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SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

THE CORDOVA CENTER
Cordova, Alaska
March 12, 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard G. Encelewski, Chair
Edward H. Holsten
Michael V. Opheim
Diane A. Selanoff
Dennis M. Zadra
Kirk B. Wilson
Faye Ewan
Andrew T. McLaughlin
Heath Q. Kocan
Judith C. Caminer

Regional Council Coordinator, Nissa Pilcher

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Cordova, Alaska - 3/12/25)

(On record)

MS. PILCHER: Good morning, everybody out there. This is Nissa Pilcher again. I was just calling to see if Edward was able to call in. Edward, are you out there?

MR. HOLSTEN: Yes, I'm here.

MS. PILCHER: Awesome. Thank you so much. So, good morning, everyone. This is the Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. We're going to be getting started in just a few minutes. For those joining us on the phone, you can find the agenda and the meeting materials online on the Federal Subsistence Program website. That internet address is www.doi.gov/subsistence and then under the Regions tab choose South Central and then Meeting Materials. For all participants on the phone, please remember to mute your phones when you are not speaking. If you do not have a mute button, you can press star six and that will mute your phone as well as unmute your phone if you need that as well. Before, the Chair officially calls a meeting to order. I'd like to see if he would like to ask anyone to provide an invocation.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

Greetings, everyone. I'm going to go ahead and call the South Central Regional Advisory Council to order. March 12th. We're in the Cordova Center here, and I don't know if we got anyone from Eyak or around here, but we should do a land recognition. We're honored to be here and, on your land, and to visit this place. And we thank you for the use of this area. Whoever has provided this, that's very good. So, does anyone feel called to want to do an invocation for us a little bit?

MS. EWAN: I will.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Faye, I appreciate that.

MS. EWAN: (Indiscernible) for everything you do. (In Native), you bless this place. Bless this meeting and let's make the best of what we can out of this -- all of this for the people and the

1 future of our salmon and our future of our livelihood
2 and our way of life. And we can work things out together
3 and make it better for other people. And this is why
4 we're all here, is to think about and speak for the
5 animals and the fish that can't speak for themselves.
6 And that's why we're chosen to be in this position. And
7 I just bless everyone today and their travel and all the
8 people that are involved today. (In Native). Amen.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Amen. Okay,
11 Faye, thank you. That was very nice. We got to do a roll
12 call now, so who wants to do the roll call? Yeah, Nissa
13 is going to do some more talking first. I guess she
14 doesn't want me to go too fast, so I'm going to let her
15 talk.

16
17 MS. PILCHER: Okay. Welcome. Good
18 morning, everyone, to the Southcentral Subsistence
19 Regional Advisory Council meeting. Again, my name is
20 Nissa Pilcher, and I am the Council Coordinator for this
21 Council and also the designated federal officer for this
22 meeting. I do have a few housekeeping announcements to
23 make before we get started. For those attending our
24 meeting in person, please make sure that you sign in at
25 the front table over there by the door. There's a sign-
26 in sheet for each day of the meeting. Meeting materials
27 are also located on that table for those in the room.
28 Again, for those joining us on the phone, you can find
29 the agenda and meeting materials online on the Federal
30 Subsistence Program website. That internet address again
31 www.doi.gov/subsistence and under the Regions tab choose
32 South Central and then Meeting Materials. As a reminder,
33 star six will mute and unmute you as well. And if you
34 are on the phone and would like to be recognized to
35 speak, you can press star five on your phone and that
36 will notify us in the room that someone is wishing to
37 speak. Additionally -- so, just to give you guys an
38 update -- actually, no. I'll turn it back over to you,
39 Greg.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
42 you. I'll just point out that if we use this new agenda,
43 that instead of the one that's in your book, it's got a
44 little bit of different stuff on it. Not much, but if I
45 would have saw it, it says housekeeping announcement.
46 Nissa, thank you. Anyway, now we're going to go ahead
47 and do a roll call, and we'll establish a quorum so we
48 can move on, and then we'll do some more announcements.

49
50 MS. PILCHER: All right. Edward Holston

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1
2 MR. HOLSTEN: Here.
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4 MS. PILCHER: Michael Opheim.
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6 MR. OPHEIM: Here.
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8 MS. PILCHER: Greg Encelewski.
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10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Here.
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12 MS. PILCHER: Diane Selanoff.
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14 (No audible response)
15
16 Dennis Zadra.
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18 MR ZADRA: I'm here.
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20 MS. PILCHER: Kirk Wilson.
21
22 (No audible response)
23
24 Angela Totemoff has an absence. Unless
25 she has called in unexpectedly.
26
27 (No response)
28
29 All right. Faye Ewan.
30
31 (No audible response)
32
33 Andrew McLaughlin
34
35 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Here.
36
37 MS. PILCHER: Edward GreyBear.
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39 MR. GREYBEAR: Here.
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41 MS. PILCHER: Hope Roberts was also
42 expected to be absent unless she was able to call in.
43 Heath Kocan.
44
45 MR. KOCAN: Here.
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47 MS. PILCHER: and then Judith Caminer.
48
49 MS. CAMINER: Here.
50

1 MS. PILCHER: Okay, let me do math in my
2 head while on the spot very quickly. So, with 10 of 13,
3 you guys have quorum.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
6 you. So, we do have a quorum so we could proceed with
7 the business. I'll try to go by the agenda here. We will
8 have some announcements and some introductions here
9 before shortly. And. But first, I have on here number
10 four that you have some announcements for the meeting
11 here, Nissa.

12
13 MS. PILCHER: I do. I get to talk more.
14 And I did the math wrong. That was 11 of 13. So, my
15 apologies. So, current membership update, this Council
16 no longer has any vacancies and now has representation
17 from the Copper Basin by new member Wilson, Ewan and
18 GreyBear. Applications for terms beginning in 2026
19 closed on February 16th and I will update on the Council
20 at the fall meeting with any updates I can give on
21 membership at that time. Supplying comments to the
22 Council for those wanting to address the Council on Non-
23 Agenda topics, there will be an opportunity for that
24 later today after the Council member reports at that
25 time, the Chair will announce this opportunity and call
26 on individuals who wish to address the Council. For folks
27 here in person, please fill out a blue card located on
28 the information table to indicate your wish to address
29 the Council during this time, or also during a specific
30 agenda topic, and then hand them to anyone from OSM in
31 the room and we will relay it to the Chair. The Chair
32 will also ask if there's anyone on the phone that would
33 like to provide comments after individuals do in person.
34 For those on the phone who would like to speak again,
35 please remember to press star five to raise your hand
36 and wait to be recognized before speaking. When this
37 happens, please identify yourself for the record by
38 stating your first and last name and if you are
39 representing an affiliation other than yourself. If you
40 would like to submit written comments instead, or in
41 addition to oral comments, you may turn those into any
42 OSM staff in the room or email them to
43 subsistence@ios.dio.gov. Be also -- be sure also to
44 include your name and affiliation on written comments.
45 A note on Council member conduct and ethics. As a
46 reminder to all, our meetings are conducted by Robert's
47 Rules, which helps us provide structure and maintain
48 order through the meeting. All participants, including
49 Council, staff and public members, are expected to be
50 courteous and respectful in all interactions as a matter

1 of meeting etiquette. It is understood that the nature
2 of some of the issues discussed at these meetings can
3 be difficult and controversial. Although some comments
4 shared throughout this meeting may be passionate, no
5 insults or foul language will be tolerated in this public
6 meeting. If any kind of unruly behavior or insulting
7 language from anyone occurs during this meeting, please
8 be advised that as the designated federal office for the
9 meeting, I will intervene. Thank you very much for
10 allowing me the time to share this information, Mr.
11 Chair. And that does wrap up my meeting announcements.
12

13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
14 you. So, we're going to do -- I want to welcome everyone.
15 Of course we're going to go into introductions here
16 directly. But let me just make sure I'm not missing
17 anything. What we'll do is -- we could open it up. I'd
18 like everyone in the room to come up and we'll go to the
19 group first to introduce yourself. If you come on the
20 mic and just one by one, do that and then we'll go around
21 with the Council.
22

23 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, Council members.
24 Good morning. My name is Katya Wessels and I'm Council
25 Coordination Division Supervisor with the Office of
26 Subsistence Management. It's very nice to be with you
27 here in person this morning. So, looking forward to a
28 productive meeting. Thank you.
29

30 MR. UBELAKER: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
31 members of the Council. Brian Ubelaker, wildlife
32 biologist with Office of Subsistence Management. Thank
33 you.
34

35 DR. VOORHEES: Good morning. Hannah
36 Voorhees anthropologist with OSM.
37

38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
39

40 MR. SANDERS: Good morning, Andrew
41 Sanders. I'm the Chugach National Forest subsistence
42 program manager.
43

44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
45 Andrew.
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47 MR. SPILINEK: Good morning, Mr. Board,
48 members of the Board. My name is Sterling Spilinek. I'm
49 the research coordinator and wildlife biologist for
50 Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Welcome.

MS. TERRENCE: Good morning. My name is Margaret Terrence. I'm a resident of Anchorage, and I'm a mother to an Alaska - to Inupiaq children and I live in Anchorage and I'm just here to observe.

MS. KETRON: Thank you. Good morning. This is Caroline Ketron. I'm the anthropologist for the Bureau of Land Management, Glennallen field office.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Is [sic] there others on the phone?

MS. COHEN: Good morning. This is Amber Cohen from Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, cultural anthropologist calling in from Copper Center.

MS. DEWEESE: Good morning. This is Christine DeWeese. I work with the Chugach Regional Resources Commission as their Tribal Fish and Wildlife Coordinator. Good morning.

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. PERRY: Good morning.

MS. HANCOCK: Good morning.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead. One of you.

MR. PERRY: This is Neil Perry. I'm a new natural resources manager for the BLM in Glennallen.

MS. PILCHER: Could you try that again, sir?

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. HANCOCK: Alicia Hancock, field manager, Bureau of Land management.

MS. PILCHER: Thank you, Alicia. Could the gentleman that went right before introduce himself again? It was pretty faint in the room.

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1 MR. PERRY: Oh, sorry. Can you hear me
2 better now?

3
4 MS. PILCHER: A little bit.

5
6
7 MR. PERRY: I'm right on it. So, I'll
8 type in the chat.

9
10 MS. PILCHER: We heard you better that
11 time.

12
13 MR. PERRY: Yeah, well. Try again. This
14 is Neil Perry. I'm a natural resources manager with the
15 Bureau of Land Management and Glennallen. Did that work?

16
17 MS. PILCHER: Thank you. Yes.

18
19 MS. DEBENHAM: Good morning. This is
20 Rosalie Debenham, fish and wildlife biologist for the
21 Bureau of Indian Affairs.

22
23 MR. ESKELIN: Todd Eskelin, and wildlife
24 biologist at Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

25
26 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
27 Council members, this is Glenn Chen and the subsistence
28 branch chief for the BIA.

29
30 DR. ROBERTS: Good morning. This is Jason
31 Roberts, anthropologist at OSM.

32
33 MR. FOLEY: Mr. Chair, members of the
34 Council, Nissa good morning, this is Kevin Foley with
35 the office of subsistence management fisheries biologist
36 for the Southcentral region calling in wishing everybody
37 a productive and a successful day.

38
39 MR. LIND: Good morning, Chairman and
40 Council members. This is Orville Lind Office of
41 Subsistence Management Native Liaison. Sorry I couldn't
42 be with you guys. I understand it's a wonderful day.
43 Hope you guys have a productive meeting this week. Good
44 morning.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
47 Orville.

48
49 MS. DAY: Good morning, everyone. This
50 is Janel Day, the cartographer with Office of

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1 Subsistence Management. Looking forward to this week's
2 meeting.

3
4 MS. MORROW: This is Kristen Moreau with
5 the anthropology division at OSM.

6
7 MR. MORRIS: Good morning, Andy Morris
8 with U.S. Forest Service. I'm based here in Cordova.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

11
12 MR. GATES: Good morning, everyone. Ken
13 Gates fish biologist in Soldotna with Kenai Fish
14 Wildlife field office.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good morning,
17 Ken.

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19 MR. GATES: Thank you. Morning, Greg.

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21 MR. SARAFIN: Good morning. This is Dave
22 Sarafin, the fisheries biologist at Wrangell-saint Elias
23 National Park and Preserve.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
26 Dave. Good morning.

27
28 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Greg. This
29 is Greg Risdahl, USDA Forest Service subsistence program
30 leader here. I'm joining you from Anchorage. Wish I could
31 be there.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Thank
34 you, Greg. It's beautiful here. We'll try to pay
35 attention, but it's very nice. Thank you.

36
37 MR. RISDAHL: You bet.

38
39 MS. PATTON: Good morning, everyone. This
40 is Eva Patton with the National Park Service subsistence
41 program and Anchorage. Good morning.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good morning.

44
45 MS. FLOREY: Good morning. This is
46 Victoria Florey, also National Park Service subsistence
47 program.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Morning,
50 Victoria.

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MS. FLOREY: Morning, Greg.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Anyone else out there? Okay, one more.

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MR. PICHE: Hi, my name is Matt Piche. I'm the natural resources coordinator and fish biologist for the Native Village of Eyak here in Cordova. Thank you.

10

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Thank you, Matt, and thank you for your help in the village here. And we said a land recognition to honor the tribe there. Thank you. Anyone else we missed on the phone?

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(No response)

18

19

20

Okay. Hearing none at this time, we're going to go ahead and do the introduction for the for the Council. And this is just for the introduction. We'll give our reports later. So, we want to start with Dennis. Do you want to start?

23

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26

MR. ZADRA: Yeah. So, Dennis Zadra, a resident of Cordova. I think I've been on this Board for nine years now, but I enjoy the service, and welcome.

28

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MR. HOLSTEN: Good morning, everybody. This is Ed Holsten, resident of Cooper Landing. I've been on the RAC probably, about ten years now, I suspect. Let's hope for a great meeting. Beautiful weather. Thank you.

33

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

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MR. KOCAN: Heath Kocan. Resident at Cordova. Nice to be here. I don't know how long I've been on the RAC. I should note not terribly long, but I cannot remember. Thanks.

40

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43

MR. OPHEIM: Michael Opheim, Seldovia been on the RAC for 14 or 15 years.

44

45

46

MS. CAMINER: Judith Caminer. I've been -- from Anchorage. I've been on the RAC on and off, mostly on since 2009.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You go ahead. I'll be last.

50

1
2 MS. EWAN: Good morning. My name is Faye
3 Ewan. I'm from the Native Village of Kulti Kaah, Ahtna
4 region. I've -- this is my first day ever on a Federal
5 Subsistence Board or any of our affiliated. I'm always
6 on the other side, talking on that side for my people
7 and our way of life. But today, I'm very honored to be
8 sitting up here with you guys and try to work things out
9 for the Copper River people and our fishing. Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
12 Faye.

13
14 MR. WILSON: Hi, my name is Kirk Wilson.
15 I'm from Tolsona and I'm here to represent the Ahtna
16 people, and I just hope we can all work together to make
17 this a powerful thing. Thank you for having me here.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON Encelewski: Thank you,
20 Kirk.

