friday and travel Tuesday?

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we'd travel like
7 Tuesday and do the meeting and then fly out on Friday.
8 Although if I don't get back in time then I can't go
9 home. So it might actually be better to have the
10 meeting 25 -- 25, 26 so then we don't get into this
11 getting bottled up at the end of the week thing.

12

13 MR. WALKER: That would be then Monday
14 the 24th, returning the 27th.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

17

18 MR. WALKER: And the meeting will be
19 where?

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the question.
22 Question was.....

23

24 MR. WALKER: Well, it was Dimond Center
25 last time, but I think it was supposed to be in Aniak.

26

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Aniak, it
29 depends on if we -- if we don't get to go to Galena and
30 we got to McGrath and we should go back to -- I would
31 like to meet in Galena because of these fisheries
32 issues. I want to hear what local people in Galena are
33 talking about. I would really like to be -- have
34 somebody from the lower Kuskokwim in our region on this
35 Council and have we gotten any applications from down
36 there at all do you know?

37

38 MS. PILCHER: Not that I am aware of at
39 this time. I did use my time at the symposium Darrell
40 was talking about to try to shake some hands and get
41 some people interested.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But Kevin Whitworth,
44 he's in communication with that quite a bit, with the
45 InterTribal Fish Commission and all. So but I would be
46 prone to go to either McGrath or Galena, depends on
47 what happens with this fall meeting.

48

49 MS. PILCHER: We could flip -- we could

50

0050

1 say Galena, backup McGrath and then.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

4

5 MS. PILCHER:for the winter,
6 2025, say the opposite.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

9

10 MS. PILCHER: Uh-huh.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Whatever. Whatever
13 happens.

14

15 Go ahead, Robert.

16

17 MR. WALKER: I'm -- you know, Innoko
18 Wildlife Refuge is not there anymore. I mean, who is
19 there anymore to work with in McGrath?

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, Koyukuk,
22 Nowitna, Innoko Staff, they're the -- they're actually
23 the same people.

24

25 MR. WALKER: Who is there?

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, they're not
28 there, but they have Staff that are run through Galena.
29 So they would go down there for our Staff for Innoko.

30

31 MR. WALKER: That's what I'm saying.
32 They would have to travel (indiscernible - away from
33 microphone).

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got to turn your
36 mic on. Yep.

37

38 MR. WALKER: You know that the Staff is
39 going to have to travel from Galena to McGrath then?

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

42

43 MR. WALKER: So.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But if we meet in
46 Galena -- if we meet in Galena in October, you know,
47 that doesn't -- it's six of one and half a dozen of the
48 other. They have -- they have to travel to McGrath
49 because they're -- they run that -- they run the Innoko

50

0051

1 Refuge.....

2

3

MR. WALKER: Right. I know that.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that doesn't matter. They got trav -- they've got airplanes, they can get there.

7

8

9

10

11

12

MR. WALKER: Yeah, they got airplanes and everything up there. Yeah, I knew I did stop there and talk with them last fall when I was there.

13

14

15

16

MR. VENT: Mr. Chair.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead, Darrell.

27

28

29

30

31

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35

MR. VENT: Yeah, you know, on the lower Yukon at Holy Cross and those areas they're going to be -- we just a contract to put in some internet down there so we're going to be busy down there to have that -- so you should have, you know, any kind of capability, whether it be Holy Cross or one of those GASH areas down there. So just letting you know, that we're -- we had the contract so we're going to be working on it this summer.

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

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45

46

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49

50

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So those are preliminary for the fall meeting. The dates would be travel the 24, travel the 27th with the meeting February 25 and 26. Slated for McGrath if the Galena meeting goes or flip it the other way. If we don't -- if we meet in McGrath in the fall then we'll meet in Galena on February 25 and 26.

So that -- is that good to the Council.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Sounds good.

MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

MS. PILCHER: And then one more thing. Sorry, one more. They want you to schedule three out so they're looking at fall, 2025. And of course once again you will have the ability to look at them again each preceding meeting. So it's not like you're making

0052

1 a definitive agreement on dates and a meeting spot in a
2 year and a half from now at this meeting.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Have they
5 picked -- has Bristol Bay picked on this.....

6

7 MS. PILCHER: Yep.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:on this chart.

10

11 MS. PILCHER: So they took October 29th
12 and 30th. So the last two days of the window.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'd prefer to have
15 earlier, not in September of early -- I would like
16 October 6th, 7th and 8th in -- probably in Fairbanks.

17

18 MR. WALKER: October.....

19

20 MS. PELKOLA: October 6th, 7th and 8th.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, 7th and 8th
23 the meeting dates, travel the 6th, come back on the
24 9th.

25

26 MR. WALKER: (Indiscernible - away from
27 microphone).

28

29 MS. PELKOLA: Hmmmm.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we got
32 regional hubs, it's in our handbook here. But when
33 we've -- when we've gone -- we used to go to various
34 villages, but it was really expensive to get to those
35 villages with all the Staff and everything. And it's
36 good to have a meeting in Fairbanks periodically
37 because we get really good attendance from the State of
38 Alaska, Department of Fish and Game. Like last -- last
39 October we met in Fairbanks. We had ADF&G at our
40 meeting the entire time including the Director of
41 Wildlife Conservation was there. So you get better
42 participation with agency people if you meet in
43 Fairbanks or we thought we would get better
44 participation in Anchorage when we had regional Council
45 meeting, but we couldn't even get anybody to come over
46 to the Dimond Center last spring which was pretty
47 annoying. They're doing teleconferences with Regional
48 Director out of U.S. Fish and Wildlife when I could hit
49 their office with a rock. It's like come on, get over
50

0053

1 it.

2

3

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

4

5

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

6

7

MR. WALKER: Well, the reason why I
8 said is on the Koyukuk River because I think this would
9 be a good time to talk with them with this caribou
10 herd. And I think, you know, like being there to like
11 support.....

12

13

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: With who?

14

15

MR. WALKER:you know.....

16

17

18

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, who are you
talking about?

19

20

21

MR. WALKER: I would like to look at
Allakaket, maybe Hughes or someplace.

22

23

24

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They don't have
caribou. The caribou are not going there.

25

26

27

MR. WALKER: Really?

28

29

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, they haven't
had -- they haven't had caribou in Allakaket in years.

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

MR. WALKER: Well, what -- when -- you
know, when they had that program they were showing
people hunting caribou at -- it was supposed to have
been in Tanana, but they went up to Allakaket to hunt
caribou. I mean, that was (indiscernible -
simultaneous speech) program.

37

38

39

40

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Must have been
really -- must have been really a long time ago. But
then.....

41

42

43

MR. WALKER: Is there -- there's
nothing left?

44

45

46

47

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They're -- well,
they go way down into the Ray Mountains and they get a
caribou once.....

48

49

50

MR. WALKER: Right.

0054

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: in a great
2 while. But that's like -- that's a little micro herd,
3 that herd is in decline. That -- they don't harvest --
4 they don't harvest caribou much. It's not -- they only
5 -- they only -- there's the Koyukuk -- Huslia used to
6 have lots of caribou come over on the Huslia Flats and
7 up on those hills across from Huslia. But they don't
8 go -- the Western Herd is sitting at Buckland. That's
9 like a hundred and some miles away from.....

10

11 MR. VENT: Well, we can go to Huslia.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I don't know
14 about that.

15

16 MR. WALKER: Well, I mean, maybe
17 Darrell, I don't know. Maybe Darrell would do invite.
18 I don't know, it.....

19

20 MR. VENT: Oh, yeah, we got good
21 facilities over there now. We have a nice space over
22 there. And we have a microwave system set up for
23 internet, we have the telephone system so, you know,
24 they can call in or they can Zoom, whatever.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

27

28 MR. VENT: your capabilities.
29 Nowadays it's a lot easier than before. Because I've
30 been working with all these equipment and we're, you
31 know, so that's why I say we're going to be working on
32 his area and their capabilities will be a lot better.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

35

36 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's Council's
39 discretion, I would prefer to have that fall meeting of
40 '25 in Fairbanks because we're still going to have a
41 lot of caribou issues. If they've slaughtered the
42 Central Arctic Caribou Herd we need to have Fish and
43 Game in the room to roast them over the fire about that
44 one. So I -- we're not going to get anything done over
45 -- they're not going to come to Huslia, they're going
46 to completely avoid being around us, but if we're in
47 the -- we can call them over there and especially at
48 this time, they can't fly surveys yet. They fly moose
49 surveys. So I think we're going to -- we'd have a lot
50

0055

1 bigger bang for our buck being in Fairbanks in early
2 October, not in Huslia, that's not going to -- that's
3 not going to get us anywhere.

4

5 MR. WALKER: (Indiscernible - away from
6 microphone).

7

8 REPORTER: Robert. Robert.

9

10 MR. WALKER: Sorry. But, you know, if
11 they're doing -- I'm just saying if they do invite us
12 are we going to turn them down?

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're setting the
15 schedule. They're not going to invite us if we don't
16 -- we're -- we're setting the schedule here. We're not
17 -- Huslia is not going to invite us, why would they
18 invite us, how do they know where we're at.

19

20 What -- I don't feel that it's a
21 worthwhile trip to go to Huslia when we have Koyukuk
22 River Moose Management Plan. This Council drove that
23 plan. When our Chairman, Harold Huntington was the
24 Chair, and he decided we were closing down the Koyukuk
25 Flats and the Federal Subsistence Board did and the
26 State was like didn't want to deal with that, they had
27 about 700 hunters coming to the Koyukuk. So suddenly
28 we worked on a Moose Management Plan and we got a plan
29 that's still in place where we have subsistence harvest
30 with cutting antler to destroy the trophy value to
31 discourage hunters from coming there. We've set
32 bull/cow ratios, we have lottery draw permits and
33 that's regulated. We have a well oiled machine there
34 so we don't have a.....

35

36 MR. WALKER: (Indiscernible -- away
37 from microphone).

38

39 REPORTER: Robert. Robert.

40

41 MR. WALKER: The point is Jack, I mean,
42 I just want to say that, you know, like because I think
43 we're here to serve the people, we're not here to serve
44 the count -- I mean, the Staff.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We don't.....

47

48 MR. WALKER:the Staff will follow
49 regardless of wherever we go.

50

0056

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: we don't have
2 any pressing issues in Huslia is what I'm trying to get
3 across. We got a Moose Management Plan and there are
4 no caribou there. We have nothing to talk about other
5 than salmon. We can talk about salmon all over this
6 region. So I don't -- I don't feel that it's a
7 worthwhile project to go to Huslia because it's not
8 going to be a productive meeting for this Council. I
9 do think it would be a productive meeting to be in
10 Fairbanks to talk about these ensuing sheep issues and
11 caribou issues that are going to float to the surface
12 this year because we have various problems and we need
13 to have the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at that
14 fall meeting, fall of '25.

15
16 Go ahead, Darrell.

17
18 MR. VENT: The thing that you brought
19 up, you know, the way we discouraged the hunters from
20 coming to our area, destroying that trophy value and,
21 you know, this brings up our Northwest Arctic Caribou
22 Herd. When it comes down to it there's Federal -- I
23 mean, there's subsistence users and that means
24 everybody.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. State.

27
28 MR. VENT: State. But see -- yeah,
29 where -- where does the State lands goes in the
30 northwest?

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a great idea,
33 Darrell.

34
35 MR. VENT: No, I know. That's what I
36 wanted to get. I forgot to mention that when that came
37 up because we had so much issues to discuss it
38 completely slipped my mind. I wanted to get that
39 trophy value out of that. That way we can discourage
40 them from getting those big bulls.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So that
43 registration permit we were talking about in the
44 caribou meeting, that actually should incorporate
45 destruction of trophy value.

46
47 MR. VENT: There you go.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Make a note of that,
50

0057

1 Nissa, for the letter. So we want to talk to those
2 other Councils about that one too.

3

4 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

5

6 MR. VENT: Yeah. That's.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Because we have --
9 we don't have enough bull caribou to support all this
10 additional harvest that's for the Western Arctic Herd.
11 So I don't -- personally I will not vote for going to
12 Huslia because I don't think it's a productive thing to
13 do. Yeah, we'd have a nice trip going to Huslia, we
14 might eat some nice moose soup, but it's not going to
15 get us anywhere. We need to get business done for
16 this.....

17

18 MR. WALKER: That was not my point,
19 Jack.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:we're here to
22 work.

23

24 MR. WALKER: My point was just to talk
25 to the people and get their point of view like Darrell
26 says.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have Darrell --
31 we have a member from Huslia on our Council. And I
32 have lots of people that I know down in Huslia. And
33 Jenny's from that area. So I.....

34

35 Jenny, do you think that we have a lot
36 of pressing issues in Huslia?

37

38 MS. PELKOLA: I think we have issues
39 all over, but I don't know their area right now is --
40 you know, like sometimes we have a gas issue and.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

43

44 MS. PELKOLA:this, but I just
45 don't know if we have that right now.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Koyukuk River
48 Advisory Committee we had Jackie Wholecheese and
49 Darrell Vent on that Committee, on that Advisory
50

0058

1 Committee, the only issue that Jackie Wholecheese
2 brought up is submitting a proposal for an earlier
3 moose season starting on August 22 -- I think it was
4 August 22 and it's the only issue that's come up before
5 the Advisory Committee. And that's something that the
6 Advisory Committee's going to deal with.

7

8 Nissa.

9

10 MS. PILCHER: One suggestion could be
11 to choose Fairbanks with an alternate of being Huslia.
12 Huslia is not on the list of places -- it's not on the
13 hub list which means I'd need to seek approval. So
14 that could -- if you chose that then I could start the
15 approval process to even find out if I had the approval
16 for us to meet in Huslia.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We can do
19 that. Fairbanks as a primary, Huslia as an alternate.

20

21 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Nissa.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So where's --
24 Darrell got another phone call. Oh, here he is. Oh,
25 he needed another -- another cup of coffee.

26

27 So how does that sound?

28

29 MR. GERVAIS: Good.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council members,
32 October 7 and 8, primary is Fairbanks, fall of 2025
33 with Huslia as the alternate. So is that okay?

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sounds good, Robert.

38

39 MR. WALKER: Yeah, yep.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.

42

43 MS. PELKOLA: Uh-huh.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So got that.
46 Nissa, go ahead.

47

48 MS. PILCHER: Can we stand down for a
49 little bit so we can have Kendra take you guys' photo?

50

0059

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, sure.

2

3 MS. PILCHER: So the Council go on a 10
4 minute -- well, 10 minute break, Jack?

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure.

