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SEWARD PENINSULA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

DENA'INA CIVIC AND CONVENTION CENTER
Anchorage, Alaska
March 8, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Louis Green, Chairman
Mary Freytag
Robert Moses
Patrick Reynolds
Elmer Seetot

Regional Council Coordinator - Gisela Chapa

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 1/8/2024)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. If there's anybody on the line, I'd like to welcome you also. The first item on the agenda here is invocation. Elmer Seetot will do the invocation.

(Invocation)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. I'd like to call this meeting to order. What time is it? 1:53. Gisela has housekeeping announcements.

MS. CHAPA: Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the record my name is Gisela Chapa. I am the Council Coordinator for the Seward Pen Regional Advisory Council and the designated Federal officer.

I have a few announcements. We have sign-in sheets in the back if I could remind people participating in person could sign in. We also have testifier forms, half blue sheets in the back as well for those members of the public that would like to provide comment. Our meeting is conducted by Roberts Rules, so all participants are expected to be courteous and respectful in all interactions as a matter of meeting etiquette. For those of you in the room we ask that you please silence your cell phones to minimize interruptions.

We also have one Council member who is on the line. Just a quick announcement for people on the line that would like to speak, *5 will raise your hand and *6 will unmute you. One final announcement. I know that our Council has one vacant seat. We're currently accepting applications for those interested in becoming RAC members through March 15th. We have some applications in the back as well.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that, Gisela. I would like to say thank you to Mary for completing the circle here. She was able to phone in.

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1 I know she was having some difficulties, but I really
2 appreciate the fact that she's on there. Welcome,
3 Mary. We're going to roll call.

4

5 MS. FREYTAG: Thank you so much.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sorry. Go ahead.

8

9 MS. FREYTAG: I just wanted to thank
10 you also for this opportunity to help and be there for
11 everyone, for all of us. Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. So now
14 we're on item number 3, which is roll call to establish
15 quorum. Gisela.

16

17 MS. CHAPA: Mary Freytag.

18

19 MS. FREYTAG: Present.

20

21 MS. CHAPA: Raymond Hunt. I believe
22 he's excused. Louis Green, Jr.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Louis is here. Thank
25 you.

26

27 MS. CHAPA: Tom Gray. I believe also
28 he's excused.

29

30 Patrick Reynolds.

31

32 MR. REYNOLDS: Here.

33

34 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Reynolds.

35

36 Martin Aukongak, also excused.

37

38 Elmer Seetot, Jr.

39

40 MR. SEETOT: Here.

41

42 MS. CHAPA: Robert Moses.

43

44 MR. MOSES: Here.

45

46 MS. CHAPA: Ronald Kirk, also excused.
47 So we have five members present of nine filled seats,
48 so I believe we do have a quorum.

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1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that.
2 So I guess we get down to the welcome to everybody here
3 again in the room and on the line. We have
4 introductions. I think that we should just go around
5 the table here. We have people out in the audience out
6 there. If they'd just come to the mic so they get on
7 the record to introduce themselves, their staff. Start
8 with Mr. Reynolds down there. Get the Council on.
9 Introduce yourself, please.

10

11 MR. REYNOLDS: My name is Patrick
12 Reynolds. I'm from St. Lawrence Island, the village of
13 Savoonga.

14

15 MR. MOSES: I'm Robert Moses from
16 village of Golovin.

17

18 MR. SEETOT: (In Inupiaq) aka Elmer
19 Seetot, Jr., Brevig Mission.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Louis Green from Nome.
22 Thank you.

23

24 MS. CHAPA: Gisela Chapa, Subsistence
25 Council Coordinator, Anchorage.

26

27 MS. WESSELS: Good afternoon. My name
28 is Katya Wessels and I'm Council Coordination Division
29 Supervisor with OSM. Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Everybody please come
32 to the mic so it's on the record.

33

34 MS. VOORHEES: Good afternoon. This is
35 Hannah Voorhees. I'm an Anthropologist with Office of
36 Subsistence Management.

37

38 MR. STONE: Good afternoon. Jarred
39 Stone, Fish Biologist and Acting Fisheries Division
40 Supervisor with the Office of Subsistence Management.
41 Good afternoon.

42

43 MR. UBELAKER: Brian Ubelaker, Wildlife
44 Biologist with Office of Subsistence Management.

45

46 MS. HYER: Good afternoon. Karen Hyer,
47 Fisheries Biologist with the Office of Subsistence
48 Management.

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1 MS. KOELSCH: Jeanette Koelsch,
2 National Park Service.

3
4 MS. HOWARD: Good afternoon. My name
5 is Ameer Howard, Assistant Regional Director acting for
6 the Office of Subsistence Management. A beautiful
7 afternoon. Thank you for being here everyone. Thank
8 you, Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you to
11 everybody. Online, do we have anybody?

12
13 MS. FREYTAG: Good afternoon. This is
14 Mary Freytag with the Village of Unalakleet. I just
15 want to be thankful being here in person to help with
16 whatever we can for the betterment of our people in the
17 great state of Alaska. Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mary. Is
20 there anybody else? Hearing no one.....

21
22 MS. HUGHES: Hello.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, go ahead. Sorry.
25 Letty, go ahead.

26
27 MS. HUGHES: Letty Hughes, Wildlife
28 Biologist and Acting Resource Program Manager for
29 Bering Land Bridge National Preserve based in Nome.
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Letty.
33 We've got lots of actors in here. Sounds like
34 Hollywood.

35
36 MS. BRAHM: This is Nikki Brahm, Bering
37 Land Bridge National Preserve. I'm a Cultural
38 Anthropologist based in Nome.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any additional?

41
42 MR. ATKINSON: Good afternoon. Ken
43 Atkinson, National Park Service, Bering Land Bridge
44 National Preserve.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for
47 introducing yourselves, folks. So that's the welcoming
48 and introductions of all the folks here in the room and
49 online. So I would entertain a review and adopt
50

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1 amended agenda. That is item number 5. Gisela,
2 enlighten us of some changes.

3

4

Thank you.

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MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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Again, for the record, my name is Gisela Chapa. I just wanted to make a note on action item 8(a)(1). This is going to be an opportunity for the Council to vote on what was discussed in the Four Council Meeting held on March 7th, 2024. I can go into more detail at the time we review the action item. That's about it.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Gisela. Mary, just to let you know, you can just break in any time you need to. When you raise your hand the recorder sees it, but we don't. Feel free to speak up.

MS. FREYTAG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Item number 6 is election of officers. I was told that some RACs are passing it off, but I don't see any reason why we wouldn't do it today and just get it done. Gisela, you've got the floor here. I stand down.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name is Gisela Chapa. In accordance with the Council Charter Council members elect the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for a one-year term. The term usually starts at the beginning of the calendar year. I would like to open the floor for nominations of the Council's Chair. The nominations need not be seconded. The floor is open for nominations.

MR. SEETOT: I move to nominate Mr. Louis Green and ask for unanimous consent.

MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Seetot. Any more nominations.

MR. REYNOLDS: I move to nominate John.

MS. CHAPA: Okay. So far we have Mr. Green as the nomination to the Council's Chair and I believe we will vote. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

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1 MS. CHAPA: Those opposed same action.
2 Say nay.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 MS. CHAPA: Thank you. None opposed.
7 So Mr. Louis Green you are our Council's Chair. Now
8 we're going to open the floor for nominations for the
9 Council's Vice-Chair position.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Nominations do not
12 need to be seconded. Do you have a name?

13
14 MR. SEETOT: Elmer, Jr., Brevig. I
15 nominate Mr. Tom Gray.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are there any further
18 nominations?

19
20 MS. FREYTAG: This is Mary Freytag. I
21 nominate Tom Gray.

22
23 MR. SEETOT: I move to close
24 nominations.

25
26 MS. CHAPA: Okay. At this time we're
27 going to vote on our nomination of Mr. Tom Gray to be
28 the Council's Vice-Chair. All in favor say aye.

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31
32 MS. CHAPA: Those opposed say nay.

33
34 (No opposing votes)

35
36 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Thank you. I think
37 that we have a Vice-Chair, Mr. Tom Gray. Now we move
38 to accept nominations for the Secretary position. The
39 floor is open.

40
41 MS. FREYTAG: This is Mary Freytag. I
42 would like to nominate Elmer Seetot, Jr. for the
43 Secretary position.

44
45 MR. SEETOT: I decline at this time
46 because I'm not sure if I am going to sign for another
47 term as Regional Advisory Council member.

48
49 MS. FREYTAG: It's my understanding you
50

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1 do not need to be on your village council to be on this
2 board, Elmer.

3

4 MR. REYNOLDS: I would like to nominate
5 Robert Moses.

6

7 MS. CHAPA: We have a nomination on the
8 floor for Mr. Robert Moses. Any other nominations.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ask to close.

11

12 MS. CHAPA: Thank you. Now we will
13 vote for Mr. Robert Moses to act as the Council
14 Secretary. All in favor say aye.

15

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17

18 MS. CHAPA: I believe we also need your
19 vote, Mary.

20

21 MS. FREYTAG: Abstain.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We need all the votes.

24

25 MS. FREYTAG: This is Mary. Yeah.

26

27 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mary. Those
28 opposed say nay.

29

30 (No opposing votes)

31

32 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Motion passes. Mr.
33 Robert Moses is the Council's Secretary. Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for the
36 yeah, Mary. Thank you, Gisela, for conducting our
37 little election. Thanks for the vote of confidence.
38 Welcome, Mr. Moses, to your Secretary seat. We're at
39 item number 7 now, review and approve previous minutes.
40 Go ahead, Elmer.

41

42 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. I move to
43 approve the previous meeting minutes of November 1 and
44 2.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. Is
47 there a second.

48

49 MR. MOSES: I second.

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1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any discussion.

2

3 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. SEETOT: At that last meeting
8 unfortunately I was the Acting Chair and then I got
9 kind of emotional at the end of the meeting because I
10 was trying to acknowledge Mr. Ken Atkinson of the
11 National Park Service and he had Mr. Tocktoo as his
12 ranger and those two really helped me throughout the
13 process with the applications and also with getting a
14 permit from them for the muskox.

15

16 During my presentation or when I was
17 trying to acknowledge him I just thought about
18 everything that had passed through those 30 years that
19 I have been on the board and I couldn't go on for a
20 while. I just kind of stopped speaking for a while.
21 But that was what I was trying to convey, is that we
22 don't acknowledge many of the staff that we have worked
23 with in the past.

24

25 I've seen pretty much five to six
26 coordinators that I've seen when I first signed on and
27 those two, Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Tocktoo, kept on me to
28 continue being on the RAC. So that was one of my
29 things that I just thought I'd put it out to the
30 public.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Seetot,
35 for acknowledging Mr. Atkinson. Ken, are you on the
36 line?

37

38 MR. ATKINSON: Yes, I am.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Speech. How many
41 years have you been there?

42

43 MR. ATKINSON: Since before the
44 beginning. Probably as long as Methuselah. Maybe too
45 long. Yeah, no. All the years that I've spent
46 involved with the RAC process it's been great. I have
47 to acknowledge all the people who have served in the
48 past and all the fine work that's done to sit through
49 all these long, drawn out regulatory processes and
50

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1 everything to serve their villages. I've got to really
2 acknowledge that. They're terrific. It's been great
3 working with the groups.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ken, for
6 your many years of service. It's very much
7 appreciated. You've counseled me over the time that
8 I've been on here since 2010 and I really have
9 appreciated it. You probably will hear me call, get a
10 call from me a time or two, even though you're not in
11 the official capacity of much knowledge about our
12 region. So, with that, from the bottom of my heart,
13 thank you.

14

15 That brings us to the approval of the
16 meeting minutes. Somebody call for the question or is
17 there further discussion?

18

19 MR. SEETOT: Elmer. Call for question.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question has been
22 called. All those in favor for approval of the
23 previous meeting minutes say aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mary.

28

29 MS. FREYTAG: Pardon?

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're voting to
32 approve the previous minutes. What's your vote?

33

34 MS. FREYTAG: Yes. I'm sorry. My
35 volume was really down and I didn't hear that. Yes, I
36 approve.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. I say aye
39 also. Meeting minutes are approved. Thank you for
40 lining me back up, Mr. Seetot. That does now bring us
41 to item number 8 under reports. Start with Council
42 members. I'll ask Mary to give her report first.

43

44 MS. FREYTAG: Good afternoon, everyone.
45 This is Mary Freytag with the village of Unalakleet.
46 As you all know we had quite the weather event this
47 past winter. A record snowfall just last week.
48 Everyone really enjoyed getting out ice fishing. We
49 have a few trappers here in the village that really

50

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1 enjoyed all the snow to get further and further into
2 the back country for good trapping. I just want to say
3 everyone had a good season.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your
8 report, Mary.

9
10 That brings me to Mr. Seetot.

11
12 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 Elmer Seetot, Brevig. Port Clarence Bay froze up and
14 since that time I've been fishing for saffron cod
15 pretty much for two months. I was able to hang 12
16 strings. The first time in my lifetime that I was able
17 to do that. Then I was able to distribute to some of
18 my siblings -- not my siblings, to community members
19 and mostly to my relatives. We were able to get smelt
20 later on the month of December.

21
22 Our hunters were hunting around Budd
23 Creek, American River area near the Kugruk Mountains
24 during the past two months and they weren't able to
25 harvest too much caribou because I think they were in a
26 different place.

27
28 Our snow has been blowing, but it's
29 been snowing -- I mean it's been blowing sideways too
30 much. We rarely get snow on the ground and then around
31 Port Clarence, Grantley Harbor area, outside of that
32 area is snow buildup or the snow conditions are good.

33
34 Very few predators were caught. I
35 think that we have had mostly easterly winds and I
36 think when it does that the animals put their heads
37 into the wind and move on forward. They've been pretty
38 much moving easterly from our hunt area, so that's how
39 come the caribou were kind of hard to get to.

40
41 We've had what I call warm weather.
42 Anything above zero degrees. Throughout January,
43 February I think we had only a total of three weeks --
44 I would say one in December, January and February. One
45 week each of very cold weather. It has been kind of
46 wet condition snows and that snow hasn't been able to
47 stick to the ground.

48
49 Other than that our hunters are out
50

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1 again and hopefully they'll be able to get more caribou
2 in and around the area. Moose season was open, but
3 very few went out and hunted moose throughout the fall
4 season because we had had constant wet weather and most
5 of the wind conditions have been pretty much onshore
6 and from the eastly. When it's eastly back home, then
7 we know that it's going to be wet.

8

9 Other than that, that's my report, Mr.
10 Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Councilman
13 Seetot.

14

15 Mr. Reynolds, Councilman Reynolds.
16 Give your report on what you've seen out at Savoonga
17 and how things were with hunting and fishing.

18

19 MR. REYNOLDS: Okay. I've seen Minke
20 whales wrapped up in green nets beached on the shore.
21 I've seen a lot of trash on the shore, whiskey bottles,
22 although Savoonga is a dry community. The bottles
23 don't come from Savoonga. They must have floated in
24 from the Russian trawlers that go up and down the
25 Bering Straits, depleting our resources. The Coast
26 Guard is closely watching this and Savoonga Native
27 Council has been to Washington, D.C. to try to convince
28 the administration to stop all this foreign trawling in
29 Alaskan waters.

30

31 Thank you very much.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr.
34 Reynolds.

35

36 That brings us to Councilman Moses.

37

38 MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Golovin has been fishing for tomcod and smelt, but they
40 were late. The tomcod and the smelt were like a month
41 late. There's been four people that went caribou
42 hunting and they did catch some out of Paragon, going
43 northwest from Paragon. They caught eight of them so
44 far. There was a hunting party of five and they caught
45 eight.

46

47 There's been a lot of ptarmigan flying
48 from east going west. We finally see big flocks of
49 ptarmigan. There's like about three or four people
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1 trapping at home and they trapped wolverine so far.
2 Nobody catch any wolves yet. They caught wolverine by
3 traps.