21
22 MS. SELANOFF: Hello. My name is Diane
23 Selanoff. I'm originally from Port Graham. Been living
24 in Valdez. I am a subsistence user, and there's a lot
25 of different changes going on, so I'm happy to be here
26 to listen to what's going on in other communities and
27 doing a comparison of how they're affecting ours. Thank
28 you.

29
30 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Good morning. Andy
31 McLaughlin from the Village of Chenega Bay, representing
32 people of Prince William Sound on subsistence.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
35 Andy. And do we have Edward on here?

36
37 MR. GREYBEAR: Yes. I'm here. Good
38 morning, everyone. My name is Edward GreyBear. I'm
39 representing the Native Village of Kluti Kaah in the
40 Ahtna region. And this is my first meeting and I'm
41 looking forward to serving the rest of my term.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I'm Greg
44 Encelewski. I'm from Ninilchik. Currently the Chair.
45 That could change soon, but who knows. Anyway, I'm a
46 subsistence user and I've been on the RAC. I hate to
47 tell you how long I've been here, but. But anyway, I got
48 a plaque for 23 years and it's a few years after that,
49 so it's like 24-25, I'm not sure. Yeah, I've been around
50 for quite a while. Subsistence was a little different

1 when I first started it. You just went and you took what
2 you needed. You know, it was really good. But we're a
3 lot of trouble now. But anyway, we'll go on with the
4 meeting and thank everyone for being here. Thank you.

5
6 Turn it over to Nissa now for the
7 election of officers. And then we'll get started.

8
9 MS. PILCHER: Good morning, everybody
10 again. This is Nissa Pilcher, I guess. I guess I could
11 introduce myself yet again. This is Nissa Pilcher. I am
12 the Council Coordinator for the Southcentral Alaska
13 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. And actually, as
14 a reminder, that should have been in my announcements
15 if people could also remember when they do talk to
16 identify yourself. We do have the new transcription
17 service instead of the one that we've been using for a
18 long time. So, they haven't got to know our voices yet.
19 So, it's always good as a reminder to just try to
20 remember to say your name when you when you do talk, so
21 we can get the transcripts correct. But for election of
22 officers. So, in accordance with the Council charter,
23 Council members elect a Chair, a Vice Chair and a
24 Secretary for a one-year term. Member Encelewski is the
25 current Chair. Member Caminer is the current Vice, and
26 member McLaughlin is the current secretary. So, I would
27 like to open the floor for nominations for the Council's
28 Chair. And as a reminder, these nominations do not need
29 to be seconded.

30
31 MS. SELANOFF: I'll make a nomination for
32 Greg Encelewski as Chair.

33
34 MS. PILCHER: Thank you, Diane.

35
36 MS. SELANOFF: I move to close
37 nominations.

38
39 MS. PILCHER: Seconded by Kirk. All
40 right. We could -- all -- well by unanimous consent. All
41 in favor, say I for member Encelewski to maintain his
42 Chairmanship.

43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

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46 MS. PILCHER: Anyone opposed, please,
47 same sign.

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49 (No response)

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All right. By a unanimous vote Chairman and Encelewski maintains his Chairmanship. And I will turn the meeting back over to him.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you. Thank you all for the confidence or the how to put it -- anyway, I do appreciate it. I did put in -- I -- was going to be my last term. My term expires this year, 2025, but I got talked into turning it in for one more round. So, we'll see what happens and we'll see what happens with the program. But I am honored to serve as best I can and do things, go and move forward. I want everyone to feel, you know, open and have all the time they need to speak to issues, and we always do that. We'll debate it very thoroughly and do the best we can, but we will stick to the agenda. There's always places for things to come up and a lot at the end of the meetings too. So, we'll try and do our best to be accommodating of everyone. And if I miss something, just holler and we'll get back on track. So, thank you, I'm now going to open nominations for Vice Chair.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I nominate Judith Caminer, Vice Chair.

MR. OPHEIM: I'll second.

(Simultaneous speech)

MS. SELANOFF: Move to close nominations.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Nominations have been moved to close.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second

MS. SELANOFF: Call for the question.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Second, question has been called for. All in favor, aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

Any opposed? Judy, you are vice Chair. Okay. I will now open the floor for nominations for Secretary.

MR. HOLSTEN: I nominate Andrew McLaughlin.

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MR. OPHEIM: I'll second.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved and seconded for Andrew.

MS. SELANOFF: I'll move to close again.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Move to close.

MS. SELANOFF: Call for the question.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Question has been called for. All in favor, aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed? Andy, thank you. Okay. You've got for those -- the new ones. We're pretty easy to get along with. So, hopefully it works good. Well, you get to know -- you know me. Yeah, yeah, you know me. Okay. Anyway, we'll proceed. And thank everyone there. Let's go ahead and review and the adopt of the agenda. But first, Nissa wants to say something.

MS. PILCHER: I just wanted to give you guys a quick rundown between the agenda that is in your book and the agenda that is currently in your hand to make sure that you guys approve of those changes. So, addition of the title to agenda item 11, Council Training was in there, but it lacked an agenda -- or excuse me, it lacked a title. Council member training now reads Council member training proposed changes to federal subsistence hunting and trapping regulations. There was an addition on reports to include the CRRC report. It was inadvertently left off the original agenda. Additional -- addition of further information under agenda item 13C, 13 is reports to add the title of the 2024 Summary Cook Inlet Sport Fish Management Areas. That is just a handout, and it will not be a verbal report due to a concurrent Board a -- Board of Fish meeting going on. Removal of 13H, which was the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Gulf of Alaska Chinook Salmon Endangered Species Act status review and listing as there is no new information since the fall meeting on the status of that review report. There is also an addition of agenda item 13J IV, which is the Ketchikan Nonrural Determination Update. That is an action that happened at the recent regulatory Federal

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1 Subsistence Board meeting earlier this winter. And the
2 last item was removal of the agenda item 14A, which is
3 a special action update, as there have not been any. But
4 those are the differences between the agenda in your
5 book and the agenda that was passed out at the meeting.

6

7 MS. SELANOFF: I'll make a motion to
8 adopt the agenda.

9

10 MR. OPHEIM: Second.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's been
13 moved. And second, to adopt the agenda as presented and
14 reviewed here.

15

16 MS. PILCHER: So, just to double check,
17 that was Diane and then Michael, you were the second.
18 Okay. Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any other
21 discussion?

22

23 (No response)

24

25 Hearing none. All in favor, aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

30

31 UNIDENTIFIED: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We adopt
34 the agenda. We'll follow this new agenda here that she
35 presented. She may try and change it on us again, but
36 now we're locked in. So, I got her. All right.

37

38 (Pause)

39

40 We usually say a couple of times during
41 the day, you know, for non-agenda items, if someone wants
42 to speak to something at the beginning of the day or
43 during the meeting, I think they got to put in a blue
44 thing and get it up here. So, I'm just reminding you of
45 that. We do want to move on then to the -- we're right
46 here. Yeah. We're ready to review and approve the minutes
47 of the previous meeting.

48

49 MS. PILCHER: And this is Nissa for the
50 record, those are found on page seven in your meeting

1 books, which is the black comb bound document.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I got a lot of
4 scratch on mine, but no changes. So, any changes? Anyone?

5

6 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Motion to approve.

7

8 MR. OPHEIM: Second.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved
11 by Andy and seconded by Michael to approve. Discussion?
12 Hearing none. All in favor, aye.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed to
17 those minutes? Okay. Thank you. They are approved. Okay.
18 We are now going to go to the Council members' reports,
19 and they're going to give us a little briefing since our
20 last meeting, and we'll change it up a little bit. We'll
21 start with you, Andy, on this side and then we'll come
22 around. Thank you.

23

24 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Primarily Western Prince William Sound report, but one
26 thing kind of relative. I leave South Central to go on
27 an annual moose hunt to a very far, remote moose camp.
28 And due to these drastic declines of basically statewide
29 caribou herds, I enjoyed the heyday of 27 years of
30 getting a moose every year. And then last year, because
31 of that caribou decline, all the caribou hunters that
32 hunt North Ahtna, Tanana people, area Fairbanks, Tok
33 have turned their focus to moose for a meat resource
34 instead of the caribou that they can no longer get. And
35 in my very, very remote -- I'm talking road trip floating
36 down rivers, chest waders through beaver ponds to get
37 to where I've always gone to never be disturbed by other
38 hunters, two moose camps moved in within 200 yards of
39 my moose camp this year. I saw 14 moose within the first
40 two days of season before season opened, and then the
41 moment season opened for the next four days zero moose.
42 So, I have a new understanding of what people -- the
43 Ahtna people mentioned 20 years ago about the Nabesna
44 Road and things like that, where these resources are
45 getting even an increased demand. So, apart from that
46 out of Southcentral but that affects my resource use of
47 where I'm at when I can't go somewhere else to get my
48 meat resource.

49

50

1 But so, both wild and hatchery pink
2 salmon and silver salmon returns last fall were quite
3 dismal. Far below an average year, almost run failure
4 on the pink salmon, which is not super common.
5 Interesting side note that Japan also was having an
6 unexpected decline in their pink salmon simultaneously.
7 Red salmon although had an average return, I suspect
8 this is due to their primary food sources, the plankton
9 and invertebrates and smaller things in the ocean, and
10 they have a less fish piscivorous eating diet. So, they
11 -- something, it seems in the upper trophic levels of
12 the food chain in the ocean may be a factor in the
13 decline of the fish-eating salmon. Low salmon abundance
14 in the streams is hard on the bear populations,
15 especially during the years of poor berry abundance,
16 which last year was poor pollination so, poor berries.
17 Halibut fishing in 2024 was the least productive that I
18 have ever witnessed in 34 years. It took approximately
19 three times the effort to catch about one third of the
20 normal amount of halibut that we can usually catch in
21 Prince William Sound. This is very alarming, and it's a
22 big concern of the residents of Prince William Sound in
23 my part of Prince William Sound. Local king salmon
24 trawling this winter has produced not one single king
25 salmon in all of Chenega, though some pelagic and non-
26 pelagic rockfish have been caught.

27
28 Low snow this winter like statewide, 30
29 to 40 degrees rainy, mild winter. Maybe that will help
30 the deer population. It's cause for concern for a result
31 of low snowmelt runoff. In years past, the salmon haven't
32 even known where to go and the small streams where they
33 typically spawn typically, the chums and pinks don't
34 have a place to go when the creeks are dry, so that may
35 happen again this year; can't access their historical
36 spawning grounds. But, silvers in the fall is a different
37 story because typically by then a bunch of rains have
38 happened and the watersheds then produce enough water
39 to have them reach their spawning grounds. I've only
40 known of one goat to be harvested this year and there
41 were a few deer harvested, but the population for certain
42 is below the average, at least in western Prince William
43 Sound of the past two decades of an average year. One
44 of the main alarming things to me for this report is
45 clams. I believe there's been an unprecedented die off
46 of clams in the vicinity of Southwest Prince William
47 Sound. I'm certain of it. The soft shells, the butters,
48 the steamers, which are the littlenecks, the beaches
49 that typically had an abundance of these. I've always
50 been reporting for a couple of decades of yeah, we got

1 clams. That's okay. You know, we're doing okay on clams
2 and this year, the beaches are all white with empty
3 double shells, not sea otter predation, dead clams. A
4 lot of -- when you go dig clams for a lot of effort, you
5 get very few and some smaller ones, but not a lot of
6 reproduction of the small ones, like typically you'd let
7 a lot of small ones go. Now it's not happening. So,
8 something going on. A lot of clam worms. So, water
9 temperatures or something is happening and that die off
10 has happened in Prince William Sound. And as a
11 consequence of this, there's less sea otters present.
12 Typically, the past few times I've been reporting, hey,
13 we got a lot of sea otters because we had a strong,
14 robust clam population. But now the sea otters are not
15 -- they're thick like they used to be. Despite our local
16 hunters who were taking a lot of sea otters and keeping
17 those numbers kind of at bay, those guys have moved away
18 from the village. So, we don't even have those hunters
19 anymore, which made the otter population pop up. But now
20 that there's no clams, the otter population is not like
21 what it used to be.

22
23 So, I thank you for your time, and I
24 didn't want to mess up the agenda by adding some long-
25 winded thing here, but you're going to get five minutes
26 from me about something that's very important and I think
27 belongs on the record for the people who I represent in
28 Prince William Sound. This is regarding the trawling,
29 and Chenega Corporation has done a lot of effort to help
30 try to do some things within the State, and they've made
31 some strides to -- some progress towards limiting some
32 of the bycatch. So, the trawl fleet has been wreaking
33 havoc on a non-targeted Bycatch species. This is a
34 majority -- huge growing concern for people. I called
35 people around before I come to these meetings, I ask the
36 people who I represent what they would like me to bring
37 up and this was a common denominator between four
38 different people. But typically, I get one person saying
39 one thing, one person saying another thing, but this
40 time everybody is all on Board with this one issue. So,
41 it's a major importance to us for decades. It's kind of
42 a nightmare, almost. So, Prince William Sound marine
43 waters are in State jurisdiction, as everybody knows.
44 The last couple meetings where I was trying to see if
45 we could do some act of Congress type thing and we still
46 want a real answer from the Board as to how federally
47 qualified subsistence users whom have -- who have had
48 customary and traditional use of the marine resources
49 in the vicinity of where they live, are supposed to
50 obtain food in an arena where the State prioritizes

1 commercial use and profit over any true rural
2 subsistence priorities that exist within ANILCA. We had
3 Senator Murkowski at our village and when we asked her
4 about the trawling, she clammed up and she said, "I'm
5 not going to talk about that, anything to do about the
6 state trawl fishery. But I see her name on the cannery
7 right there. Anyhow, 150,000 pounds of coral and sponge
8 is destroyed annually by the Alaska trawl fishery and
9 this is habitat degradation. In December 2024 the --
10 just recent December a couple of months ago, okay. Alaska
11 Board of Fisheries rejected a proposal to ban Prince
12 William Sound trawling. This was proposed by Chenega.
13 The decision was influenced by the industry. Primarily
14 the proponent that made this pass had influenced this
15 was Alaska Pollock Fisheries Alliance, who claims the
16 pollock fishery is a sustainable fishery. It very well
17 may be a sustainable fishery, but the blatant main issue
18 is not about the pollock, but about the bycatch and the
19 habitat degradation. But we can go to historical things.
20 Where in the past time, decades ago, out on the Aleutian
21 chain, I believe it was near Atka, there was a pollock
22 trawl fishery affected a decline in the Steller sea lion
23 population, which in turn detrimentally affected -- was
24 proven to detrimentally have affected the orca
25 population who preyed on them. So, you pull one little
26 cog out of this ecosystem thing, and everything else
27 follows suit, as everybody knows. So, we need more
28 scientific research about the flagrant overharvesting
29 and wanton waste taking place as bycatch in the pollock
30 trawl fishery right here in these waters. When we look
31 out this window over there, first one is right,
32 Hinchinbrook Entrance right over there. Okay. And we
33 need some proof of what the Pollock Alliance is claiming.
34 However, for the record, bycatch is a main issue. But
35 this ecosystem damage is a big deal and entirely just
36 important -- just as important. This is not rocket
37 science. The fragile, intricate marine environment of
38 the ocean floor is proven to take decades, if not
39 centuries to recover. Nobody can deny that trawling is
40 harmful to marine life and the food web in the depths.