7

8 MS. PILCHER: Ten minute break.

9

10 (Off record)

11

12 (On record)

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Public and tribal
15 comments on nonagenda items. Do we have anybody on the
16 phone that would like to speak to that and that's star,
17 six to open your -- come off mute. Do we have anybody
18 on the phone who would like to speak.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anybody in the room,
23 public and tribal comments on nonagenda items.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see anybody.

28

29 MS. PILCHER: Once again that's star,
30 six to mute and unmute your phone.

31

32 REPORTER: There's only one person on.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One person.

35

36 REPORTER: Yeah.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So apparently
39 that person doesn't want to speak to those. So we're
40 on other business, follow-up on joint Council actions
41 if any. And so those joint Council -- this morning we
42 met on the Western Arctic Caribou and we wanted to
43 write letters. And so each Council had decided that
44 they were going to appoint somebody to work on writing
45 the letters. And there was -- there was various issues
46 and you took notes of those various issues, Nissa. And
47 so those will be -- but I -- we do need to appoint
48 somebody to work with OSM Staff on writing these
49 letters.

50

0060

1 And so who would like to volunteer to
2 do that? I could work with that or if anybody else
3 would like to.

4
5 MR. VENT: Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrell.

8
9 MR. VENT: I can be an alternate if you
10 need me.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

13
14 MR. VENT: Yeah. I know -- I know I
15 was trying to volunteer before Robert.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So -- all right. So
18 is that all right with the Council.

19
20 MS. PELKOLA: Uh-huh.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. And then
23 -- so those -- the main letters would be this bycatch
24 issues and these caribou issues are the main letters.

25
26 Any other -- the caribou issues I feel
27 that this Council should -- there was discussion about
28 implementing a registration or for submitting a
29 proposal to the Board of Game for registration permit
30 with specific dates when that registration permit would
31 be open and closed for issuance. I do also feel that
32 if the bull/cow ratios go into the toilet that there
33 should be trophy destruction in this -- in the mix.
34 And that was very effective on the Koyukuk River to
35 reduce the amount of participation by people who come
36 for -- basically to take antler. And so the -- that
37 would be under the resident registration permit
38 process. And if.....

39
40 And the call for that proposal won't be
41 for how long, Nissa, is it like one year -- two years
42 or something?

43
44 MS. PILCHER: So the Board of Game's on
45 a three year cycle and they just met this year so it
46 would be.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

49
50

0061

1 MS. PILCHER:it would be another
2 two years.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we should have
5 enough data to support that registration permit at that
6 time. We don't know what's going to happen, but that
7 should be in the -- in the caribou letters. And so
8 that should be -- we want that as part of the record
9 that we're discussing a registration permit with a
10 trophy value destruction aspect to it. And so there
11 was a bunch of other stuff, but we don't have to go
12 over all that. But I just -- I wanted to put that into
13 the record because that wasn't discussed at the caribou
14 meeting of the four Regional Councils.

15
16 So we have myself and -- as primary,
17 Darrell as secondary for that issue. That was the
18 follow-up on the joint Council.

19
20 Council correspondence. Nissa.

21
22 MR. GERVAIS: Wait, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, you got -- you
25 got a question or comment.

26
27 Go ahead, Tim.

28
29 MR. GERVAIS: I don't know if it's --
30 if it can be done now, but I'm interested in having
31 this interception Board of Fish proposal be --
32 potentially be a joint Council issue if -- if the other
33 Councils choose to adopt it. I know we -- in the joint
34 Council session we talked about area M interception.
35 So the topic is -- has come out in this meeting as a
36 joint Council thing. And this proposal is one way we
37 could address that issue.

38
39 But do you want to just wait until we
40 get to 10F to talk about it?

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Consider
43 developing State regulatory proposals. And that's the
44 appropriate time to -- we could incorporate that
45 proposal into the -- it's specific to bycatch?

46
47 MR. GERVAIS: No, it's not bycatch,
48 it's interception, area M chum and king.....

49
50

0062

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, interception.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS:interception.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

6

7 MR. GERVAIS: One thing -- one other
8 thing around this topic is I wish there was a joint
9 Council session to close out this meeting. It seems
10 like according to the agenda there's no -- not going to
11 be any opportunity at the end of meeting to adopt or
12 vote up or down joint Council sessions or is there --
13 are all the Chairs going to meet at the end of this
14 meeting to finish up business?

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've not heard of
17 subsequent Chair meeting.

18

19 MR. GERVAIS: Well, would a -- to me it
20 seems like it would have been appropriate to have joint
21 Council time at the end of the meeting to finalize
22 everything that's gone on in all these separate RACs.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It would have been.
25 In 20/20 hindsight it would have been.

26

27 So I think we'll discuss your proposal
28 that you have under this F, 10F -- why is there no 11.
29 Oh, 11 is public comments. What do you know.

30

31 MS. PILCHER: I did do the same thing.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So -- okay. And
34 we'll get to that proposal down the list here.

35

36 So correspondence -- Council
37 correspondence update.

38

39 Nissa. And that's on page 54.

40

41 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, but actually you
42 guys did adopt going over a couple different stuff that
43 came up at the joint Council meeting. So of course we
44 just talked about the four joint or four Council, but
45 the full joint Council meeting there was a couple. So
46 there was the bycatch letter that you guys did go over
47 line by line and also the caribou letter that you went
48 over line by line. Unfortunately I don't have
49 finalized versions of those for you to look at.

50

0063

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

2

3 MS. PILCHER: So I don't know if you're
4 comfortable or not voting on whether or not to sign
5 your name to them. But.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, they were
8 going to be -- there was going to be these -- aren't
9 the designees going to review those letters and work
10 out approval with the authority of the -- each Council
11 for the designee.

12

13 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. Yeah, we want I
14 believe a motion and like a -- an action item to ensure
15 that that happens as well.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we need.....

18

19 MS. PILCHER:as for the.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:so we need a
22 actual motion to appoint the designee.

23

24 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. As well as -- so
25 there's a -- there's a couple things going on. The
26 WACH letter that you guys also just talked about would
27 also need I believe a full.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A separate.....

30

31 MS. PILCHER: You could lump them
32 together, but it would probably be cleaner if you took
33 them up one at.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

36

37 MS. PILCHER:one at a time.
38 Unless you're doing the same across the board.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this time I --
41 the WACH letters for the quad Council meeting, I was
42 going to be the primary, Darrell's the secondary. We
43 need a motion to designate that -- do we need that
44 motion, motion to designated that person with authority
45 to review those letters?

46

47 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. It's.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

50

0064

1 MS. PILCHER:it's cleaner that
2 way.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Chair will
5 entertain a motion to make those designations as myself
6 on the caribou letters as the primary, Darrell as the
7 second. Do we have -- do we have that motion, would
8 somebody like to make that motion.

9
10 MS. PELKOLA: I'll move.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion by Jenny.
13 Second, do we have a second.

14
15 MR. VENT: Second.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Darrell.
18 Further discussion on that.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So basically the
23 designee would have the authority to review and edit
24 with other Councils the final documents with working
25 with OSM Staff. Is that clear?

26
27 MS. PILCHER: Yes.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so further
30 discussion.

31
32 MR. VENT: I think -- I think we've
33 discussed everything in there that's going to be on the
34 proposal.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

37
38 MR. VENT: You have all the -- they're
39 going to give you all the notes, right?

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, they'll --
42 they have it -- they have it all.

43
44 MR. VENT: Okay. Good. Because I know
45 we spoke with transporters and we also spoke with.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

48
49 MR. VENT:destruction of trophy
50

0065

1 value.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So no
4 further discussion, could we.....

5

6 MR. VENT: Question.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's
9 called. Those in favor of those designees to review
10 the -- review and adopt language with other Councils
11 and the OSM Staff regarding these caribou -- WACH
12 caribou issues, those in favor signify by saying aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

17

18 (No opposing votes)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Bycatch
21 correspondence by the All Council meeting. And we went
22 line by line and so there needs to be a designee and
23 alternate. So I will volunteer again to work with OSM
24 and the other Councils on that.

25

26 And would you care to be the alternate
27 again, Darrell?

28

29 MR. VENT: Sure. Unless.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So.....

32

33 MR. VENT:Kevin wants to.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:unless you want
36 -- would you like to be on as the alternate, Tim, or
37 would you like to be the primary?

38

39 MR. GERVAIS: For the joint Council
40 bycatch I'll.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

43

44 MR. GERVAIS:I'm okay with being
45 the primary on it.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

48

49 MR GERVAIS:but if you want to do

50

0066

1 it, Jack, you're the.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. I -- I'm going
4 to deal with the caribou one.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're more the fish
9 guy. I'm the fish guy, don't get me wrong, but you're
10 the fish guy here. So you should be the primary.

11

12 MR. VENT: Now Robert looks like a fish
13 guy.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And you want to be
16 the alternate, Robert.

17

18 MR. WALKER: For what?

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's the.....

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:for the -- for
25 the bycatch issue that all of the Regional Councils
26 were discussing yesterday evening.

27

28 MR. WALKER: Oh, yeah. Yes, I would --
29 I would like to be -- I'll do the -- that would be.....

30

31 MR. GERVAIS: So, Nissa, how -- how's
32 this going to play out. When is -- is this going to be
33 done after everybody goes home?

34

35 MS. PILCHER: Well, Council Coordinator
36 Brooke is in charge and she's pretty on it. So it will
37 not be before you guys -- it won't be this week, but it
38 will be very shortly.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

41

42 MR. WALKER: It's going to have to be
43 not this week because I'll be at Tanana Chiefs
44 Conference until the 15th or 16th.

45

46 MS. PILCHER: And I'll be a block away.

47

48 MR. WALKER: Well, that'll work.

49

50

0067

1 MS. PILCHER: Yeah.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So somebody make a
5 motion to appoint Tim and -- as the primary, Robert as
6 the secondary for this bycatch working group that's
7 going to work on this letter from the All Regional
8 Council discussion and we worked on the template.

8

9 MR. VENT: So moved.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So moved by.....

12

13 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:moved by
16 Darrell, seconded by Jenny. Further discussion.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think we've
21 covered that one.

22

23 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's
26 called. Those in favor of that motion to appoint Tim
27 and Robert for the bycatch letter signify by saying
28 aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

33

34 (No opposing votes)

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So -- okay.
37 Correspondence update. That's the BLM letter, page 54.
38 And so this was the d(1) letter and this was -- this is
39 just informational about our correspondence. And the
40 BLM received our d(1) letter. There's -- I'm waiting
41 patiently -- I will state for the record I'm waiting
42 patiently for the Central Yukon Resource Management
43 Plan coming out in -- sometime in April-ish according
44 to Geoff Beyersdorf back there. And so it also has
45 d(1) land issues with it, with the 51 -- that's
46 PLO51.50, the Dalton Highway corridor, the 2.1 million
47 acre corridor. I'm opposed to conveyance of that to
48 the State of Alaska. Everyday -- every day I get on --
49 if I go on that road I run into people from Nuiqsut and
50

0068

1 Kaktovik and Utqiagvik driving the road, they actually
2 drive on that road quite a bit because the North Slope
3 Borough's actually got ice roads. So I keep running
4 into people and they're actually hunting from that
5 road. They're taking -- there's caribou along that
6 road and so they -- they actually are -- they're legal
7 to hunt, they have customary and traditional use. And
8 so they -- they've become aware of that.

9
10 And so that 51.50 has significant
11 subsistence use and the State of Alaska is 20 percent
12 overselected, way more than 20 percent. And they're
13 only due 5 million more acres. And I do not feel that
14 the Federal government under FLPMA.....

15
16 MR. GERVAIS: Federal Land Policy
17 Management.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:Federal Land
20 Management Policy Act tells the BLM that they're not
21 supposed to convey lands of national interest. And
22 that is the jewel, absolute jewel, of all BLM lands in
23 Alaska is this utility corridor. You can't find a
24 nicer piece of ground than that. And so the Federal
25 government is under no obligation under the Alaska
26 Statehood Act, under FLPMA or any other thing because
27 the State selected -- had from 1959 to 1971 to select
28 that area and they knew the pipeline was going through
29 there and they still didn't select it. So they're
30 under -- BLM is under absolutely no obligation to give
31 that very important now piece of land to -- for
32 subsistence use and for national interest. So there's
33 literally thousands of visitors that come to see that
34 beautiful country. And so the regulations that we have
35 in place maintain that as prime habitat for thousands
36 of caribou showing up to eat our lichens and things
37 there because it is basically prime habitat. And it's
38 a utility corridor. It's a multi use piece of ground
39 and they don't need to convey it. And I'm waiting for
40 that Central Yukon Management Plan to come out to
41 discuss that d(1) PLO51.50.

42
43 Do you have a comment, Darrell.

44
45 MR. VENT: Yeah. You know that we --
46 we've been discussing that, you know, in a variety of
47 ways and we found out that the university has access to
48 selection of lands. And I think, you know, that's
49 going to be kind of important because they selected
50

0069

1 lands that has a -- someplace along that corridor where
2 they're mention it.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They can't select
5 lands unless it's conveyed to the State, that's under
6 the Statehood Act issuance. So the university lands
7 will have to come from the State's pool of selection.

8

9 MR. VENT: That's because they
10 overselected or is that just normal procedure?

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They've top filed
13 over everything. They want all of the best pieces of
14 ground, but they've already selected lands. They've
15 got plenty of lands -- my opinion is BLM should just
16 give the State their 5 million, you picked it, here it
17 is. Pick it -- just give them lands all over that are
18 selected, that are nonconflict with subsistence and
19 just give them the rest of their 5 million acres
20 tomorrow, not -- like tomorrow, give it to them like
21 right away.

22

23 Of course I've got Geoff coming up to
24 tell me why they can't do that, but I -- that's my
25 opinion.

26

27 Go ahead, Geoff.

28

29 MR. BEYERSDORF: Through the Chair to
30 the member Darrell Vent. I think what you're speaking
31 of is a couple years ago Congress ended up passing
32 legislation as far as lands that might be available to
33 the State, the University of Alaska. And the
34 University of Alaska has indeed made a selection.
35 There's about 105,000 acres that's just south of the
36 Ray Mountains and that is going through a -- the State,
37 University of Alaska is going through a process for
38 that.

39

40 MR. VENT: So that's State lands up
41 there?

42

43 MR. BEYERSDORF: Right now those lands
44 are BLM lands. They have been -- there's a portion of
45 them that have been selected by Doyon, there's a
46 portion of them that have been top filed by the State
47 and then there's the portion that the University is now
48 looking to select.