4
5 We get a lot of east wind this year and
6 north wind. A lot of snow. People never start
7 crabbing yet and we -- they usually start around
8 January and it's already March, so I don't know. One
9 of our main crabbers that lived there before he moved
10 out of town and he even fished for NSSP in Nome. This
11 was a few years ago, but people never go crabbing yet.

12
13
14 That's all I have.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Councilman
17 Moses. So that's up to me now, my Chair's report.
18 This year I in the springtime of course took part in
19 oogruk hunting this spring again. What I'd like to
20 note is the late departure of our ice in the strait.
21 It kind of reminded me the way it was a few decades
22 ago. It lingered around and I think it got into -- I
23 didn't note a date, but I think it was in early June
24 when it finally departed from the view, from the
25 shoreline. There was a lot of success in seal hunting
26 for folks.

27
28 On into the summer the salmon was slow
29 for folks. It was another low salmon return.
30 Something we've been witnessing pretty much for the
31 last four decades. It seems to be the norm. The king
32 crab -- I know the summer king crab fishery wasn't too
33 bad. I know that people did well with subsistence
34 pots.

35
36 Before that point I don't know the
37 details on the ice fishery in the spring, the
38 January-February fishery, but I think they had some
39 success this summer in the commercial fishery that's
40 conducted by Norton Sound Seafood products through the
41 CDQ program.

42
43 The tomcod run was good. Plenty of
44 food. The beluga feed on those tomcod and there was
45 plenty of beluga present that I was witnessing although
46 I didn't take any this year. Other beluga crews did
47 quite well.

48
49 In September, during high winds in the
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1 area that many of us hunt moose, there was a lot of
2 wind and a lot of rain, but the hunters that I seen
3 along the river system where I reached out and was able
4 to be around with the boat there was a lot of success.
5 We have a small hunt that lasts -- I think it only
6 lasted three days in the whole unit of 22 in our road
7 system area.

8
9 With that -- oh, excuse me. I took
10 part in the whitefish fishery in the Kuzitrin. My
11 little eight-year-old son Aiden Nanook, he was able to
12 catch his first fish and he gave his first whitefish to
13 his grandmother, which is traditional. So I was pretty
14 proud of him for that.

15
16 With that, that's all I have for my
17 report.

18
19 MS. CHAPA: (No microphone)

20
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We have somebody
22 that's going to speak to this and I think that's
23 Hannah. Hannah, you have the floor.

24
25 MS. VOORHEES: Good afternoon, Mr.
26 Chair and members of the Council. This is Hannah
27 Voorhees. On Thursday morning there was a joint
28 meeting of four Councils including this Council,
29 Northwest Arctic RAC, North Slope RAC and Western
30 Interior RAC. Those three Councils voted on WP24-28/29
31 which concerns proposed harvest limits for the Western
32 Arctic Caribou Herd.

33
34 This Council did not have a quorum at
35 that time. Now that you do this is your opportunity to
36 vote on that proposal. I will read the recommendation
37 of the other three Councils so that you can refresh
38 your memory. Mary, I know you weren't -- I don't
39 believe you were at that meeting. If there are any
40 questions, I can try to answer those for you. This
41 proposal, if you'd like to reference it, it's on Page
42 15 of your meeting materials.

43
44 The original proposal -- there's two
45 proposals that were combined and the first one is
46 WP24-28, which was submitted by the Western Arctic
47 Caribou Herd Working Group, and this requested a
48 reduction in the caribou harvest limit across the range
49 of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd to four caribou per
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1 year, only one of which may be a cow.

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Wildlife Proposal WP24-29 was submitted by the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and requested the same change in Unit 23 only.

The recommendation of the other three Councils was to support WP24-28/29 as modified by the Board of Game to exclude the eastern portion of Unit 26A from the harvest limit reductions and to change the harvest limit to 15 caribou per year, only one of which may be a cow in Units 22, 23 and the western portion of Unit 26A, also including Units 21D and Unit 24.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I'll turn it over to the Council.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Hannah. Just to make sure I get the units correct, what were the units again?

MS. VOORHEES: This would apply to Units 22, 23 and the western portion of Unit 26A. Those were the units considered by the Board of Game, but the other three Councils also chose to include Units 21D and Unit 24 to reflect the entire range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

Just for clarification and to remind you, the portion of Unit 26A that would be included includes the areas around Wainwright and Point Lay, that eastern portion of 26A, but it does not include the areas around Utqiagvik, Atqasuk or Nuiqsut.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you for that. So Units 22, 23, 26A, which includes 15 per year, one being a cow out of the 15?

MS. VOORHEES: That's right, Mr. Chair. Also Units 21D and Unit 24.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: All of Unit 24.

MS. VOORHEES: This would be 15 caribou per hunter just to clarify.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Which means one cow only. Could you explain their reason?

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1 MS. VOORHEES: I believe the rationale
2 was to -- here we have the main analyst, but the
3 rationale was to avoid criminalizing a hunter who might
4 accidentally take a cow, but the intent was not for
5 people to target cows.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Would you like to
8 introduce yourself as everybody else did.

9
10 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
11 the record my name is Tom Plank, wildlife biologist
12 with the Office of Subsistence Management.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Do you
15 have something to add to what Hannah answered for?

16
17 MR. PLANK: Yes, sir, Mr. Chair. One
18 other thing I wanted to add is the addition of 21D and
19 Unit 24. The reason that was added on the end of it is
20 currently the Board of Game has already made their
21 first decision on Units 22, 23 and 26A. It will meet
22 again this month to decide the western portion, which
23 includes 21D and 24. During the Joint Council meeting
24 with all four Councils they decided to go ahead and add
25 it on there, anticipating that they're going to do the
26 same regulation there as well.

27
28 I don't know if that clarifies that for
29 you, sir.

30
31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Council,
32 are there any questions of either one of these folks
33 sitting in front of us on this?

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mary, do you have any
38 questions? I know you didn't get to see this.

39
40 MS. FREYTAG: No, I don't, Mr. Chair.
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Other Council,
44 any questions, comments or concerns before I ask?

45
46 Elmer.

47
48 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. The action
49 that was taken by the Joint Council I don't know that
50

0017

1 they were going with the State motion or the State 15
2 animals and then one cow. When they were doing the
3 motion and the voting I got kind of sidetracked a
4 little bit. In looking at this I think that this was
5 included in the voting. So I was kind of confused as
6 to which proposal that we would go to. The State would
7 be on their own, but the northern RACs still went with
8 that. That's where my confusion lay, is what the State
9 proposed and then the other RACs proposal four in one.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Care to answer? Go
12 ahead.

13

14 MS. VOORHEES: I can just jump in and
15 say the version of the proposal that was supported by
16 the three other Councils is exactly the same as the
17 State's modification to this proposal. It didn't
18 differ in any way.

19

20 MR. SEETOT: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any further questions
23 from Council.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. So I'll
28 put a couple things in here. When I look at the 15 per
29 year, the thought in my mind is that we have a caribou
30 herd that's on the Seward Peninsula. That's a
31 residential herd. I brought it up, as well as
32 Councilman Gray, more than once that there needs to be
33 some type of collaring study done on these animals so
34 that we can identify them. We don't know if collared
35 animals aren't showing up.

36

37 I talked to Jim Dau the other day,
38 yesterday, about the collars and he figured there's a
39 minimum of 100 collars out there and they try to keep
40 between 120 and 140 collars maybe if I remember
41 correctly. So what I'm understanding is that there's
42 collars not showing up on the Seward Peninsula.

43

44 So that brings me to the point of
45 wanting to see the State and the Park Service work
46 together. This is something that's really there. I've
47 known this herds been there since the early '80s. They
48 move back and forth across -- from the Bendelebens over
49 to the Serpentine areas.

50

0018

1 The question in my mind after talking
2 with different people over time, are there any animals
3 that are coming down from up north in their southern
4 migration integrating with these animals and then
5 leaving in the spring when they migrate back north?

6
7 The thought in my mind is that there
8 was an old reindeer herd that was abandoned at the time
9 in the Bendelebens and this is basically -- I don't
10 know what you would use for the name of it, but a herd
11 that was established there in reindeer herding, that
12 somebody had a herd there, but it has seemed to turn
13 into a caribou herd because they look like caribou to
14 me. You know, the color of them. I witnessed these
15 animals back into the early '80s. I used to fly around
16 over there quite a bit.

17
18 I just saw a rack that came out of
19 there in the fall by some young man that had gotten it
20 in the Kougarak around the Taylor Road somewhere. I'm
21 not specific on the actual area, but that was a
22 healthy-looking rack and it didn't look like a regular
23 old caribou and it didn't look like a regular old
24 reindeer. It was just huge, you know. Big base where
25 it attached to the head.

26
27 So there needs to be something done to
28 have some kind of a study and I think a collaring study
29 is necessary and I think the Park Service and the
30 Alaska Department of Fish and Game need to get together
31 and work this out. If we stick with this 15, one being
32 a cow per year per hunter, if there's two to three
33 thousand animals out there, they aren't going to --
34 that herd is going to be diminished and potentially
35 extirpated, if you might say it that way, I might, and
36 never have any study done to it.

37
38 As Tommy and I have alluded to plenty
39 of times these are not the regular caribou that migrate
40 from the north to the south and back in the springtime
41 to the north. They're calving on the grounds on the
42 Seward Pen. We have a preserve, the Bering Land Bridge
43 Preserve. It could be considered the Bering Land
44 Preserve Herd. It's distinct.

45
46 If there's anybody on staff here that
47 could address that, I'd sure appreciate it.

48
49 Thank you.
50

0019

1 MS. FREYTAG: Mr. Chair, this is Mary
2 Freytag.

3
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Mary. You
5 have the floor.

6
7 MS. FREYTAG: Yes, I just wanted to
8 mention to you my grandfather, John Katoogan, was a
9 reindeer herder. We had a corral and everything back
10 in the day, but it burned. The corral burned, so we
11 weren't able to keep our herd intact with no corral.
12 That was around the time when the Air Force and the
13 Army were being established in Unalakleet. They
14 brought alcohol to the village and a lot of my uncles
15 that took care of the caribou succumbed to the alcohol
16 instead of taking care of the herd, you know, trying to
17 keep it together. But I just wanted to tell you that I
18 do believe those are the caribou from my papa.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mary.
23 There was also an additional herd over there in Boston.
24 I think there was a corral over there. That doesn't
25 say your papa's herd didn't have anything to do with it
26 because I don't know how far back this herd established
27 itself, but one thing I note is that when the caribou
28 came down when there were about 450,000 in number in I
29 want to say '97 -- if I'm off by a year or two, that's
30 fine -- but when the herd came down those animals
31 didn't leave like everybody's reindeer herds did. The
32 reindeer that got nabbed up by the caribou were gone,
33 but this residential herd remained. So it was prior to
34 that build up of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

35 Does anybody on the Council want to
36 speak before I have somebody from Staff?

37
38 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

41
42 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair, I would have
43 additional information. I've been around Seward
44 Peninsula. Like I said, there's 15 grazing permits
45 within Seward Peninsula. When I was growing up Nome --
46 Siklasa (ph) used to have a model herd in and around
47 Nome. You mentioned something about Dorothy Isabelle
48 pre-'80s or so.....

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0020

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Barbara Trigg.

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MR. SEETOT: Barbara Trigg. Where they had a herd in and around the lava beds or in and around Kuzitrin River. Also Roger Menadelook had about 1,700 reindeer. When I mean reindeer, you look at the antlers. They were very tall. When I first went caribou hunting, I noticed that some of the caribou were very tall also. So I think those weren't being hunted down.

Anyway, in and around Kuzitrin River Drainage or around the lava beds we had the Roger Menadelook herd, also the Shishmaref Herd, they had the Weyiouanna and the Good Hope Herd. Then Shaktoolik Herd down there. Also Deering. So those might be remnants of reindeer herds that have gone astray.

I need to also include Wales, Ongtawasruk and then Olanna Herd from Brevig. So there's been a lot of -- I would say roughly pretty close to 5,000. Maybe more than 5,000 had gone with the caribou within the past 20 years. That was maybe pre-'90s, before '90s. The Kakaruk Herd also.

After the 1935 Act where the natives were able to have ownership, they had anywhere from 8-12,000 reindeer in and around the southern portion of Imuruk Basin. They used to have a couple corrals because they couldn't handle -- they couldn't put all the reindeer in one corral for marking the fawns and then castrating bulls as they needed to. That was before the Orientals came and pretty much bought antlers from the reindeer herders for their purposes.

The reindeer herders at that time, like Mary said, before alcohol came around, they were on the constant watch on the reindeer because they used to have a reindeer fair at Mary's Igloo and that's just only 20 miles away from the lava pits. That place has been kind of wild in a way since that time since it's kind of inaccessible. Just by going by boat or by snowmachine.

What Mr. Louis Green is stating is that Devils Mountain, B-29 Mountain, east of Serpentine, those have been reportedly there for so many years now. Like he said, he asked the Department of Fish and Game or some agency to kind of mark the reindeer and nothing

0021

1 really has been done.

2

3

4 If you didn't tend to your reindeer or
5 if you didn't tend to your reindeer within the two week
6 period, they were considered caribou by the people at
7 that time. So I would assume that with any wildlife
8 situation or with any wildlife resource that they will
9 do everything in their power to survive. Whether it be
10 for food, whether it be for survival from predators and
11 from human harvest.

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Twenty years ago pretty much the whole Seward Peninsula -- 30 years ago the whole Seward Peninsula was bustling with reindeer activity. The only remaining ones that I know, Ongtawasruk Herd, anywhere from eight to 1,000 in Wales. The Olanna Herd anywhere from eight to 1,000.

And then you've got St. Michael, Stebbins and Katcheak all have one herd where they're working together along with St. Lawrence Island and then also at Nunivak Island. I'm not really too sure where else they would have a reindeer herd where they use them as domestic animals.

Anyway, without local knowledge, without TEK, where would the biologists turn to. They don't have that in the computer. They don't have that in textbooks other than the written word. So that's one big part that is really missing from Western science. I'm just guessing that there are so many animals. No, why don't you collaborate with other people that have been there for a long time. This information was passed on to me by elders that I talked with throughout my lifetime. Not just in the community of Brevig but within the Seward Peninsula.

Without the knowledge of the people I would presume -- if State agencies or Federal agencies want to know where the origin of the herd came from, all they would have to do is just ask the local people. They usually pass information on to the next generations. That's just a supplemental information that I can probably fill in you on the northern herd of the lava beds.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council

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1 Member Seetot. I really appreciate you coming forward
2 and bringing your knowledge to the table on this. The
3 idea that they're there and they remained there when
4 the caribou came down and took off with everybody's
5 reindeer, it's a pretty specific herd.

6
7 If it's made up of other reindeer herds
8 and mixed with caribou, we need to know that and we
9 need to protect that herd especially if the Western
10 Arctic Caribou Herd itself is actually being diminished
11 to the point where they don't even come to those lava
12 beds or anywhere on the northern part of the Seward
13 Peninsula for access to Unit 22 hunters.

14
15 I really appreciate the fact that Mr.
16 Seetot brought the idea of TEK, traditional ecological
17 knowledge. He's a lot older than me. I'm 65. I think
18 I have some TEK information in my head too just like he
19 does. Maybe not as much, but I offer that at this time
20 so we can get this on the record.

21
22 Again, it really needs to come to the
23 point where the State has to step up and the Feds have
24 to step up and put something together to do some kind
25 of collaring study. If there's any staff here that has
26 anything to add to that, I'd appreciate it.

27
28 MS. VOORHEES: This is Hannah Voorhees.
29 I'm not sure if anyone on the line might be able to
30 speak to that. I will just say that I want to thank
31 you for sharing your knowledge about this group of --
32 this resident herd. I know that you've had this on
33 your annual report many years and I noticed it's not on
34 this year. You may just want to keep elevating the
35 issue through correspondence as well. I hope that in
36 the future this traditional knowledge can be
37 documented.

38
39 I hope that maybe someone else on the
40 line can weigh in as well.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Hannah.