41
42 In Prince William Sound right now,
43 January 20th to March 30th is -- the trawling continues.
44 Okay, much to the dismay of our subsistence and our
45 sport users, and because of the resources that it's
46 affecting, they closed the commercial fishery in Prince
47 William Sound now. And there is talk of closing -- right
48 now there's talk in the State about closing the sport
49 and personal use of shrimp in Prince William Sound for
50 2025 in some type of emergency order. I personally

1 witnessed a dramatic decrease in shrimp resource
2 availability immediately following when the State opened
3 it back up. So, to give you a little quick rundown,
4 around 1990 there was a little commercial thing going
5 on, but it was kind of minimal, our subsistence users
6 were getting a lot of shrimp at that point in time. Then
7 they went through a -- decades of no commercial
8 shrimping. We -- everybody could get their shrimp. Then
9 they opened it up 3 or 4 years ago, and then boom, all
10 of a sudden, we're not getting our shrimp anymore. And
11 oh, and they're like -- so I called the State about it
12 and they said, oh, we have so many thousand pounds,
13 that's all they took. And we know right where they got
14 them. We saw all their pots and everything, and now
15 nobody's getting any shrimp. So, go figure. So, anyhow,
16 that dramatic decrease of shrimp resource availability
17 happened right after the State opened up the commercial.
18 So, now they're closing it, and now they're going to
19 close the other one too, anyhow. So, I personally have
20 completely stopped all my personal shrimping efforts
21 kind of a moratorium, a self-imposed okay, because I
22 care about that resource. Okay. The main places that
23 they catch their shrimp on the commercial, it got nuked,
24 okay.

25
26 So, we need a study. When we talk about
27 these monies that we can put towards different fishery
28 things. We need some type of study to be focused towards
29 this trawl fishery that's going on, as well as the
30 commercial shrimping. Marine ecologists study post-trial
31 ocean floor damages, and they note that a cascade effect
32 on the survivability of infaunal systems takes place
33 despite this fact, regulators at the direction of
34 politicians continue to make political decisions about
35 money and not practical ones that are based in science,
36 and so they continue to ignore these concerns and
37 outcries from our public. Normal, proper wildlife
38 management is based on population dynamics, where each
39 species is monitored for changes in their rate of
40 production. But the recent trend for regulatory agencies
41 and politicians involved regulating these large-scale
42 industrial profiteers are using blanket management
43 practices where across the Board they make a 10% decrease
44 for all allowable bycatch. This type of equal proportion
45 across the Board management is flagrantly irresponsible
46 at best and is not serving the best interest of each
47 species, as each holds a very different population
48 dynamic and adaptability, or lack thereof, to the
49 detrimental effects of being killed as the bycatch. Even
50 you can look on some of these handouts that we got right

1 here. The blanket coverage thing is going, oh, they talk
2 about rockfish, salmon and the shark, squid and other.
3 Well, if you're throwing a little percentage into shark,
4 squid and other, you ought to be dividing that out
5 because there's a lot of things that fall under shark,
6 squid and other. Okay. So, anyhow, first and foremost,
7 there needs to be a baseline data collected in order to
8 monitor changes and fluctuations of the overall
9 populations of each of these species. There also needs
10 to be onboard monitoring and observations of all of these
11 harvested catches and these need to be witnessed and
12 recorded with this day of technology that we have right
13 now, something possible, like putting a camera on there
14 and they are not allowed to sell anything that they
15 catch in the trawl, unless the camera has been on 24/7
16 and fully recording all the catch. Because if there's
17 no observers, we don't know what's getting thrown
18 overboard out there. So, not only is there an issue of
19 this trawl fishery related to the State of Alaska, it
20 also is affecting what's going on right here in Prince
21 William Sound, just right there in the Gulf. That's the
22 Gulf. We can see it right there. So, the Gulf, okay, the
23 trawl fleet is just wreaking havoc out there as well on
24 the ecosystem. These waters also affect migratory
25 species that emigrate and immigrate at various parts of
26 their life cycle to marine waters of federal
27 jurisdiction statewide. So, what's going on out there
28 in the sound and in the Gulf is affecting all of our --
29 you on the Kenai that's affected over there, you know.

30
31 So, anyhow, the Magnuson-Stevens
32 Fishery Conservation Management Act is the primary law
33 that we here can address and try to affect by bringing
34 attention to the Board. If they won't let us talk about
35 Prince William Sound, we should talk about the Gulf.
36 Okay. This law is the primary one that governs marine
37 fishery management in U.S. federal waters. It is based
38 on principles for long term biological economic
39 sustainability of marine resource fisheries. It's too
40 bad the State doesn't have something similar to that,
41 at least in writing. The main objective of the Magnuson-
42 Stevens act is to prevent overfishing. It is overseen
43 by the Federal Trade Commission, despite the road being
44 paved with good intentions even on the East coast of the
45 United States, this act covers the East Coast of the
46 United States, and some of the fisheries are failing
47 over there. So, Alaska should learn from what's going
48 on the East Coast in messing up some of the resources
49 as to -- otherwise, we're just going to follow suit and
50 do the same thing that's happening over there. In Prince

1 William Sound the State of Alaska has now regulated a
2 new mandatory retention -- because of Chenega pushiness
3 -- a new mandatory retention of all rockfish and king
4 salmon that are caught as bycatch in the trawl fishery.
5 Some of the latest fixtures -- figures in harvest
6 reporting show that from -- listen to this February 5th
7 through February 12th of this year. That's just very
8 recently. Okay. The trawl fishery has reported 71,000
9 pounds of halibut as bycatch, okay. That turns into
10 33,800 fish, okay. In the last 38 days of the 2025
11 trawler season, trawlers report dumping 8,000 king
12 salmon and over 500,000 pounds of halibut. Alaska
13 trawlers report an average bycatch of 1 million pounds
14 of fish for every 2.58 days of fishing. This is
15 indiscriminate of size or number of fish, and yet the
16 state regulates individual fisheries -- individual
17 fishermen in our sport fishery to very small bag limits,
18 very small size limits of halibut, lingcod and things.
19 And -- but these commercial interests don't have any
20 regulation of that going on out there.

21
22 So, anyhow, thank you for listening. I
23 will end on one other note that's not related to the
24 trawl fishery. I will end on this. Governor Dunleavy is
25 introducing legislation to allow fish farming in Alaska
26 waters. I recall a time when a big deal was made about
27 some spawning salmon right over here in the Martin River
28 on the Copper River drainage. They were finding some
29 Atlantic salmon that were spawning, and they believed
30 that they had escaped from some Canadian fish farms okay.
31 And they were like, oh, what's this going to do there?
32 So, if we had a big concern about that 2 or 3 decades
33 ago and they were finding them over there it's not a
34 smart move. The wild salmon fishery is of utmost
35 importance to the residents of Prince William Sound. And
36 I know that nobody in any of our communities, including
37 here in Cordova, that supports making fish farming legal
38 in our State, maybe Dennis would have something to say
39 about other people that might support fish farming, but
40 I know that commercial fishing is a big deal with wild
41 stocks. Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Andy, I
44 think everyone really appreciated that, although it was
45 not -- I thought we were going to do that at a different
46 time and a special thing. I think what we need, you
47 know, we need a proposal on that. We know that it's some
48 of that is state regulated. Some of it, like you say,
49 is in the Gulf. The Magnuson-Stevens Act, you know,
50 they're being sued in by the Cook Inlet group, also the

1 United Fishermen's and it's a mess. They're tearing that
2 apart. This whole thing needs a whole session of its
3 own. And I don't know if you should make a proposal for
4 us or what, but maybe under other -- we could discuss
5 it a little further. But I'm going to go ahead and get
6 the reports from the rest of the Council, and we'll get
7 moving on. But I thank you for that. It's a very
8 passionate issue of everyone's, and it is definitely
9 depleting, and it affects all the subsistence. So,
10 that's why I just let you do it now. That's great.

11
12 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thanks. I just
13 want to squeeze it in there instead of that -- putting
14 it at the end. Put an agenda change.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, there's
17 so much to it and I'm glad you did because I have to
18 leave tomorrow and I didn't want to miss it, so.
19 Appreciate it. But anyway. Thank you. Okay, Diane.

20
21 MS. SELANOFF: What he said. Holy cow.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Exactly.
24 Exactly. Yeah.

25
26 MS. SELANOFF: Wow. That was amazing.
27 Thank you, Andy. There's been a lot going on in our --
28 in the area, too. One of the things I've noticed is the
29 weather, the way the weather is changing right now. And
30 by Tatitlek there's a lot of seals and sea lions
31 congregating, like they're -- like the herring are in,
32 but it's too early. There haven't been any seen, but the
33 animal movement indicates something different. Not sure
34 what that's about or why they're coming in so quickly.
35 The geese. We noticed there was a small grouping of them
36 that came in a couple weeks ago. But last year, as I was
37 watching them, they were late leaving, so I was actually
38 getting worried and telling him, you better move on. I
39 don't know if they stayed here, you know, all year, and
40 that's just a reflection of that now. But yeah. So,
41 they're here too. Currently, right now, this is our
42 season for gathering shellfish. (In Native) the English
43 translation is more chitons and snails. So, they've been
44 going out and harvesting them even last night. So, the
45 -- going back to how things are different, I think I'm
46 relating it more to weather, plants are even starting
47 to -- but, we've had a really mild winter, and I think
48 that's -- I think that's statewide, but it just -- it
49 seems unusual. Last fall or last summer. Last early fall,
50 for the first time ever, our fishing for silvers was

1 shut down. It was like huh, we've always had an
2 abundance, but this past fall we didn't. And I was kind
3 of concerned about my ability to dry silvers. They're
4 really lean, so and with the fall weather, they dry
5 really fast and it's really good. But while I was up at
6 AFN this year, I got a phone call from my son and he
7 said, mom, there was a late run. I said, oh, good, where
8 are they at? And when he told me, I was like, huh, that's
9 a glacier stream. They usually don't go up a glacier
10 stream. They go up to where there's ponds. I was like,
11 hmm, interesting. Did you save me any? He said. Yeah, I
12 went down and I got about 20, but I saved you about a
13 thousand. I was like, nice, good. I'll get him when I
14 get home. I did, I went and there were amazing fish.
15 They didn't taste like, you know, a pond. They were
16 really clean, taste delicious. They were fresh -- they
17 had a lot -- they were in freshwater a lot. But also,
18 too watching them. They got stuck, they couldn't move.
19 They went up the wrong stream. And when I was getting
20 the fish that I did, a lot of them, they were still --
21 the sack was still attached. So, the eggs weren't loose
22 for spawning and I know all those fish that were in that
23 area didn't get to spawn. So, all that fish, I wish I
24 would have took all 1000 of them because they won't
25 reproduce. Not in that area. The other areas I looked
26 at to see where the fish were at, because there are
27 common places they go, they were minimal. There were few
28 of them. So, anyway I think there's a lot of changes
29 going on and this is our time of year when we start
30 getting excited. Tatitlek celebrates an event called the
31 Peksulineq Festival. Peksulineq means egg, means the
32 beginning. We're coming to the beginning of our
33 subsistence time right now where we all get excited to
34 go out and start harvesting again, whether it's plants,
35 animals or fish. But it -- it's going to prove to be an
36 interesting year, especially the winter we had. Thank
37 you.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Certainly.
40 She's got a question for you. Faye (indiscernible).

41
42 MS. EWAN: Where was this fish at? That
43 late spawning at?

44
45 MS. SELANOFF: They went up mineral
46 Creek.

47
48 MS. EWAN: I mean, in the Prince William
49 Sound.

50

1 MS. SELANOFF: Yeah. Yeah. It was close.
2 They were like a half mile off of where they should have
3 been. And on the wrong side.
4

5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
6 you, Diane. Thank you, Faye for the question. We'll go
7 ahead and move.....
8

9 (Pause)
10

11 Oh. I want to let the new members go
12 last so you can hear the rest of us talk first. It's up
13 to you. It's -- that'd be good. Okay. Okay, we're going
14 to skip over me, and then I'll come back to me. And
15 don't let me forget GreyBear on the phone, but go ahead,
16 Judy.
17

18 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
19 like to start with a moment of silence, Ken Lord, long,
20 long time attorney for the federal subsistence program,
21 died unexpectedly this weekend. Ken was a staunch
22 supporter of what ANILCA said, and so was a great
23 advocate and spokesperson for our program. If you'd ever
24 been to Federal Subsistence Board meetings, he always
25 sat next to the Chair. And for those of you who came to
26 the All RAC meeting about a year or so ago, he gave
27 several presentations. So, just like us to remember the
28 service that he did for us.
29

30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Thank
31 you, Judy. We'll take just a quick moment of silence in
32 remembrance. I just want to say one thing. Oh, Ken Lord
33 was definitely a great leader in the subsistence fight
34 and attorney. And he had a tragic demise, which is really
35 sad. But I got to know him quite well personally, you
36 know, we had a lot of fights on the Kenai and he was
37 opposing counsel for us in our lawsuits. And at the end,
38 when we finally won and we got things turned around, we
39 became very good friends. He actually supported us and
40 very much. And so, it was -- he was fair. He was a very,
41 very great guy. So, yeah. Let's take about a minute
42 here. Thank you.
43

44 (Moment of silence for Mr. Ken Lord)
45

46 Okay. Judy, go ahead.
47

48 MS. CAMINER: I wanted to thank the
49 Forest Service and NVE for hosting us and providing
50 support. I'm hoping not too many, if any, Forest Service

1 people were let go recently, and my concerns extend to
2 everybody who supports this program out in the field and
3 in Anchorage. And if -- we have a lot of challenges
4 ahead, I'm glad Greg will continue to be our Chair. We
5 don't know what they are, but we'll be facing them
6 together. In terms of an update, I went to Federal
7 Subsistence Board meeting last month, and one of the
8 main topics was whether Ketchikan would be considered a
9 rural community or not. Since the inception of the
10 program, it was actually sort of held as an example of
11 a non-rural community. The composition of the Board is
12 quite different now, with three tribal members added to
13 the existing Board, which has the agencies on it, land
14 managing agencies, BIA and three public members. So,
15 there's basically six public members now on it. And that
16 really changed the tenor of a lot of things. And you
17 also have Board members with good attitudes towards
18 subsistence on the Board. So, even though Ketchikan has
19 a pretty large population, the Board decided it surely
20 showed rural characteristics similar to Kodiak or Sitka,
21 and they voted to make it rural. I'm sure that will be
22 contested in some way. It is a big change in the program,
23 but they seem to follow the information and the RAC
24 recommendation.