49

50

0070

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, I stand
2 corrected. And I appreciate that.

3

4 MR. VENT: So that's what I -- that's
5 why I was trying to mention that to you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

8

9 MR. VENT: Yes, that -- then, you know,
10 when you start saying State I say no, I don't think
11 that's what I'm.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, there's also
14 the university lands that fall under the Statehood.....

15

16 MR. VENT: Yeah.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:Act stuff. So
19 that was the -- that was the d(1).....

20

21 Go ahead, Robert.

22

23 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 Geoff, you know, like -- I think it was like six months
25 ago or so that the BLM was having a conversation about
26 lands up around Wiseman and that area. Are you
27 familiar with that, that are being turned over to the
28 State from the BLM?

29

30 MR. BEYERSDORF: The Bureau of Land
31 Management has been engaged in some conversations with
32 the State of Alaska. And to the point of, Chair
33 Reakoff, what you're speaking to there's a couple
34 different things in here. But let me kind of get to --
35 let me see if I can get to them.

36

37 The Central Yukon Resource Management
38 Plan, we are looking to get that notice of availability
39 in April so then the final EIS would follow with that
40 and we're looking to get to the record of decision
41 probably in June or July of this year. So I'd
42 appreciate your patience, we are working our way
43 through some internal discussions on that. One of the
44 things it -- to member Walker to your point, fairly
45 recently the State of Alaska approached us in regards
46 to a proposal on PLO51.50 and we're looking at that
47 right now. That's part of what here -- well, I think
48 there's going to be some further discussions. You'll
49 see that when we get into the record of decision for
50

0071

1 the Central Yukon RMP and depending on where that goes
2 there may be a step down process for that.

3

4 MR. WALKER: Yes, I was kind of
5 wondering too because that fell under the Western
6 Interior RAC, part of their deal here. And I asked the
7 guys if they did have the local villages nearby if they
8 went -- had a chance to testify against doing that and
9 he didn't answer my question. So this is where I kind
10 of like thought about this for a long time, you know,
11 it's going to fall into where the Western Interior, but
12 still it's going to be going to the State and any tribe
13 from that -- in that area wouldn't be able to utilize
14 it as part of their -- whatever they are doing.

15

16 MR. BEYERSDORF: So through the Chair
17 to the member. I'm very aware of that. Depending on
18 where these conversations with the State go on the
19 PLO51.50, what we're looking at is a completely
20 separate stand alone public process that would involve
21 scoping so that we can hear from the public in regards
22 to what these issues mean to them.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Chair would
25 like to entertain a motion to -- that when the Central
26 Yukon Resource Management Plan comes out, if it has any
27 conveyance of and lifting of the 51.50 that we oppose
28 any lifting of the 51.50, Dalton Highway Corridor
29 Management -- Utility Corridor, those 2.1 million
30 acres, that we would oppose that. And so we have to be
31 on the record because this whole comment period is
32 going to fall before our next fall meeting. So we have
33 to actually have that on the record right now.

34

35 MR. WALKER: Right. Right. Make sure
36 you're (indiscernible - away from microphone).

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I would like to
39 make a -- get a motion on the table for discussion.

40

41 MR. VENT: So moved.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Darrell.

44

45 I'm a -- yeah.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second.

48

49 MR. WALKER: Second.

50

0072

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Robert.
2 Go ahead, Robert, discussion.

3
4 MR. WALKER: Okay. That -- and if --
5 as they were speaking to Geoff of that the lead guy
6 said this is part of the process, the process of the
7 1959 selection from the State, correct?

8
9 MR. BEYERSDORF: Through the Chair to
10 the member. If I'm understanding your question
11 correctly, member Walker, the PLO51.50 discussion is
12 part of the entire -- is part of the overall discussion
13 in regards to the conveyances that are -- the
14 conveyances over to the State. As Jack pointed out
15 earlier the State is -- the State under -- I believe
16 under regulation is allowed to have 125 percent
17 overselection, but the State is another 100 percent
18 over that already.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A hundred percent.

21
22 MR. WALKER: Yeah. (Indiscernible -
23 away from microphone).

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, wow. So I.....

26
27 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair, and I was
28 listening and I asked some questions too, not as a RAC
29 member, but as a tribal chief. I did this and I asked
30 a person if we could step forward and make a copy and
31 have that sent to the Western Interior RAC and I
32 believe he said he would. And maybe correct me here on
33 that. If that is pulled up and sent to the RAC so we
34 could see where we may have lost a little land from our
35 Western Interior in that process.

36
37 MR. BEYERSDORF: Through the Chair to
38 member Walker. I think maybe let's have a conversation
39 and kind of see if I can -- if I can understand your
40 question correctly and then if I can address it I'll
41 work on that.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, Darrell.....

44
45 MR. WALKER: Yes.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead. Oh,
48 Darrell.

49
50

0073

1 MR. WALKER: Yes. I think that would be
2 a great government to government consultation even
3 though it is with the State. It'll show that we are
4 interested in that and we kind of like don't really
5 follow a lot of this, what the BLM is doing, because of
6 the State 1959 Statehood whereas I know there's going
7 to be more he said later on down -- down the calendar
8 days. So I kind of like wondered -- he didn't give me
9 a direction or he didn't give me any kind of indication
10 that where it would be. So it would be a nice time to
11 ask you here if you know anything about it.

12
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Robert.

16
17 MR. VENT: I just -- you know, when the
18 lands was selected I remember a lot of people were
19 talking about it. And the tribes, you know, they
20 wanted to select lands too so that, you know, they got
21 their Native allotments. And a lot of times they
22 didn't really think about how the Native allotments is
23 going to work. And with our area we found out that,
24 you know, this -- we had this erosion problem. So when
25 that Native allotment was over into the river there was
26 no other exception for that. And a lot of times it --
27 everything was so fast tracked that people weren't
28 ready to select their lands, they just left them out.
29 So, you know, there was issues with that selection of
30 lands. And State, they overselected. And we, you
31 know, and they're always, you know, in the know because
32 they're the ones that were, you know, working on this.
33 So, you know, going back to it, the -- our people, you
34 know, were kind of left out with some of the selections
35 there especially when it came to our veterans.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrell.
38 But the motion on the table is to oppose any, any, and
39 that means community expansion or any conveyance to the
40 State of Alaska of any of the 51 -- PLO51.50 lands
41 because previously the last RMP they conveyed 7,000
42 acre development node around Coldfoot and they were
43 only using a microdot of that land. So if the State
44 wants any additional land for community expansion
45 they've got 7,000 acres and they're not even using it.
46 You know, there's -- the Federal government's got a --
47 referred to as an admin site by Marian Creek and a
48 campground. And that's about the only use of -- the
49 majority of that land.

50

0074

1 So the motion's on the table. Those in
2 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

7
8 (No opposing votes)

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So it'll be part of
11 the record, when the RMP comes up we will -- we will
12 register that in the comment.

13
14 So the next propose -- the next
15 correspondence is on page 56 and this was in regards to
16 requesting a seat on the unit 19C Sheep Work Group.
17 The request went before the State Board of Game, they
18 never even mentioned or referred to the -- to the
19 Western Interior's comment or request, they completely
20 avoided an basically made it really super clear that
21 they did not want to include the Western Interior
22 Council who has portions of -- well, 19C is in our
23 region and they just basically ignored us. So we
24 didn't get a seat. And Kevin Whitworth wanted
25 representation from the Council on that -- on that work
26 -- Sheep Work Group and the State Board did --
27 absolutely just did not want to address having --
28 making an accommodation for a seat. So that was that
29 letter. That didn't go anywhere.

30
31 And so this letter is to the North
32 Pacific Fisheries Management Council. The next one on
33 page 58. We made all these suggestions and that gets
34 denied by the -- and this was four different Regional
35 Councils, Yukon-Delta, Western Interior, Eastern
36 Interior and Seward Peninsula request on this -- on
37 these bycatch issues for the North Pacific, they
38 basically ignored that one too. That gets stuffed into
39 their packet and they just basically don't even mention
40 it.

41
42 The next one is on page 62, this one's
43 to Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner of Fish and Game.
44 And so the Council is basically talking about the
45 Mulchatna Caribou Herd and the importance to
46 subsistence. And so the Council is basically very
47 concerned about that herd. And so that's -- this is --
48 oh, this is Ray Oney's. And so the Yukon-Delta Council
49 letter. I thought that was our letter.

50

0075

1 MS. PILCHER: Yeah.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're concerned.....

4

5 MS. PILCHER: So we jumped -- we're now
6 in other correspondence of interest to the Council.
7 Just there's other -- I'm trying to create some sort of
8 bridge with this Council with other Councils that have
9 similar.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

12

13 MS. PILCHER:concerns. And I
14 know you guys have previously been concerned with the
15 Mulchatna. So that is why the next four letters are in
16 there. You don't need to take action on them, I just
17 wanted you to be aware that they were written and
18 existed. The other three of course are in supplemental
19 material.

20

21 But I want to pop back. At the last
22 meeting you guys wanted a condolence letter to the
23 Peltola family. And I created one and my intention was
24 to bring it here for you to sign, but I left it in my
25 room today. So if you want to sign it I will gladly
26 bring it, if you just want me to mail it that's fine
27 too.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to sign
29 it.

30

31 MS. PILCHER: Okay. Then I will make
32 sure to bring it tomorrow and track you guys all
33 down.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

36

37 MS. PILCHER:or whoever wants to
38 sign it.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I -- you know, we
41 talk so much about Mulchatna, I -- these are words that
42 we use here and so this -- I fully agree with YK
43 Delta's concern about the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. That
44 herd is in dire straits. And so I do appreciate you
45 providing these other -- these other Council
46 correspondence also that affect our region. So
47 appreciate that, Nissa.

48

49 So we're -- I think we're through our

50

0076

1 correspondence. Presentation procedure for proposals
2 and closure reviews.

3
4 You want to cover that one.

5
6 MS. PILCHER: Well, I was just going to
7 point out that it is on page 65. That was in case you
8 guys decided to fully take up WP28 and 29 again. But I
9 don't think you guy -- we don't need to go through the
10 whole process again. So I put it in there as a just in
11 case.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So 28 and 29 we
14 voted on in the quad RAC meeting and we refined that
15 and we came to agreement with the other Regional
16 Councils and let the record reflect that we actually
17 took a vote and we had quorum and so those actions were
18 taken on those. So this -- we're here at other
19 correspondence Councils. We're looking at -- we're
20 looking at those. And even Delta -- yeah, we looked at
21 that. And this one. And so we're here at action item
22 E, receive special action request for the Yukon River
23 chinook, summer chum and fall chum and coho salmon
24 during the 2024.

25
26 And Kevin was supposed to make
27 presentation. And is this.....

28
29 MS. PILCHER: Might be Pippa.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Pippa.

32
33 MS. KENNER: You caught me off guard.

34
35 MS. PILCHER: He did start moving
36 really fast.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I went
39 into.....

40
41 MS. KENNER: You were going slow and
42 then you were going fast.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, you know, like
45 Star Wars, we just went to light speed now.....

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:because we got
50

0077

1 a lot -- we want to get this agenda done.

2

3

Go ahead, Pippa.

4

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MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm Pippa Kenner with the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm an Anthropologist. And I am presenting fisheries special action request FSA24-01 and it begins on a -- the request from the Yukon River InterTribal Fish Commission is on page 141 of your Council books. So today we are asking your Council to make a recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board regarding this special action request. So this is an action item and I have some very short talking points.

Go ahead.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this is basically a redundancy of what occurred last year verbatim or is it slightly different from the -- what was submitted last year?

MS. KENNER: It is.....

MR. WALKER: (Indiscernible - away from microphone).

MS. KENNER:it is different because it is different.

MR. WALKER: Okay.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go through your talking points. Go ahead.

MS. KENNER: No, that was a very good question, Jack. Again this is Pippa and it is different.....

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

MS. KENNER:because it's talking about 2023 and what happened.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay.

MS. KENNER: Okay?

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

1 MS. KENNER: This special -- this
2 special action request was submitted by the Yukon River
3 InterTribal Fish Commission. The Commission quote, is
4 asking the Board to uphold the conservation and
5 priority consumptive use provisions under Title VIII of
6 ANILCA and to uphold the Yukon River Salmon Agreement
7 by reassuming management of Yukon River chinook, chum
8 and coho salmon throughout the 2024 season. So they
9 explain what they mean. They want the Board to close
10 Federal public waters of the Yukon River drainage to
11 the harvest of chinook, chum and coho salmon except by
12 Federally-qualified users in 2024, the upcoming fishing
13 year. And the InterTribal Fish Commission is asking
14 that the -- that we require Federal subsistence fishing
15 schedules, openings, closures and fishing methods
16 within Federal waters to be determined by the Federal
17 fisheries manager. And they go on to explain what that
18 means.

19
20 So in the request the proponent states
21 Yukon River -- I'm going to provide a summary of the
22 proposal that's in your books. Yukon River chinook,
23 summer chum, fall chum and coho salmon populations have
24 steeply declined resulting in a failure to meet
25 escapement -- applicable escapement goals and treaty
26 obligations in recent years. Subsistence opportunity
27 for salmon has been severely restricted and subsistence
28 salmon needs are not being met. Needs are unlikely to
29 be met in 2024 based on preseason forecast and recent
30 years run strength. Again this is the proponent.

31
32 Salmon runs have not improved since the
33 Board approved a similar special action request in
34 2022. Therefore any Federal management actions to open
35 or close fishing in Federal waters of the Yukon River
36 must uphold the provisions of ANILCA and the U.S.,
37 Canada Yukon River Salmon Agreement. The proponent
38 stated they're very concerned with the precedent set in
39 2023, last year, wherein the actions of the Federal
40 Manager were solely reactive to management actions by
41 the State of Alaska, an entity who as a matter of State
42 constitutional law cannot provide a rural subsistence
43 preference. Again I'm quoting from -- I'm summarizing
44 the letter.

45
46 Preemptive closure of Federal waters to
47 non-Federally-qualified uses and users, and assumption
48 of Federal management is both warranted and required as
49 necessary for the conservation of declined populations
50

0079

1 of Yukon River salmon while providing reasonable and
2 sustainable subsistence harvest based on ANILCA Section
3 815.

4
5 So there we have the summary of the
6 proponent's justification for submitting this special
7 action request.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's pretty
10 clear.

11
12 MS. KENNER: I have a little bit more
13 for you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead.