45
46 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
47 again echo what Hannah said. I really do appreciate
48 you all putting this on the record for us because
49 that's how I'm able to find this information is when I
50

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1 go through transcripts. I notated in the analysis that
2 some of the information I found about the resident herd
3 or potential resident herd.

4
5 Again, I don't work for the Parks or
6 NPS or for ADF&G, so I can't speak for them on the
7 study, but again I'll echo what Hannah said. Please
8 put it on your annual report and try to elevate this
9 up. The more we know the better off we are. Thank
10 you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your
13 comments. Trying to protect this herd is -- our charge
14 is subsistence and, like I said earlier when I first
15 started speaking about this point, allowing a hunter in
16 Nome, Teller, Brevig, anywhere near there, the
17 opportunity to have 15 a year, tapping that heard, it
18 could completely be to the point where there wouldn't
19 be enough of them to ever worry about again.

20
21 Our charge is to protect the
22 opportunity for the subsistence of our subsistence
23 hunters in our Seward Peninsula region. I thank the
24 folks that made their comments on here. That will give
25 Staff information to maybe work off of and maybe
26 combine co-management with the State, Alaska Department
27 of Fish and Game and the National Park Service. We
28 might get somewhere with this.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MR. MOSES: Mr. Chair. Question or a
33 comment.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Robert.

36
37 MR. MOSES: The 15 limit per caribou is
38 stated by the up north RAC region I think because of
39 the boundaries on the line and that's where all the --
40 most of the caribou are. I think that's why they put
41 for their region is for them to get 15 a day. It looks
42 like they changed it to -- I thought it was supposed to
43 be for up north region RAC that they only get 15 a day
44 because they said they could get 1,000. That's my
45 understanding.

46
47 And then our region would still be at
48 four and three to one. Because there's so much caribou
49 up north their boundaries kind of go -- like one of the
50

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1 villages they go -- they have three lines they said and
2 they could go either way. They stated that they wanted
3 their region to change from 1,000 a year to 15 a day.
4 Then in our region, in Seward Peninsula, we stay at 3
5 to 1. Could somebody clarify that?

6
7 MR. PLANK: Again for the record this
8 is Tom Plank, through the Chair. If you recall on that
9 slide sheet, that very last page had that one little
10 map and it had that wording. Where the confusion kind
11 of started happening was the gentleman who made the
12 motion for that he was reading that all the way through
13 and the bottom part of that had actually -- let me pull
14 it up.

15
16 It says will consider Units 21D and
17 Unit 24 at the Interior Eastern Arctic Region meeting
18 in March. That's where there's some confusion because
19 that's not really what part of the motion was for
20 because the motion is to say what the limit in the
21 units that are affected. So that's when they changed
22 that last part to say and include 21D and Unit 24.

23
24 As for the four one there was a lot of
25 conversation. A lot of great conversation on that.
26 Towards the end I believe it was a consensus that they
27 came to that they will start with the 15 and one
28 through the entire range. That was what it ended up.
29 Northwest Arctic voted for the 15 to 1 and the North
30 Slope also voted for 15 to 1 and Western Interior also
31 included the 15 to 1. It's not 15 and one cow. You can
32 get 15 and only one of which may be a cow. That's to
33 protect somebody from accidentally making a mistake.

34
35 Does that help clarify that, sir?

36
37 MR. MOSES: Yeah, in a way it does. So
38 what about our Seward Peninsula Region? They moved us
39 to 15 like that a year too all the way from four? That
40 was one of my questions like that.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. PLANK: Thank you, sir. Again,
45 through the Chair, Tom Plank, Office of Subsistence
46 Management. Yes, sir. Basically they're wanting
47 everybody to just agree with one number and that was
48 the number they came to. Instead of the five per day
49 that you currently have -- as you saw, one area did not
50

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1 want to go down to the four to one and so the consensus
2 came to what the State had put on there to help
3 simplify things.

4

5 MR. MOSES: Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So the WACH group,
8 they were part of formulating this, were they not? And
9 then ADF&G was part of it or not? Tom.

10

11 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair. I
12 probably need a little more clarification. Are you
13 talking about the Board of Game decision or the
14 original proposal?

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think it was taking
17 up the original proposal. 22 got added to this in the
18 discussion, correct?

19

20 MR. PLANK: Again, through the Chair.
21 In the original proposal we had -- Unit 22 was already
22 on there. That one should be in your books starting on
23 Page 15. If you go down, you'll get to a regulation
24 and 22 was already part of that. When the Board of
25 Game took it up, for in Kotzebue they included 22, 23
26 and 26.

27

28 Then the remaining units that are in
29 this proposal, which is 21D and 24, the reason why the
30 Board of Game didn't take that up then is because they
31 take that up with the Western here in March. Since as
32 a group we will not be meeting again between now and
33 the Board meeting, they went ahead and made that
34 decision when they came to consensus.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom. So I
37 heard the discussion and I think it was Jack Reakoff
38 had discussed the reasoning for 14 bulls and allowing
39 at least one cow, so that made it a total of 15 per
40 hunter per year. The idea that four caribou are
41 allowed per year to a hunter. If he had three or four
42 hunters involved in a hunting team, they could
43 basically go out there and get each four caribou per
44 year and each one was allowed a cow by accident. So if
45 there's three of them, three hunters on this team, that
46 would allow them to have three cows.

47

48 The idea was -- I think the logic
49 behind it was going 15 with one be a cow to not
50

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1 encourage shooting a cow. So, knowing that, I see the
2 logic behind it. The one thing I'm worried about is
3 the fact that -- well, actually it might be better for
4 Unit 22 in that instance because it is protecting the
5 cows. So I'm inclined to -- I kind of convinced myself
6 just now. I might be able to go with this without any
7 more fight on it from me.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 Mr. Seetot.

12

13 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. We don't hunt
14 by accident. We make sure that we get what we want,
15 but if animals move behind another animal, then that
16 would be an accident. We kind of prefer animals that
17 -- like right now the bulls, once they start growing
18 their antler base their meat is good and they do have
19 fat in between the muscles.

20

21 Like someone said, when they rut their
22 hormones overwork, but then you see people on TV. Wow,
23 I got a deer and stuff like that, but they have -- you
24 know, their in different conditions and they have to
25 hang their meat to get the hormones out of the meat
26 system.

27

28 The fastest way that I know to get that
29 hormone out is to soak it in vinegar and water. It
30 will draw away all the blood that produces the stink
31 smell. So there's some things that you have to know in
32 order to -- if you don't want to have stink meat, then
33 you should take vinegar and water to get that system
34 out.

35

36 One thing that our hunters don't really
37 go after until the antler growth has started on the
38 bulls, but if it's like in November or December I would
39 assume that they would go after the females because
40 they're not -- you know, they don't have the hormone
41 liquid in between their muscles.

42

43 I envy the people of the north when
44 they get their fall caribou because the bulls are at
45 their prime and that's where you get all the fat, you
46 know, for tallow for making Eskimo ice cream and such.
47 With the females right now they're just a measly
48 half-inch to a couple inches depending on how much the
49 caribou are harassed by predators. If they have a
50

0027

1 reserve of fat on their back, just by running out and
2 by not eating it could be cut in half within three
3 days.

4
5 So that's what the wildlife resources
6 do out there. Cat and mouse game with each other. One
7 wants to live, the other wants to eat. So that's
8 something that we kind of overlook when we say human
9 harvest is doing all the extraction from the main herd.

10
11 In the past, 20 years ago, I counted
12 pristine reindeer that was owned by the gentleman I
13 just mentioned, Mr. Menadelook of the Kuzitrin River
14 area, where the reindeer were just killed by wolves and
15 only the blood and the tongue was taken. They just
16 lapped up the blood and went on to the next one.

17
18 So there's very many stories that you
19 hear about in the past in and around the lava beds
20 concerning the caribou. This is not the first instance
21 where a major die-off has occurred. I heard of the
22 ones around Point Barrow -- I mean Point Hope area
23 where they have died off.

24
25 I have heard stories in the past where
26 a wolf chased a caribou and a reindeer to a ridge and
27 they just milled around until every last one of the
28 animals died. So there's many things that I have
29 received from elders that are long gone, but hopefully,
30 you know, I don't forget to kind of pass that on. I
31 thought I better, you know, pass it on before, you
32 know, it's forgotten.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that,
37 Councilman Seetot. More information on the record.
38 That's why we're here. I would like to ask Council if
39 anybody has any other discussion to bring up about
40 whether they agree or not. I'm probably the only one
41 that might have been in disagreement, but I resolved
42 that myself by doing my math.

43
44 MS. FREYTAG: Chairman Green, this is
45 Mary Freytag.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, Mary, go ahead.

48
49 MS. FREYTAG: I just want to fully
50

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1 support you and Tom's idea of the collaring of the
2 herd. That would be a great idea. I know in the past
3 the WACH, Western Arctic Caribou Herd, was collared
4 before. I remember in past years we would look on the
5 west side and see where the caribou are at and how much
6 farther they would be before they reach our -- where we
7 go to hunt our caribou. We would always check on that
8 and it was a great information for that herd. Not just
9 to know where they're at, but also to keep track of
10 them and also the health of the herd.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you,
15 Councilwoman Freytag for your comments. I think, since
16 we weren't able to vote on the four RACs together, we
17 only had four and not enough for a quorum, today we
18 have a quorum. We have Mary online with us. So that
19 means we are free to vote on and support the amended
20 motion to -- the written -- correct me if I'm wrong.
21 The written -- go ahead, Gisela.

22

23 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
24 had a little script about what the motion might be, so
25 hopefully this will clarify. I think that the motion
26 that was made in that four Council meeting was to
27 support as modified by the Board of Game to exclude the
28 eastern portion of Unit 26A from the harvest limit
29 reduction and to change the harvest limit to 15 caribou
30 per year only one of which may be a cow in Units 22, 23
31 and the western portion of Unit 26A. Also including
32 Units 21D and Unit 24.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Like I
35 said, I think it's a conservative -- a conservation
36 dealing with the cows to have it to get 15 animals per
37 year per hunter. One can be a cow. I don't have a
38 problem with that at this point. I know that this Unit
39 22 herd needs to have some study done to it and I think
40 collaring would probably be the first thing that I'd
41 like to see done. Just so we can get some kind of
42 knowledge about what this herd is doing and being able
43 to protect it.

44

45 Only then, when we have some
46 information -- you can't make decisions on allocations
47 or the idea that you can change the count. So what I'm
48 going to say is that I think we need some information
49 from this herd so we can make a decision on how to
50

50

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1 better protect it. The only way you're going to do
2 that is get good information and that's how we make
3 decisions here at the table.

4

5 So at this point I think I would
6 entertain -- because the other three Councils went
7 along with it, it's up to us that we have a vote here
8 at this time -- to entertain a motion to accept and
9 vote to support as amended, and I think that was with
10 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The WACH group
11 was our caribou herd group that they were recommending
12 this also. Clean it up if I got something wrong.

13

14 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Again, for the record, Tom Plank, OSM. The Western
16 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group made the proposal of
17 four to one. So the amendment is what the Board of
18 Game did for their amendment.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for the
21 clarification. That's the difference. The Board of
22 Game came and saved everybody. All right. At this
23 time I'll entertain a motion to vote.

24

25 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

28

29 MR. SEETOT: Twenty-eight and
30 twenty-nine were merged together on WP24-28/29 because
31 one was submitted by Western Arctic Caribou Herd
32 Working Group and Northwest Arctic Subsistence Council.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tom, help.

35

36 MR. PLANK: Again, through the Chair,
37 Tom Plank of OSM. To clarify that up, 28 is for -- I
38 just spoke faster than my brain could go. Hold on just
39 a second. Twenty-eight was submitted by Western Arctic
40 Caribou Herd and that involved -- Working Group -- that
41 entails the entire range, and 29 was just Unit 23. So
42 that's why.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So at this time
45 I'd entertain a motion to vote to support as amended.
46 Is there a second? A first and a second, please.

47

48 MR. MOSES: I second. I first. I move
49 to support as amended WP24-28.

50

0030

1 MR. SEETOT: Slash 29.

2

3 MR. MOSES: Slash 29.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We have a motion on
6 the floor. Is there a second?

7

8 MR. REYNOLDS: I second.

9

10 MS. FREYTAG: Question called.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There's a motion on
13 the floor and a second and the question has been
14 called. All those in favor say aye.

15

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Motion passes. All
19 five Council members have voted in favor. Now we move
20 on to the next item.

21

22 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. If I may follow
23 up. There was another action item from the Four
24 Council Meeting. This is if the Council wants to take
25 action on it. During that meeting they also talked
26 about selecting a member of each RAC to create this
27 sort of working group to draft the letter to the State
28 and to the Board to try to address non-resident
29 out-of-state caribou hunters. I just wanted to also
30 share that in case this Council wants to take action.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Feel free to read that
33 so we'll understand it.

34

35 MS. CHAPA: So at the time of the Four
36 Council Meeting there was also discussion and some
37 Councils took action to select a member of each RAC to
38 create a sort of working group to draft a letter to
39 address non-resident out-of-state caribou hunters
40 issues with them.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So how do we go
43 about forming this group? Are we supposed to choose
44 somebody here?

45

46 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, that's correct.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: In the form of a
49 motion and a second? We just need to decide who we're
50

0031

1 going to choose before we do that and then we'd vote on
2 it? That's the action we'd take? Okay. So I'm going
3 to ask Council. I'm going to start with Mary. Give a
4 name, Mary, so we can start chiseling away at this one
5 on who you would think that should sit on this newly
6 forming committee.

7

8 MS. FREYTAG: Clarify that one more
9 time, please.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm going to have
12 Gisela tell you and untwist my words.

13

14 MS. CHAPA: Thank you. For the record,
15 Gisela Chapa. There was discussion about issues with
16 non-resident and out-of-state hunters coming in and
17 hunting caribou. So at the time the group tried to
18 create a working group. A member from each RAC to be
19 part of this working group to draft a letter to address
20 this issue and be sent to the State and the Board.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So there was four of
23 our groups, four RACs, Western Arctic or Western
24 Interior, Seward Peninsula, Northwest Arctic, which is
25 Kotzebue, and North Slope. So that was the four. So
26 our individual meetings, I'm to understand now that
27 we're supposed to choose somebody to put on that
28 newly-forming committee. Which will mean there would
29 be four participants at that committee level to come up
30 with an idea on how to regulate out-of-state or
31 non-resident hunters that regularly participate in
32 these caribou hunts.

33

34 So one of the ways of doing that, and
35 they do that with moose even in Nome, you have to get
36 your moose tag between July such and such a date and
37 August. So that means you have to go to a local vendor
38 or the Department of Fish and Game office to get your
39 tags early, your hunting license and your tags.
40 They've done it in Kotzebue I know that in that area.

41

42 What that does is it forces the
43 out-of-stater to fly up and participate in the hunt.
44 They have to fly to where those vendors are to get that
45 license, Alaska hunting license, and the caribou tags
46 to participate in the area that they want to hunt in.
47 So that's a monetary issue to them. It costs them a
48 lot of money to come up here and get that tag and go
49 back home and then, when the hunting season comes, they
50

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1 fly back up and take part in it.

2

3

4 I think that's one of the avenues that
5 the group will be looking at to see if that doesn't
6 help. It seems to help in the moose hunting. I'm not
7 sure if there's any caribou hunts going on like that
8 other than that. So that's why this is coming into
9 view here so that there's a group there to take it
10 apart and figure out how to manage it better to
11 eliminate the non-resident out-of-state hunter.

12

13 So I guess we need a name from our
14 Regional Advisory Council. I would offer everybody the
15 opportunity. There's four others here besides me and
16 I'll start with Mary to choose a name.

17

18 MS. FREYTAG: Okay, thank you, Mr.
19 Chair. This is Mary Freytag. There's a couple of
20 names that I'd like to submit, but ultimately I think
21 you would do a very fine job on that, Mr. Chair. So
22 that's my recommendation. Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mary.
25 Elmer.

26

27 MR. SEETOT: You, of course, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Seetot.
30 Mr. Moses.

31

32 MR. MOSES: I nominate Louis Green for
33 the RAC special group meeting, letter writing.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Moses,
36 for your vote of confidence as the rest. Mr. Reynolds.