25
26 Also wanted to mention in -- there was
27 a discussion, and we'll have it here too, about the
28 application for C&T in our region. And we'll talk about
29 that during we go through -- when we go through our
30 proposals. In that case, the Board listened to both us
31 and the Eastern Interior RAC. We'll talk about that
32 later. In Anchorage we've had about 33 or 34 inches of
33 snow this year. Normal to date, 66 inches. So, that's
34 translated to, I mean, a lot of moose around, they look
35 pretty healthy and fear of wildfires because of the open
36 ground. And Greg, I'm sure we'll talk more about the
37 Cook Inlet fisheries closures that are coming up this
38 year and how that's going to affect a lot of people. I
39 think -- I guess I'll mention one more thing about the
40 Board meeting. The Federal Board, also, when they have
41 meetings, includes the ten RAC Chairs. So, five were
42 there in person. I don't know how many were online,
43 probably at least two. It was just hard to tell. And one
44 was weathered out but he stayed online from southeast.
45 It's a lot different from the old days when every Chair
46 attended the whole meeting. Now it seems really more
47 appropriate, since there's not as much discussion with
48 the RACs to be there for when your own region or nearby
49 region or something that affects all regions be there.
50 But it was just sort of a different sense on my part of

1 how things are going.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
4 Judy. Michael.

5

6 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. So, yeah, it's been a
7 horrible winter, basically in Seldovia. I think in town
8 maybe a foot of snow in Seldovia. There's zero snow on
9 the ground now. The berry brush are budding out. The
10 alders are budding out, elderberries budding out. The
11 Devil's Club are starting to grow the buds on top of
12 them. So, looking at harvesting some of that, when I get
13 -- get done with all my travels here. And you know, I've
14 seen a fair bit of rabbit tracks this winter. Not a
15 whole lot of coyote or wolf tracks. And it wasn't until
16 probably a few weeks ago that I saw some moose tracks.
17 Usually in the wintertime, the moose come from the Gulf
18 side over to our side to kind of get out of the deep
19 snow. And it just there hasn't been any -- there hasn't
20 been a need for them to leave their area, I guess. So,
21 they haven't been around. And so, it's been an
22 interesting one. And just before I came over, there was
23 a report of a sow, and cub black bear in town already,
24 so the bears are starting to move. So, we'll probably
25 be seeing the bear hunters coming out pretty soon.
26 There's been not a lot of snow up high, even I don't
27 know if the guys in town have even been able to run
28 their snow machines up on top.

29

30 Fishing last year was pretty terrible.
31 Not a lot of fish returning as most areas. So, we didn't
32 get a lot of the fish we needed. You know, it's a bunch
33 of proposals coming through ADF&G right now for sea duck
34 proposals. There's one that CRRC just put in for a
35 subsistence Dungeness fishery in Cook Inlet. Hopefully
36 that'll get passed during that meeting this week. We --
37 that would be a great one. So -- and then there's been
38 a recent -- I don't know if other ACs on the Peninsula
39 have talked about it, but a regulation, non-motorized
40 vehicles during closure dates. And it's something that
41 nobody on the south side of Kachemak Bay knew about. And
42 so, we've actually been discussing that at an AC meeting,
43 and with Fish and Game and Wildlife Troopers. So, there's
44 probably going to be a proposal put in to exclude the
45 south side of Kachemak Bay from those dates, just so
46 that people, you know, won't be criminalized for hunting
47 the way they've always hunted being able to get where
48 they need to be and, yeah. So, I think that's kind of
49 it for now.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
2 you, Michael. Heath.

3
4 MR. KOCAN: Yeah. Heath Kocan, Cordova.
5 Yeah. Like everyone else has said, we've had a, you
6 know, a mellow winter here. Like I was telling Ed, it's
7 probably the first time in 15 years that I haven't skied
8 at all, cross country or downhill. We just haven't had
9 it. It's been really wet winter. Sounds like we did
10 better here silver fishing, you know, was not great, but
11 we had about a week and a half of really good fishing.
12 But then it just died, which, you know, usually it's
13 good all through September. But it's really just that
14 first week of September, and then they were just gone.

15
16 Out in the Sound, tanner fishing this
17 winter -- I haven't made it out, but a couple of friends
18 of mine that get out, it's been kind of hit or miss with
19 keepers. Not a lot of crab out there. My big concern,
20 you know, is halibut, like Andrew, kind of alluded to,
21 I sport and commercial fish for 'em [sic]. I normally,
22 -- this last summer we go out to usually fish around
23 Middleton Island and normally we can load the boat up
24 usually no problem on a three-day trip and our first
25 trip in three days we caught 32 fish and our second trip
26 we caught 100 fish. And lots of just tiny fish we had -
27 - yeah, lots of black cod. I don't think that's really
28 a big issue out there. But the halibut is worrisome,
29 especially since they just cut us down 22% on the
30 commercial side this year out in the Gulf. It'd be nice
31 to get more fish out there. King fishing in the Sound.
32 I haven't made it out a lot. I have been pretty busy
33 with work, but it's been -- sound like better than on
34 the East side or the West side. Rather, we've been
35 getting fish here and there. But yeah, the halibut is
36 just really worrisome because not that long ago, there's
37 a lot more out there in the Gulf, and I don't know where
38 they're all going or what's happening, but it'd be nice
39 to find out for sure.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
42 you, Heath. Ed.

43
44 MR. HOLSTEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
45 is Ed Holsten, Cooper Landing area. I won't go into much
46 detail about last fall's fisheries. I'm sure Greg will
47 cover that, but just suffice to say, virtually very few
48 silvers made it up into our neck of the woods, even the
49 Middle River. Of course, kings had been shut down. We
50 had two pretty good runs of sockeye. Both runs, however,

1 were about a week or so late before they poured up, and
2 that might have been due to -- we had -- last summer we
3 had extremely high levels of the Kenai River, upper
4 river, and I think that was due to heavy snow we had
5 previous winter. Now this year, parroting what other
6 people have said is we virtually have had no winter in
7 Cooper Landing. We started out early October with about
8 two inches of snow, and that was basically it. For the
9 last -- rest of the winter we've got snow high up higher
10 up, but it's really a thin layer of snow. A lot of rain,
11 record rains. It's the windiest winter I've seen. And
12 my main concern or one of my concerns is this year the
13 level of Kenai Lake is way, way below normal. And I'm
14 concerned how that's going to affect based on low snow
15 levels during breakup, how that's going to affect river
16 flow this year and passage of salmon.

17
18 In terms of wildlife, it's been a -- I
19 think a really good year for moose. Rarely do we see
20 moose down, down around town because there's no reason
21 for them to have to come down. There's no snow or very
22 little snow higher up, so they're just staying higher
23 up. Rabbit populations are down. Lynx are still there,
24 but they'll start dropping off. On the other hand, and
25 it may due to lack of snow and easy access around, but
26 a lot more coyotes around town now than I've seen in the
27 past. The other good thing for moose this year is
28 virtually very few road kills going on. Normally we get
29 a number of them in town there. Nothing this year, so
30 that's a plus. That's about it. Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.
33 Go ahead, Dennis.

34
35 MR. ZADRA: All right. For the record,
36 Dennis Zadra of Cordova. Oh, my God, I won't belabor
37 this, but a very warm winter here in Cordova. One thing
38 that seemed different was our ice events. You know, with
39 there not being a snow cover on the ground, and we had
40 some cold snaps and then we would get a little snow or
41 rain and the entire town, everything was a sheet of ice.
42 If you did not wear your ice creepers, you were on the
43 ground. So, that was significant. The other thing is,
44 you know, we had two very significant wind events in the
45 fall, one right around Christmas and all that. But it
46 blew trees down here in town that had never blown down.
47 So, that that was quite different. We had our Board of
48 Fish meetings here in December, you know, and, you know,
49 with all due respect to Andy, I don't agree with
50 everything you said. You know, I sat here every day, and

1 I listened to the testimony and all of that. A big
2 misconception -- these guys that are trawling in Prince
3 William Sound and out in the entrance and all that,
4 they're not bottom trawling. The terrain does not -- it
5 is like cliffs. These guys are catching these pollock
6 mid-water wherever they sent -- tent hang out. So, it's
7 not like they do in the Bering Sea. A significant part
8 of all of it is they are taking a lot of pollock out of
9 the ecosystem that if they didn't do that, those pollock
10 are sitting there ready to eat all the salmon smolts
11 that are out migrating to. So, there is a benefit, you
12 know, to the salmon runs. But I'm not going to get into
13 the politics with that.

14
15 Through the Board of Fish deal, we lost
16 the first with a arbitrarily shut down our first week
17 of the Copper River, which this year is going to be, I
18 think, pretty -- I don't want to say catastrophic, but
19 we're going to get a lot of fish in that river. Before
20 we even get a chance to go fishing. On a positive note,
21 they did open up a subsistence Dungeness fishery that
22 will start here on the 20th. So, we get to go and with
23 no closures or whatever to show, my guys can go out and
24 throw their pots and see if there's dungees. Heath
25 mentioned about tanner fishing, and I just recently went
26 and set tanner pots out here around the corner. And I
27 know earlier the guys like, you know, October, you know,
28 was really hit and miss. But we pulled pots yesterday.
29 We had two pots. We had 106 crab in the two pots with,
30 you know, 40 keepers out of that. So, it's some of the
31 best tanner fishing that I've seen, and you know, some
32 really good-looking crab. So, that was optimistic, and
33 you know like anything they come and go. What else? That
34 -- we've got a really good salmon red forecast on the
35 Copper River whether we're going to be able to work on
36 that or not. And then finally, I was hoping that we
37 could get everybody out the road and see where the --
38 this new dipnet fishery is out there. But there was one
39 about a four-foot snow drift right at 27 mile that was
40 impassable. So, that didn't work. But yeah, that's
41 basically all I got.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well thanks,
44 Dennis, and thanks for trying to get us out there. Yeah
45 -- and report. Anyway, I got three -- you got a question
46 for Dennis? Go ahead.

47
48 MS. SELANOFF: Yeah. The Dungeness, is
49 that going to be commercial or subsistence? You said
50 there's an opener.

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MR. ZADRA: Subsistence.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
Andy, you got a question? Go ahead. Yeah.

MR. MCLAUGHLING: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Do you know of any reports of or do you yourself do
shrimp fishery things from this side of the Sound? Seems
like we both live in very different habitats.

MR. ZADRA: Yeah. Our shrimp -- there's
not much shrimping around here. You know, there's a few
of the tigers are up in Fidalgo and all that, but nobody
does it. Most of all, the shrimping is across -- I've
never participated in a commercial fishery. I do the
sport fishery, you know, when I'm over there gillnetting
in the summer and I've definitely seen a huge decrease
in the amount and the part that it is, it's like you
can't go anywhere and not just see a ton of shrimp pots.
You know, the commercial fishery does not -- it's very
well managed and they don't take a lot of shrimp. And
what's happened now and they're you know, this meeting
is going on right now. The shrimp meeting is up in
Anchorage, I guess. But a lot of these Anchorage people
that were typically sport fishermen going out and
setting their two pots realize, hey, I can get a
commercial permit and I can go out there in April or May
whenever it opens, and I can set my 20 pots and, you
know, so there is a huge push for these sport guys now
commercial. I know guys that have been commercial
shrimpers here for 25 years and it's not a big money
deal. But you know, they make some money. It was a
fishery you could participate in and do something. But
the big changes now and they've tried to turn it into a
limited entry fishery which had -- which failed. But
there's just a lot of guys with their bay liners are now
commercial shrimpers. And they're sitting there 20 pots.
And you know, if that's the way the fishery is going to
go, they probably should close down the commercial. But
the testimony and all that, the State does not have good
-- a good management strategy for shrimp. And hopefully
if anything comes out of these meetings, they're going
to readdress that and do something better. But yeah, I
agree. The shrimp are definitely down.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Faye's got a
question for you Dennis.

1 MS. EWAN: My question is where did he
2 get the statistics on the big run of salmon that's going
3 up the Copper River? Is it the state or the federal
4 statistics?

5
6 MR. ZADRA: It's the State. It comes out
7 every year with their forecast and based on previous
8 year's harvest, you know, the recruitment of different
9 age classes of the fish and all and it's a hit and miss
10 thing. You know, you can look at how accurate they have
11 been but it's optimistic, you know, that they're saying,
12 hey, we're -- it looks like we're good -- and this is
13 just the reds. You know the kings are not forecast to
14 do well. So, but yeah it is a state -- the state
15 forecast.

16
17 MS. EWAN: I come from the Copper River.
18 I was born and raised in Copper River, and my late father
19 and my relatives used to sit on this Board, and we used
20 to get up, you know, fish wheel full of fish. And this
21 last year, I know I run a fish wheel, and I know that
22 we didn't get what they said was forecasted from here
23 to Chitina. It didn't show up. They said there was 120,
24 000 fish will say, for example, by the time I got to
25 Copper, we're lucky we even got ten, maybe five fish in
26 each wheel. And that's why I asked where the statistics
27 come from, because we need to call them out because it's
28 not accurate. And I work with environmental groups all
29 over Alaska and the Lower 48. And I see that the
30 statistics are not accurate. And the salmon is dying off
31 before it even gets to the spawning ground, because
32 there's too many dip netters and people that are
33 interfering with, you know, from Chitina down there,
34 there's probably 10,000 people a day. And with the Cook
35 Inlet closing down and up the Yukon and the Kuskokwim,
36 we are in flux by a lot of people that we've never even
37 seen. And, you know, it's really sad to me because salmon
38 is our way of life. And that's how we do our potlatches
39 and that's how we teach our kids our culture and stuff
40 like that. And I [sic] concerned about this number quota
41 because it does sound like a lot. If I get 100 fish in
42 a week, that's nothing compared to what we had before.
43 And I know how to fish, I know the eddies. I know the
44 Copper River and what I'm saying is that the statistics
45 that they give out, I don't think the federal -- they
46 piggyback the system on the state, I know that. But the
47 statistics need to be, you know, all the permits and
48 everything gets turned in October. And a lot of times
49 when they close our king salmon down before we even got
50 king salmon this year, someone gave me two king salmon

1 that were that big. And that's -- you know, they're not
2 making it to their spawning ground. It's my concern.
3 That's why I asked this question. Thank you.

4
5 MR. ZADRA: Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
8 Thank you, Dennis. We didn't want to put you on the
9 spot, but that's.....

10
11 (Simultaneous speech)

12
13 MR. ZADRA: Oh, that's right. No. And I
14 you know, I agree. I wasn't there, but I agree with you.
15 I think the problem on the Copper River is the personal
16 use fishery that continues to expand. Everything else
17 is going down. The subsistence use is going down. Our
18 commercial harvest and opportunities decreased by 47%
19 and all that. And those guys do nothing but grow, you
20 know and so yeah. And but it does not get much traction
21 going to Board of Fish.

22
23 MS. EWAN: And the salmon that we did
24 get, they were so soft that you couldn't even put your
25 fingers through it. And that is an environmental issue
26 right there that we need to be very concerned about.
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
30 Faye. Thank you, Dennis. Okay I'm going to go ahead and
31 do my report here a little bit.

32
33 (Pause)

34
35 Change it up then. Go ahead, Kirk.