16
17 MS. KENNER: We could -- we could stop
18 right now and take some questions.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions for
21 Pippa so far and the presentation on this.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pippa.

26
27 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Through the Chair. Okay. So we're presenting this
29 request to all Councils with a customary and
30 traditional use determination for salmon in the Yukon
31 River. That includes Eastern Interior, yourselves and
32 YK Delta. And I'm not sure if -- and -- well, and
33 Seward Peninsula. And we're asking them to make
34 recommendations.

35
36 OSM is also in the process of
37 scheduling public hearings and tribal consultations.
38 The public hearing will be on March 20th from 5:00 to
39 7:00 and information is on the news release about the
40 call in number. And for the last step an updated
41 analysis will be presented to the Federal Subsistence
42 Board with your recommendation. And the Board is
43 tentatively scheduled to meet on April 15th from 1:00
44 to 3:00 and I believe that'll be in teleconference and
45 you'll all get the announcements.

46
47 And thank you for your time, Mr. Chair,
48 members of the Council. This is an action item, we're
49 asking you to make a recommendation to the Board to
50

0080

1 either approve, reject, modify this special action or
2 to defer it to the next fisheries regulatory cycle
3 which is now. Again this special action request
4 closing Federal waters of the Yukon River drainage to
5 the harvest of chinook, chum and coho salmon except by
6 Federally-qualified subsistence users in 2024 and
7 requiring Federal subsistence fishing schedules,
8 openings, closures and fishing methods within Federal
9 waters to be determined by the Federal fisheries
10 manager.

11

12 And again I'll try to answer your
13 questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the
14 Council.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you
17 very much, Pippa. And so this special action request
18 basically is like last year a little bit -- little bit
19 upset with the In-Season Manager basically following
20 the lead of the State Manager, but both In-Season and
21 State Managers were -- they had no fish to give. So
22 there's -- there wasn't a lot of like following the --
23 one following the other. They both had deep concerns
24 about the run strengths. Summer and fall In-Season
25 State Managers and the Federal Managers were all on the
26 same sheet of music. But I do feel that the -- that
27 this In-Season Manager should when it comes down to the
28 subsistence harvest then the In-Season Manager should
29 absolutely take the lead on the Federal public waters
30 as stated here because I suspect -- I don't know why I
31 suspect there may be enough summer chum and some fall
32 chum for subsistence in that the Chandalar return's
33 strong enough for -- returns strong enough to have some
34 fall chum harvest. And that typically is an indicator
35 of the next three years of cohorts. We may get -- and
36 there were increasing numbers of summer chum. I just
37 have a feeling there may be some wiggle room for some
38 subsistence harvest and it should be occurring by
39 Federally-qualified subsistence users with the In-
40 Season Manager.

41

42 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
43 adopt this with the -- with various discussions from
44 this Council to be transmitted to the Federal
45 Subsistence Board. Do we have a motion to adopt this
46 special action request.

47

48 MR. GERVAIS: Motion to adopt.

49

50

0081

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have a motion by
2 Tim. Do we have a.....

3
4 MR. WALKER: Second.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Robert.
7 Discussion by other Council members, input into this
8 special action.

9
10 You got a comment, Robert. Go ahead.

11
12 MR. WALKER: I was looking at this
13 letter here and it is similar to what I believe the
14 Kuskokwim Native Association down in -- somewhere on
15 the Kuskokwim have a -- they do have Kuskokwim River
16 InterTribal Fish Commission too. So I read that and
17 this is almost similar to what they do.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

20
21 MR. WALKER: And they are asking for --
22 I'm going to be asking for support from the RAC Board
23 here and the same thing as they did down on the
24 Kuskokwim. So I got no problem with that.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

27
28 MR. WALKER: Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have a motion to
31 adopt.

32
33 MR. VENT: Question.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's
36 called by Darrell. Those in favor of the special
37 action request as written with no modification signify
38 by saying aye.

39
40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

43
44 (No opposing votes)

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we did that. And
47 then consider developing a regulatory -- that's Tim's,
48 that's F.

49
50

0082

1 Tim. So want to go over your proposal.
2 Oh, you got copies. All right. Cool. So thank you.
3 So Tim's going to cover this Board of Fisheries
4 proposal.

5
6 And so go ahead, Tim, at will.

7
8 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
9 in the all Council portion of this meeting there was
10 concern expressed about trying to limit the amount of
11 chinook and chum salmon interception going on in State,
12 specifically through area M. So this sheet I just
13 passed you -- out to you is a proposed regulation, the
14 two things that would change on it is the date, the
15 regular -- the form will be for '24/'25 and the meeting
16 to submit this to would be the Statewide provision for
17 finfish there in box two. Everything else is valid.
18 And so what this Board of Fish proposal would do, it
19 would shorten -- in seine fishing they have regulations
20 for the overall length of the seine. Also in some
21 instances in some management areas fishermen are
22 allowed to use a lead which is basically real similar
23 to a fishwheel lead, but it's usually made of like
24 flexible net material. And so this -- what this
25 regulation change would do, right now the combination
26 of the seine and the lead in area M and just for
27 clarification area M is the upper and lower Alaska
28 Peninsula from Sand Point to False Pass and even out
29 into the Aleutians and then the north side of the
30 Alaska Peninsula. So that's the area we're talking
31 about. And a lot of our -- a lot of our chum salmon
32 and some of the kings migrate and live in that area
33 where they're fishing.

34
35 So right now the current regulation has
36 the lead and seine length can be 400 fathoms. And when
37 you turn this over and look at seine specifications and
38 operation, it's says that the lead itself cannot be
39 more than 100 and the aggregate length of seine and
40 lead may not be more than 250 fathoms in length. And
41 then it also addresses the depth of the seine which
42 currently is 375 meshes and it reduces to 325 meshes.
43 And what that -- what that reduction in depth would do
44 would -- in general in seine fisheries, the chum salmon
45 and king salmon tend to swim deeper than sockeye and
46 pink salmon. And so reducing the depth of their seines
47 by 50 meshes to 325 would still allow these fishermen
48 reasonable harvest opportunity for their commercial
49 operations, but would provide some protection to chum
50

0083

1 salmon and king salmon to pass underneath their nets
2 and continue on with their general feeding or with
3 their migratory pass up into western Alaska.

4

5 So three things are going on here.
6 We're reducing the lead length from 150 to a hundred,
7 we're reducing the aggregate seine and lead length from
8 400 to 250 and we're reducing the depth of the seine
9 from 375 to 325. And these changes would still allow
10 these commercial fishermen in area M to have a
11 reasonable expectation to be able to operate their
12 boats and businesses profitably for sockeye and pink
13 salmon.

14

15 So I would like this Board to be the
16 actual submitted by group and I'm going to talk to the
17 other -- the other Boards that are at this meeting or
18 not Boards, I'm sorry, RACs, at this meeting to see if
19 they would be -- if we passed -- if this Board agrees
20 -- if this RAC agrees to sponsor this I would encourage
21 all of the other RACs to sponsor it too in the name of
22 reducing the amount of chinook and chum salmon
23 interception that's going on in area M.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Thanks
26 for explaining that, Tim. I think this -- this was the
27 discussion also down at the Board of Fish meeting on
28 the sidebar trying to get -- trying to get this same
29 kind of reductions in the gear size for the seine nets
30 down there. I'm supportive of this proposal.

31

32 When we -- the Chair will entertain a
33 motion to adopt this proposal for submission to the
34 Board of Fish. And do we have a motion to adopt.

35

36 MR. GERVAIS: Oh, let me clarify. So
37 the proposal is due in early April and it will go into
38 the Statewide finfish meeting, I believe it's in 2025.
39 I don't have the exact date of that meeting, but that's
40 what it's targeted.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

43

44 MR. GERVAIS:for.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's clear for
47 the record that it will be submitted for that
48 particular Board of Fish Statewide finfish meeting.

49

50

0084

1 MS. PILCHER: Just to clarify. So I
2 wouldn't actually be submitting it this cycle, I'd
3 actually be submitting it the following cycle. Because
4 it's at the.....

5
6 MR. GERVAIS: But.....

7
8 MS. PILCHER:the Statewide
9 finfish is '25/'26, so the proposal would be due April
10 of 2025.

11
12 MR. GERVAIS: Negative.

13
14 MS. PILCHER: Okay.

15
16 MR. GERVAIS: The proposal is due April
17 of 2024.

18
19 MS. PILCHER: Okay.

20
21 MR. GERVAIS: Maybe I'm saying the
22 wrong dates. The -- I was -- I'd have to look it up
23 right now to see what the -- it's the -- it's the next
24 Statewide finfish meeting that's going to occur for the
25 Board of Fish. I don't have the months of that
26 meeting, but I imagine it would be -- off the top of my
27 head it would be early winter of 2025. But the
28 deadline for submitting proposals is this April and
29 then it -- the proposals will be open for comment this
30 fall.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, Nissa's got her
33 computer open there. She's got a schedule of the Board
34 of Fish meetings she's showing to Tim. So standby a
35 second while they clarify when this submittal will be.

36
37 The Chair recognizes that Melissa
38 Rogers has entered the room to observe the meeting.
39 Anybody else shown up that we didn't get on the record
40 that is visiting our meeting right now.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't think so.

45
46 MR. GERVAIS: We're looking at
47 this.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Schedule.

50

0085

1 MR. GERVAIS:meeting schedule, if
2 you can just give us a minute, Mr. Chair.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

5
6 MR. GERVAIS: Or talk about the
7 proposal while I -- I'm -- I was mis-informed. I was
8 under the impression that the submission was.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the.....

11
12 MR. GERVAIS:in April of 2024.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:the proposal
15 and motion's on the table. And I got Tim motioned.
16 Did I have a second, I missed the -- do we have a
17 second.

18
19 MR. VENT: Second.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Seconded by
22 Darrell. So discussion and we'll clarify the motion
23 about when it's going to be submitted, but that's not
24 what the motion is about, it's about this proposal. So
25 any comment on the proposal by the Council.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Area M is a big
30 issue and the -- and the high levels of chums got a big
31 eye, pupil in their eye, they swim deep in the water,
32 that's where they feed. The chinooks are also -- swim
33 fairly deep also. So this would bring the gear type up
34 a little closer to the surface and reduce the lead
35 amount, basically they're fishing because of the way
36 they corral the fish with a bigger lead, they're
37 actually fishing a lot bigger gear type than should be
38 used. So this reduces the lead length by 50 fathoms,
39 it reduces the mesh depth by 50 meshes and the
40 aggregate seine lead can not be more than 250 fathoms
41 in length. So they -- so the seine and the lead may be
42 no more than 250 fathoms which is -- 250 fathoms is a
43 long ways. That's like almost a half of mile. So
44 that's a big net. Yeah.

45
46 So I -- I'm supportive of this. Also
47 like I stated earlier in the meeting that I feel that
48 the managers, their district goes -- what they're
49 targeting, what this fishery targets is 6.2 percent of
50

0086

1 the Bristol Bay projected sockeye run. That's what
2 they're trying to catch, they're not trying to catch
3 chums or anything else. So their district actually
4 goes along the north side of the Alaska Peninsula, up
5 to Menshikof which is right there by Pilot Point.
6 That's the end of the Bristol Bay district. So they --
7 they're district goes all along the Alaska Peninsula
8 and in reality they should pull that same fleet and
9 that gillnet fleet up on top of the north Alaska
10 Peninsula and get them out of those passages that are
11 moving through to the Yukon and Kuskokwim River.
12 That's what the Managers should be doing. This is a --
13 one of the avenue which in fishing the shallower waters
14 this will be advantageous to the fishers and get them
15 out of the -- make them go up on the north side of the
16 Alaska Peninsula where the sockeye make the corner and
17 they're going up to -- up the Bristol Bay district,
18 that's where they're going. They don't run that far
19 out.

20
21 They fish on -- they fish down there,
22 the seine fish for indices down there in Port Moller.

23
24 So you got it all straight now, Tim,
25 I'm just talking.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So there's some
30 other things that could be done. There's other things
31 to be done to avoid chums on -- in area M.

32
33 Go ahead, Tim.

34
35 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Based on my
36 conversation with Nissa, the Statewide meeting that we
37 were -- that I was focusing on is Statewide shellfish,
38 not finfish. So we would be looking at submitting this
39 proposal not this year, but next year.

40
41 MR. WALKER: The next cycle.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 2025 or correction
44 2000.....

45
46 MR. GERVAIS: For the '25/'26 cycle.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we have
49 that straight. And Nissa was Board support. Don't
50

0087

1 question Nissa, she knows all of that kind of stuff.

2

3 MS. PILCHER: Always question Nissa.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't question what
8 she's saying, she knows what she's talking about.

9 So.....

10

11 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

14

15 MR. WALKER: Tim, you know, I -- I
16 worked with these guys from Chignik and they're the one
17 that gave us all this information right here.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

20

21 MR. WALKER: They were so aspirated
22 about it that they're seines didn't even match these,
23 their boats are 24 feet wide, 54 feet long, all weather
24 boats. And this is what they use and they took all the
25 cameras off the boats that they have. So these guys
26 are pretty well established of what I could hear from
27 the Chignik fishermen that came to our meeting in
28 Fairbanks. I'm sorry you didn't hear that, Jack, you
29 could have came down and listened to them.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Which meeting,
32 Robert?

33

34 MR. WALKER: The Andersons and the
35 guide that does the lobby for him. I have them in my
36 phone.

37

38 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, George Anderson.

39

40 MR. WALKER: Yes, I know George
41 Anderson. He was the one that was briefing us on all
42 these issues that they have. They have -- none of
43 their fishing boats in Chignik even come close to what
44 they have in area M fisheries. They even have their
45 own banking system, you know that? They do. They do.
46 They have their own canneries. And these canneries are
47 suspected, you know, of safely say I think that they
48 are fronted by the CCP. And they are the biggest
49 buyers from area M.

50

0088

1 So I know this is going to be a long
2 shot. I could say we can try it, I know it'll get shot
3 down though. I know these guys, they have everything,
4 lobbyists and lawyers, they got millions of dollars
5 that we could find and look at. And but I'm going to --
6 I'm -- I'll gladly support this. And I'll gladly
7 bring over -- you know, if you have to bring it to the
8 other RAC Boards because the more ammunition you have I
9 think the better chance you have.