37

38 MR. REYNOLDS: I nominate Robert Moses
39 for the secretary I guess it is.

40

41 MR. SEETOT: Letter writing.

42

43 MR. REYNOLDS: The letter writing.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: She'll let you know
46 what we're talking about to make sure you got -- we're
47 not voting for the Council ourselves.

48

49 MS. CHAPA: I can explain.

50

0033

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Let's take a moment
2 here. Okay, Mr. Reynolds, how say you on the name for
3 this newly forming
4 committee? Who would you like?

5
6 MR. REYNOLDS: I agree with you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I guess I got
9 everybody pointing at me. I've got no choice now. All
10 right. So thank you for your vote of confidence in
11 this. I'll do my best job to represent you at this
12 table.

13
14 So after taking all that apart and
15 redoing it and making this decision, we need to move on
16 to -- is it review and approve the 2023 Fiscal Year
17 Annual Report, Gisela? Does anybody feel the need for
18 a break for five minutes? Is everybody okay? I guess
19 we're going to take a water break then. All right.
20 Five minutes. Then we'll come back and Gisela will go
21 over the Annual Report for 2023. Thanks. A brief
22 recess.

23
24 (Off record)

25
26 (On record)

27
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. We'll come back
29 out of recess here, it's now 3:37. And Gisela is going
30 to review -- we're going to review and approve the
31 fiscal year 2023 annual report, so you have the floor.

32
33 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Again for the record this is Gisela Chapa. I just
35 wanted to point out that the annual report briefing can
36 be found on Page 90 of your books. And these reports
37 are a way for the Regional Advisory Councils to bring
38 regional subsistence uses and needs to the Secretaries
39 attention by communicating them in a letter -- in
40 letter form to the Federal Subsistence Board. And on
41 Page 92 you are going to have this Council's annual
42 report and they were discussed during the fall 2023
43 meeting. And at the time this Council brought up five
44 items to the Board and those are:

45
46 1. Impact to marine mammals in the
47 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands by the trawl fishery
48 fleet.

49
50

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1 2. Impact to Norton Sound bound salmon
2 and commercial fisheries.

3
4 3. Development impacting caribou
5 movement.

6
7 4. Climate change.

8
9 5. Pollutants accumulating in the
10 Arctic Environment.

11
12 And as a reminder, no additional items
13 can be added to this report. If there are additional
14 items that were missed I can make note of those and
15 bring those in time to draft the 2024 report. This is
16 an action item and Council can finalize this report by
17 editing drafted language and then vote to submit the
18 annual report with those suggested edits.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Gisela.
21 Any Council members have anything they want to bring up
22 on this annual report.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Councilman Seetot was
27 Acting Chair when he put this together, is there
28 anything that any Council members see on this that
29 might be missing, she asked if there was anything
30 missing here. It couldn't be added on here but it
31 could be added on to the next annual report of 2024.
32 This is the 2023 fiscal year -- yep, go ahead.

33
34 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. Elmer, Brevig
35 Mission. I think those issues were identified in our
36 last meeting, they're on Page 11 and I would assume
37 that they would cover what we were discussing at that
38 meeting time.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you,
43 Councilman Seetot.

44
45 Council Woman Freytag, anything, any
46 comments on this annual report for 2023.

47
48 MS. FREYTAG: No comment, Mr. Chair.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

2

3 Mr. Moses, any comments.

4

5 MR. MOSES: No comment, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

8

9 Mr. Reynolds, any comments on this
10 annual report.

11

12 MR. REYNOLDS: No comment, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. It sounds
15 like we're in a position to take a vote here so I'd ask
16 for a motion to approve the fiscal year 2023 annual
17 report as written. I need a motion.

18

19 MR. MOSES: I make a motion to approve.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There's a motion on
22 the floor to approve, is there a second.

23

24 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair, I second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Seetot.
27 Call for the question -- any discussion or question.

28

29 MS. FREYTAG: Question called.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council
32 Woman Freytag. Question's been called. All those in
33 favor of approving the fiscal year 2023 annual report
34 say aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And I am an aye so it
39 passes unanimous.

40

41 So that takes us to the next -- where
42 are we at Gisela.

43

44 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, I believe we're
45 on C, yes, call for Federal fish and shellfish
46 regulatory proposals.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There you go, and that
49 would be Mr. Jarred Stone to the table and you have the

50

0036

1 floor. And I promise to pay attention.

2

3

MR. STONE: Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen Hyer is your
6 backup. All right.

7

8

9 MR. STONE: Mr. Chair and members of
10 the Council. Good afternoon. My name is Jarred Stone,
11 I'm a Fisheries Biologist and I'm also Acting Fisheries
12 Division Supervisor. I'm joined here today with Karen
13 Hyer, also a Fish Biologist. And today I'm here to
14 announce our call for Federal fisheries regulatory
15 proposals.

15

16

17

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20

The Federal Subsistence Board will be
accepting proposals to change Federal regulations for
the subsistence take of fish on Federal public lands
and waters for the 202 through 2027 regulatory cycle.

21

22

23

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25

The Board will consider proposals to
change Federal fish seasons, harvest limits, methods
and means and customary and traditional use
determinations.

26

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Again, the window of opportunity to
submit these proposals is not quite open yet, however,
if the Council decides to submit a proposal you can do
that now or at any other time during the meeting and
the Council Coordinator will submit the proposal on
your behalf when the regulatory window does open. We
expect that window to open up here soon, we're not real
sure on an exact date yet.

35

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The general public may also submit a
proposal to change Federal fisheries regulations.
Proposals must be submitted within the 60 day period
once the window opens. The public must submit
proposals to the regulations.gov website. There will
also be a news release that will become available on
our website that will describe the process and
additionally you can follow the Alaska Federal
Subsistence Management Program Facebook page and find
announcements on the regulatory proposal window opening
that way.

47

48

49

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The proposals will be analyzed by OSM
Staff and then presented to the Councils during your
fall meeting and we'll look for your Council

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1 recommendation at that time. Proposal analysis and
2 Council recommendations will be presented to the
3 Federal Subsistence Board for their action during the
4 January 2025 fisheries regulatory meeting.

5

6 And that concludes my update on the
7 call for fisheries proposals.

8

9 Are there any fisheries proposals that
10 you would like to draft today?

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I don't think we have
13 anything on the table right now. What was the due date
14 for this again?

15

16 MR. STONE: We won't have a due date
17 until the regulatory window opens. And we're waiting
18 on that, it could be tomorrow, it could be next week,
19 or three weeks. We're waiting on some final
20 signatures. Once that signature comes through the
21 clock starts ticking and so we have a 60 day open
22 window during that time. My -- if I were to hazard a
23 guess I would say it's going to happen here pretty
24 soon, maybe within the next week or two.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Does that give us
29 ample opportunity to do it at the fall meeting?

30

31 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair for
32 the question. Yep, that should be plenty of
33 opportunity there for you to take it up during the fall
34 meeting even if it is a little bit late. There is some
35 flexibility within our office to change that window so
36 if it gets pushed up into the summer too close we might
37 change it from a 60 day to a 45 day or even a 30 day.
38 I think that's what we have a minimum that we have to
39 announce it for.

40

41 And so I hope that answers your
42 question.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Stone,
45 it did. Anybody on the Council, I'll start with you,
46 Mary, because you're on the phone. Any questions or
47 comments or concerns on this?

48

49 MS. FREYTAG: Yes, I was just curious

50

0038

1 is there a way to know that the movement of our king
2 crab are going further north due to climate change and
3 the water temperature rising just a little bit, that
4 was my only question. Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for the
7 question Council Woman Freytag. Jarred, care to allude
8 to the answer, we don't have biologists sitting here at
9 the table.

10

11 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
12 Chair. You are correct, I can't speculate on that
13 right now. I -- yeah, thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I baled you out.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I think that
20 concludes that unless there's other Council that have
21 any thoughts.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing -- oh, Mr.
26 Seetot.

27

28 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. I think most
29 of the fisheries proposals that we have talked about in
30 the past, they might be proposed or they might be
31 introduced in past correspondence. But the more we
32 talk about fish it seems that if we're going to talk
33 about it in a bad way then we're going to lose it. And
34 TEK knowledge say that's what it tells me.

35

36 But the ecosystem which I have stated
37 many times that very polluted, we've got very polluted
38 waters now for them to really survive or to continue
39 surviving into the years past so -- and also with the
40 warming temperatures it's creating havoc on pretty much
41 all our resources, whether it be land, water or sea.
42 So since you have limited jurisdiction or limited
43 review on certain things that we're asking for then all
44 we can do is just report these are the things we are
45 encountering and hopefully we can find some agencies to
46 help us other than pure intervention, you know, just by
47 change of climate and other stuff beyond our control.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Councilman

50

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1 Seetot. Other Council remarks.

2

3

(No comments)

4

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CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, thank you. So I think Item C has been taken care of at this time and that moves us on to sub letter (i) and that would be you Karen.

MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council members. My name is Karen Hyer, and yes that is me, and next to me is Dr. Hannah Voorhees and she and I worked on the closure review together so we're both going to present it and if you have any questions we're both here to answer them. This is just an informational, this is not an action item and there's nothing to do.

When we open the cycle for fisheries proposals, when they're submitted we do an analysis, and at that time we periodically review our closure reviews and they're on a schedule of approximately every two years. So the Unalakleet was reviewed about two years ago and it's going to be reviewed again this cycle. But what we're trying to do across OSM is do the reviews, or draft reviews, before the period opens so if there's a case of you wanting to submit a proposal to change what's in regulation, then you have the opportunity to know what we're going to be working on.

So for example, the Unalakleet right now is closed to all subsistence users for a period of time, when the chinooks are in the river. And so you might want to -- you might want to submit a proposal to maybe open it just to Federal subsistence users and so that would take a proposal. All we can do with these closures is open and close. So if you want to do any sort of modification you'd have to submit a proposal. So to give you time to think about that we're presenting a draft analysis to you now. You will be commenting on this analysis when you comment on all the fisheries regulatory proposals at the next meeting. So this is just for your information to let you know what we're doing.

But we have, again, reviewed the closure on the Unalakleet River and currently the Unalakleet River is closed to the taking of chinook

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1 salmon from July 1st to July 31st by all users and it's
2 closed on the Federal part of the river, which is the
3 wild river up above the Chirosky -- troski River, how
4 do you say that?

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Chirosky.

7

8 MS. HYER: Chirosky, okay. So at that
9 point from July 1st to.....

10

11 MS. FREYTAG: Chirosky.

12

13 MS. HYER: Chirosky, thank you.
14 Chirosky, so from July 1st to July 31st that part of
15 the river is closed to all subsistence users. So
16 nobody can go fishing up there. Actually it's closed
17 to all users because -- so it's Federal lands so that
18 results in it being the Federal subsistence users but
19 they're trying to protect the spawning grounds of the
20 chinook returning to the river.

21

22 So I want to point out in our book, and
23 I apologize, I didn't realize that some of these -- as
24 you can see from the title, it was a poor print job,
25 but if you go to Page 101 there's a table there and
26 that count is the count on the Unalakleet River, of
27 fish escaping to the Unalakleet River, chinook salmon.
28 So that's a dataset that we looked at when we made the
29 recommendation to continue to keep the river closed.

30

31 And then if you go to Page 103 you can
32 see our preliminary conclusions. And this isn't clear
33 because it didn't print right, but OSM's recommendation
34 is going to be to retain the status quo.

35

36 So if you think, as a Council, that
37 that's something you want to keep, you want to keep the
38 river closed then there's going to be nothing to do
39 when we come back to our meeting to go over this
40 proposal, you'll just support it. If you think you
41 might want to open the river completely then you would
42 recommend opening it. But if you want to put in a
43 different proposal then you'd have to come forward with
44 that proposal at your fall meeting.

45

46 And I'm going to pause for a minute to
47 take any questions.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. Any

50

0041

1 Council questions, comments, concerns.

2

3 Mary, on the phone.

4

5 MR. MOSES: This is Robert.....

6

7 MS. FREYTAG: I am.....

8

9 MR. MOSES: Or, go ahead, Mary.

10

11 MS. FREYTAG: Go ahead Robert.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mary first.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MS. FREYTAG: I am in support of this.

18

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council

21

21 Woman Freytag.

22

23 Council Member Moses.

24

25 MR. MOSES: Yeah, I was going to say

26

26 the same thing, that I'm in support of that too.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your

29

29 comments. Any other Council members.

30

31 MR. REYNOLDS: I'm in support of that

32

32 motion.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Councilman

35

35 Reynolds.

36

37 Councilman Seetot.

38

39 MR. SEETOT: (Nods affirmatively)

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I see him nodding yes

42

42 so I guess he concurs with the others and so do I.

43

43 Retain the status quo.

44

45 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council

46

46 members. I just want to be.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're just saying yes

49

49 we like it.

50

0042

1 MS. HYER: Yes, that's perfect.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're not.....

4

5 MS. HYER: And we're going to ask
6 again. I just want to be really clear, we're going to
7 ask for the official support when we see you again but
8 it sounds like there's not going to be any disagreement
9 so that's a great place to be.

10

11 Thank you, very much.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Do you have anything
14 else?

15

16 MS. HYER: No, I am done. But it was
17 good to be with you guys again.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.
20 Karen Hyer. I think that brings us through to D, the
21 letter D, develop priority information needs for the
22 FRMP, selection of volunteers. Who's going to speak to
23 that. Okay, Mr. Stone, thank you.

24

25 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 Members of the Council. Again, for the record my name
27 is Jarred Stone, Fish Biologist with the Office of
28 Subsistence Management. I am joined here today with
29 Hannah Voorhees, Anthropologist with OSM. And
30 currently right now OSM is at the final phase of the
31 2024 Monitoring Program funding cycle. The Federal
32 Subsistence Board met back in February and approved the
33 final Monitoring Program funding plan. With this cycle
34 coming to an end it's time for Councils to begin
35 developing priority information needs for the 2026
36 Monitoring Program call for proposals.

37

38 Priority information needs, which you
39 might have heard OSM Staff refer to as PINS, are an
40 important component of the Monitoring Program. They
41 identify issues of local concern and knowledge gaps
42 related to subsistence fisheries. Further priority
43 information needs guide the Monitoring Program funding
44 process by determining what types of projects are
45 submitted for funding and providing a framework for
46 evaluating and selecting project proposals.

47

48 We are asking for one or more
49 volunteers from your Council to meet by telephone this

50

0043

1 summer to identify knowledge gaps and gather
2 information needed for the management of subsistence
3 fisheries. Because Seward Peninsula, North Slope, and
4 the Northwest Arctic all share priority information
5 needs for the larger northern region, we would like to
6 get one or two volunteers from each Council. The draft
7 list that we work together and draft this summer will
8 then come to you again in the fall for your final
9 approval. And, again, this is not an action item,
10 we're just primarily looking for one or two volunteers
11 to help us generate some ideas to gather more
12 information needed for the northern region.

13

14 I believe, and correct me if I'm wrong,
15 Council Member Seetot helped us last cycle and you can
16 pick whoever you'd like to for this summer. We'd
17 greatly appreciate your help with this.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, thank you, Mr.
22 Stone. Any Councils volunteer for this.

23

24 (No microphones on)

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You can volunteer,
27 it's up to you, if you want to do it they'll get a hold
28 of you, and be glad to have you I'm sure.

29

30 MR. MOSES: I nominate Mary Freytag
31 from Unalakleet.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I second the motion
34 and ask for unanimous consent if she has no qualms with
35 that, Mary, do you accept?

36

37 MS. FREYTAG: Hi, Mr. Chair, this is
38 Mary Freytag. I gladly accept, thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, very much
41 Mary.

42

43 Go ahead, Jarred.

44

45 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
46 real quickly, Mary, Council Member Freytag, this will
47 be just likely a one phone call, we'll get together and
48 we'll be flexible on times that we can make it work.
49 We'll be accommodating. We understand that during the
50

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1 summer everyone's real busy. And it likely will take
2 about an hour, maybe two hours of your time so just to
3 kind of give you an idea.