36
37 MR. WILSON: My name is Kirk, and the
38 first thing I'd like to talk about is caribou in our
39 area. And what I've noticed about caribou, we've all
40 heard the numbers, pretty much our caribou is about as
41 low as it's ever been, and it seems to be the consensus
42 here when I hear the other people of -- new people coming
43 in -- well, I live kind of right in the middle of Unit
44 13. I owned a lodge for 40 years, so I'm really familiar
45 with all user groups. My family has lived a subsistence
46 lifestyle since I've been there, and the reason -- one
47 of the things I want to talk about today is the habitat
48 of these caribou, and especially in the Alphabet Hills
49 and in behind Eureka. Both of those areas seem to have
50 turned into the biggest playground for recreational

1 vehicles that we have ever known in Alaska. And in those
2 two areas. I don't know if you know much about lichen,
3 but when you go drive in these vehicles over, that lichen
4 is not very powerful stuff. It doesn't survive all-
5 terrain vehicles, and especially when it's continuous
6 use. And we've had some bad winters with these caribou.
7 And we know that these winters have devastated -- but
8 when -- it used to be what happened is the caribou
9 overgrazed the area where the calving is. And those are
10 the two biggest calving -- there's only one calving area
11 that I know of left in Unit 13 that is not all terrain
12 vehicle accessible. And it comes from -- they come from
13 the top of the Denali. And the reason that it's -- they
14 can't get nothing up by the Denali. Everything's left
15 the Denali Highway now, there's just too much activity
16 there. So, they've pushed them down to where the McLaren
17 and the Susitna and on the other side of the river.
18 That's a calving area that they haven't reached yet. But
19 everything else in our area as far as habitat and these
20 all-terrain vehicles, it's a crime what they're doing,
21 they're tearing up our State. I mean, it's -- I've had
22 to watch it since there were -- none of that was there
23 when I first came to Tolsona and now I fly still and
24 everything, and it's devastating. It is just
25 devastating.

26
27 Now, I want to talk about moose a little
28 bit. What's happened is our caribou population is so low
29 now and, you know, Unit 13 is the most accessible area
30 in the State of Alaska. And you just heard me talk about
31 these all-terrain vehicles, that area behind Eureka when
32 I first moved to my area and I hunted there, and I mean,
33 there were big bull moose. You can't hardly find a moose
34 there anymore. And these people, that's all they got
35 left to target now is moose and Unit 13. There comes a
36 time when there's just not enough animals left and
37 especially when you're talking about us people that are
38 living a subsistence lifestyle. I can give you an example
39 of what happened, four years ago when I hunted and hunted
40 same place. And I sit there, I don't move. I take a
41 trailer right alongside the road, just off the road,
42 maybe 150 yards. I never get out of my car, hardly. Four
43 years ago, I saw 16 calves, while there was triplets and
44 two sets of twins. This last year, I saw one calf, five
45 moose while I was there. The year before it was around
46 6 or 8 moose and two calves that I saw. So, we're looking
47 at a -- you know, it's a small area I'm talking about,
48 and I hunt out of those areas where all these people
49 are, but we have a moose problem in Unit 13 right now,
50 especially with our caribou. When you add the two things

1 together, these people have nothing else to hunt but
2 bears and moose and caribou in Unit 13. And predator
3 population, when you want to talk about predators now.
4 You can adjust numbers around and everything, but
5 there's not enough food to go around for the predators
6 that we used to have. We can't have as many predators
7 as we've had if we're going to have this low population
8 because they got to eat too. And for the people in my
9 area that I represent and the Ahtna community, if they
10 can't get a caribou, I mean, they've never not had that
11 cultural thing to make moccasins. And believe me, they
12 use the whole animal. They don't just go out and shoot
13 an animal and gut it out in the field and bone it out
14 and leave. They take that whole animal. They use the
15 heads, the tongues, the eyes, everything. Our sport
16 hunters are not doing that. They're leaving enough in
17 the field where village people would go there and use
18 that if they had the opportunity. And that may be some
19 of it if we can -- I just don't know. Okay. I'll move
20 on to fish now.

21
22 I have a place on Crosswinds Lake. I've
23 watched one of -- I was born at a fish hatchery in
24 Wyoming. I've been involved in Fish and Game all my
25 life. My dad was the third game warden in Wyoming. He
26 built the first two fish hatcheries. I've watched this
27 whole program on Crosswinds Lake with this -- I've been
28 there this whole time. I've served on the Prince William
29 Sound Aquaculture as the Copper River Native
30 Association's advisor. And I don't know if you all know
31 Ken Roberson. This is one of the concerns I haven't
32 heard from anybody else, and I just talked to Ken before
33 I come here. He's a very good friend of mine. In fact,
34 he is my mentor. He has taught me a lot. The big thing
35 is our fish are not getting -- just getting smaller in
36 the Copper River, but the eggs are getting smaller.
37 That's the first time I've ever heard that. So, it almost
38 looks -- paints a picture of we're going to go into
39 smaller salmon from now on. And I don't know what the --
40 - this is the first I've ever heard of it. I don't know
41 if any of you have heard it or the biologist that Ken
42 Roberson is the first one. And I mean, he is -- he's God
43 to me. He knows it like anybody. And I have to agree
44 with Faye on the fish wheel thing. I've been a fish
45 wheeler all my time. And my little area where we fish
46 got flooded out and there was about 5 or 6 of us there,
47 and I've only just got a few salmon from others the last
48 few years when we've had all we've ever needed in the
49 past. And one of the reasons that we're having a problem
50 up there is not just the low amount of fish, but our

1 high water the last -- with these winters we've had,
2 it's hard to even run -- you can't get it down to the
3 bottom. The water is so high. Let me see if I got
4 anything else to.....

5
6 These user groups on these fish -- I put
7 in -- it's been -- in fact, I kind of got really
8 depressed after I put in, I don't know, there was 9 or
9 12 proposals I put in one year on new user groups in the
10 Copper River, and that's -- this new sonar they have and
11 these boats, and they're going up the river and they can
12 go right in and they can target these fishes with their
13 dip nets. And now you see -- these are new user groups.
14 There's boats floating all around down the Copper River
15 with nets in the river. And now their nets, the ones
16 that are standing on the bank down there in Chitina,
17 they're 40ft long. They're just -- and they're huge nets
18 and there's new user groups at the Copper River down
19 there that they're so lined up along the highway along
20 the bridge there that it doesn't even look like the same
21 place it used to be. And these people in these boats,
22 now, the rules are if you fish under this -- they can
23 pull up to the mouth of the -- well, I'll use a better
24 example. The Gulkana River, been closed to fly fishing
25 only at the mouth of the river at the Gulkana since I
26 have lived there. And now you can take a boat. You can
27 go down in the mouth of the Copper River and float right
28 along the edge of the mouth of the Gulkana River, and
29 you can dip net your limit of fish out of there. So, we
30 really have to focus in on some of these user groups
31 that's popping up, that we've never had in the past. We
32 just don't have enough salmon to go for everybody. And
33 I do have to say one more thing about the Gulkana
34 hatchery and hearing him talk about having a -- these
35 farm-raised fish. I'm all about the Gulkana hatchery.
36 That's one of the most successful things I have ever
37 seen in my life and I'm watching it. They can't get the
38 eggs. When they first started the Gulkana hatchery. I
39 have a place on Crosswinds. They put 10 million fry in
40 Crosswinds Lake, 10 million in Summit and 10 million in
41 Paxson. They did studies, Crosswinds Lakes produces the
42 biggest smolt in the Copper River. It doesn't -- it's
43 never had to run a salmon. Well, I can't say that, it
44 did have a run of salmon, I think, before we all showed
45 up and it got fished out there, because you can see
46 every salmon in the creek and there's cabins with dog
47 teams down along that creek. So, they've re-enhanced
48 these fish in Crosswinds Lake. They do double in
49 Crosswinds Lake, the outmigration than Summit and Paxson
50 does together. It's one of the most successful -- and

1 it produces fish that come back -- I run an airboat and
2 we actually, Bruce Cain bought the fish from Prince
3 William Sound -- and I run an airboat, and I hauled fish
4 out of there. Our fish averaged three quarters of a
5 pound bigger than all the rest of the fish in the Copper
6 basin. So, I think for us to take a look at enhancing
7 over farming might be a lot better idea, because there's
8 creeks here in the Sound you can go in. And I mean, you
9 could enhance that creek. And in three years you could
10 have some salmon back in there. And I mean, it's a small
11 easy project to do. Pins in the creek. Two people to do
12 it. I mean, I'm just throwing ideas out, guys. And
13 really, I think that's about all I got for you today.
14 Thank you so much for having me here.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Thank
17 you, Kirk. I think we're going to probably take a break.
18 We've still got Faye, if you don't mind. And then we've
19 got GreyBear and then we've got me. And so, let's take
20 a five-minute break here and get a cup of coffee.

21
22 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah.

25
26 MS. CAMINER: Yeah, couldn't -- I'd just
27 like to make one comment for Kirk and Faye and Edward.
28 I mean, what this Council can do is, I mean, you
29 mentioned particularly the moose and caribou situation
30 in Unit 13. So, we only deal with federal lands within
31 that. And if there's a proposal you would like to bring
32 forward on how to adjust the current regulations, it'd
33 be good to speak with Brian back there and, you know,
34 maybe specifically point out what needs to change in the
35 current regulations that you'd like to bring -- that
36 you'd like the RAC to possibly put forward, that we
37 could discuss. So, that's how we can make a difference,
38 is to propose changes to any current regulations or come
39 up with a completely new regulation.

40
41 MR. WILSON: Thank you so much for that.
42 Geez, It's a lot. I put in. Excuse me.

43
44 MS. CAMINER: Excuse me. I didn't mean
45 right now. I'm just saying that would be part of our
46 workload, you know?

47
48 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I mean, this this
49 thing right here, I've put in a proposal, and I've done
50 it twice now. The first time, as it was accepted to

1 close all federal land in Unit 13 except to subsistence
2 users. And they've shut me down on the whole area. The
3 second time, we just got one area. And it has been very
4 successful for the Copper River Native people to have
5 that. None of those other people can be in there. You
6 don't come upon all those other ATVs and we need to get
7 them other areas.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, let's go
10 ahead and take a break. Thank you.

11
12 (Off record)

13
14 (On record)

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, folks,
17 we'll go ahead and get started. Chop, chop.

18
19 (Pause)

20
21 Faye, you coming up to give your a
22 report? Yeah. You don't want me to put GreyBear first,
23 do you?

24
25 (Pause)

26
27 Okay, thanks. I guess you're up.

28
29 MS. EWAN: Good morning. (In Native) I
30 just said good morning in my language Ahtna Koht'aene.
31 I come from the Copper River. Born and raised here and
32 I've watched fishing and hunting. And I -- we hunt all
33 over -- trapped all over Copper River all. I mean, I can
34 tell you all the way from Paxson to Denali, all the way
35 to Tok, all the way to Northway the borders. I can go
36 down to -- all the way down to Chitina, pass through to
37 (In Native), all the way towards Anchorage. And we can
38 watch, and we see the animals and the fish declining all
39 over the place. I believe it's because of the habitat --
40 -- that the environmental -- people that are impacting
41 the Eureka and the Lake Louise and Paxson way is from
42 humans moving into the habitat. They're building houses
43 on these permafrost and land that the caribou migrated
44 on and just like Eureka, it turned into a big old
45 playground like Valdez. It really harmed our birthing
46 grounds of the caribou, and we have a lot of impact on
47 moose fatalities from hit and run and truck, you know,
48 vehicles and they call it vehicular accident, whatever.
49 And the fish is very poor when we get it. And I cut
50 fish. I live off the land. That's my income. I teach my

1 children, my people how to survive off the land. I don't
2 live on, you know, like the people do in Anchorage and
3 Fairbanks. And everywhere you go up for the weekend, go
4 hunt and fish. We watch what we do. We watch the rabbits
5 and the birds and the climate change when they come
6 back. We watch how the weather -- the tree budding right
7 now means the salmon is on its way already. It's ready
8 to hit the rivers. That's our traditional knowledge. And
9 that traditional knowledge is, you know, the science --
10 science people they -- I -- I'll do a little bit
11 background on my history of what I've been involved in.
12 I've been involved in environmental -- different
13 agencies I work with. I work with the different Boards,
14 and especially when it pertains to our people and our
15 way of life. And the Constitution of Alaska says that
16 we are the first people to hunt and fish in time of
17 shortage, and there is a time of shortage. Just like you
18 guys talk about your clams, your, you know, your shrimp
19 and stuff out here. When I seen the State of Alaska open
20 up that trawling. This is the last of the paradise of
21 all the species in the ocean. And when they start killing
22 killer whales and start taking things like that and
23 getting away with it. I do a one time, one-time wanton
24 way, I'll have the Fish and Game right by my house close
25 my fish, reel down, take my license, take my gun, take
26 whatever they can just for me to violate that law. And
27 while I'm watching this maritime law being violated in
28 the oceans and stuff. And it's a -- it's afflicting
29 everybody in this place here, every human being that
30 lives on fishing, is affecting you guys. And to me, the
31 regulations even went to the North Pacific Fishery
32 Management Council and the NOAA, they're not listening
33 to the people. The Upper Yukon and the Kuskokwim has no
34 salmon. They never ate salmon for seven years. Were we
35 responsible for that now? Because, you know, what would
36 a Copper River is going to be the next? I see it already.
37 And just like he was talking about these different
38 people, a group of people coming down fishing, there is
39 no regulations on fish nets that they use to dip net.
40 They use -- they throw out. I didn't know that you can
41 use a line that you do like you guys do out here with
42 the fishing net. These people came up and they're out
43 there -- they're from different countries. They went
44 into Chitina, and they put a 40 to 100 foot net across
45 the river, and they were pulling it in, and the Fish and
46 Game just let them go. This is you know, to me, the
47 regulation says you only can fish with fish wheel and
48 fish net -- dip net. And a lot of history goes into
49 Chitina, where the fishing capital is in the summertime.
50 It starts about May. You'll start to see people already

1 start moving down there with their motorhomes and they
2 come in, they impact this place there, and then when
3 they do, they -- like they go out hunting for moose and
4 stuff they don't take it. They don't respect it. A lot
5 of times, Copper River -- I mean, Ahtna Inter-Tribal
6 Resource Commission and Ahtna had developed a program
7 where we get to meet and stuff, but they don't take, a
8 lot of times that comes back, it's not even edible. To
9 me, it's disrespect when I get a moose head that's all
10 full of worms. And I think that the regulations and the
11 wanton waste needs to be upgraded. It needs to be upheld
12 to -- by the federal government because we live with --
13 all around us is federal lands and then the qualified
14 users. You just have to have a post office box, and you
15 can be a qualified user, and you can live in Anchorage
16 or Fairbanks or wherever, and you still have rights and
17 jurisdiction to come up there and fish. And those people
18 don't even live there, half of them -- maybe one month
19 out of the year, but they have a P.O. box. So, I would
20 recommend that, you know what the regulations and
21 everything are, proposals that we need to strengthen the
22 way people apply for their fishing and hunting license.
23 And, you know, with the residents, I have to prove where
24 I come from, where my village is, everything. I got to
25 prove that. So, does he. But there's other people that
26 come there, like when we get a illegal moose, they bring
27 in illegal moose. Those people don't get very -- they
28 don't get big fines and everything, but it was us
29 indigenous people. We lose everything, even our cars.
30 And then there's a federal regulation, state regulation
31 line that's invisible. You shoot a caribou on that side,
32 and there's a line here, this GIS line, and it runs over
33 to the federal. They took my son's caribou because it
34 ran over from the federal land over to the state land,
35 and they said it was illegal. Well, that's what we're
36 talking about. The piggyback system on the regulations,
37 the federals they copy what -- they do, what the state
38 do. But the State has failed us in 65 years, ever since
39 it became the State.