10

11 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. Yeah, so -- so I
12 was stating the wrong thing when -- in my initial
13 presentation that it's not -- it's out of cycle to
14 submit this April, but it definitely -- it directly
15 addresses chum and chinook interception and I think it
16 would be of interest of all these RACs. I mean, I
17 don't know where -- if North Slope or Southeast wants
18 to get involved, but if a majority of the RACs have a --
19 an economic -- subsistence economic interest in
20 reducing the amount of interception that's going on and
21 this is -- this is one way to address it. So I think
22 we should keep the conversation going with Bristol Bay,
23 Yukon-Delta, Seward Peninsula, Northwest Arctic,
24 Eastern Interior and then, you know, Southcentral,
25 Southeast and North Slope can -- that whatever --
26 however they want to address it. But I -- yeah, I
27 think next year when it opens up to be near the right
28 cycle for Alaska Peninsula or Statewide we should try
29 to get as many RACs -- as many Federal RACs involved
30 with supporting this.

31

32 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

35

36 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
37 not trying to discourage you, Tim, you know, but I'm
38 just saying that these guys, they donated to every
39 Congressman, Senators' reelection, even our own
40 Congressman from Bethel has been -- money put into her
41 campaign from these guys.

42

43 MR. GERVAIS: Right.

44

45 MR. WALKER: And I'm just saying, you
46 know, like TCC we went and we went and fought them
47 right head to toe and we lost. We lost because -- you
48 know why we lost, their Board of Fish we have for the
49 State Board were paid for by the fisheries here. And

50

0089

1 we have in person here Gene Sandone. I know you guys
2 know him and he used to be a State guy. And I had a
3 discussion with him and he is running for the Board of
4 Fish and he really believes that the State's not going
5 to appoint him because he had run-ins with the State.
6 And I talked to him and I said I would talk to our
7 President of Tanana Chiefs Conference and see what he
8 would say, but this would be an asset to something like
9 this. I -- if he was on the Board of Fish and gets
10 selected he said he would work for the tribal people.
11 So how do we do this I don't know.

12
13 But here's another thing that was
14 interesting. I sit in the coffee shop right over here
15 last year. I ran into a guy and he was one of those
16 Russian people from the Kenai Peninsula. And he was so
17 proud and everything and he came and he sat down by me
18 and had a cup of coffee. And he said, you know, like
19 we just bought a fishing boat from False Pass, from the
20 association down there. I said really. Man, that's
21 pretty good. I said how much did you pay for it. He
22 said we never paid anything, it's financed by their
23 banking system. Really I said. I brought this to TCC,
24 Jim Simon and them, I let them know about that. And I
25 was just, you know, sitting there and he says who are
26 you. I said my name's Robert Walker, I'm with Tanana
27 Chiefs Conference. His face just turned white because
28 the cat's out of the bag. Well, it was out of the bag
29 anyway, we already knew about their financing. We knew
30 about their banking system, they got three canneries
31 down there.

32
33 So, you know, Tim, you know, this is a
34 really good start. And we -- and we knew about this
35 seine because the king salmon do swim under the chum
36 salmon. And all the two and three and four year olds
37 that what they catch and they dump them overboard. And
38 so this is something that really opened my eyes when
39 the Chignik fishermen came to our meeting here in this
40 building last year. And they brought it to our
41 attention of what -- they had pictures, they had maps,
42 they had everything that you could ever could believe
43 that they had. And we fought them pretty hard too and
44 we lost. Proposal 140, that was the one that we really
45 wanted.....

46
47 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah.

48
49 MR. WALKER: , but we didn't get it.

50

0090

1 But anyway, Tim, this is the start here. I think, you
2 know, we start at the bottom and go up to the top.
3 Don't forget to include Tanana Chiefs' signature here
4 -- in here, even AVCP because what we did at TCC we
5 united 189,000 people on our side, it still didn't
6 work. The four -- the four count -- the four Board
7 members held their ground and we lost. It was really a
8 hard day because I thought so much work was spent, we
9 spent six days, 16 hours a day there. And it -- we
10 didn't win -- we didn't get one proposal passed,
11 nothing.

12

13 MR. GERVAIS: All right.

14

15 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Robert.

18

19 MR. GERVAIS: One -- one comment.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So final comment.

22

23 MR. GERVAIS: Nissa, what does -- what
24 does it -- what does it take to get an out of cycle
25 proposal accepted?

26

27 MS. PILCHER: Agenda change request for
28 the Board of Fish has pretty strict requirements. I
29 don't know them off the top of my head anymore, I'm
30 going to try to find them quickly. One -- while I'm
31 doing that, one thing you guys could do at this meeting
32 if you wanted was direct me to send this proposal to
33 other affected Councils to see if they would want to
34 sign off at their fall meeting because you're in
35 advance, like you could do that if you wanted.

36

37 MR. WALKER: And also, you know, send
38 it to like I said AVCP and I -- I believe this Nome
39 Tribal was one of our bigger supporters too. And also
40 the Bristol Bay people were our bigger supporters and
41 TCC. So I think you can work with all those, Tim. I
42 think Nissa could really help you and point you in the
43 right direction. And I think we can get more support
44 for this here.

45

46 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

47

48 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50

0091

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Bristol Bay has
2 fairly significant chum salmon and chinook salmon
3 problems. Nushagak River and Kvichak River drainages
4 are coming in really bad.

5
6 So this is a worthwhile proposal. And
7 so just CC'd the various AVCP, TCC, other Regional
8 Advisory Councils, we got Council members sitting here
9 so they can -- they can sign onto this. And so I think
10 this is a good -- bring the subject up, don't let that
11 Board of Fish rest for one minute, keep the pressure on
12 them. They're -- they have sustained yield management
13 constitutional mandates and we have salmon runs that
14 are being impacted by that fishery and they know it.
15 It's a known fact and so they don't want to take
16 genetic samples off of them. We should also be
17 requesting genetic sampling from all intercepted chum
18 and chinook salmon so we know where the rivers of
19 origin are. That and the State did away with doing the
20 genetic sampling thing. They don't want to -- let's
21 just put -- put our head in the sand and not worry
22 about it. So they -- then you don't have data. So
23 they need to have genetic makeup of those intercepted
24 fish. The bycatch needs to be genetically analyzed
25 which we can do within -- not that long So.....

26
27 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:we need to --
30 we need to move this on.

31
32 Go ahead, Tim.

33
34 MR. GERVAIS: Well, may I make a motion
35 that we try to submit this proposal out of cycle if
36 that's allowable and also for Nissa to contact the
37 other Federal RACs, that we would enjoy -- we would
38 appreciate their support.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could.....

41
42 MR. GERVAIS:when -- when it does
43 get moved along.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have a motion on
46 the table to submit it as a proposal and then we can
47 take up another motion to submit the same proposal as
48 an agenda change request and that has to be filed by
49 July 1, Nissa; is that correct of this year if we
50

0092

1 request a -- at the Board of Game was it July 1?

2

3 MS. PILCHER: They -- the current ACR
4 policy for the Board of Fish is off their website
5 because it's currently a call for proposals right now
6 so they -- they.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh.

9

10 MS. PILCHER:off. And I don't
11 remember off the top of my head, but we're well within
12 that range.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could -- we could
15 -- we could pass this through as a -- to be submitted
16 in the correct window for the -- and then we could also
17 take a redundancy which is what we did with this sheep
18 horn thing and we sent it in as an ACR, agenda change
19 request. And so we could do both. So let's pass this
20 one too. Let's.....

21

22 MR. VENT: Call for question.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:call for
25 question. Motion on the table to submit this in the --
26 what date, what meeting, Nissa.....

27

28 MS. PILCHER: This would be the.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:call.....

31

32 MS. PILCHER:the.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:meeting call?

35

36 MS. PILCHER:the 2025 call for
37 proposals for the 2025/2026 Board of Fish regulatory
38 year.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And it's CC'd
41 to the other regional -- all other Regional Councils,
42 10 Regional Councils and the Tanana Chiefs and AVCP and
43 the Nome whatever organization.....

44

45 MR. WALKER: I kept remembering what
46 they were, we should have (indiscernible - simultaneous
47 speech).....

48

49 REPORTER: Robert.

50

0093

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll -- we'll find
2 it.

3
4 REPORTER: Robert.

5
6 MR. WALKER: We should have had a
7 chance to talk with the RAC Boards from Nome. That
8 guy, yeah, I mean, he probably would know where it
9 would be.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll -- we'll find
12 it. It'll -- and so that's the motion on the table.
13 Those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

18
19 (No opposing votes)

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And now you want to
22 make another motion to submit this same proposal as an
23 agenda change request which has to be submitted at some
24 point, but like we're with -- which should be sometime
25 this summer is what it should actually be I think. And
26 that could be also CC'd to those same entities that we
27 just discussed.

28
29 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.

30
31 MR. WALKER: Second. Call for
32 question.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.
35 Those in favor of submitting this as an agenda change
36 request at the next opening for agenda change requests
37 for the Board of Fish signify by saying aye.

38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

42
43 (No opposing votes)

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So got that one out
46 of the way. And so we have an action item I, legal
47 definition of ram which is on 140 or 144 in the book --
48 in our book here. Where is it. And so this is -- is
49 this for the Statewide meeting?

50

0094

1 MS. PILCHER: Yes, this would be the
2 Statewide, The Statewide Board of Game is coming up
3 this current cycle. This is -- this is -- if you
4 notice at the top of the proposal form it has this
5 current meeting cycle. We attempted to submit it as a
6 region three, it did not work because the Board of Game
7 said it was a Statewide issue which we had a feeling it
8 would happen. So the intent would be if the Council
9 would like to resubmit this, but as a Statewide
10 proposal with potential additional justification added
11 to any of -- to the -- to the proposal itself to try to
12 address any of the concerns the Board of Game raised
13 over the course of them reviewing the ACR and the
14 proposal.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I listened to the
17 agenda change request discussion by the Board regarding
18 this particular proposal. They didn't really have
19 anything to add or talk about, they just didn't like
20 the timing, they wanted to have more public comment,
21 they wanted to have a Statewide proposal so that they
22 get the widest comment out of the public. That's the
23 primary reason they failed this proposal. They
24 actually split on the agenda change request. They had
25 only six members that were present and they split down
26 the middle. And if they had had one more member they
27 would have probably -- probably would have been adopted
28 as a special action request to eliminate counting rings
29 on dall sheep. But that didn't happen.

30
31 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
32 submit this exact same proposal for the Statewide call
33 which is coming up pretty soon, it's like May -- May or
34 something.

35
36 MS. PILCHER: Generally May 1st.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: May 1. I think
39 that's it, yeah. So this would be to check the right
40 boxes for the May 1 call for Statewide proposals,
41 submit the same proposal before the Board of Game to
42 eliminate the counting of rings in sheep because
43 apparently novice hunters can't count rings on sheep
44 because they keep killing sublegal sheep. There's a
45 lot of sublegal sheep and I got data for the Atigun
46 Valley. From 1986 to 2011 sheep -- once they pass
47 through three-quarter curl they start disappearing in
48 the data set. So this is a chronic issue.

49
50

0095

1 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
2 submit this as a Statewide proposal at the next call.
3 Do we have a motion to that effect.

4
5 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny. Do
8 we have a second.

9
10 MR. GERVAIS: Seconded.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
13 submitting the proposal with minor changes to the
14 submission dates signify by saying aye.

15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

19
20 (No opposing votes)

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that one's
23 clicked off the list. So we're at updates on Council
24 correspondence policy.

25
26 Nissa.

27
28 MS. PILCHER: I'm realizing right now
29 that I don't actually have copies of that to show you.
30 You guys reviewed a correspondence policy, you were
31 given a draft. The Board -- the Federal Subsistence
32 Board did review it at their last meeting and.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

35
36 MS. PILCHER:approve it, I just
37 don't have a copy to give you. It might be in your
38 operations manual, but if it is not, I will make sure
39 that you do have a copy of it.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think it is in the
42 correspondence and.....

43
44 MS. PILCHER: I think that's why.....

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Where is my manual.
47 Is that mine?

48
49 MS. PELKOLA: You can.....

50

0096

1 MS. PILCHER: Yep, it is, page 149.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 149.

4

5 MS. PILCHER: Oh, that -- so it's June
6 24.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So 149. I'll look
9 at it really quickly. So.....

10

11 MS. PILCHER: And yes, it does say
12 adopted in 2004, but then revised February of 2024. So
13 this is the current one.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One issue that I've
16 had regarding correspondence and review is OSM makes
17 comments to the Board of Game and Board of Fish, but we
18 don't actually see those until they come -- they're
19 transmitted electronically after they've been
20 submitted. I'm of the opinion that the Regional
21 Councils if there's comments from OSM on any State
22 regulation, fish or game, that if it affects a region
23 or regions then the Regional Council Chair should be
24 notified of and review those ANRs, referred to as ANRs.
25 And so I feel that I don't want to find out what OSM
26 said, maybe it's not what a Council member -- Councils
27 would agree with, maybe Councils will take an action
28 that it's in discrepancy (ph) to what a Council's
29 actions are. So I feel that the correspondence review
30 process goes the other way also. I feel that the
31 Councils should be able to review what OSM is
32 transmitting also to verify if it's actually within the
33 -- within the purview of the Councils' actions and
34 sentiments on those proposals. So how would we do --
35 how would we do that.

36

37 Nissa, go ahead.

38

39 MS. PILCHER: So one of the things I
40 was going to draw your attention to at -- towards the
41 end of the meeting is we did kind of shoot past an
42 agenda item, but you guys were moving at a good clip
43 and I didn't want to derail you. Under the follow-up
44 on joint Council action items in your meeting packet so
45 on top there is the supplemental materials and then
46 there was a couple other things under it and one of
47 them is the moose trend survey summary that was
48 submitted by the Koyukuk, Nowitna and Innoko complex.
49 One is the Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission

50

0097

1 update, then there's some changes to the Federal
2 fisheries regulations. And the last thing is a stapled
3 packet of some potential letters that the Council can
4 discuss signing their name to if they so desire. One
5 of them which is on the second page is a very brief
6 document that is intended to be a joint, however many
7 Councils want to sign on, concerns with correspondence.
8 So among items discussed were issues related to Council
9 correspondence. These include one, timeliness of Board
10 replies and transmittal of Council correspondence; and
11 two, the lack of direct replies to the Councils from
12 the Offices of the Secretary of Agriculture and
13 Interior for correspondence which the Board forwards to
14 them. You guys could request -- three.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't have.....