4
5 Again, thank you, Council Member
6 Freytag.

7
8 MS. FREYTAG: That will be great, I
9 will go ahead and look forward to it and make sure I
10 put aside time for that. Thank you so much.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Okay, is
13 there any more to add Jarred or are we done there --
14 we're pretty done?

15
16 MR. STONE: Nothing more to add. For
17 the next topic we'll be calling in Cory Graham, Fish
18 Biologist, he's very familiar with Fisheries Special
19 Action 24-01, he's currently in the other room. I'll
20 message him right now and he'll be over here shortly.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So anybody feel
23 the need to have a break for five minutes.

24
25 (Council nods affirmatively)

26
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: How long do you think
28 it'll be Jarred, just guess?

29
30 MR. STONE: The update I would say 10,
31 15 minutes at the very most.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: For him to get here.

34
35 MR. STONE: Oh, for him to get here,
36 less than five minutes.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Council feel
39 free to stand up out of your chair and get coffee but
40 come right back.

41
42 (Pause)

43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Please, we're all back
45 at the meeting here at the table. I think Mary's on
46 the phone. You have the floor, Mr. -- I didn't get
47 your name, I'm sorry.

48
49 MR. GRAHAM: Oh, it's okay. For the
50

0045

1 record my name is Cory Graham and I'm a Fisheries
2 Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for being
5 here.

6

7 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you for having me
8 Mr.Chair. So today I'll be presenting Fisheries
9 Special Action Request FSA 24-01. I believe the
10 Council has a copy of the request.

11

12 So.....

13

14 MS. CHAPA: Sorry, I apologize for the
15 interruption, I just want to -- yes, exactly. The copy
16 of the request is in your envelopes.

17

18 MR. GRAHAM: So, Mr. Chair, thank you.
19 Today we're requesting your Council make a
20 recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board
21 regarding the special action request. The special
22 action request was submitted by the Yukon River
23 InterTribal Fish Commission and the Commission is
24 asking the Board to uphold the conservation and
25 priority consumptive use provisions under Title VIII of
26 ANILCA and to uphold the Yukon River Salmon Agreement
27 by reassuming management of Yukon River chinook, chum
28 and coho salmon throughout the 2024 season. It's
29 requesting the Board do this by one, closing Federal
30 waters of the Yukon River drainage to the harvest of
31 chinook, chum, and coho salmon except by Federally-
32 qualified subsistence users in 2024 and, two, requiring
33 Federal subsistence fishing schedules, openings,
34 closures and fishing methods within Federal waters be
35 determined by the Federal subsistence Manager.

36

37 So since you have the request in front
38 of you I'll just summarize the proponent's
39 justification.

40

41 So the proponent says, Yukon River
42 chinook, chum and coho salmon populations have steeply
43 declined resulting in a failure to meet applicable
44 escapement goals and Treaty obligations in recent
45 years. Subsistence opportunity for salmon has been
46 severely restricted and subsistence salmon needs are
47 not being met. Needs are unlikely to be met in 2024
48 based on preseason forecast and recent years run
49 strength. Salmon runs have not improved since the

50

0046

1 Board approved a similar special action request in
2 2022. Any Federal management actions to open or close
3 subsistence fishing in Federal waters of the Yukon
4 River must uphold the provisions of ANILCA and the
5 Yukon River Salmon Agreement. The proponents stated
6 they are very concerned with a precedent set in 2023
7 wherein the actions of the Federal Manager were solely
8 reactive to management actions by the State of Alaska,
9 an entity, who, as a matter of State Constitutional law
10 cannot provide a rural subsistence priority.

11

12 And the proponents continue that
13 preemptive closures of Federal waters to non-Federally-
14 qualified subsistence users and uses and assumption of
15 Federal management is both warranted and required as
16 necessary for the conservation of declined populations
17 of Yukon River salmon while protecting -- or while
18 providing a reasonable and sustainable subsistence
19 harvest based on ANILCA, Section .815.

20

21 So that's a summary of the proponent's
22 justification. And, again, we're presenting this
23 request to all Councils with a customary and
24 traditional use determination for salmon in the Yukon
25 River drainage and this is Eastern Interior, Western
26 Interior, Yukon Kuskokwim Delta and, of course, Seward
27 Peninsula. Eastern and Western met yesterday and they
28 both supported the special action request as submitted.
29 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta is actually discussing this right
30 now, I think they're putting in a modification to keep
31 some of the waters in the Coastal district open but
32 that hasn't been finalized yet.

33

34 So OSM is in the process of scheduling
35 public hearings and tribal consultations. A public
36 hearing is scheduled for March 20th from 5 to 7 p.m.,
37 the Council will provided more information from the
38 Council Coordinator with the details.

39

40 We will be presenting an analysis to
41 the Federal Subsistence Board with your recommendations
42 in it. The Board is tentatively scheduled to act on
43 April 15th from 1 to 3 p.m., but you will get more
44 information from your Council Coordinator there as
45 well.

46

47 So thank you for your time, Mr. Chair.
48 This is an action item and we're asking you to make a
49 recommendation to approve, reject, modify or defer this
50

0047

1 special action request.

2

3 Thank you, and I'll stand by for
4 questions.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. And you
7 don't have a name tag so I can't remember your name,
8 I'm sorry.

9

10 MR. GRAHAM: Okay, thank you, Mr.
11 Chair. It's Cory.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Cory, thank you.
14 And indulge me with a little humor, I see you chuckling
15 yourself. So my -- let's see I guess I would ask
16 Council members to weigh in on it, I know how I feel
17 about it.

18

19 The C&T, I think we have associated
20 with this RAC is the residents of Stebbins and St.
21 Michaels, or just Stebbins?

22

23 MR. GRAHAM: (Nods affirmatively)

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. But they are a
26 part of our region. So I can concur with the people
27 that are asking for this.

28

29 So, anyway, Mary, are you on the phone,
30 your comments.

31

32 MS. FREYTAG: No comment, Mr. Chair.

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council
36 Woman Freytag.

37

38 Council Seetot.

39

40 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair, all summer I
41 heard about -- radio reports closed to fishing, closed
42 to subsistence fishing, I know they've had these
43 practices for a long number of years and it's pretty
44 hard to forego food, you know, that you have cherished
45 over the years. I would say that -- I would support
46 whatever they're asking for. I assume that we're in
47 the same situation and by not commenting I would think
48 that the conditions for fish to be in our waters would
49 clear up or get a lot better but looking into the
50

0048

1 future I'm not really too sure about that. Anything
2 that would help the population of fish, whether it be
3 Seward Peninsula, Yukon River Delta [sic] or up north
4 areas, I would gladly go for.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Councilman
10 Seetot.

11

12 Councilman Moses, want to weigh in.

13

14 MR. MOSES: No comment.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Councilman
17 Reynolds.

18

19 MR. REYNOLDS: No comment.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you. Just
22 to clarify that, there's the -- you're talking about
23 the fact that there's closures but there's potential
24 openings for subsistence -- I don't know, qualified --
25 Federally-qualified subsistence users, is there such
26 the opportunity for opening?

27

28 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
29 this request is really -- I think of it as more as if
30 there is opportunities provided in the upcoming season
31 then those opportunities will be limited to Federally-
32 qualified users in Federal public waters. This doesn't
33 guarantee openings. Those decisions will be made by
34 the Federal in-season manager.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you. Now
37 I got it clear in my mind. So I guess we have the
38 opportunity to vote on this to have our say at this
39 point because Stebbins is one of our communities in
40 this region. So I'd ask for a motion to take a vote.
41 It's an action item, correct -- no, no, no, this isn't
42 an action item, is it?

43

44 MS. CHAPA: The Council (no microphone)

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, go ahead.

47

48 MS. CHAPA: For the record this is
49 Gisela Chapa. So it's an action item if the Council

50

0049

1 chooses to take action, correct, to support.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There you go.....

4

5 MS. CHAPA: Uh-huh -- okay.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN:that's the
8 question. Okay, I'd like to pose this question again.
9 If the Council so chooses to take a vote to support
10 this I would ask for a motion and a second.

11

12 MR. REYNOLDS: I make the motion.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Councilman
15 Reynolds. Is there a second.

16

17 MR. MOSES: I second.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Councilman
20 Moses. Any discussion.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MS. FREYTAG: Question called.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question's been
27 called. All those in favor of the motion say aye.

28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And I vote aye to
32 support, which is unanimous, so the motion passes thank
33 you.

34

35 Thank you, Cory.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I can see your name
40 tag from here.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm kidding. All
45 right so we're at -- we are now at Item F, future
46 meeting dates and I think Gisela will -- she's been
47 working on it so we'll put you on the mic, you're on
48 the floor.

49

50

0050

1 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
2 the record, Gisela Chapa. And the first item is to
3 confirm the fall 2024 meeting date and location. On
4 Page 126 of your books you're going to see the fall 202
5 -- fall -- excuse me -- the fall 2024 schedule and our
6 Council is scheduled to meet October 24th and 25th in
7 Nome.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Which page?

10
11 MS. CHAPA: 126.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: 126. So what was the
14 dates again, there's no dates on this so.

15
16 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, October 24th and 25th
17 in Nome.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right, got that
20 written in there. So the next one is to select the
21 winter 2025 meeting date and location, on Page 127.

22
23 MS. CHAPA: Correct. And we are -- all
24 of the Councils are in the process of selecting their
25 winter 2025 meeting dates. I wanted to point out that
26 in your books, Page 127, wanted to let you know what
27 dates and what weeks have already been taken up.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

30
31 MS. CHAPA: So give me a second.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

34
35 MS. CHAPA: Okay. So the window opens
36 -- goodness this doesn't have dates, that makes it a
37 little difficult.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Right, there's no
40 dates in here.

41
42 MS. CHAPA: The window opens February
43 17th and it closes April 4th. Now, again, because some
44 of the other Councils are selecting their dates for
45 winter 2025 I can say that the first two weeks are
46 already taken up and so we couldn't meet in those two
47 weeks.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So in.....

50

0051

1 MS. CHAPA: Yes, so that is February
2 28th -- excuse me, February 17th through February 28th,
3 those are already taken.

4
5 MR. SEETOT: The first two lines are
6 already taken.

7
8 MS. CHAPA: The first two lines are
9 already taken. So the available dates are March 3rd
10 through April 3rd.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So March through
13 April.

14
15 (Council talking no microphones)

16
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It would be on a
18 Monday.

19
20 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, to clarify, March 3rd
21 is a Monday, uh-huh.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And April 3rd is
24 a.....

25
26 MS. CHAPA: A Thursday.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thursday.

29
30 MS. CHAPA: Uh-huh.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, we got to pick a
33 time, okay, Iditarod is a busy time in Nome, so
34 probably.....

35
36 REPORTER: Your microphone.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sorry, thanks. I
39 would say that the week of Iditarod that's probably a
40 no doer because the hotel is definitely going to be
41 already packed up, it's probably already reserved.

42
43 MR. SEETOT: Along with the basketball
44 people.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And basketball folks.
47 So that's more like the middle. So we got to be
48 towards the end of March. Is that.....

49
50

0052

1 MS. CHAPA: Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN:the first two
4 lines of March, those blocks.....

5

6 MR. SEETOT: The first two lines are
7 blocked.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Probably not, uh?
10 March 4, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, so it would be the
11 third line and the fourth line -- or the bottom three,
12 excuse me, because it's March through April.

13

14 So anybody got any suggestions.

15

16 MR. MOSES: After Iditarod sometime.

17

18 MS. FREYTAG: Last Monday in March.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So last Monday
21 in March which would be March 31st and then April 1st.

22

23 MR. SEETOT: April Fool's Day.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: April Fool's yeah,
28 psych, we said we were going to be there but we're not.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody like that
33 idea, how many days is it, two or three?

34

35 MS. CHAPA: Two (no microphone)

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Two days. We don't
38 usually go for a Monday because that's like a travel
39 day so April 1 and 2 or 3. I once skied across the
40 Seward Peninsula in the Bering Landbridge and I took
41 off from Shishmaref on the 1st of April and everybody
42 thought it was a joke and we were just kidding around
43 but we went all the way, my brother and I.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So that's a serious
48 date for me too. So I could do that. That's a
49 Tuesday.

50

0053

1 MR. SEETOT: Yeah, 1st of April.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: April 1st.

4

5 MR. SEETOT: And 2nd.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: April 1st is Tuesday,
8 April 2nd is Wednesday so that leaves March 31st for
9 travel and two days, April 1st and 2nd, meeting, April
10 3rd travel out, back home. Does that fit, anybody got
11 any -- are you all in agreement?

12

13 MS. FREYTAG: Sounds great.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right, Mary.

16

17 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, I believe I do
18 need a motion.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, we are.....

21

22 MS. CHAPA: And a location, yeah.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN:getting -- okay.
25 We're going to do this in a form of a motion because
26 this is an action item but the meeting is in Nome and
27 then they'll fly you to Anchorage after.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No, kidding. Elmer's
32 thinking of grocery shopping, I can hear it.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, so in the form
37 of the motion to approve March 31st -- wait, excuse me,
38 April 1st and April 2nd as meeting dates, I'd like a
39 motion and a second please.

40

41 MR. MOSES: I make a motion that we
42 have the winter Advisory Council meeting on April 1st
43 and 2nd, travel date on the 31st and return home April
44 3rd.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: In Nome, right?

47

48 MR. MOSES: In Nome, Alaska, right.

49

50

0054

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Second?

2

3 MR. SEETOT: Second.

4

5 MR. REYNOLDS: I second.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Discussion.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MS. FREYTAG: Question called.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question's been
14 called, those in favor.....

15

16 MS. FREYTAG: Question called.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you, Mary.
19 Question's been called, all those in favor of the dates
20 chosen, March 31st through April 3rd, basically the
21 April 1st and 2nd meeting, two days, say aye.

22

23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mary.

26

27 MS. FREYTAG: Aye.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And Louis is aye,
30 that's unanimous, motion passes.

31

32 Okay, so that brings us up to No. 3 on
33 that future meeting dates block, it's to select fall of
34 2025 meeting date and location, Page 128.

35

36 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 Again, Gisela Chapa. And I'm going to see if I will
38 make this a little bit easier since we don't have
39 actual dates in our calendar. The window for fall 202
40 -- yes, fall 2025 meeting starts September 15th and it
41 closes October 31st. Out of this window the first week
42 is already occupied. The -- the week before the
43 holiday of Columbus day, it is -- that green square
44 that you see in your calendar, so the week prior is
45 also taken. And lastly, the last week when the window
46 closes, that is also not available.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. What was the
49 green one for?

50

0055

1 MS. CHAPA: That is a holiday.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, okay, so DH means
4 designated holiday, okay. And that's closed.

5

6 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair, I apologize, so
7 that -- that week is still open and available.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So there's
10 nothing in September, I didn't write -- scratch out
11 anything fast enough so -- so maybe next time you'll
12 have dates on.....

13

14 MS. CHAPA: Yes.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN:here and make it
17 easier, not that we can't try.....

18

19 MS. WESSELS: For the record, Katya
20 Wessels. The dates that are open is September 22nd
21 through October 3rd, it's wide open. And also any
22 dates between October 14th and 24th.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I don't know about you
25 but September's kind of a hard one for me because
26 there's lots of hunting going on, it's the end of the
27 season, you know, before freeze up sometimes. October
28 I'm more in favor of. I'm looking at the -- there's
29 the designated holiday, there's four days that week
30 that are open and those dates are what?

31

32 MR. SEETOT: 14th through.....

33

34 MS. WESSELS: 14th through 17th.

35

36 MR. SEETOT: Through the 17th.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Through the 17th.....

39

40 MS. WESSELS: Of October. And then
41 October 20th through 24th are open as well.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: October 20 through 24.
44 Anybody have any conflicts with those October dates,
45 just put a finger on one of them and choose that, that
46 week -- the week of the 14th by the green square, and
47 we need two days.