40
41 I come from a family that started the
42 ANILCA, the Ewans in the Copper River. For we have a
43 long history of fishing, and we know that back in 1898,
44 the Magnuson Act, when Chief Bellam went down to -- down
45 here to protest for other people to eat. And at that
46 time our people were starving. And today I think we're,
47 you know, a lot of our young people can't even process
48 fish because they don't know when our -- in our
49 traditional way, we give our fish to the elders first.
50 No matter where you come from, who they are, the elders

1 eat first and we have a ceremony. And that's the
2 difference between the commercial, the sports fishing
3 and them. Our people still have customary and
4 traditional use. That is something that needs to be
5 strengthened, is the customary and traditional use. All
6 of these vocabularies and all these acronyms and
7 everything. I don't think the people that like the
8 commissioner and the governor and them, they don't
9 follow their guidelines and things like that. I think
10 the federal government, it's time to step up to the
11 fiduciary trust responsibility to the people of Alaska
12 and stop this commercial trawling and all the stuff
13 that's destroying our way of life. I feel very threatened
14 because I fish -- when I get my salmon, my elders get
15 it first. I'm an elder myself, but I'm an internal
16 teenager, so I give them the salmon. We send it all the
17 way to Mentasta Lake. Katie John, she fought for our
18 rights to have fish up and Batzulnetas. My mom and dad
19 fought for our rights in 1973 - 78 to -- for us to still
20 have a fish reel on the river. Well, today I looked at
21 the statistics. The state of Alaska people have 130, -
22 40 some fish wheel, 11 of them is on the indigenous
23 people. The rest of them they come up from Anchorage,
24 Fairbanks and they put fish wheel all along the river
25 and they buy land and they bring their people. And it's
26 a big impact, especially from (In Native), all the way
27 up to Chitina. That's where the fish is disappearing
28 because these people that do the commercial fishing,
29 they can take subsistence users out and they can fish
30 for them. And I've caught many of those people -- guide
31 service at my fish wheel, saying oh, well, they're not
32 here. We're going to take their fish. And we all stood
33 up on the bank and I said, what are you doing? And they
34 took off. And I -- you know, I see this stuff like this,
35 all these breaking laws. And, you know, we follow the
36 guidelines, we do what we have to do. We turn in our
37 permits and, you know, we -- I involve in Copper River
38 and a lot of different issues, on our way of life. And
39 the things I'd like to see change is the regulations and
40 that make sure it meets the people's needs, especially
41 the subsistence users that -- you know, these people
42 that come from Anchorage, they come with motorhomes,
43 they got four wheelers, they got, I mean, every kind of
44 toy you want, and they come there and they chase those
45 caribou and moose. They don't hunt them, they chase them,
46 they play with them. And we seen it in Denali. I hunt
47 and fish in Denali. I pick berries up there. I go to
48 Mentasta. We go get our other, other food. We go to
49 Nabesna, we go up there, look for sheep. We go down --
50 we can't even hunt sheep down in towards Anchorage way

1 because of the regulations. And our people don't even
2 know how it tastes to eat sheep. But when we do get it,
3 we share it and we make sure that the people know and
4 we use the skin, we use everything, we use the bones and
5 make tools with it. We don't waste nothing but the animal
6 parts that you don't eat, and the lungs and the female
7 and male parts that we don't use that we put that back
8 in. That's how much respect we have for salmon and our
9 animals. And we have a lot of oral history, too, that
10 goes with it. But you know what really hurts me is when
11 I see people come down to Copper River and they go
12 fishing, and it costs a lot of money for people to
13 travel, and a lot of time they go home with nothing. But
14 when I see a trailer -- tractor trailer truck going out
15 with a whole bunch of these little boxes you guys have
16 out here for commercial fishing going out at Chitina,
17 that's an alarm. I brought this up to the state troopers,
18 Fish and Game. I mentioned a lot of times that this is
19 illegal. Where are they taking that fish? You don't need
20 a big Ole tractor trailer to take fish out of Copper
21 River when it's subsistence. So, I think there's
22 something else going on. I think these people are selling
23 our salmon that's coming out of Copper River. That's why
24 we're not getting fish, but I'm looking into it. Thank
25 you.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
28 Faye. Edward, are you on the phone?
29

30 MR. GREYBEAR: Yes. I'm here.
31

32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. If you
33 want to talk a little bit about what's happened in your
34 region this last year. We appreciate it.
35

36 MR. GREYBEAR: Yes. For the record, my
37 name is Edward GreyBear, and I agree with Faye and Kirk.
38 I went out hunting this last season for 20 days, and
39 there was an increased amount of pressure from other
40 hunters all over the place. I went on trails that I used
41 to go on all the time, and every single time I ran into
42 another hunter or a group of large hunters, and I even
43 took some of the youth out. And sadly, I was unsuccessful
44 in my hunt. The hunters that I did run into that were
45 successful, I noticed that they were leaving a lot of
46 their -- a lot of the meat and useful organs that we
47 could have used, like the liver. They didn't take the
48 kidneys. They didn't take the stomach and that's all
49 stuff that our Ahtna people would use. And I was able
50 to educate some other hunters, and they allowed me to

1 take those organs because they weren't going to use them.
2 And I was able to take the tongue and the nose and just
3 stuff that normally people would just toss or throw away.

4
5 When I went down to Chitina during the
6 fishing season, I seen an increased amount of dip netters
7 all over the place. It was just bizarre seeing just a
8 line of people all along the river. That's all I have
9 for my report.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
12 Edward. Yeah. Okay, I'm going to go ahead and talk a
13 little bit now and try and keep it succinct. You know,
14 I sure appreciate a lot of the testimony, especially the
15 new people here. What we were trying to do is just give
16 the brief report in our area and so much of this stuff
17 we have to take -- we have to take it by regulation to
18 the Board. So, we have to make proposals, bring it before
19 this Board, you know, or from the communities that
20 pertain to the federal lands. That's all we can speak
21 to. I've been on here a long time. I'm a 1948 model. I'm
22 born in Ninilchik, Alaska, and I've seen the demise and
23 the demise of all of our resources. We're doing the same
24 things that Faye and Kurtz doing -- it's not just to
25 one region, it's all over the State.

26
27 I'll just give you a brief. Our streams
28 Ninilchik, Deep Creek, Local, they've had fishing and
29 we've ate all the kings you could imagine for many, many
30 years. They're now depleted. They're shut down. They're
31 open only for hatchery fish. Those hatchery fish, they
32 make them and made it into a playground for sportsmen.
33 And then it's open. The Ninilchik is the only one open
34 on the Kenai. The set netters are shut down. I'm a
35 lifelong set netter. My dad had a fish trap, they've
36 been shut down for four years. They say it's because of
37 the kings. We can't get kings. This last year we got
38 zero kings. We've been buying kings from southeast, from
39 some trawlers, and they're getting even hard to get.
40 We've been buying silvers, which is unheard of to feed
41 our people. And so, you know, we like everyone else, we
42 -- the kings and the silvers are our livelihoods. That's
43 what we love, fat and content. We lived off of them. So,
44 I've seen great change. The things that we've promoted
45 at the RAC here is how do we succinctly make change that
46 benefits the user, the federal users. And as time moves
47 on, you know, the RAC used to be if someone wanted to
48 come in and had to have a C&T, it was a fight. I mean,
49 you had to bring in your village, your people. You
50 testified, you showed you had the usage. You had to go

1 through the whole nine yards. That's been way, way
2 streamlined and changed. You know, the rules and
3 regulations the people were state is getting kind of
4 overrun. We got a governor. The reason the federal
5 program isn't here because they don't comply with
6 ANILCA, they don't comply with the laws. And so, we only
7 have you know, we talk about the trawlers, we talk about
8 the clams and all the stuff. I'm so passionate, I love
9 clams. My birthday was yesterday, day before and
10 fortunate I got some clam fritters that we dug from the
11 west side of Cook Inlet. But you know, I'm not going to
12 get on a soapbox, but I'm trying to kind of tell some
13 of the newer people and stuff that how the process works
14 here, and we're wide open to if you come up with a
15 solution, a proposal, we'll help you write it. We got
16 staff, OSM people that will help you work on that and
17 make those changes that need to be done and get them
18 before us, because we do have differences with the Board.
19 We do have more people on the Board now that may be
20 favorable to our needs, but we have a crisis. We have a
21 major crisis. I've been crying about it for a few years
22 here. Food securities, Ninilchik Natives, we've got
23 through our tribe. We've got a grant for food securities,
24 and it was about \$1 million and what a blessing. But we
25 have to buy a lot of store food to feed the people. I
26 mean, it's kind of sad, you know, you can't even buy you
27 know, we do go get fresh halibut and stuff that we can
28 buy. So, we're doing that.

29
30 Well, I got in my notes here. I want to
31 thank Judy at the last Federal Subsistence Board she sat
32 in for me, I wasn't available. She does a fantastic job
33 there. But that Federal Board has got some -- they're
34 out of control too. But anyway, we need to work on that.
35 And I say it in a nice way. They're reorganizing. They're
36 putting three more people on there. And they got a lot
37 going on there. So, but we do have that -- that is the
38 process. We could come, we go to them. They give us
39 difference if we unless it's for a reason of you know,
40 a shortage of fish or something like that or something
41 that we missed, then they're supposed to give deference
42 to this Board. But the only thing we get to act on here
43 is the proposals to us. And this round, we really don't
44 have any. We got a couple things to go over, but we're
45 going to spend a lot of time on some of this stuff.

46
47 I mentioned earlier, thanks to the
48 village here. In the Cook Inlet area, we started a fish
49 commission with the Native villages and all our Native
50 friends there, Kenai, Kenaitze, the Salamatof, you know,

1 all the way up to Chickaloon, Knik. All of them and we
2 did it because we were trying to help those villages get
3 fish. They don't have fish. They're lost. Ninilchik is
4 very fortunate. We fought a battle for many, many years.
5 We spent many, many dollars to get a fishery on the
6 Kenai. We're the only one that I know of has a net in
7 the Kenai River. And that supports our people for federal
8 fish. And there's plenty of reds. But I'll tell you a
9 story about that too. I heard you talking about the
10 smaller fish. We've been seeing that for a long time.
11 They're small fish, even in the Bristol Bay region. I
12 talk to people that go, they put on their humpy gear.
13 They're using four and a half, four and three quarter
14 inch mesh to catch these big reds. Reds in the Kenai
15 used to be held at 12, 13, 14 pounds and the silvers are
16 gone. The silvers didn't show up this year. That don't
17 mean they're gone. They come and go. But I do know things
18 are getting tough.

19
20 Clams, we don't have any federal land
21 to dig on, but in the state land, they are gone. We've
22 been shut down for four years. So, we do have food
23 security problem. The moose. We've worked so hard on the
24 moose, and I'm very passionate in the moose. And I eat
25 everything. I fight all the time with my son to get the
26 tongue. And the only way we solve that, we each got one.
27 But anyway. So, so. But we love to eat. You know, I love
28 the kidneys, and all the internal organs, even the
29 (indiscernible). But anyway, that's a whole nother [sic]
30 story in the Bible. In the Bible of the moose. But
31 anyway, I got a couple other things there. Ninilchik of
32 course, has been dry. No snow, the same as everyone
33 else's report. Things are changing a little bit around
34 there. So, we're going to see what happens with the --
35 you know, the state wanting to do a lot of different
36 things. And I'm really concerned about them starting,
37 you know fisheries that are that -- I don't think will
38 be helpful to the state. You know, hatchery seemed to
39 work. But hatcheries become a problem, too two when you
40 create too many fish, especially pinks, and the pinks
41 got so prolific that, you know they get them for these
42 seiners, but they're competing for the wild food. And
43 it's been proven to us that we're losing our edge there.
44 Because I was just astounded at a couple RAC meetings
45 ago, we had some very great reports from some scientists
46 and biologists, and they talked about the mix of hatchery
47 fish now, and all the way up the Western -- all the way
48 up the coast, everywhere. It's about 70 or 80% hatchery
49 fish now, that's unbelievable. A lot of it is from
50 Russia, from Chile, other areas that are out of our

1 control too. But so, we're building capacity, but it's
2 also killing our other stocks in some ways, that's my
3 belief. Anyway. I just throw that out there. What did I
4 miss? The fish commission. The silvers, thank Judy, food
5 securities, fishing, moose, the Chair. You guys still
6 got confidence in me. Faye, I never cut you off. I know
7 better than that. But I might have to slow you down a
8 little bit.

9
10 But anyway, all's well, in some ways,
11 you know, we share foods, and, you know, we have the
12 Kenaitze Indians next to us. And I'll tell you a story
13 about them. You know, the Kenaitze went and they fought
14 and helped us with our C&T in Ninilchik for years. We
15 had the whole tribe up there go testify to the Federal
16 Board and everything. And unfortunately, they got
17 considered rural. But I was always trying to push the
18 idea of a village within a rural area, within the city
19 area, because there are users there. They were
20 traditional users, Kenaitze Dena'ina. If anyone was a
21 traditional user on the Kenai, it was them and they got
22 cut out if it. So, they got a state permit, and they do
23 state fisheries to kind of get some buy. That state
24 could close at any time. They shut down ours and
25 everything. So, not gloom and doom, you know. We're going
26 to figure a way around this. But we do have to figure a
27 way to get the food to the federal subsistence qualified
28 users. And this competing upriver downriver is a
29 problem. We have to do it. The trawlers is a problem.
30 There are so many problems. I wish I was governor; I
31 would straighten some things out. But anyway, that said,
32 thank you all and we'll proceed, and we'll move on to
33 agenda now. But if you have questions for me, I'd be
34 glad to tell you about it. I've seen a lot of this stuff.
35 And, you know, I took a lot of notes when you guys were
36 gone. And it's kind of just -- it just reminds me of the
37 same things that happened to our place. Same things
38 happened to our village and same things that got
39 destroyed. The moose, we kind of took them into our own
40 hands. I told you, I'm very passionate about moose, but
41 we took in predator control ourselves because the state
42 wouldn't do it. And we had so many wolves that were
43 killing off the moose. So, we got some trappers now that
44 have taken out considerable amount of wolves, and that's
45 really helped the local population there. So, we're
46 doing some of that stuff also. Okay

47
48 MS. SELANOFF: First off, I'd like to
49 tell you happy belated birthday. And if you want to run
50 for governor, we can put you on the ballot.

1

2

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I got too many silver threads among the gold, but I could sure give him a run for his money. That wouldn't be a hard one to take out. Anyway. Thank you.

6

7

We got public and tribal comments on non-agenda items. It's available every day and I have one here from Matt. And, Matt, if you want to come up and give us an update or some of your experience. And he's, he's so kind. He even wrote quick on his thing. Go ahead.