17

18 MS. PILCHER: On this one, you can take
19 that.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

22

23 MS. PILCHER: You guys could -- you
24 guys could add in or request to add in that as well.
25 Currently they have -- there's one Council that has
26 already met and one that is meeting concurrently.
27 But.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Yeah.
30 Yeah, this is a good template. So we're writing to you
31 on behalf of the 10 Councils because of the timeliness
32 of the Board replies to the -- to or transmittal of
33 Council correspondence, the lack of direct replies to
34 the Councils from the Offices of the Secretary of
35 Agriculture and Interior for correspondence which the
36 Board forwards to them. I also would like to insert
37 this issue that they're should be correspondence with
38 the Councils on what Office of Subsistence Management
39 comments to the Board of Game and Board of Fish in a
40 timely manner at least to the Chair -- to the Chairman
41 and Vice Chair and Secretary to review those comments,
42 to make comments to OSM regarding the validity of
43 whether those comments actually are agreeable by the
44 Councils. Maybe they're fine, but maybe they're not.
45 One time I saw a comment regarding salvage of
46 ptarmigan. And OSM was fine with just cutting off the
47 breast meat. Well, I didn't agree with that one. And
48 that one should have never went before the Board of
49 Game. And so I -- that just got me going on this whole
50

0098

1 things. I feel that OSM comments, Board of Fish or
2 Board of Game comments, need to have some kind of a
3 review process, correspondence review process, and that
4 should be inserted into this joint letter and of -- of
5 the joint Councils for this meeting.

6
7 So can you -- are you inserting that,
8 Nissa.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I would like to
13 adopt this letter template with that addition on what
14 other Councils -- and everybody's following this, where
15 we're at on this one. This is -- it starts with joint
16 Subsistence Regional Councils. And the first one's to
17 the -- to Anthony Christensen, second page is what
18 we're referring to here. Yeah, this one here. We're
19 looking at this section.

20
21 Council members are getting on the
22 right sheet of music here, the right document. We got
23 a lot of different papers floating around our desk
24 here. And so we're getting on the right document.

25 So the Chair would like to trans -- to
26 adjoin with the other Council Chairs on this document
27 regarding timely correspondence, Board replies and lack
28 of direct replies from Councils -- to Councils from the
29 Offices of the Secretary of Agriculture and Interior.
30 We feel that the Board should inform those Secretary
31 offices that if they want to -- they want to run OSM
32 from the Secretary of Interior's office, well, they
33 better get more proactive with talking to us. I mean,
34 that's what they're talking. Well, they don't even
35 reply to our -- for our comments then how are they
36 supposed to run these Regional Councils and run OSM.
37 That's not going to work out. That's a bad sign.

38
39 So I feel that this is a very
40 worthwhile letter with that insertion with -- regarding
41 the comments of OSM to the Board of Fish and Board of
42 Game that's been inserted into the document, Nissa's
43 typed it in. Any further comments on this sort of
44 template of these 10 Council Chairs. We'll submit this
45 to the Federal Subsistence Board.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I need a motion to
50

0099

1 get this on the table.

2

3

MR. VENT: So moved.

4

5

MS. PELKOLA: Second.

6

7

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Darrell,
8 seconded by Jenny. Any further comments or insertions
9 into this.

10

11

(No comments)

12

13

MR. VENT: Call for question.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

IN UNISON: Aye.

23

24

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

25

26

(No opposing votes)

27

28

29

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did I have -- did I
have a -- okay. That covers that one.

30

31

Nissa.

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. PILCHER: The -- as long as we're
in that packet on the very first page is a letter that
was drafted along the same lines, but this is about
Council compensation. As you know one of the things in
your supplemental materials packet which is one of the
thousand pieces of paper in front of you was a letter
that was from the YK Delta Council that they requested
by transmitted up the chain, right. Yep. So they
requested -- in order for the Councils to elevate
correspondence to the Office of the Secretary they have
to do it through the Federal Subsistence Board. So
that is what is happening here. The YK Delta Council
requested compensation, requested it to the Board and
then requested that be elevated to the Secretary which
is what these letters are about. This letter is along
a similar vein of requesting compensation to Council
members for coming to -- so this is in addition to the

0100

1 per diem and the travel expenses that are already
2 covered. This would be an honorarium I believe is the
3 correct word. So that would be another opportunity if
4 you guys wanted to sign your name onto this. This
5 letter is a little bit more lengthy. The time Council
6 members take away from their jobs and families to
7 participate in meetings, whether in person or
8 virtually, are big sacrifices that often result in
9 losses of income. Because one thing is too even if you
10 teleconference in -- if you teleconference in right now
11 you do not get any travel expenses because you're not
12 traveling. So even though you weren't able to work you
13 still don't get any compensation for missing that work.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I'll comment
16 on that whole letter. I've been on these Councils for
17 31 years and many, many times we've transmitted
18 requests for compensation, but we're under FACA and
19 we're not -- I think every time we do not fall under
20 getting honorariums or anything like that. FACA has
21 specific regulations, we're allowed so much, has to do
22 with the city and all this. We've heard this over and
23 over and over, but apparently everybody forgot that or
24 didn't know that. Because we've tried this lots of
25 times to try to get additional per diems or trying to
26 get honorariums or compensation for loss of work, it
27 never goes anywhere because it has to do with FACA
28 regulation.

29
30 And so I feel that it's a wasted
31 effort, but maybe the Secretaries may want to change
32 certain regulations for -- that apply to FACA and work
33 with Congress to get those changes, but I don't think
34 that's going to happen because this Congress can't even
35 pass a budget. So I think we're wasting our time with
36 that one.

37
38 MR. VENT: Well, I'd support it just
39 because, you know, we need to do.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can -- we can
42 support it.

43
44 MR. VENT:it every -- every year
45 and then maybe one of these years we might get lucky.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we can support
48 it or -- and at some point maybe it'll come up in
49 Congress that these Councils are so important that they
50

0101

1 need to have compensation, but at this point -- well,
2 we can -- the Chair will entertain a motion to --
3 to.....

4

5 MR. VENT: I motion.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrell, you want to
8 -- motion to the adjoin to that -- to that letter.

9

10 MR. WALKER: Second.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Robert.

13

14 MR. VENT: Call for question.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's
17 called. Those in favor of transmitting that letter of
18 compensation, additional compensation and understanding
19 of what the Council members' voluntary process is going
20 through, lack of work and other issues. I've lost a
21 lot of work this week. But we've -- we should -- at
22 least it highlights it to the Secretaries that -- how
23 much we're sacrificing to do this program. It's not
24 like we're just sitting around with nothing to do, I've
25 got lots of stuff to do. And we're taking time out for
26 very important business here. When I come to a meeting
27 -- these are very important meetings and I come here to
28 work.

29

30 So those in favor of that -- of that
31 motion signify by saying aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

36

37 (No opposing votes)

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Let the record
40 reflect my comments on that letter, Nissa.

41

42 And, Robert, do you have a comment.

43

44 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair and members of
45 the Board, you know, the Board, you know, consists of
46 BIA, BLM and whatever on the Federal Board. And the
47 people who work, our tribal people work under are all
48 GS13s and 14s. So I checked into that. And all these --
49 the Board members, they're our employees for the

50

0102

1 Federal government.

2

3

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

4

5

6 MR. WALKER: And we sit here, we make
7 decisions here that affects hundreds of people and we
8 sit here and time and time again, I've -- we talked
9 about this pay raise the last time I was on the Board,
10 17 years ago. And it's still here. And this is -- I
11 think we have to go to another step and say enough's
12 enough. We send -- watching the news we send millions
13 of dollars to foreign countries, you know, to wage war.
14 We're not waging war, we're waging -- we want to wage,
15 but we are consistent, trying to find food for people.
16 And this is what our job is, that's what it is, that's
17 why we come here to work, that's why these people are
18 working here. And I just sometimes, you know, like,
19 man, sometimes I think something is -- and this Board
20 was created by the Federal government to protect the
21 tribal people, right, that's what it was. We are
22 protecting the tribe, we're working in that direction.
23 But the Federal government says ah, yeah, well, you
24 guys are just going to get so much and that's it. But
25 other people can get money. And I think this is pretty
26 hard for me to swallow because if somebody's getting a
27 GS13 step one, step two, or a GS14 step one, step two,
28 you know, I'm not going to ask these people who are on --
29 what scale they are, what GS scale they're on because
30 that's none of my business unless there is a letter to
31 printed out saying this is how much this Department is
32 working with. So this Department we're working here
33 all we're getting is a hundred dollars a day. That's
34 it.

34

35

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36

37

38

39

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Another avenue to
address this issue is the Councils were formed under
FACA.....

40

41

MR. WALKER: Right.

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:we're an
Advisory Committee, but Congress empowered these
Councils significantly. We don't just -- we have
deference to the Federal Subsistence Board on all kinds
of issues. So actually we have -- we have a -- we're --
in reality we're not only advisory, we're actually
making regulations. Unless we violate healthy

0103

1 populations and violate subsistence and do three
2 violations, they have to or should take the deference
3 of these Councils. We should actually be extracted
4 from FACA and elevated to a different level because
5 we're not only advisory, we're actually making
6 management decisions.

7

8 So another avenue would request the
9 Federal Subsistence Board to evaluate the Regional
10 Advisory Councils as decision makers, not only
11 advisory. We have deference and that we should be
12 elevated to another status level that would have at
13 least provide an honorarium and extract us from those
14 FACA regulations because we're not only advisory. We
15 are and we're not. In reality under the -- under the
16 restructuring of the last restructuring of the Obama
17 Administration that I worked with Pat Pourchot and
18 various entities to provide -- I would have like to
19 have had three additional advise -- Federal Subsistence
20 Board members, we commented on various issues. And so
21 the Regional Advisory Councils are not only advisory,
22 we don't actually fall under the criteria of an
23 Advisory Committee because we make management decisions
24 that the Board is compelled to listen to. So we're not
25 only advisory and the Board should reevaluate.

26

27 I would like to transmit another letter
28 that is for the Board to reevaluate the standing of us
29 not being advisory, but decision making and we do not
30 fall under FACA, Federal Advisory, we don't just
31 advise, we actually decide and the Board takes our and
32 support our deference.

33

34 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
35 transmit that letter to the Federal Subsistence Board.
36 Who'd like to make that motion.

37

38 MR. VENT: So moved.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrell.

41

42 MR. WALKER: Seconded.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Robert.

45

46 MR. VENT: I just had one comment, you
47 know. When I go to these meetings, you know, I have a
48 job, but, you know, this is really important to me.
49 And this, you know, is less than a quarter of what I'm
50

0104

1 regularly paid. So, you know, I don't -- I don't look
2 at it that way, but, you know, I know it's important
3 for me to be here. So it's -- you know, taking a pay
4 cut just to be here and then, you know, I go -- have to
5 go back to my job because I got to make money, I got to
6 support a family.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. I was
9 working for one week preparation for this meeting. I
10 had to go cut loads of wood, I had to get somebody to
11 watch my house, I had to do a lot of things to get
12 ready for this meeting. And when I get back I hit the
13 ground running, I got traps out. I've going to go out
14 and check my traps again and I got to start cutting
15 more wood. That's -- the Regional Council members in
16 one way or another are sacrificing a lot for this
17 program. And we need the Federal Subsistence Board to
18 understand those sacrifices and our deference is not
19 actually advisory, we're decision makers. So that's
20 the letter to be transmitted to the Federal Subsistence
21 Board.

22
23 Robert.

24
25 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 And, you know, that was the same thing with me. That's
27 why 15 years I had to finish my job, my wife was
28 getting after me like I'm spending more time away from
29 home, but this is important to me because all the life
30 -- all my life I always fought for food and that's what
31 it is, I never fought for money. But I had a job to do
32 too. But all in all I look at this, you know, and I
33 argued for this 17 years ago and I come back and
34 they're (indiscernible - laughter) it's the same thing.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's groundhog day,
37 Robert.

38
39 MR. WALKER: It's (indiscernible -
40 laughter).

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He's old enough to
43 remember we've done this before.

44
45 MR. WALKER: Yeah. We've done this.
46 And I was on their 15 years and we're still fighting
47 for it.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we need to --
50

0105

1 we need -- I decided just now we need to change our
2 tack because the reality is we're.....

3

4 MR. WALKER: That's what I mean.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:we're not just
7 advisory, we're decision makers. And we do not fall
8 under the little check the box for this advisory, we
9 actually were elevated to a different level. There's
10 got to be a different level under -- under what
11 Congress giving these Councils under 805 lots of
12 authority. And I had to remind the OSM about that
13 authority this winter when they questioned our ability
14 to produce management strategies. I made the mistake
15 of calling them management policies. So no, we have
16 authority under -- for management strategies, we have
17 lots of authority and we make decisions here. And the
18 Board listens to those decisions because they have to
19 listen to those decisions. So I think that the Board
20 needs to reevaluate where these Councils sit in the
21 Federal Advisory Committee Act or however they're going
22 to administrate these Council and what are -- whether
23 we're eligible for honorariums. And so that's what the
24 letter will be about. And so Nissa's typed it all out
25 there pretty quickly, she understands what we're going
26 to say.

27

28 MR. VENT: Call for question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's
31 called. Those in favor of transmitting that additional
32 letter that's not adjoined to the other Councils, but
33 let the other Councils be informed that that's another
34 letter that should be CC'd to the other Councils also.

35

36 MR. WALKER: (Indiscernible - away from
37 microphone).

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm finished.

40

41 MR. WALKER: No, I'm just going to say
42 aye.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay. Those in
45 favor of transmitting that letter signify by saying
46 aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50

0106

1 MS. PILCHER: Do you want to be a
2 cosigner on the current letter too?

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Cosigner on the
5 current letter and an additional letter.

6
7 MS. PILCHER: Okay. That was what the
8 motion was for just to.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

11
12 MS. PILCHER:verify? Okay.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So we're --
15 I think we've covered -- agency reports, they're
16 written. And we have those in our packet. So we're
17 coming down to closing comments.

18
19 And so do we have additional things we
20 need to do here, Nissa, there's a bunch of stuff down
21 here at the bottom.

22
23 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. Those are just a
24 list of the reports that were submitted that are in
25 your proposal book.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

28
29 MS. PILCHER: So they aren't anything
30 that needs to be talked about. One thing on the draft
31 agenda was the current charter change review. Your
32 current charter is in your meeting book on some page in
33 the back. It was briefly touched upon at the joint
34 Council meeting that there was a change in that under
35 Section 12, membership and designation, all Councils
36 received an addition to include a nonvoting young
37 leader member.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

40
41 MS. PILCHER: So it was mentioned at
42 the meeting on the first day that we were hoping to get
43 this early enough where we could bring some further
44 questions about selection criteria and stuff to the
45 Councils, but we didn't receive it until shortly before
46 this meeting. So we haven't had an opportunity to do
47 that so you'll be hearing more about it.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What -- what.....