48

49 MS. CHAPA: Uh-huh.

50

0056

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So four days to
2 travel, for all of it, and then underneath that green
3 square is the 20th of October, through that week, to
4 24th of October, Friday of that week. That's what's
5 open.

6
7 MR. MOSES: I make a motion that we
8 travel to Nome for the fall meeting on October 13, have
9 the meeting dates October 14 and 15, and return home on
10 October 16.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a second.

13
14 MR. REYNOLDS: I second.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Discussion.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none.

21
22 MS. FREYTAG: Question called.

23
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question's been
25 called, all those in favor of those dates say aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And aye, so that's
30 another unanimous vote. It passed. Okay the 13th
31 through the 16th, those four days. Okay, so that
32 covers that.

33
34 Now, we're at Item No. 10. We're
35 looking for public and tribal comment on non-agenda
36 items. Do we got a card -- here you go, Melanie, you
37 have the floor. You figured it out. Thank you.
38 Thanks for the help. This is about d(1).

39
40 MS. BROWN: Yes, they're both -- I'll
41 be.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

44
45 MS. BROWN:talking about d(1)
46 lands and I'd also like to say a few words about
47 national standards guidelines. Okay.

48
49 Thank you, my name is Melanie Brown. I
50

0057

1 work for Salmonstate as the Outreach Director and I'm
2 also a tribal citizen of Naknek Native Village.

3

4

5 I'm not sure if you got a briefing on
6 d(1) lands during your fall meeting or not but there
7 were four RACs that submitted letters to the Department
8 of the Interior during the -- well, actually it wasn't
9 in conjunction with -- hmmm, they were approached to
10 send letters of correspondence to Deb Haaland in the
11 Department of the Interior prior to the comment period
12 that was initiated in December and ended in February,
13 on Valentine's Day. But from what I understand people
14 in the -- the decisionmakers in D.C., they still need
15 to hear from people about the importance of d(1) lands.
16 Would -- would it be helpful to have just a really
17 brief kind of summary of d(1) lands, or are you all
18 pretty aware of d(1) lands in Alaska.

18

19

20

21

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49

50

CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think it's a good
idea to hear a refreshed version of.....

MS. BROWN: Sure.

CHAIRMAN GREEN:I'm sure
because.....

MS. BROWN: Okay. So when ANCSA
happened there were a number of BLM lands, around 52
million acres of lands that were kind of an unknown
status, they weren't claimed by regional corporations
or by the State. And so they were left in withdrawn
status. And then at the end of the Trump Era there
were five resource management plans that were created
that would take 28 million acres and open them to
mineral entry and oil and gas exploration and -- and in
withdrawn status these lands are available to access
for traditional and customary uses such as hunting,
fishing and gathering. If the lands are opened to
claims staking and exploration that would restrict the
activities of people, you know, to be able to go after
game and fish and berries and so forth. And it would
also, you know, degrade the lands, even exploratory
activities would scatter herds, scatter caribou herds.
A lot of these lands, they're strategically placed in
corridors that allow for great migrations of caribou
and salmon refugia and so the request is that these
lands stay in the status that they are currently in.
Which is actually kind of an easier lift than trying to
fight something.

0058

1 So the hope is that your RAC will
2 elevate this to the Federal Subsistence Board. And
3 they -- if they hear from enough of the RACs then they
4 will reach out to Secretary Deb Haaland and really send
5 a clear message to the decisionmakers in D.C., about
6 the importance of d(1) lands in feeding rural people in
7 Alaska. People who depend upon these lands to feed
8 themselves and their families.

9

10 Any other questions before I move on to
11 national standards guidelines?

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Since I don't have a
14 chart in front of me I'm kind of having a hard time
15 imagining where this is, do you have any kind of.....

16

17 MS. BROWN: So.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN:an example, or do
20 we have something in our.....

21

22 MS. BROWN:I -- I have an -- I
23 have an info sheet, it has a small map. I,
24 unfortunately, gave away all my maps. Can I hand this
25 to you, Louis?

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sure.

28

29 MS. BROWN: Okay. So you'll have a
30 chance to look at the coding.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So there's.....

33

34 MS. BROWN: So.....

35

36 MS. CHAPA: (No microphone)

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So I guess the other
39 question is, what's the mineral -- is there -- is it
40 like a targeted area in there that there was a -- as
41 far as mining concerned, are there desires for
42 something outside there to see this overturned?

43

44 MS. BROWN: Not necessarily.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there any pressure
47 on it, I guess?

48

49 MS. BROWN: There is an interactive map

50

0059

1 that you can visit on the BLM project website, you
2 know, for the d(1) lands project page. It -- it's
3 really quite an amazing map and you can toggle on and
4 off in different areas. You can see where the State
5 has made some selections for land to be turned over to
6 them, you can see where there are areas that have been
7 identified with certain types of mineralization. There
8 were -- I mentioned the five resource management plans,
9 one of which was in the Bering Sea Western Interior.
10 And then adjacent to that there was another resource
11 management plan in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta with areas
12 that are dangerously close to the Kuskokwim River, in
13 my opinion, especially considering the fact that runs
14 are down, you know, salmon are not returning and people
15 are having to stand down from their normal traditional
16 fishing activities. In my opinion it -- if -- if these
17 lands are open it's just going to further degrade the
18 land and lessen the hope of salmon returning or
19 potentially breaking -- completely breaking the life
20 cycle of salmon and preventing their return.

21
22 There's another resource management
23 plan, in the Ring of Fire, which has scattered patches
24 of land. In Bristol Bay there was also a resource
25 management plan with lands close to Iliamna Lake and
26 the Naknek/King Salmon area. I may be forgetting --
27 oh, there are also tracts near the village of
28 NewStuyahok. And I think I'm forgetting another
29 resource management plan. I'm sorry, I -- I don't have
30 a map to reference at this point. But if you want to
31 dig in deeper I would recommend that you take a look at
32 the project page on the BLM website for d(1) lands.

33
34 Yeah, you know, if you could, you know,
35 check out the information that I've provided.

36
37 I have this other -- this overview
38 which would point you to a lot of really interesting
39 information and background on d(1) lands that I'd like
40 to share with you as well. I'll be sure to leave that
41 with you before I walk away.

42
43 I'm sorry I'm not better equipped. I'm
44 better at kind of like the big broad strokes of
45 information that are enough to peak people's interest
46 and hopefully interest them enough to dig in a little
47 more.

48
49 MS. WESSELS: I'm sure we could make
50

0060

1 copies.

2

3 MS. BROWN: Okay. So this is the
4 background sheet.

5

6 MS. WESSELS: Okay, I'll get it copied.

7

8 MS. BROWN: Would you like to hear
9 about national standards guidelines?

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, let's do this one
12 here. I'm kind of in a quandary here because I -- like
13 this chart here is not quite -- you can't see -- it's
14 way up here. I'm -- myself, I'm not against mining as
15 long as it's done the way it should be done or supposed
16 to be done and there's a lot of regulation in there to
17 make sure that people get in smaller mines that, you
18 know, could be taking place in here. To me that's an
19 economic benefit to anybody that lives in the area.
20 I'm not saying I'm not against -- I'm saying I'm not
21 against mining but these things have -- how long has
22 this thing been in closure, since '71 or.....

23

24 MS. BROWN: Yeah, or.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN:when did
27 they.....

28

29 MS. BROWN:I wouldn't say -- so
30 the term is withdrawn and that just means that the
31 lands are open to access for -- for traditional use as
32 well as for sporthunting and fishing. There is -- they
33 don't have official wilderness status but essentially
34 they are -- are -- they are kind of in this wilderness
35 status with -- but not as high of protections as
36 National Parks where you can't even perturb the stones,
37 so this is more like public lands that can be accessed
38 for -- for hunting, fishing and gathering and for
39 recreational uses.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, so, thank you.
42 So I guess my -- circle back around to my question, is
43 there any pressure to open these lands because of
44 mining?

45

46 MS. BROWN: I don't know of any
47 specific projects that have been named, just that the
48 lands have been explored and their mineral potential is
49 known and can be observed on that project web page that
50

0061

1 I mentioned before.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. You said you
4 presented this -- I know you've been going around and
5 presenting this to the other RACs so what kind of feel
6 do you have there from the other -- what's the
7 indicators from the other RACs on how they want to see
8 it?

9

10 MS. BROWN: Oh, my -- my indication is
11 that they -- they are wanting to elevate it to the
12 Federal Subsistence Board because they recognize the
13 importance of these lands for feeding the people of
14 Alaska.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So if it's getting
17 elevated to the Federal Subsistence Board what -- what
18 takes place there?

19

20 MS. BROWN: Well, the hope is that the
21 Federal Subsistence Board will reach out to Secretary
22 Deb Haaland of the Department of the Interior because
23 she has -- she's one of the decisionmakers in
24 Washington, D.C., that will determine the future fate
25 of these lands.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So that's what
28 I was trying to.....

29

30 MS. BROWN: Okay.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN:line out.....

33

34 MS. BROWN: Okay.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN:we're not --
37 we're not really deciding the fate, we're just an
38 instrument to move it forward to the Federal
39 Subsistence Board so it gets to the Secretary of
40 Interior to make a decision?

41

42 MS. BROWN: Yes, my -- my understanding
43 is that the RACs can't appeal to the -- to the
44 Secretary of the Interior directly so that's why I --
45 I've been using the language of elevating it to the
46 Federal Subsistence Board.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So, thank you.
49 So what happens is it gets deliberated -- the Federal

50

0062

1 Subsistence Board takes it up.....

2

3 MS. BROWN: Yes.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN:and they
6 deliberate on it -- do they not?

7

8 MS. BROWN: I imagine they would, yeah,
9 they -- they would need to decide if -- if it is of
10 importance enough to -- to bring it forward.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

13

14 MS. BROWN:to the Secretary -- to
15 the Secretary of the Interior.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Right. Then the
18 Secretary of the Interior and their people decide one
19 way or the other?

20

21 MS. BROWN: Yes.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And so they're going
24 to be the ones that are going to deal with it if
25 there's any mining interest in there or.....

26

27 MS. BROWN: Yes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN:people that want
30 to preserve it, it'll be at that level -- I don't want
31 to be that level, that's what I'm trying to say because
32 I come from a place -- we come from a place, the Seward
33 Peninsula, and it's mining and there's -- of course
34 there's subsistence and I'm not -- anyway, I just
35 wanted to make sure the weight's not on our shoulders,
36 we're just passing it up hill?

37

38 MS. BROWN: Yes, that's my hope and I
39 appreciate you consideration in this matter.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Council, Mary
42 Freytag, what do you think?

43

44 MS. FREYTAG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
45 thoughts are with my tribe and for our people and also
46 we had joined the Yukon Kuskokwim InterTribal Council,
47 going to support not opening up the withdrawn land to
48 any kind of sort of mining because it's our -- our
49 livelihood is right there and it's critical that we

50

0063

1 keep it safe for our future generations. So if we can
2 protect it, you know, for the rest of our lives that'd
3 be great. But, you know, that's -- I wanted to weigh
4 in on that area.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council
9 Woman Freytag. I will call on Councilman Seetot, for
10 your comments.

11

12 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. I think a
13 letter was written to the State Director of Bureau of
14 Land Management on June 30th saying that -- urging BLM
15 to retain the d(1) protections so it is stated on
16 record from Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, that's what

19 I.....

20

21 MS. BROWN: That's great.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN:was -- Councilman
24 Moses.

25

26 MR. MOSES: When we had our fall
27 meeting in Nome last year another lady presented the
28 same thing with the same picture of what you just
29 handed Louis but it was in pink and she explained to us
30 like that and she had a big map too. And she warned
31 us, she said be very careful what you do or say with
32 whatever you do with this proposal. She said it just
33 like that, be very careful of what you do and say with
34 this proposal to -- if you write a letter to them, or
35 wherever the letter goes up the chain. But I forgot
36 her name but she was up there at our meeting in Nome
37 last fall and she did give us a warning about the d(1)
38 lands.

39

40 And I'm against it also just for our
41 subsistence way of life. But like Louis said if they
42 do it right it can be done in the right way, you know.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mr. Reynolds --
49 Councilman Reynolds, you have any comment towards this?

50

1 MR. REYNOLDS: No comments but a point
2 of interest perhaps. St. Lawrence Island Native
3 Corporation closed the island for mining -- mining
4 corporation -- BLM made some core samples and found
5 lidnimum* (indiscernible), which they wanted to mine
6 but the Native Corporation vetoed that because they
7 promised to clean up their tailings and material and
8 they never live up to their promises. The same with
9 Northeast Cape* on St. Lawrence Island, the military
10 had a presence there during World War II and there's a
11 program, they use that for an airstrip and they
12 promised to clean up the mess and we're still
13 remediating it to this day. And St. Lawrence Island,
14 the economy is based on fishing and any halibut you
15 might eat in Anchorage is probably St. Lawrence Island
16 halibut.

17
18 MS. BROWN: Uh. Thank you.

19
20 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So.....

23
24 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Gisela, yep.

27
28 MS. CHAPA: I just have a quick
29 comment. Council Member Seetot was referring to a
30 letter that was submitted, the copy of the letter is on
31 Page 109 and I just wanted to clarify that that is a
32 comment letter to the BLM. So to BLM regarding the
33 draft EIS on this issue, so it wasn't sent to the
34 Federal Subsistence Board, it was sent directly to BLM
35 as a comment.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Coordinator
38 Gisela for that. I signed the letter, I was the
39 Devil's Advocate in this conversation, I'm not against
40 preserving land for good reason and our charge here is
41 subsistence. So do we need to vote on this or do we
42 just -- I don't think it's an action item.

43
44 MR. REYNOLDS: One other point of
45 interest. St. Lawrence Island has no natural predators
46 but wolverine and wolf have been showing up and the
47 only reason for that is the ride the ice from Siberia
48 and the corporation puts a bounty on those wolves and
49 wolverines and only two have been harvested in the last
50

0065

1 20 years.

2

3

MS. BROWN: That is really interesting.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Yeah, that's the first time I've heard of that. So, anyway, I guess I wanted to vett this out really good here so I think we did that and we have everybody's comments on preserving d(1).

7

8

9

10

11

MS. BROWN: Thank you.

12

13

14

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, so the letter's already been sent in?

15

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MS. BROWN: Oh, so there were some letters that went in after the fall meetings, you know, there were some representatives, you already mentioned, Member Moses, you know, that somebody came and presented to you about d(1) lands and there were four RACs that submitted letters to the -- directly to the Department of Interior but since then, my understanding is that there's a ruling that restricts RACs from reaching out directly to Secretaries of Departments of State, such as the Department of the -- Secretary of the Interior, or Secretary of Commerce and so forth. I saw that legal language just before I came to attend this meeting. So that's why it's my hope that you will elevate it to the Federal Subsistence Board in your report that is from this meeting.

31

32

33

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So then -- thank you.

34

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MR. WESSELS: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: This went to Steve Cohn to the BLM from us.

MS. WESSELS: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's -- go ahead.

MS. WESSELS: I just wanted to note that I guess the request is to add it to the annual report, we cannot add any new topics to annual report at this meeting, just review and approving the one that we have already in the books. So if the Council decides to do anything about it it just needs to be a separate

0066

1 letter.

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CHAIRMAN GREEN: And this letter to the BLM is officially sent out and it was dated January 20th of 2024 so that's already in the process. So I think we don't need to take any other action or do we, I want to make sure we get this straight.

MS. CHAPA: Yeah, it's up to the Council to take action but I wanted to clarify. The letter that is in your -- in your books was sent directly to the BLM, not to the Federal Subsistence Board and it was to submit a comment on behalf of the Seward Peninsula RAC because they -- they had an open comment period on this very topic.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

MS. CHAPA: So it was sent to the BLM as a comment, not the Federal Subsistence Board.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. And because I didn't catch it -- I started to study it and see where I was -- but I kind of got lost in some other stuff, so excuse me for that. But the RAC met last year and I wasn't a part of it so I kind of missed some of the details so.