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MR. PICHE: Good morning. For the record, my name is Matt Piche. I am a federally qualified subsistence user and a Cordova resident. I just wanted to give a quick update. I have two years of participation in the new lower Copper River federal subsistence salmon fishery. My wife and I, as well as our friends, are still averaging about 1 to 2 fish per hour in the month of June. We've yet to fish the month of July. It can be tough fishing, but it's our only access to the Copper River fish if you don't have a skiff. The state fishery is still the most efficient way to get fish, but people are starting to figure out the federal fishery. And I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank this RAC for supporting this federal opportunity to access the Copper River right here on our delta. So, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you, Matt. Any questions for Matt?

(No response)

Thank you. Okay. Once again, we'll announce that any public comments put in -- or someone on the phone too.

MS. PILCHER: Yep, and just as a reminder, it's star five to raise your hand and star six to mute and unmute.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, now we're going to go to Council member training, proposed change to federal hunting and trapping regulation. And I think Hannah is going to give us that. Thank you.

DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just give me a minute to set up the presentation here.

1 MS. PILCHER: And this is Nissa,
2 everybody also has a hard copy of that presentation in
3 that blue folder. It's tab 1, aka the very first page.
4

5 (Pause)
6

7 DR. VOORHEES: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
8 and members of the Council. My name is Hannah Voorhees.
9 I'm an anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
10 Management, or OSM, and I know I presented to your
11 Council a couple of times over the phone in the past.
12 Recently I was assigned to your Council as your
13 anthropologist, so I really look forward to getting to
14 know each of you better and learning more about this
15 region, which actually is my home region. Although not
16 -- I don't hail from a rural area. I was born and raised
17 in Eagle River. So, we are currently in the Wildlife
18 Open Call for Proposals, which ends April 4th. So, for
19 this 2025 Winter Council training, I'm going to briefly
20 cover how to propose changes to federal subsistence
21 hunting and trapping regulations. There are two main
22 ways to change federal subsistence regulations. Let me
23 just make sure the slides are advancing here. There we
24 go.
25

26 There are two main ways to change
27 federal subsistence regulations via special action
28 request or a proposal. The key difference is that special
29 actions are for temporary short-term changes and can be
30 submitted at any point, whereas proposals change
31 codified regulations and can only be submitted during
32 the open periods. Since we are currently in the open
33 period, I'm going to walk you through the proposal
34 submittal process.
35

36 If the Council would like to submit a
37 proposal, all we need is for one of you to make a motion
38 and have a vote to submit the proposal on the record,
39 and then OSM staff will draft it up for you to submit.
40 This can happen at any time during the meeting. Any
41 member of the public can also submit a proposal via mail
42 to our office, or you can hand it to me or any other OSM
43 staff member during this meeting, or you can submit it
44 through the regulations.gov website. When submitting a
45 proposal as a member of the public, please make sure to
46 include who is submitting the proposal, including
47 contact info. What regulations you want changed, in
48 which unit, what you want the regulations to say, why
49 you want to make this change, and any supporting
50 information to help the Board evaluate your proposal.

1
2 Sometimes proposals are ruled invalid,
3 but it will be because they pertain to things that are
4 outside the Board's jurisdiction. Examples are halibut,
5 marine mammals, migratory birds, or non-federal lands.
6 For reference, the subsistence regulations can be
7 changed -- that can be changed through regulatory
8 proposals or found in the Code of Federal Regulations
9 in subpart C and D. Subpart C and D cover a wide variety
10 of regulations from general regulations such as sealing
11 requirements and definitions to more specific
12 regulations like harvest limits, seasons, permit
13 requirements, and customary and traditional use
14 determinations. Thank you. And please remember, we are
15 currently in an open period for proposals which would
16 need to be submitted by April 4th. I'm happy to answer
17 any questions you may have, and my colleague Brian
18 Ubelaker is in the room as well. We're also able to
19 share examples. If you're interested, just let me know
20 if you'd like that. Thank you. This concludes my
21 presentation.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
24 Hannah. Go ahead, Andy.

25
26 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
27 Chair. Just a quick question. I see wildlife proposals
28 may request changes to -- does that also include
29 fisheries proposals?

30
31 DR. VOORHEES: No. Through the Chair.
32 Thank you, member McLaughlin. We're currently in a
33 wildlife cycle. A wildlife call for proposals. This
34 alternates by year. So, next year you'll have an
35 opportunity to submit fisheries proposals.

36
37 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So, would it be accurate
38 to surmise that the change in hunt area boundaries or
39 unit boundaries is a potential -- during a fish cycle -
40 - fish proposal change cycle. The change in fishing area
41 boundaries and unit boundaries is a potential?

42
43 DR. VOORHEES: Yes, I believe that's the
44 case.

45
46 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That answers
49 your question? Okay. Thank you. Any other questions
50 for...? Go ahead, please.

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MS. EWAN: Does [sic] these proposals can be directed from a tribe and an individual can submit it, or does it have to be endorsed by a tribe or, you know, public?

DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. Thank you, member Ewan. So, proposals can come from either a tribe or an individual. Either of those entities could submit and they would just follow the directions that I outlined on this Slide. I'll navigate.

MS. EWAN: So, how do we get the scientific data to support our proposal? I asked Department of Fish and Game for a lot of data. I still never got it. That's two years ago.

DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. This is Hannah Voorhees. So, you may include whatever information you have in your proposal. Certainly, your experience as subsistence users and traditional knowledge is extremely important to include in any proposal. And then as part of the analysis process, OSM will do that work of tracking down whatever data we can find and do our best with that for you. Thank you.

MS. EWAN: The one thing about the proposals and I see regulations and stuff, but I don't see anything related to the environment because, you know, what happens on the land happens in the water. And to protect the fish and wildlife, I think there should be an environmental statement or EIS or something to back up why I think that fish is sick because of plastic PFAS. and I don't see, you know, none of this stuff in any of these regulations or any scientific -- I see these numbers, you know, the charts and stuff, but it would be nice to see if we could get some of that included in our package. So, we do know what we're dealing with and I'm very involved with environmental climate change, and I work on that a lot. And I believe with a lot of the things that's going on that we could do an environmental change and do a regulations because we want to protect the fish and the animals. I think that we need those data to back it up. And I know the federal piggybacks with the state system, but I think it needs to change because the fiduciary trust responsibility to the tribes is not being upheld. And I see it. And that -- that's why I'm here. Thank you.

1 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you for that
2 comment.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, thank
5 you, Hannah. I'll address that comment to I think you
6 could put the proposal of any sort you want and write
7 in there your reasoning for that and see if it affects
8 it affects the proposal for the fish or whatever. Go
9 ahead, Andy.

10
11 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you. In the
12 past, we've as a Council here, we've requested the OSM
13 to provide us information like ocean acidification. We
14 want more data. We want more information on that and
15 then they very greatly bring us specialists on that. And
16 we get to learn about that, to add that into our
17 proposal. So, that's a mechanism here that you can access
18 the data.

19
20 MS. EWAN: Okay, thank you.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. No
23 shortage of resource. Thank you, Hannah.

24
25 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, if I could just
26 briefly respond to that. Yes. OSM is definitely able to
27 invite people to speak and present information to you
28 and help that -- help your decision making in that way.

29
30 MS. EWAN: On a side note, I wrote some
31 proposals for Department of Fish and Game. They didn't
32 even pass it. None of it. They all talked about it. I
33 really think we need to do something about the GIS and
34 the fish finder, especially on the Copper River. I don't
35 think it should be allowed because they go with the
36 fish, and that's where they take their business to dipnet
37 and fish and I'll work on that. Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
40 Hannah. Oops. Michael had a question. Sorry.

41
42 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. Michael Opheim. I was
43 curious about a -- an elders and youth hunt for deer in
44 the area. There's been talk of a lot of people,
45 transporters bringing a lot of people in, and they're
46 hitting areas where folks usually take their youth to
47 kind of educate them and get their first deer. And so,
48 it'd be great to have an elders and youth hunt for deer
49 in the area here and try and keep those areas kind of a
50 little more protected for those locals to be able to get

1 out and do that, pass that knowledge down.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You certainly
4 could put that proposal in and make it for that area.
5 We could support it.

6

7 MR. OPHEIM: Okay.

8

9 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, I appreciate the
10 presentation, and I guess I'd encourage the new members
11 to look at the presentation in our packet here because,
12 I mean, we all have lots of thoughts on what could change
13 in this world, but we have to recognize our part in it.
14 And so, I think Hannah and others have pretty clearly
15 said, you know, what would -- what are the kinds of
16 topics within the regulations that we can ask for a
17 change on. And some of the things mentioned here are
18 kind of way outside the Federal Board's responsibility.
19 We can maybe raise them as concerns, but it would
20 probably not be worth putting in a proposal because it's
21 out of their control too. So, just we do have sideboards,
22 unfortunately. Otherwise, we -- a lot of things we'd
23 like to change.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. That said
26 simplify it. If you got a passionate or a proposal, you
27 know, you write it up, get help from the OSM or whatever.
28 Have your tribe write it up, you know, and give it a
29 fly. We'll take a shot at it and see what we can do.
30 Okay. Thank you.

31

32 MS. PILCHER: I did want to point out as
33 well that under action items, there is a call for federal
34 wildlife proposals, which is one of the reasons Hannah
35 was giving this presentation. So, we will have an
36 opportunity to talk about if the Council would like to
37 submit any proposals as well here in a little, tiny bit.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We'll
40 call for proposals. You got a tiny bit. Thank you. I
41 think that's it.

42

43 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
44 think I'm up next, so I'll just stay here.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, you're up
47 next. Okay, well that's why. Yeah, absolutely. Okay. The
48 next one is Wildlife Proposal 24-01, statewide sale of
49 brown bear hides, deferred. That was a deferred
50 proposal. So, if you guys want to take a look at that,

1 Hannah, you go right ahead. Give us the overview.

2

3 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Again. Just one second. I want to make sure this
5 presentation is being shared online as well.

6

7 MS. PILCHER: Okay. And that is -- this
8 going to be found in supplemental materials. So, for
9 those that have it in hard copy, it is the document with
10 the ring. And that is the very first page as well.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 DR. VOORHEES: All right. Again, this is
15 Hannah Voorhees, anthropologist with OSM. And next I'll
16 be presenting deferred wildlife proposal WP 24-01. This
17 proposal was originally submitted in 2023 by a resident
18 of McCarthy, who requested that the Federal Subsistence
19 Board allow the sale of brown bear hides under federal
20 subsistence regulations. The analysis starts on page one
21 of your supplemental materials. We are bringing this
22 proposal back to your attention because there is new
23 information for you to consider. This is a statewide
24 proposal, but we are only asking you to make a
25 recommendation that applies to your region. All other
26 Councils are doing the same. So, first I want to give
27 you some background on how we got here. This proposal
28 was first presented to this Council in October 2023 and
29 at that time you supported the proposal as written by
30 the resident of McCarthy, rather than with the OSM
31 modification that was presented at the time. The
32 original OSM modification would have limited sale of
33 brown bear hides to those taken in areas with a two
34 brown bear limit under federal regulations. OSM did this
35 in an attempt to be consistent with the state system for
36 authorizing the sale of brown bear parts, which I'll
37 explain more later.

38

39 However, this Council stated that that
40 modification would not benefit the proponent who lives
41 in an area with a one brown bear limit that is in Unit
42 11. You also said that selling brown bear hides would
43 be beneficial to residents of smaller communities. Going
44 forward, after you made your initial recommendation, the
45 Board deferred the proposal at its April 2024 meeting.
46 The Board did this to allow OSM time to find a way to
47 allow federally qualified subsistence users to sell
48 hides from brown bears, even if they were taken in a
49 unit with a one brown bear limit. They also wanted to
50 make sure that the solution would not conflict with the

1 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
2 or CITES.

3
4 After the Board's first deferral, OSM
5 went back to the drawing Board. The resulting addendum
6 begins on page 18 of your supplemental materials. There
7 is now a completely new OSM conclusion and modification
8 for you to consider, which is hopefully more consistent
9 with the sentiments this Council expressed in October
10 2023. Although of course that's up to this Council. The
11 addendum was presented to the Board at their meeting in
12 February of this year. The Board again deferred the
13 proposal, this time to allow all ten Councils, including
14 this Council, to provide recommendations on the revised
15 OSM conclusion and this is why the proposal is coming
16 back in front of you today. The revised OSM conclusion
17 is to support proposal WP 24-01 with modification, so
18 that the hides of brown bears, with or without claws
19 attached, may be purchased within the United States for
20 personal use and not to be resold. The hunter must
21 request an OSM customary trade permit and must return
22 the permit. Additionally, the modified regulation will
23 align federal sealing regulations with State of Alaska
24 sealing regulations. Some of the most pertinent language
25 from the modified regulation is listed on this slide.
26 So, next, let me try to unpack this revised conclusion
27 for you.

28
29 The Office of Subsistence Management
30 Modification would now allow the sale of a hide from a
31 brown bear harvested under federal subsistence
32 regulations, regardless of the federal harvest limit in
33 the Unit it was taken so long as there is a federal
34 opportunity. The focus of the OSM modification is to
35 limit sales to purchases within the United States. The
36 OSM permit would only allow for domestic sales, whereas
37 the existing ADF&G permit to sell hides for is -- for
38 internet -- allows for sale internationally. This is
39 because international sale of brown bear hides is
40 regulated by the Convention on International Trade in
41 Endangered Species or CITES. Only ADF&G is authorized
42 to issue permits, which are necessary to sell brown bear
43 parts internationally, and they only allow the sale of
44 hides from areas with a two brown bear limit. They are
45 currently unable to take on the additional burden of
46 issuing permits for areas with a one brown bear limit.
47 By only allowing for domestic sales, the OSM permit would
48 not conflict with CITES. In order to sell a brown bear
49 hide under federal regulations, it must still be sealed
50 by ADF&G and the seal must remain on the hide when sold.

1 Sealing is already a requirement for all brown bears
2 harvested in your region.

3
4 The following two elements of the OSM
5 modification will align federal regulations with State
6 of Alaska regulations and permit requirements. First,
7 the purchase of a hide must be for personal use and not
8 to be resold, which is intended to prevent customary
9 traded hide from entering from entering a commercial
10 market, and number two, the seal number must be included
11 in any advertisement of sale, which allows law
12 enforcement to identify that a brown bear harvested for
13 sale on the internet, for example, is from a legally
14 harvested brown bear. The OSM modification then goes on
15 to allow a hide to be sold with or without claws
16 attached, which will allow a federally qualified
17 subsistence user who removes a claw to incorporate it
18 into a handicraft and to then sell the hide. However, I
19 would note that currently the federal regulations do not
20 allow the sale of a handicraft incorporating either the
21 hide or claws of brown bear harvested in any region --
22 I'm sorry, any Unit in the Southcentral region. And
23 finally, the OSM modification removes from federal
24 regulations the requirement in some areas of Alaska that
25 at the time of sealing, the sealing official must remove
26 and retain the skin of the head and the front claws of
27 the bare hide. This will align federal sealing
28 regulations in these areas with current State of Alaska
29 sealing regulations. But this requirement does not exist
30 for the Southcentral region anyway.