50

0107

1 MS. PILCHER: It's on page 228 is
2 where.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 228.....

5
6 MS. PILCHER: Yep.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:in our book?

9
10 MS. PILCHER: So the charter itself
11 begins on 226, but the part I'm talking about is 228
12 under Section 12. It says the Council's comprised of
13 10 representative members.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh.

16
17 MS. PILCHER:and one nonvoting
18 young leader member.

19
20 MR. WALKER: 228?

21
22 MS. PILCHER: Oh, nope, you have the
23 right book.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The main question I
26 had and I haven't had a chance to look at this closely,
27 is we requested that the -- that the membership serve
28 until reappointed. And the problem's been and let's
29 see. The problem has been our term ends and then we
30 were out and then we -- and where is this? Oh, this
31 one here. Appointment -- if appointments are given for
32 a year that have not been announced a member may
33 continue to serve on the Council following the
34 expiration of his or her term until the appointments
35 have been made. Unless reappointed the member's
36 service ends at the date of the announcement even if
37 that member's specific seat remains unfilled.

38
39 MS. PILCHER: So what that means is so
40 let's say someone chose not to reapply for their seat.
41 Is that -- this is just saying if they weren't
42 selected, by some reason if they weren't selected
43 again, that means that they continued to serve once the
44 appointments come out.....

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so.....

47
48 MS. PILCHER:or if they didn't
49 reapply.

50

0108

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: so OSM is privy
2 to that that they've been selected, but they just
3 haven't been appointed. And how would we -- how would
4 the person know this?

5

6 MS. PILCHER: So it's in one fell
7 swoop. So we don't know any earlier than the people
8 that are appointed, no. So we get -- we get letters
9 the same time the person that gets selected gets a
10 letter. So we're not privy any earlier, it's just this
11 is basically sent -- like when you guys had the problem
12 where you had basically four people on the Council
13 because they hadn't -- the appointments hadn't come
14 through. This is what fixes that. So let's say -- so
15 Jenny's term's expiring in 2024. Let's say -- and
16 that's December. Let's say the appointment letters
17 don't come out until May of 2025, Jenny is still on the
18 Council until those appointment letters come out. For
19 some reason if she didn't get reappointed which that --
20 the language is just saying once the appointment
21 letters come out if one isn't being sent to Jenny
22 then.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see.

25

26 MS. PILCHER: then.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

29

30 MS. PILCHER: she would not
31 continue to serve.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That
34 clarifies that one. I was a little vague about the way
35 it's written there, but I'm good. That's exactly what
36 we need to have because we had people running out and
37 then we get appointments and then they couldn't attend
38 the next meeting. That was a big problem. That's a
39 giant problem.

40

41 MS. PELKOLA: And that's just a couple
42 years ago, right?

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Oh, yeah, we --
45 yeah, like -- well, back in 2020 we didn't get any
46 appointments. So we're like what, you had three
47 Council members.

48

49 MS. PELKOLA: We had four. Four.

50

0109

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Four -- four Council
2 members. And so there was five Council members that
3 didn't get reappointed. Sort of a parting shot of the
4 previous Administration for some unknown reason.

5

6 So I think that covered that issue.
7 Another issue that we have to cover before closing
8 comments.

9

10 Nissa, any others.

11

12 MS. PILCHER: Did you want to talk
13 about the.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, right. The --
16 make the proposed rule. We had the presentation from
17 Raina Thiele, Special Assistant to the Secretary of
18 Interior about the proposed rule to add an additional
19 three seats to the Federal Subsistence Board. During
20 that meeting I commented and I feel strongly that those
21 seats should be -- we have two seats that are -- well,
22 they're already there, they're just public members. I
23 would refer to those under the -- under the Advisory --
24 State Advisory Committee as at large seats. But the
25 new seats, the three new membership should have
26 regional representation. They should be familiar with
27 regions of Alaska and come from -- so there's 10
28 Councils, there should be -- they should be familiar
29 with at least three of those regions or adjacent
30 regions about caribou and various issues. Like Tony
31 says I don't know anything, I never even seen a caribou
32 in my life. Well, so we can't have everybody from
33 southeast on the Federal Subsistence Board because they
34 don't know anything about caribou. We need to have the
35 new members -- I'm fully supportive of the -- of the
36 new membership, but they have to be regionally -- have
37 regional authority or be appointed from regions. And
38 so those Native corporations and Native tribes, those
39 can -- from those regions would appoint one seat and
40 this -- these regional corporations and tribes appoint
41 another seat and these corporations appoint another one
42 of those seats.

43

44 What does the -- what does the Council
45 feel about that. This is a -- this is basically a
46 discussion. It's comments on the proposed rule. So
47 does that Council have any comments on what I just
48 said.

49

50

0110

1 MR. WALKER: I don't know. It's been a
2 long day.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. GERVAIS: I have a comment.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure. Go ahead,
9 Tim. You see I'm drinking sugar water here. That's
10 your problem.

11
12 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, I'm drinking.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm drinking this
15 juice that's sugar water. That's why I got.....

16
17 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, that -- that sounds
18 reasonable, but also in addition to that we need to
19 address the -- who's going to -- is the Federal
20 Subsistence Board going to appoint these seats or are
21 you going to leave it up to the Governor of Alaska?

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That -- that's the
24 Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture.
25 Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Agriculture,
26 correct?

27
28 MR. GERVAIS: Correct.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Governor has
31 nothing to do with it. We don't want him even getting
32 close to the Federal Subsistence Board.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's the main
37 comment. The -- I have no problems with the Native
38 corps and the tribes making those appointments and
39 doing that because they can appoint Native or non-
40 Native, it's their discretion to do whatever they're
41 going to do. So that's -- I didn't feel that that's
42 discriminatory at all as a non-Native Council member.
43 And I feel that the tribes should have that authority
44 because they have government to government consultation
45 with the Federal government anyway and so this is a --
46 this is a good way for that to work. I think that
47 that's fine.

48
49 Any other comments. Oh, Robbin, you
50

0111

1 got something to say? No.

2

3 MS. LaVINE: Mr. Chair, I'm only here
4 to support your discussion if needed.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

7

8 MS. LaVINE: And then also just to
9 remind you that this proposed rule does come from the
10 Secretaries, not from OSM. So we won't be taking your
11 comments other than we support you as you develop
12 yours. And if you wish to develop an official Council
13 comment on this proposed rule we'll help you draft
14 those comments and submit them through the appropriate
15 channels.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I thought
20 that you were just taking the comments and were going
21 to transmit those.

22

23 MS. LaVINE: Right.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Chair will
26 entertain a motion to
27 take the comments that have occurred on the proposed
28 rule just now and transmit those as a comment to the
29 Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Agriculture as
30 comments on the proposed rule. Do I have a motion.

31

32 MR. VENT: So moved.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Darrell.
35 Do I have a second.

36

37 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Jenny.
40 Any further comments.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MR. VENT: Call for question.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's
47 called. All those in favor of transmitting those
48 comments to the -- regarding the proposed rule for the
49 Federal Subsistence Board process to the Secretary of
50

0112

1 Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture signify by
2 saying aye.

3

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert. Robert.

7

8 MR. WALKER: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's kind
11 of the final business and so we're going to go into
12 closing comments. And so the -- we started with
13 Robert, we're going to start over here with Darrell.

14

15 Closing comment, Darrell.

16

17 MR. VENT: I -- you know, I always
18 appreciate, you know, when, you know, we get together
19 and the more -- the more we talk the more, you know,
20 that we learn about, you know, how this State structure
21 and the Federal structure. I really appreciate all
22 this learning and information because every time I go
23 to another meeting I'm picking up something new. And,
24 you know, I -- like I told you I have a pretty wide
25 view of what, you know, what I'm looking at and it has
26 to do with d(1) lands, it has to do with fish and game
27 management, it has to do with our water rights, you
28 know, it's -- everything is all how we view it then.
29 You know, like you're talking about being compensated
30 for that because we are making, you know, decisions.
31 And I really appreciate, you know, how we run our
32 meetings here and you keep us on task because sometimes
33 we do get to run and run and tend to have to get cut
34 off. And I know once in a while you have to cut me
35 off, but that's normal procedure around here.
36 Especially if Tom was here then we'd really be.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I try to be kind.

39

40 MR. VENT: Yeah, but, you know, how if
41 Tom was there then you'd be -- you'd be okay, Tom,
42 okay, you know. But yeah, I appreciate everything that
43 was said and I'm glad Robert's back on. You know, I've
44 been -- I've been pushing him, I say hey, we need you,
45 we need you. And I'm happy he's here now. But he
46 doesn't look too happy for some reason.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He's got low blood
49 sugar, it's dinner time.

50

0113

1 Tim.

2

3

MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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The -- one thing I forgot to mention in my opening comment is one of these presenters this morning said that the five -- the five ocean year kings are essentially gone from the population now. And the four ocean kings meaning the kings that are spending four years out in the saltwater have -- their percentage of the population over the last years has reduced from 30 percent of the king stock to 15 percent of the king stock. So the amount of big fish in the population and the age of the population of king salmon or chinook in the marine environment is -- the trend is going down. And then the latest -- it sounds like the latest reason that the commercial fleet's going to say that there's not very many king salmon is that the killer whales are eating a lot of -- prefer to eat kings and they prefer to eat big king salmon. So that's the trend in the -- kind of pointing fingers method of trying to have more research on that to see if that's really the cause why there's not enough king salmon left.

And then another interesting point was that without -- with the hatch -- big hatchery release of pink salmon that's coming from Russia and Alaska is that the -- in the second year of the pinks' life cycle, it's a two year -- it's a two year fish, the first year they're eating plankton, zooplankton, by the second year their diet overlaps with king salmon. They like to eat fish and squid and so that is an additional stress for the remaining king salmon population.

And then we need to continually think about how we can get Department of Commerce more involved and informed and responsive to subsistence users and subsistence management program, to get both Department of Interior and Department of Commerce to figure out some kind of understanding about the acknowledges and tries to mitigate the migratory effect of the salmon going between the different jurisdictions of those Departments.

0114

1 And then I wasn't very impressed with
2 the Solicitor's eagerness to help us out on any of
3 these legal interpretations or involvement with trying
4 to reach across to the Department of Commerce
5 yesterday. So I wish -- I wish he would have been more
6 interested in trying to help us solve our problems of
7 low salmon abundance.

8
9 And that's all I have for now. Thank
10 you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim. Those
13 are lots of good comments.

14
15 Jenny.

16
17 MS. PELKOLA: Jenny Pelkola from
18 Galena. I just want to thank Robert and -- for coming
19 back on the Council. I also encouraged him to come
20 back because I learned a lot from him and, you know, I
21 know he's always willing to help me and explain stuff
22 to me. Like this morning I walked into the general
23 meeting or that meeting downstairs late and we were
24 sitting on one side and there were people on the other
25 side. And they started pointed fingers and I didn't
26 know what was going on. And so I asked him, I said are
27 we fighting or what. I didn't know what we were doing
28 because I came in late. And he said no. He said we're
29 all working together and, you know, trying to get stuff
30 settled. And I said oh, okay. Because I just, you
31 know, walked in and they just started pointing like at
32 me and I was -- didn't know what was going on.

33
34 But anyway I just wanted to thank you,
35 Robert, and thank the rest of the Council that is --
36 are here. And we always have a good meeting and I'm
37 always learning and learning and I learn a lot from
38 Jack and too bad Pollock couldn't be here, but I know
39 he's having more medical problems.

40
41 And also at our joint or this morning
42 when they were talking there was a guy that spoke and
43 he spoke about a little boy giving his catch, his first
44 catch away. And in our culture it's like a spiritual --
45 it's like a spiritual thing to give your first catch
46 to an elder or, you know, give it away. And I don't
47 think people realize that. You know, it's like -- and
48 it really hurt me to hear that and there were a couple
49 of people that said that. So with this spiritual --
50

0115

1 our spirituality is from when we were just born, it was
2 there, you know. And a lot of people don't understand
3 that. So I felt very bad about the guy.

4
5 And also another thing I want to share
6 is I got this bag from a lady I didn't even know when
7 we went on a break.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh.

10
11 MS. PELKOLA: And she came over to me,
12 she said I want to share my food with you in memory of
13 my dad. I didn't even know her, she was from Kiana or
14 somewhere. And I thought holy moly, what did I do to
15 deserve this. But, you know, that's our way of life.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A good day to be an
18 elder, right.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah. And then another
23 good news I got on my phone, my nieces has been struck --
24 struggling with cancer, close to pancreatic cancer and
25 I just got news at the same time on the break that
26 she's -- she doesn't have cancer. And so it's just
27 like wow.

28
29 But, you know, I learn a lot from
30 Darrell listening to him and, you know, I'm an elder,
31 but I'm still learning and I like that. I just like
32 that. And when I go to different people I try to
33 explain what we did at our meeting.

34
35 And so I really enjoy this and I want
36 to thank you all for showing up.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We always appreciate
39 your presence here, Jenny. You give a lot of
40 perspective on a lot of different issues. And you --
41 and many times you say things that tweak the tempo of
42 the meeting a little bit. So appreciate your coming to
43 our meetings. And been here for a while now and I --
44 we used to have Eleanor, but we don't have any other
45 woman on here. We need women -- we need another woman
46 on this Council. Go rustle up some women on this
47 Council because when Jenny and Eleanor used to like tag
48 team, sort of tag teaming. So that was a good thing.

49
50

0116

1 Robert.

2

3

4 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 I'm looking at the State book right here, regulation,
6 right here, State regulation. And at unit 21E, the
7 subunit 21E, says one caribou may be taken. I always
8 just kind of like thinking that we're -- sometime we
9 get -- like I said we get the runs come down from up
10 north, they come through 22A and they come into 22A and
11 then they drop into unit 18 also. But we're -- we
12 didn't put a regulation like this in there because I
13 asked Ken, this was done by I believe the Wildlife
14 Troopers did this. So I would have a question on that,
15 Jack, the Western Interior RAC, that if they do come
16 down are we entitled to four bulls and one cow? That
17 would be a question.