MS. BROWN: Okay.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: So if we want to do this as a RAC at this point then we're elevating it and putting it before the Federal Subsistence Board so how would we -- would we just make a motion.....

MS. WESSELS: To write a letter.

CHAIRMAN GREEN:to write a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board on behalf of the RAC in support of d(1), do we.....

MS. BROWN: In support of Alternative A, which is to -- it's the no -- it's the no action alternative which would leave the lands in the status that they're currently in.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Status quo.

MS. BROWN: Yes.

0067

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Can we word the motion
2 so we can move -- help, Coordinator.....

3
4 MS. CHAPA: Yes, Gisela Chapa for the
5 record. I believe the motion is to submit a letter to
6 the Board requesting -- excuse me -- submit a letter to
7 the Board from Seward Peninsula RAC in support of
8 Alternative A in the draft EIS on ANCSA 17d(1)
9 withdrawals. Is that correct?

10
11 MS. BROWN: That sounds good to me,
12 thank you.

13
14 MS. CHAPA: Okay.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Who would like to make
17 that motion.

18
19 MS. FREYTAG: Chairman Green, this is
20 Mary Freytag, I so move the motion.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There's a motion on
23 the table is there a second.

24
25 MR. SEETOT: I second.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Councilman
28 Seetot. There's a second. Any discussion.

29
30 MR. REYNOLDS: I second.

31
32 MS. FREYTAG: Question.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question's been
35 called, all those in favor.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Say aye.

40
41 MR. MOSES: Aye.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We have to have a
44 little -- we have to take that back, we got one fell
45 outside the room here, I didn't catch that. So I'll
46 vote to elevate it but we need one more vote to pass
47 the action so we're going to wait for Mr. Moses.

48
49 (Pause)

50

0068

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mr. Moses, do you vote
2 in favor of elevating to the Federal Subsistence Board?

3

4 MR. MOSES: Yes.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, thumb's up, so
7 that's five.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Status quo. Okay.

12

13 MR. SEETOT: They need to hear it.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, that's what I'm
16 waiting for.

17

18 MR. MOSES: Yes.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Since there's five
21 votes yes it's unanimous so send the letter please.

22

23 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Now,
26 there's some more information that you have to share
27 with us that will affect something to do with the
28 letter that we're writing on the fisheries side of
29 things?

30

31 MS. BROWN: Yes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And it has to do with
34 the national standards and there's three points.
35 There's No.4, No. 8 and No. 9.

36

37 MS. BROWN: Correct.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And she's going to
40 elaborate.

41

42 MS. BROWN: I'll do my best.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

45

46 MS. BROWN: So this pertains to the
47 ocean space and this is another item that I'm hoping
48 that you will make a plea to the Federal Subsistence
49 Board about -- for them to reach out to NOAA and NMFS

50

1 under the Department of Commerce.

2

3

4 So the Magnuson-Stevens Act is what
5 guides the Amendment 80 Fleet out in the Bering Sea and
6 the Gulf of Alaska in Federal waters and there are
7 changes that need to be made to the Magnuson-Stevens
8 Act to improve conditions in the hopes that more salmon
9 will return to their terrestrial environments and the
10 Yukon and the Kuskokwim Rivers are the rivers that are
11 of the greatest concern. People have been suffering
12 and river communities and coastal communities not being
13 able to participate in their salmon culture in the
14 summer. And they've been standing down for quite some
15 time and, yet, there hasn't been any improvement. So
16 clearly the reasoning behind the salmon not returning
17 has to do with what is happening in the ocean. And I
18 acknowledge that some of what's happening in the ocean
19 is climate related, some of it may be also carrying
20 capacity and how hatchery fish are creating feeding
21 pressures on wild stocks but I also believe that the
22 Amendment 80 Fleet is creating undue pressure since the
23 inception of their fishing activities.

23

24

25 And the national standard guidelines
26 are another set of rules that govern how the Amendment
27 80 Fleet conducts their activities on the ocean. And
28 there are three national standard guidelines that are
29 currently under review. There are drafts that are
30 anticipated to come out in April so unfortunately there
31 isn't draft language to look at right now but there is
32 language that we are hoping to see in the new drafts of
33 these standards, or these guidelines and they pertain
34 to allocation -- the numbers that you mentioned, 4, 8
35 and 9, they pertain to allocation, communities and
36 bycatch. And we feel that if the new language is
37 written in a certain way it will create triggers that
38 might cause the Amendment 80 Fleet to stand down when
39 runs returning to the land, or to the rivers are down
40 and it may -- may finally return salmon to -- to these
41 rivers.

41

42

43 The State fisheries they all have to
44 stand down when runs are low or diminishing or when
45 interception is perceived or thought to -- to decrease
46 runs in neighboring river systems. I, myself, in
47 Bristol Bay, I've had to stand down from my fishing
48 activities when I -- I fish out of the Naknek River and
49 the Kvichak run was low and we either had to stop
50 fishing altogether or -- or be restricted to a very

50

0070

1 small area inside the river so that we -- so that we
2 couldn't intercept fish on their way to the Kvichak and
3 I don't understand why the Amendment 80 Fleet never has
4 to -- why they're never forced to stand down. Instead,
5 they -- they are allowed to achieve their total
6 allowable catch every single season and they petition
7 to extend their season if they don't reach their
8 allowable -- total allowable catch. This maximum yield
9 practice is causing people to suffer in our state and
10 something needs to be done and I think the national
11 standard guidelines being redrafted with language that
12 can trigger the necessary changes is a good place to
13 start.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So you said extend the
16 season, how does that take place?

17

18 MS. BROWN: Well, it -- my
19 understanding is that they -- they petition to extend
20 until they reach their total allowable catch.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, TAC, so what
23 about bycatch quotas, is that where you're talking
24 about the extensions?

25

26 MS. BROWN: So bycatch is included in
27 the total allowable catch.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So just
30 recently I just heard of when they hit -- they get
31 close to the bycatch quota number for herring they
32 either doubled it or they tripled it and they kept
33 marching on. Are you aware of that?

34

35 MS. BROWN: I don't -- you know, there
36 -- there's a lot that I don't understand about the
37 Federal water space. I am just now sort of dipping my
38 toe in it because I've been so concerned about the
39 numbers of -- of bycatch that I've been hearing, or
40 non-target species that -- that I've been hearing about
41 and that's why I'm speaking up right now because of
42 this opportunity and I'm trying to share information so
43 that people can act upon this.

44

45 But my understanding is that herring
46 isn't even counted as -- as bycatch.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, and I was
49 wondering about that, but I did hear that, they talked

50

0071

1 about upping the quota allowable for them to keep going
2 so -- I didn't look into it, I thought maybe you'd have
3 something on it.

4
5 Just so folks know that you're talking
6 about this TAC, that relates to the targeted species
7 and you add it on the ability of the non-targeted
8 species to be taken, basically that's as bycatch. The
9 target -- the poundage is -- on the average for the
10 last 10 years, this decade, this last decade has been
11 141 million pounds, which after seven years totals to
12 be a billion pounds of bycatch which is wasted. You're
13 talking about halibut, crab, marine mammals, it's all
14 in there. So just for people to have an idea of what
15 actually is really happening out there, and that's all
16 recorded. That's not -- who's to say what isn't
17 recorded. I suspect it to be much higher than that but
18 that's speculation, maybe, I don't know.

19
20 So anyway, these are -- I feel these
21 are important points to be -- this to be made and this
22 would be in Congress, correct, if they were doing these
23 changes, they'd.....

24
25 MS. BROWN: I -- I can't.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN:have to reopen it
28 or I'm trying to understand that.

29
30 MS. BROWN: Well, changes to -- changes
31 to the Magnuson-Stevens Act for reauthorization would
32 need to happen in the House and the Senate in D.C. But
33 the national standards guidelines, they can be reviewed
34 and revised outside of the reauthorization of MSA
35 process.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So I'm looking
38 at the national standard -- National Marine Fisheries
39 Service listed right there next to it, so is that at
40 the level it gets dealt with and not through
41 Congressional Acts?

42
43 MS. BROWN: Right. So NMFS operates
44 hand in hand with NOAA which exists under the
45 Department of Commerce.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So that's the level
48 that it would get to, it's not -- like I said, not a
49 Congressional change?

50

0072

1 MS. BROWN: No, this would not go into
2 the -- the national capital, or be reviewed there, it
3 would be reviewed in the Department of NOAA and NMFS.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, so outside the
6 reauthorization Act, is there a date.....

7
8 MS. BROWN: Yes.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN:that that's
11 supposed to take place or is it just something that's
12 just been pushed over and pushed ahead?

13
14 MS. BROWN: So from what we heard from
15 John Kurland who works with Janet Coit in NOAA/NFMS, he
16 mentioned at the meeting last week that the draft
17 language would be released in April and that all three
18 drafts would be released at the same time and the
19 timing is actually kind of critical because it -- it
20 would be good for this to happen under this
21 Administration, under the Biden Administration because
22 we don't know who is going to be in power next and how
23 -- you know, how that might affect the outcomes of the
24 draft language.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. I'll start with
27 Mary. You got anything there, Mary, that you would
28 like to ask about or comment on.

29
30 MS. FREYTAG: One of the things in
31 ANILCA is protection for subsistence users in that
32 area, in their own area and it's critical that we keep
33 this ANILCA alive and living, it's our living document,
34 it's like a Bible, we need to keep that going so
35 whatever that can help with preserving our status as
36 quo and also it makes necessary changes if there's a
37 decline, I am all for that, but that's where I stand at
38 the moment.

39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council
43 Freytag. Anybody else. We're at about 5:09 so.....

44
45 MR. SEETOT: No comments.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No comments, okay.

48
49 MR. MOSES: I just hope we don't rush
50

0073

1 in this thing with this d(1) lands because I feel it's
2 real important. It has to do with our way of life and
3 all we do in the village and how we live and if this
4 thing falls through somehow we're going to be impacted
5 by outsiders to where they're going to bring heavy
6 equipment and they'll tear up the land and they'll get
7 what they need and then there'll be some good work for
8 some people but in the long run it's not going to be
9 there forever, it won't be no 20 year project, I think.
10 They'll make it to where they'll bring in the big
11 equipment to make the roads and it'll probably -- some
12 places will probably be like the Ambler -- the Red Dog
13 Mine Road and that'll affect all -- wherever the d(1)
14 lands are, they open up, there will be consequences
15 later but time will tell.

16

17 So I just hope we do it in the chain of
18 command in the right way.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council
21 Moses. So just a comment on that. I think that it's
22 overwhelming support to keep it status quo where it's
23 at. I don't see it any other way. But it's up to the
24 -- we move it up to the Federal Subsistence Board and
25 they deal with it and then it goes to the Secretary of
26 the Interior and they'll be dealing with it at that
27 level.

28

29 So nothing, you got anything.

30

31 MR. REYNOLDS: (Shakes head negatively)

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So I think
34 Melanie, we'd like to say thank you for giving your
35 presentation here and I got this in here so that
36 letter.....

37

38 MS. BROWN: Great.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN:we need to look
41 at that letter about -- that fisheries letter that the
42 whole 10 RACs talked about. So thank you for your
43 time.

44

45 MS. BROWN: Great. Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And figuring out how
48 to do this.

49

50

0074

1 MS. BROWN: If I may I'd like to give a
2 copy of this to your Coordinator. Thank you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for coming
5 in.

6
7 MS. BROWN: Thanks for your
8 consideration.

9
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. All right, so
11 our next -- are you going to speak to this -- okay.

12
13 (Pause)

14
15 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
16 is Gisela Chapa. I guess we're ready to move to other
17 business.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, sorry, yes.

20
21 MS. CHAPA: Thank you. Again, for the
22 record Gisela Chapa. And I just want to provide the
23 Council with a correspondence update and real briefly,
24 the letters that the Council has requested to be
25 submitted from the fall 2023 meeting. Start on Page
26 109. And I'll give you a brief overview.

27
28 The first letter that was submitted was
29 the comment letter to BLM regarding the draft EIS on
30 ANCSA 17d(1) withdrawals. And that's on Page 109.

31
32 There was also a joint letter to the
33 North Pacific Fishery Management Council regarding
34 bycatch and representation [sic] on Page 111.

35
36 The Council had also requested a letter
37 to be sent to Kawerak and UAF to train more people in
38 subsistence practices. That still has not been drafted
39 but will be brought up in the fall meeting.

40
41 And there's, I think, one more letter
42 in your book that is a letter of -- that may be of
43 interest to this Council and Page 115 you'll find a
44 letter from the Federal Subsistence Board Chair to the
45 Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Agriculture
46 regarding issues with the salmon crises in the Yukon
47 and Kuskokwim Delta.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. These are not
50

0075

1 action items, they're just information. So the last
2 one in there is listed, I thought you were going to
3 read it but it's a status of a letter requested to
4 Kawerak and UAF to train -- oh, yeah, you already did
5 that. Sorry.

6
7 Okay, we covered it.

8
9 So that puts us -- this is all other
10 business, where are we at? The current charter change
11 review, Coordinator's turn.

12
13 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 Again, Gisela Chapa. And your Council's 2020 [sic]
15 charter can be found on Page 186. And I just wanted to
16 briefly go over the changes that were approved in the
17 charter.

18
19 I think basically under Section 12 of
20 membership and designation, the Council -- I'll just go
21 over what's in the charter.

22
23 The Council is composed of 10
24 representative members and one non-voting yout -- young
25 leader member. All representatives must be members of
26 the region represented by the Council and must be
27 knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to
28 subsistence uses of fish and wildlife, in addition to
29 being a resident of the region represented by the
30 Council. The one non-voting young leader member must
31 be between the age of 18 and 25 and must participate in
32 subsistence activities. Be otherwise knowledgeable in
33 matters related to subsistence users of fish and
34 wildlife or be engaged in a resource management related
35 field of study.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you for
38 that. So the item -- that was Item B, now Item C is
39 the follow up on joint Council action items.

40
41 MS. CHAPA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
42 just a brief summary of what's happened throughout the
43 week. We've had some joint Council meetings and the
44 results of those meetings have been the suggested --
45 the suggestions of drafting letters by all Councils to
46 address several issues.

47
48 One is to address bycatch issues as a
49 joint Council.

50

0076

1 Another one is to address Council
2 compensation, again, as an all Council.

3
4 Third one would be to address
5 correspondence delays or responses from the Board.

6
7 And, lastly, a letter to address
8 caribou issues.

9
10 And I provided copies of the drafts
11 that have been circulated for reference.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Again,
14 bycatch, compensation and -- let's see bycatch is one,
15 compensation is two, what was the third one again?

16
17 MS. CHAPA: Correspondence delays or
18 responses from the Board.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Right. Any
21 questions from Council, any comments. Mary, we'll
22 start with you.

23
24 MS. FREYTAG: No comments, thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council
27 Woman Freytag.

28
29 Councilman Seetot.

30
31 MR. SEETOT: No comment.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

34
35 Councilman Moses.

36
37 MR. MOSES: No comment.

38
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

40
41 Councilman Reynolds.

42
43 MR. REYNOLDS: No comment.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. And
46 there's no comment from me. So go ahead.

47
48 MS. CHAPA: Thank you. So if the
49 Council chooses to be added to any of these letters we
50

0077

1 would need an official motion and the Council would
2 need to vote.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So we got four.

5

6 MS. CHAPA: Correct.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right, so has
9 anybody taken a look at the bycatch letter that we
10 worked on with all the Councils the other day, there
11 was 10 Councils at the table. Remember all that.
12 There was another -- maybe one final draft, but does it
13 look that one?

14

15 MS. CHAPA: It looks like that, yeah
16 (no microphone) I don't have the updated one.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: This one, okay. So
19 I'll give you guys a few minutes to look it over.
20 Yeah, it's got to go to the Federal Subsistence Board,
21 it's pretty important. I'm going to turn my mic off.

22

23 (Pause)

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There is some strong
26 direct language in here that people felt that was
27 necessary to put in this letter. I was called upon to
28 help look it over, the first draft, and this is what
29 came out of a meeting that I attended.

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think what's going
34 to happen is this is going to -- say we vote to go
35 forward with it, it's going to get -- there's nothing
36 that can get changed on there but the talk is that it's
37 going to come out that we might be able to do something
38 in the fall meeting.

39

40 Katya.

41

42 MS. WESSELS: Well, the whole process
43 is the Council discussed together the general ideas of
44 the letters that they would like to send to the Federal
45 Subsistence Board to elevate some issues. Now, in
46 individual meetings Councils will discuss which letters
47 they want to sign on and then we'll prepare the draft,
48 the draft will be sent to the Chairs, then potentially
49 the Chairs can meet again before the Board meeting and
50

0078

1 discuss these letters, you know, just like the main
2 content. We don't know yet if we will bring these
3 letters to you in the fall or perhaps the Chairs can
4 just finalize it based on joint discussion that all the
5 Councils had.

6
7 So I think at this point you just --
8 your Council needs to decide which letters you want to
9 sign on and then you will get to review the draft
10 letter once we draft it based on every discussion that
11 we had. And you can have additional discussion on
12 these topics now if you want to add something else to
13 these letters and that will add your ideas to these
14 letters as well.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thanks. So with
17 that we have time to add to it into the -- wait a
18 minute.

19
20 (Pause)

21
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: This will come up
23 again before it gets -- it's going to draft like you
24 said so if there's anything to add at that point it's
25 still in draft?

26
27 MS. WESSELS: Well, yeah, you.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Right. I mean.....

30
31 MS. WESSELS: You as the Chair will be
32 able to add something later but.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

35
36 MS. WESSELS:you know, if Council
37 members have some ideas what else need to be added,
38 speak up now, and there's four letters right now.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So Mary do you
41 have a copy of this?

42
43 MS. CHAPA: Of this one?

44
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes.

46
47 MS. FREYTAG: Pardon?

48
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: This is mine. Maybe
50

0079

1 we need to get this to you because you can't make any
2 decisions without anything in front of you.

3

4 MS. CHAPA: I believe I sent it to her.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, she's checking
7 Mary.

8

9 MS. FREYTAG: Okay.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What this came out of
12 was all the 10 RACs in the meeting hashed this out and
13 this is a draft and the outcome of all the conversation
14 we had about the bycatch issue. It's basically two
15 pages, front side, back side, and it's addressed to the
16 Federal Subsistence Board, Mary.

17

18 MS. FREYTAG: Okay.

19

20 (Pause)

21

22 MS. CHAPA: (No microphone)

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Gisela said she sent
25 it to you just now.

26

27 (Pause)

28

29 MS. FREYTAG: Chairman Green, can you
30 go forward with the other Council members while I'm
31 waiting for my email.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sure, thank you. So
34 what you have before you here, is there a desire to
35 forward this?

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You guys, the other
40 Council members were in the main meeting so you kind of
41 got a gist of what's going on, Mary's the one that.....

42

43 MR. MOSES: Do we have to make a
44 motion?

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, we have to make
47 a motion to.....

48

49 MR. MOSES:to accept this?

50

0080

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: To accept it, yeah.
2 And then the Staff does the -- writes it up as a draft
3 for a later meeting.

4
5 MR. MOSES: Mr. Chair, I make a motion
6 to accept the letter for the Federal Subsistence
7 Board.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: On bycatch.

10
11 MR. MOSES:of bycatch.

12
13 MR. REYNOLDS: I second the motion.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. There's a first
16 and a second. Any discussion.

17
18 (Pause)

19
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing no discussion,
21 call for the question.

22
23 MR. SEETOT: Did she get the letter?

24
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, she's got it, do
26 we need to wait for Mary on this she's.....

27
28 MS. WESSELS: Well, she needs to vote.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, she needs to
31 vote so she needs to see what's on there. I'm trying
32 to jump ahead here by accident.

33
34 (Pause)

35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So this other letter
37 is a joint Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils to
38 the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board about the
39 issue of Council member compensation and to get
40 correspondence, to have them follow up on it, and --
41 we're waiting on Mary on the other. I'll have you guys
42 look these over. It's something that's been asked for
43 before, it's about compensation for being on the RAC.
44 We've done a lot of work for free.

45
46 (Pause)

47
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So Mary do you feel
49 like you have enough on that bycatch letter that you
50

0081

1 could vote?

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is she still on?

6

7

REPORTER: It says she's still there.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Does anybody need to
10 take a five minute break, nope, just (no
11 microphone).....

12

13

(Pause)

14

15

16

17

18

19

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. This is Gisela
Chapa. I could try to summarize what the Council
compensation letter is about and the correspondence
delays.

20

21

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, thank you.

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

MS. CHAPA: Okay. So Gisela Chapa for
the record. What was discussed in this potential All
Council letter to address Council compensation is
basically a request to the Secretaries to consider
providing honoraria to Council members who are in RAC
meetings acting in an official capacity because as of
now you don't get anything. So that is the summary of
what that letter would be about.

30

31

32

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks.

33

34

(Pause)

35

36

37

38

MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair. There's a
comment on the chat that Ms. Freytag is speaking and no
one is responding.

39

40

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hold on, she's --
Mary.

41

42

43

44

45

MS. FREYTAG: Yes, I haven't received
my email and my audio wasn't working, I was trying to
get so I just hung up and called here.

46

47

48

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So how do we
reconnect you to the system.

49

50

REPORTER: Have her call back in.

0082

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead and call back
2 in and we'll wait. Okay, thank you.

3
4 (Pause)

5
6 MS. CHAPA: Okay, I'll go over a brief
7 summary of what the correspondence letter is about.
8 Again, Gisela Chapa. The discussion at the All Council
9 -- during the All Council sessions was that there's
10 normally delays or perhaps no response at all from the
11 Board at times when -- or when RACs submit requests to
12 the Board so this is a request asking for timely
13 replies and responses from the Board.

14
15 (Pause)

16
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The thought on this
18 caribou one, that if we voted to do it then we'd get
19 into it at a later date to where we could make changes
20 from ourselves, we might be able to -- we might have a
21 little bit different and change things in there when we
22 send that letter. It's kind of a, what, biolerplate,
23 and then we could do whatever we want. So that could
24 be moved forward too. Because if we could get to the
25 next level.

26
27 MS. FREYTAG: Chairman Green.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

30
31 MS. FREYTAG: This is Mary Freytag.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

34
35 MS. FREYTAG: I just logged back on and
36 my audio wasn't working, can you hear me okay?

37
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're coming through
39 five by five.

40
41 MS. FREYTAG: Okay. I still haven't
42 received that email from her so what I'll do is I'll go
43 ahead and go with the majority, if that will be okay?

44
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, it is. So on the
46 bycatch letter there's a motion and a second.

47
48 MS. FREYTAG: Correct.

49
50

0083

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. There's a
2 motion and a second, yeah, we just need to vote now so
3 there's no discussion -- you need to.....

4
5 MR. SEETOT: Call for question.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question's been
8 called. All those in favor of the motion say aye.

9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Five. Motion passes.
13 Okay so I guess we can do the next one.

14
15 (Pause)

16
17 MS. CHAPA: Do you want me to go over
18 it.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yep, she needs to hear
21 it.

22
23 MS. CHAPA: Okay. Yeah, Gisela Chapa
24 for the record. Another letter that was discussed
25 during the All Council sessions was submitting a letter
26 to the Board and the Secretaries regarding compensation
27 or honoraria for RAC members acting in an official
28 capacity.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mary, you probably
31 wouldn't mind getting compensated would you, like
32 having an honorarium for your time?

33
34 MS. FREYTAG: I wouldn't mind.

35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay.

37
38 MS. FREYTAG: That would be helpful in
39 these times of need.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So that spells
42 that one out pretty clearly. Then the other one is --
43 the next part of it is to the -- this is to the Federal
44 Subsistence Board again. The next one is about
45 correspondence, when we send something in we want a
46 timely -- for it -- I better stop, you explain that,
47 you're better at that.

48
49 MS. WESSELS: Oh, I wasn't going to
50

0084

1 explain it, I was just going to mention, Mr. Chair, that
2 there's somebody online who has their hand up and I
3 don't know what that comment is pertaining to or what
4 -- who is that or what?

5

6 REPORTER: That's Mary.

7

8 MS. WESSELS: Oh, is that Mary?

9

10 REPORTER: Yeah, I can't get rid of it
11 because I'm not the moderator.

12

13 MS. WESSELS: Oh, okay, I'll get rid of
14 it. Thanks. Sorry, a little detour from discussion.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No, problem, thank
17 you. So the other -- there's two -- one letter is
18 about the compensation, Council member compensation.
19 The other letter to the Federal Subsistence Board,
20 Mary, is about correspondence and issues related to
21 that where timeliness of the Board's replies to our
22 transmittal of Council correspondence, and number 2 the
23 lack of direct replies to the Councils from the offices
24 of Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior for
25 correspondence which the Board forwards to them from
26 our RAC. So I can just imagine that you'd be all for
27 that one too.

28

29 MS. FREYTAG: Yes, sir, you got that
30 correct, Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ma'am.
33 Okay. So are we going to move that -- make a motion
34 for a block vote for the two.

35

36 MS. CHAPA: Yeah.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So if somebody would
39 indulge me to make a motion to vote as a block, both
40 the compensation and correspondence letters, please
41 make that motion.

42

43 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair, I move to
44 approve two letters as a block. One concerning
45 compensation and the other letter being timely reply to
46 correspondence.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Is there a
49 second.

50

0085

1 MR. MOSES: I second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There's a first and a
4 second.

5

6 MS. FREYTAG: Question called.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question's been
9 called. All those in favor say aye.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Aye. Unanimous.
14 That's five votes. The last one's on caribou and keep
15 in mind if there's something we don't like in this one,
16 I mean we can boot it up to the next level, we can make
17 changes in it and we can personalize it a little more
18 from this Council if we think we need to. So that's
19 another one I'd be in favor of moving forward to carry
20 on with it so we can -- like I said, get it to the next
21 level.

22

23 Is there anybody who has any questions.
24 Do you want to read to that, Gisela.

25

26 MS. CHAPA: Yes, Mr. Chair. And,
27 again, Gisela Chapa. Not necessarily -- I guess what I
28 wanted to share was that the versions that you have are
29 not really letters. If you recall what we went over,
30 it was like an outline and bullet points, so the letter
31 is still not fully drafted. So if desired we can bring
32 back a draft through the Chair for final review, or we
33 might also be able to review that in our fall meeting
34 but if that happens it will be a letter on behalf of
35 Seward Peninsula RAC and not necessarily as part of the
36 joint letter with the other Councils.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So if we want to move
39 it forward I'd just entertain a motion.

40

41 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair, I so move.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Is there a
44 second.

45

46 MR. MOSES: I second.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. A first
49 and a second.

50

0086

1 MS. FREYTAG: Question called.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question's been
4 called. All those in favor of moving the caribou
5 letter forward say aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Aye. That's five.
10 This one passes. Thank you.

11

12 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, go ahead.

15

16 MS. CHAPA: If we're ready to go to the
17 next item, agency reports. This is Gisela Chapa. And
18 all of the agency reports were requested in writing so
19 they are in your book. I believe they start in Page
20 134 and end in Page 189.

21

22 (Pause)

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, so that's FYI.
25 So I guess that brings us up to No. 13, closing
26 comments. So since Mary's online, or on the phone,
27 Mary. Lady Mary, there you go, you're first.

28

29 MS. FREYTAG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
30 and Council members and Staff and presenters. I really
31 appreciate today and I'm sorry I wasn't able to make it
32 to the other meetings this week due to my health but
33 I'm happy to be feeling okay to call in and give my
34 support and information for this meeting. I wish
35 everyone a safe spring hunt and that we -- that God
36 provides us with what he provides us where we're at,
37 safely and in Jesus' name we do it.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Council
42 Woman Freytag.

43

44 Council Seetot.

45

46 MR. SEETOT: Brief comment. After
47 talking with previous Council members from different
48 regions they told me that they were only -- the
49 community was only allowing one representative from
50

0087

1 their community and I don't think that's right. I
2 think whoever wants to sign up can sign up for the RACs
3 other than, you know, getting directions from a tribal
4 or a city office, you know, saying that they can't.
5 Their area, that they represent I think do have enough
6 Federal lands for them to kind of speak out. So for me
7 I think that was a -- that got to me thinking, no
8 wonder the RACs are having a hard time filling their
9 seats. The other thing is that the agencies need to
10 acknowledge their Staff for the hard work. Because for
11 being in a community where we understand very little
12 legalize words, you know, it's hard for us to
13 understand this and that and that's how come I say that
14 kudos to the Staff that pretty much interpret what we
15 don't interpret but thank you very much.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Councilman
18 Seetot.

19

20 Councilman Moses.

21

22 MR. MOSES: I'd just like to say thank
23 you to everybody that's been going to all the meetings
24 and I hope we all get something accomplished and work
25 together.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

30

31 Councilman Reynolds. New guy.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. REYNOLDS: I would like to thank
36 everybody present for providing this opportunity to
37 come to Anchorage and discuss the issues that we have
38 before us.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. So -- and
41 I guess it's my turn. It'd say thank you to the
42 Council, members that were able to be here, I know it's
43 a difficult time of the year to be traveling. I'd
44 really like to say thanks to Mary for being able to
45 take part even though she's having medical issues.
46 It's commendable that you stepped up today to make our
47 business complete.

48

49 And, again, thank you very much, Mary.

50

0088

1 And also to the Staff, appreciate all
2 you do. It takes a lot to get this here and get
3 through it and move forward so we can get our job done.

4
5 You know a lot of time -- you know,
6 we're not doing too bad today, we, I think we were
7 slated for.....

8
9 MS. CHAPA: 5:30.

10
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN:we were slated
12 for 5:30 and it's 5:48, I'm impressed. I thought we
13 were going to spend an extra hour beyond that but we
14 did all right. And, thanks, for making the decisions
15 on these four letters that we're moving forward and,
16 especially you, Mary, because you had to do it on the
17 fly.

18
19 I guess that's all I have to say for
20 this meeting.

21
22 I was really impressed though about the
23 10 Councils sitting in the room and it took awhile but
24 we fleshed out the caribou thing. That was kind of a
25 little tangle in there but once people got used to how
26 to work that, then we got into that bycatch letter and
27 it went pretty good. So it's pretty -- I don't think
28 that's happened before where all 10 Councils were
29 sitting at the table together face to fact. Once, it
30 did happen once before.

31
32 MS. CHAPA: Yeah, once before.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, okay, well.....

35
36 MS. CHAPA: Many years ago.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What?

39
40 MS. CHAPA: Many years ago.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Many years ago, yeah,
43 probably before my time. All right, well, thank you.
44 And I'll say safe travels until we meet again. Fair
45 weather and following seas as us boat captains say.

46
47 MS. FREYTAG: Chairman Green.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Ma'am.

50

0089

1 MS. FREYTAG: One more thing I just
2 want to thank you, our Chairman Louis Green, Jr., for
3 all your knowledge, your compassion and your support
4 for our well being in the Seward Peninsula and may God
5 bless you always in health. Thank you.

6
7 And, also, Elmer, for your knowledge,
8 your personal knowledge. It's very, very important,
9 I'm happy that you share because it helps make our
10 decisions that much more easier to come to. Thank you.

11
12 MR. SEETOT: Thank you.

13
14 MS. CHAPA: Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Gisela. Thank you.
17 You can speak, you're the other new guy.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Gal.

22
23 MS. CHAPA: Thank you. I was wondering
24 if we need a motion to adjourn.

25
26 MR. SEETOT: What did she say.

27
28 MR. MOSES: What did she.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're going to recess
31 because we'll be back in the morning.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We'll be cleaning the
36 building if we do that. So I'd ask for a motion to
37 adjourn.

38
39 MR. SEETOT: I so move, Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think we don't need
42 a second.

43
44 MR. MOSES: I second the motion.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There's a second.
47 We're adjourned. It is 5:50.

48
49 (Off record)

50

0090

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered ___ through ___ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING taken electronically on the 8th day of March 2024;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 28th day of March 2024.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/26