18

19 And too is that -- the brown bear, they
20 had an AC meeting in 21E and the biologist from McGrath
21 he stated that we're entitled to two grizzly bears per
22 year. And we could sell the hides. So their
23 regulations here, these are already outdated I think.
24 I'm not too sure, but I just think that, you know, what
25 -- I remember when we put this back in oh, about 20
26 years ago, when we asked that the RAC went -- and we
27 approved it, but the State shot it down, remember that,
28 where we said we could sell bear hides, take them into
29 and make sales and the State fought us right to -- oh,
30 god, it was a battle. And we even went to -- if we
31 could take the bear parts and sell them. And they
32 fought us right to the end, just right until they
33 couldn't anymore. Even claws, you know. I have a claw
34 from Sue, she's the Chairman of the Eastern Interior
35 RAC. So she was really -- you know, she was for it
36 too. And that was kind of like a present she gave me.
37 And I was kind of like amazed that hey, you know, all
38 right.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a good
41 ending.

42

43 MR. WALKER: Yeah. And but in going
44 back over looking at policy, other qualifications to
45 select new Board members it's pretty standard, it never
46 changed. So when you're looking at advertising for --
47 I see now we're going to have two vacants, right.

48

49 MS. PELKOLA: One seat.

50

0117

1 MR. WALKER: Is Pollock coming back?

2

3 MS. PELKOLA: Oh, I don't know.

4

5 MR. WALKER: Well, see this is why I
6 just said two just in case he's not coming back, it
7 said one vacant on the Western Interior RAC. So and to
8 -- you know, when I reapplied it was not that hard
9 because when I talk and I talked to Nissa a lot and she
10 basically said it's going to be the same thing as what
11 you did 17 years ago, you know. And I was interviewed
12 only once. When I was -- first applied I was
13 interviewed three times. So just to find out that is
14 it that much easier to get on the RAC Board. So it
15 would be a question like where Nissa would have to come
16 and do some research and come back to the Board maybe.
17 I don't know if we can do that.

18

19 And getting back to the other thing,
20 fishing. There was three things I want to get out of
21 this Board. One was bison, that shot down. I was
22 very, very, very disappointed on that because I looked
23 at that as a third food source for our tribes on the
24 Yukon, the bison.

25

26 And moose, our population is holding,
27 but still when I went to the AC Board the Chairman
28 asked me to take a look at 21A. He said that's being
29 shot out, he said, you know, we can't really do
30 anything on the AC Board because -- and McGrath takes
31 the upper portion, Anvik, Grayling, Shageluk and Holy
32 Cross take the lower portion of 21A. And he was saying
33 -- off the record he said is there any way you could
34 put a control use area in there and stop the planes
35 from flying in. I said I would talk to the RAC Board.
36 I said I wouldn't put it on the agenda just yet. But
37 he said it's just a matter of time because if you read
38 Kevin's -- his report, he states that in that -- his
39 report that this is being highly unusually for taking
40 of game out of that place, it's just a really high
41 count. It's too high to sustain the yield because if
42 it's a renewable resource it's losing. And whatever's
43 going to be left, the predators are just going to take
44 it over.

45

46 So, Jack, you know, we have to take a
47 look at that real hard. I think if we can get somebody
48 to write a letter to GASH or somebody from 21E stating
49 that, you know, we should put a Federal control use
50

0118

1 area there I think we should honor their wishes.
2 So.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm looking at the
5 map here.....

6
7 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:there's this
10 Paradise control use area that goes from Paimiut all
11 the way up past Grayling.....

12
13 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:and then it's
16 in -- quite a bit of unit 21E, but it doesn't -- the --
17 if you're talking about a Federal proposal there, the
18 only -- there's a remainder, a portion of the Innoko
19 National Wildlife Refuge, it's like a little tiny dot
20 there.

21
22 MR. WALKER: Well, you know, that was
23 the thing that he asked me and I told him I would bring
24 it to the Board. And I would bring it to -- as a
25 suggestion at the end of the meeting because it
26 wouldn't be an agenda item just yet until we discuss
27 it.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

30
31 MR. WALKER: So I'm just bringing it to
32 this Board. And there was a couple other things I
33 wanted to talk about. Oh, the bison.

34
35 Last year the bison took a real hard
36 hit because they came off the hill, they moved out into
37 the lowland and the water came up. And 50 percent of
38 them drowned. All the new calves, all the yearlings
39 drowned. And some of the elders or the older bulls
40 drowned because they never -- they don't really
41 understand water I guess, they know how to swim across
42 the river, but they don't know how to go find high
43 ground. So and that's where their population. And now
44 after this last meeting we had in Fairbanks with Luke
45 Rogers and the Board of Game, Al and Pete, it was kind
46 of like a -- it almost got to a shouting match where I --
47 I had to go and just kind of like say hey, you know,
48 right toward the end, you know, we don't want the horns
49 and the hide, you can take that as far as we care, all
50

0119

1 we want is the meat. And we couldn't even get -- we
2 couldn't fight for that. He said but I -- we can do
3 one thing for you, Robert, there's one thing we can do
4 for you is that you put a proposal in for a customary
5 and traditional use in the State, but he said I can't
6 guarantee it. So, you know, we lost that too.

7

8 So and it's going back, you know, to
9 all the split hoofs that we have, we're not going to
10 have anything left here.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, the -- they
13 should know better than that because they said that
14 they -- the Board of Game couldn't -- wouldn't make a
15 customary and traditional use because that's a new
16 population and that's.....

17

18 MR. WALKER: But he just said that.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, he can say
21 that on the side, but that's not going to happen at the
22 Board level.

23

24 MR. WALKER: Yeah, that's what I
25 figured too.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But I do feel that
28 they made a deal and I was actually listening to those
29 meetings for the last several years.

30

31 MR. WALKER: Oh, yeah, you wouldn't
32 believe what they're saying.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I -- you know, I was
35 on there. I've heard them make promises to.....

36

37 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:the GASH that
40 they were going to get an allocation.....

41

42 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:but then -- you
45 know, then they started talking about having the
46 registration permits online and all kinds of stuff.
47 Well, there's not going to be any allocation for the
48 GASH villages. So I'm -- the proposal that needs to be
49 submitted, but we're not even close to a harvest right
50

0120

1 now on the -- on the bison because they went from 130
2 bison down to 72 or something like that.

3

4 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And they're not
7 going to crawl out of that hole for a while. So but
8 what needs to be submitted and this Council -- I said
9 we would talk about this when I -- you asked me at that
10 meeting, I says we'll talk about it. What needs --
11 what this Council needs to do at our fall meeting is
12 probably a good time because we're short on time around
13 here right now, is that we should submit a proposal for
14 registration permit that is open during basically
15 January 1 to March 31, the same as the permanent fund
16 which was -- that's put in place because they don't
17 have nonloc -- non real residents of Alaska. Well, we
18 don't -- we would have it during that time because then
19 the village of -- village people would be there to get
20 the permits. No one's going to -- like they were
21 discussing on the caribou thing, no one's going to be
22 so inclined to fly out there in the middle of the
23 wintertime.....

24

25 MR. WALKER: No.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:to get that --
28 to compete for that permit. And it should be -- they
29 should be issued in Grayling Shageluk, Anvik and Holy
30 Cross. That's where the issuance should be.

31

32 MR. WALKER: Right.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we could
35 submit that proposal but -- not at this meeting, but at
36 our fall meeting and we can put that on our notes.

37

38 MR. WALKER: Yes, that's what I was
39 going to ask.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to
42 put that in our notes for our next meeting because the
43 Board's going to call for proposals and that's what the
44 stage -- that's what the bison plan was -- that's what
45 the last part of that meeting was about, the calls for
46 the proposals for these allocations. So there's going
47 to be -- Safari Club's going to be begging for one of
48 the draw permits so they can auction that off for
49 phenomenal amounts of money. They'll get half a.....

50

0121

1 MR. WALKER: Yeah, that's what they
2 talked about there.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:they'll get a
5 half a million dollars for that -- for that bison
6 permit. But you -- well, I heard them basically
7 because it's corp lands, I heard them basically
8 promising you an allocation.

9
10 MR. WALKER: Right.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we are going to
13 make them stick to that word. White man is not going
14 to speak with forked tongue on this one. I listened to
15 them. I'm a gussak, but I fight for the Alaska Natives
16 hard. And so they're not going to get away with
17 ripping you off. I heard them making those promises to
18 release those on -- they released them onto corp land
19 and they lived on corp land. And they live half the
20 time on corp land. And they're going to -- they're
21 going to adhere to those agreements.

22
23 MR. WALKER: Yeah. And.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we got to make --
26 we got to support a proposal though, that's what has
27 to happen.

28
29 MR. WALKER: And the bottom line is the
30 corporations are looking at this probably. I don't
31 know what they're going to do, but one of their ideas
32 was if we can't have access to them we want them to
33 take their buffalo or bison or -- off our land.
34 Because one of the guys said that, you know, well, you
35 can't trespass onto our corporation land. Guys, you
36 want to bet. Yeah. And he just plain out said that
37 we'll go on your land, we will kill a bison, we will
38 take it and we will haul it out. And we will go to
39 court and we will pay a fine and you don't get the
40 money, it goes to the State.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

43
44 MR. WALKER: And it -- it -- it just
45 kind of like.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: These sport.....

48
49 MR. WALKER:wow.

50

0122

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: these sport
2 hunters go outside, they have to ask permission to go
3 hunt on.....

4
5 MR. WALKER: Yeah, they're supposed to.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: all kinds of
8 private lands. They do it all the time and they know
9 this stuff.

10
11 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's your land.
14 If they don't give you an allocation then Doyon and
15 your local Native corps can go remove your bison and
16 we're going to give you six months to do it. And if
17 you leave them on there they're our bison, you
18 abandoned.....

19
20 MR. WALKER: Yeah, see that's what we
21 got to do.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: you abandoned
24 them on our land, they're ours.

25
26 MR. WALKER: See that was the catch, we
27 didn't get to that part yet.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. But.....

30
31 MR. WALKER: So we kind of like.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: you -- oh, you
34 already thought of that one. Okay.

35
36 MR. WALKER: Yeah, we already thought
37 about that one.

38
39 MR. VENT: Put that in writing.

40
41 MR. WALKER: Yeah. So, you know, like
42 we already got that. So if they don't remove it and
43 whatever, we give them a time date.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The work.....

46
47 MR. WALKER: to -- and if they
48 don't remove it.....

49
50

0123

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: the working
2 group was willing to make all kinds of concessions to
3 get a release site and the State was willing to make
4 those concessions. Now they've got to stick to their
5 concessions.

6
7 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we -- we make the
10 proposal and we write it in a way that they basically
11 are going to give you an allocation, they're going to
12 do it in your communities and you're going to do it
13 during a certain time frame in wintertime. We don't
14 have fish guides all down in Aniak and all over the
15 place show up there to get these permits. That's
16 what's going to happen.

17
18 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The fish guides on
21 the Innoko are going to show up and take those permits.
22 You need to -- we need to have an allocation there at
23 those communities. So but that's for our fall meeting.
24 So thanks for that comment. Is that the rest of your
25 final comments there?

26
27 MR. WALKER: I -- I -- you know, those
28 are the ones that I want and I was hoping I could get
29 them onto the fall agenda.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, she's got it.
32 She's got it.

33
34 MR. WALKER: Yes, and I always like to
35 put fish on there, chinook salmon, whatever, summer
36 chums for the AYK, just have it on the agenda too
37 because I don't want to like.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's.....

40
41 MR. WALKER: you know, I want to
42 keep it like moving all the time so it's always brought
43 up. So it's on the agenda.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's why I wanted
46 to have the meeting in Galena in the fall because.....

47
48 MR. WALKER: Yeah.

49
50

0124

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: we're going to
2 have a lot of people talking about salmon. And we're
3 going to see what the performance was this summer and
4 we're going to talk about these -- those management
5 issues. And Galena's like sort of in the middle. So
6 that's.....

7
8 MR. WALKER: I think I'm done. Thank
9 you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

12
13 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So my comment,
16 closing comment is I'm really appreciative to have
17 Robert back on this Council. The -- it was the Walker
18 boys, him and his cousin Jimmy were on here for years
19 and they'd tag team also, they did a lot of good work.
20 And so they speak up, they talk and I'm glad about
21 that. Glad about Darrell, he's a good member.
22 Everybody's -- our Council, but I'm a little bit bummed
23 out that we're not getting certain Council members for --
24 you know, they sign on for two meetings a year and
25 we're getting Council members that only come for one
26 meeting a year. And so that's part of signing onto the
27 Council. You got to come -- you got to show up at the
28 meeting otherwise you're holding a seat that somebody
29 else might want to -- might be able to hold.

30
31 We do need to get younger people on
32 these Councils. So I'm hoping that these youth seats
33 will encourage people and we should mentor them to --
34 and they should be in our region so we can -- so that
35 we can mentor them into this program.

36
37 I really appreciate the OSM Staff, I
38 appreciate this meeting, I thought it could have worked
39 a little differently downstairs. I didn't need to -- I
40 felt the freshmen Council members should go through
41 training, but there could have been a lot of, you know,
42 like these fisheries meetings. The Council members,
43 the experienced Council members should have been
44 working on because we had all 10 Regional Councils, we
45 should have had those 10 Regional Councils talking
46 about bycatch, talking about this and this and caribou
47 and et cetera, et cetera. And we're -- but we're
48 pressed for time at the end here, but I'm running about
49 40 minutes overtime right now and we're -- but I do
50

0125

1 think we got -- had a productive Council meeting. I
2 think we moved through the agenda and we've hit all the
3 high points of our -- of what we had to do and we make
4 a lot of comments on the record that will be used at
5 our next meeting.

6
7 And I -- this -- I think this was a
8 great -- the All RAC meeting works well to understand
9 and it was really good to work with all four Councils
10 on that caribou stuff. We got a little bit tense there
11 for a few minutes, but we smoothed that out when I went
12 like this. I held up four -- eight fingers or nine
13 fingers. That was the harvest rates for those regions
14 and that make a big -- they finally got to what I was
15 saying, it's only one cow with 15, not two cows with
16 four -- with two limits. So that -- that -- they're --
17 everybody's fine there. That worked really good, that
18 was a real positive aspect of this all RAC meeting.

19
20 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
21 adjourn.

22
23 MR. VENT: So moved.

24
25 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and -- moved
28 by Darrell, seconded by Jenny. Those in favor of
29 adjournment signify by saying aye.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for your
34 attendance. Oh, and I do appreciate our.....

35
36 MS. PELKOLA: Our recorder.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:court recorder,
39 Salena, and dealing with all the various issues during
40 this giant meeting and all of the technical things that
41 are going on. And I appreciate Alissa Rogers showing
42 up to listen in on the end of our meeting here also.

43
44 Thanks. Thank you.

45
46 (Off record - 6:12 p.m.)

47
48 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

49
50