31
32 In conclusion, the OSM modification
33 complies with Cites and allows federally qualified
34 subsistence users to legally sell the hides of brown
35 bears domestically, regardless of the federal harvest
36 limit. The ability to sell hides from brown bears
37 harvested under federal regulations is not expected to
38 result in overharvest, because the meat already must be
39 salvaged, and this would continue to be the case. So,
40 back in 2023, this Council did not like OSM's
41 modification, but that that aspect has now been removed
42 from OSM's revised conclusion pertaining to the two
43 bears stipulation -- two brown bear limit stipulation.
44 If adopted, this proposal would not apply to bears taken
45 for defense of life and property, and it would not apply
46 to previously harvested bears. And I'll note that there
47 are three units in south central Alaska in which there
48 is currently a federal subsistence brown bear hunt where
49 this proposal would have an effect and these are in
50 Units 11, 13 and 15. Finally, one implication of this

1 modification, if adopted, is that federally qualified
2 subsistence users would now be able to sell hides from
3 brown bears taken in national parks. Only federal
4 subsistence regulations apply in national parks, so
5 currently you cannot sell these hides.

6
7 Sorry, I missed a slide. Although this
8 is a statewide proposal, again, we're really looking for
9 this Council's perspective on whether the proposal is
10 culturally appropriate for your region. Thank you for
11 your attention. This is the end of my presentation. I'm
12 able to answer any questions. And also, Pippa Kenner,
13 who is the author of this analysis, is -- should be
14 standing by on the line. I know this is kind of a complex
15 proposal and timeline, but hopefully you know what you
16 see before you at the end of the day with OSM's
17 modification is pretty straightforward. Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
20 Hannah. Questions for Hannah? Michael.

21
22 MR. OPHEIM: Michael Opheim. On the list
23 of animals here with -- you have brown bear. Does that
24 also include grizzly? Is that under the same species?

25
26 DR. VOORHEES: Yes. Through the Chair.
27 Thank you, Michael. So, brown bears and grizzly bears
28 are considered to be the same species for -- one and the
29 same for regulatory purposes, even though we know there
30 are differences. It's a good question.

31
32 MR. OPHEIM: And another question.
33 Michael Opheim. You -- I was trying to -- when you were
34 talking about the tagger removing skin and claws. Was
35 that it? In your presentation? I didn't quite understand
36 that, so I don't know if you could go back over that.
37 So, it would help me understand that a little more before
38 the sale. Is that what it was?

39
40 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, member Opheim.
41 So, currently in some regions in Alaska, in federal
42 regulations there's a requirement that when the hide is
43 sealed, the sealing official must first remove and
44 retain the skin of the head and the front claws of the
45 bear hide. I don't know very much about this particular
46 regulation and its history, but I do know that apparently
47 this is no longer in state regulations. So, I think the
48 effort here is to simplify the federal regulations by
49 removing that requirement where it applies, and it only
50 applies to some regions of Alaska under federal

1 regulation. Just to simplify the process and align the
2 regulations better.

3
4 MR. OPHEIM: Okay. Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Faye.

7
8 MS. EWAN: My concern is that the hunting
9 of -- I mean, they're allowed two brown bears a year?

10
11 DR. VOORHEES: Yes, in some areas, it
12 depends where you are. For example, let's see in
13 Southcentral Alaska -- well, and it also depends whether
14 we're talking about under state or federal regulations.
15 So, I can answer any more specific questions. I can try
16 to help if you have them.

17
18 MS. EWAN: What about the gallbladder?

19
20 DR. VOORHEES: It's illegal to sell the
21 gallbladder of a bear under I believe both state and
22 federal regulations.

23
24 MS. EWAN: Well, as Ahtna Koht'aene, it's
25 against my way of life to hunt grizzly and brown bear
26 because we consider them respected animals. And why does
27 McCarthy area want to go out and shoot brown bears and
28 sell them for anyways? I mean, what is the purpose of
29 it? Money? Why -- why I say that is that pretty soon
30 you're going to see everybody out there hunting brown
31 bears and other animals, and you'll see a illegal catch
32 going on pretty soon and I'm really concerned about that
33 because our ecosystem goes in a circle. And when one of
34 the species is gone, it affects that circle of life. And
35 the brown bears live off fish. Fish lives off, you know,
36 you know, the water. And then just it goes in -- what
37 my concern is that if somebody goes out there and shoot
38 two brown bears and they got five brothers and sisters
39 right here, and that's going to be 10 to 12 bears that
40 they can get at one time. And you know, how much are
41 they selling these bear skins for? What is the
42 regulation? I mean, what is the price on the bear skin?

43
44 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. So, I
45 think one thing to remember is the meat must still be
46 salvaged, which is usually a good deal of labor involved.
47 And you know, there's still is a fairly low individual
48 harvest limit. I don't know if this will result in an
49 increase in sales, but I know there's some information
50 from the state side that they've allowed the sale of

1 hides, and they don't believe that it's increased
2 harvest overall. But these are -- I mean, these are all
3 really important considerations for your Council and
4 what you believe is appropriate in terms of taking action
5 on this proposal. I just wanted to answer part of your
6 question, which was, you know, why the proponent was
7 interested in doing this. And just from the analysis, I
8 have some language here that says the proponent states
9 subsistence users in many areas of Alaska must salvage
10 the hides of brown bears. However, they cannot be sold.
11 The proponent continues that the hides of many other
12 legally harvested big game species may be sold, and brown
13 bears should be added to this regulation. And I would
14 also add that the OSM revised modification is supposed
15 to set up a situation in which the sale of hides could
16 be tracked closely and monitored. Just something to
17 consider. Thank you.

18
19 MS. EWAN: This proposal, it may benefit
20 the people from McCarthy area, but what I see is the
21 influx of a lot of hunters is going to be going up there,
22 and just to make money, it's not sustainable for
23 protecting the species. What if they overhunt and get
24 rid of -- I mean, there's no more brown bears and there's
25 going to be you know, there's populations already that
26 people are hunting black bears. And I know there's you
27 know -- I live in Copper River; I live in all these
28 Units. I know that country very well. And to me, if they
29 need to use it to benefit, to subsistence users for the
30 hunting and fishing supplies and stuff like that, that's
31 different. But not just to go out and shoot 20 bears and
32 make \$20,000 for yourself. I'm against that. Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Other
35 questions. Sorry.

36
37 MR. WILSON: Yeah. My question is, is how
38 could you monitor where this bear came from, what these
39 people killed when they take it and have it tagged?

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
42 Hannah.

43
44 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair,
45 actually Pippa, are you online? I'm just checking.

46
47 MS. KENNER: Yes. Hi Hannah, this is
48 Pippa Kenner, for the record.

49
50

1 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you. I don't know
2 if -- well, I'll try to answer, and then you can come
3 behind me if I miss anything. So, when you get the bear
4 sealed it depends whether, you know, you may need a
5 registration permit. I think that's only in maybe one
6 part of this region, but in general, you're just sealing
7 the bear hide under federal regulations and I believe
8 you know, you would provide information about where the
9 bear was harvested and all that at the time of sealing
10 so the state could track that information.

11
12 MR. WILSON: Yeah, yeah. My comment to
13 that would be is if someone shoots a bear like Faye says
14 and it runs over onto state land, are you going to tell
15 the Fish and Game that you tagged it on state land or
16 federal land?

17
18 DR. VOORHEES: Thanks for that comment.
19 Yeah.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Judy.

22
23 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 Hannah, just for clarification, before we start our
25 discussion and voting, can you point out to us exactly
26 what version we're going to be -- I mean, there's a lot
27 of anyway, what's the most current version? What are you
28 proposing that we vote on? Which page is it on?

29
30 DR. VOORHEES: Sure. And maybe I can get
31 this up on the screen again for you too. So, if you look
32 at the analysis, I want you to skip over the part that
33 says the OSM conclusion April 2024. And maybe turn the
34 page and you'll see the OSM conclusion February 2025.
35 And I don't have page numbers unfortunately, but -- it's
36 -- page two. Okay, page two. Okay, so yes, I know it's
37 a lot. There is -- there -- the language of the revised
38 conclusion and modification. And then the modified
39 regulation below that, you'll, you'll see there. So,
40 I'll read it one more time. Support proposal WP 25-01
41 with modification that the hides of brown bear, with or
42 without clause attached, may be purchased within the
43 United States for personal use and not to be resold. The
44 hunter must request an OSM, some customary trade permit,
45 and must return the permit to OSM. Additionally, the
46 modified regulation will align federal sealing
47 regulations with ADF&G sealing regulations, and then the
48 modified regulation would read. And again, the pertinent
49 language, the most pertinent language here. You may
50 request a customary trade permit to sell the hide, with

1 or without clause attached of a brown bear legally
2 harvested under federal subsistence regulations,
3 providing the hide is purchased within the United States
4 for personal use and not to be resold. These customary
5 trade sales must be immediately recorded on a customary
6 trade permit and must be returned within the time frame
7 specified on the permit. The hide must be sealed, the
8 seal must remain on the hide, and the seal number must
9 be included in any advertisement of sale. And then as
10 you continue reading, you'll just see the part about
11 retaining the skin of the skull and the front hides
12 being crossed out. The skin of the skull and the front
13 claws are being crossed out to be removed from
14 regulation.

15
16 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah. This is just for my
17 edification. I probably could read the game regulations,
18 but what's the status similar to brown bear if there is
19 on black bear? And the sale of black bear?

20
21 DR. VOORHEES: I am less familiar with
22 those regulations. Pippa, are you able to provide some
23 insight on that?

24
25 MS. KENNER: Yeah, again, for the record,
26 this is Pippa Kenner with OSM. So, for -- so, brown bear
27 and black bear are treated very differently in
28 regulation and in federal regulations you may sell the
29 fur of a brown bear if the fur has been incorporated
30 into a handicraft. Did I say brown bear? You may sell
31 the fur of a black bear if it's been incorporated into
32 a handicraft.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Does that
35 answer, Ed?

36
37 MR. HOLSTEN: Yes. Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Any
40 other questions before -- you got a question? Okay. Sorry
41 about the cough. Okay.

42
43 DR. VOORHEES: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Muffin is very
46 good, but it's a little crumbly. Tickle my throat. Okay.
47 Is there any tribes or ANCSA or corporations next that
48 would like to address the issue?

49
50 (No response)

1

2

Any online?

3

4

(No response)

5

6

7

Hearing none, is there agency comments?
How about the Alaska Department of Fish and Game?

8

9

(No response)

10

11

12

Hearing none. How about federal
agencies? Okay, Nissa has one.

13

14

15

16

17

MS. PILCHER: I did want to refer you
guys, if Amber is on, the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC did
submit comments to the Federal Subsistence Board, and
it is in your blue folder on tab 2. Let me go grab it.

18

19

20

MS. COHEN: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is Amber
Cohen. I am on and happy to read the comments.

21

22

23

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Amber is going
to read them, she said. Yeah, go right ahead.

24

25

26

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35

MS. COHEN: Okay. Thank you. So, the
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource
Commission met back in February 25th and 26th, and they
unanimously supported this proposal with the revised OSM
conclusion. And given the requirements to salvage the
hide's subsistence, users should be able to sell them.
Additionally, customary trade of brown bear hides is
important for use in handicrafts. One member noted that
he doesn't make handicrafts himself, but he could sell
the hide to someone who does make and sell handicrafts.
Thank you.

36

37

38

39

40

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Is
there other comments? I believe that was the only comment
we had. Okay. Okay, is there any tribal entities, Native,
tribal village or other?

41

42

43

(No response)

44

45

46

47

How about advisory group comments? Other
regional Councils? Did we have anything from any other
regional Councils?

48

49

50

MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa for the
record. So, the other Councils that have met before have
all weighed in on this, but we didn't compile them like

00062

1 you normally do when we do go through proposals that --
2 this since it was deferred, it's kind of a weird area.

3
4 MS. KENNER: Hi, this is Pippa Kenner
5 with OSM.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
8 Pippa.

9
10 MS. KENNER: Yeah. Nissa, were you
11 talking about the other Council recommendations? Did I
12 miss hear you?

13
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. We were
15 wondering what their conclusion was on this. If you if
16 you had it. We didn't have it here. Nissa.

17
18 MS. KENNER: Yeah, I do.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

21
22 (Simultaneous speech)

23
24 MS. KENNER: Let me find it here. Make
25 sure that....

26
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I though it was
28 in the material.

29
30 MS. KENNER:tell you correctly.

31
32 DR. VOORHEES: Pippa, I can probably pull
33 that up too.

34
35 MS. KENNER: Hannah, did you just say you
36 had it? I have it right here.

37
38 DR. VOORHEES: Okay. Yeah. Please go.
39 Just go ahead.

40
41 MS. KENNER: I will then. Okay. So, the
42 Bristol Bay Eastern Interior, Alaska, Western interior
43 Alaska and North Slope Councils supported the revised
44 OSM conclusion in the addendum. The Kodiak/Aleutians
45 Council opposed the proposal and the reason for opposing
46 -- I did not listen, but I heard that the reason for
47 opposing what -- was that it was not appropriate for
48 their region, in part based on traditional rules around
49 the use of brown bear parts in sales. Thank you, Mr.
50 Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

MS. KENNER: Oh, and I need to include the YK Delta RAC also supported the revised OSM conclusion in the addendum.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, so if I read that right, there was only one opposition?

MR. KENNER: That's correct, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: All right. Thank you. Nissa, go ahead.

MS. PILCHER: And there's four Councils that have yet to meet and to discuss this revised.....

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Good point. Okay. It gives you a little more information to work with? Okay. How about the Subsistence Resource Commission? We got it. That was Amber's. Okay. Any written public comments?

(No response)

Okay. How about public testimony? Anyone out there want to come up and talk publicly on the phone or here? I don't have any blue tickets, but if not, we will move on to Regional Council's recommendation and a motion to support.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I so move.

MR. OPHEIM: I'll second. Michael.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. It's been moved by Andy. Seconded by Michael. Discussion. We're open for deliberation. We've got a motion and a second.

MR. OPHEIM: Mr. Chair. I plan on supporting this. It seems like a pretty good thing for people to be able to -- you know, be able to sell in, you know, two bear areas. It's being done in other parts of the state. You know, it's beneficial in the economy and so, I plan on supporting it.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Andy, you want to speak to...?

1 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I don't have a
2 problem, it's a one bear area myself. I would support
3 this. As for federally qualified subsistence users, it's
4 a limited take. Probably statistically very low in
5 harvest. This is not state support taken. This is just
6 you know.....

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Anyone else
9 want to talk to the proposal before we vote?

10
11 MR. WILSON: I'd like to comment.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Kork.

14
15 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I see a big conflict
16 with people hunting bears in places they're not supposed
17 to. And I would really be a lot more in favor of this
18 proposal if the hide stayed within the subsistence user
19 groups. Trade and sale amongst each other. Not selling
20 to the general public. It just seems like it might be a
21 sticky situation to me. Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
24 Faye.

25
26 MS. EWAN: You know to subsistence, it
27 says you're supposed to eat the meat and not wanton
28 waste. What are they going to do with all this bear
29 meat? I mean, bear meat is -- bear can be 1000 to 2000
30 pounds. What are they doing with that meat? In the
31 meantime, if they're just going out to kill those bears
32 just for their hides, I think the average height is 2700
33 to \$6500 a hide. And you know, I'm not okay with that
34 because most of these people here that are in McCarthy
35 area, there was never ever a village or anything that
36 had to do customary trade. They just moved over the last
37 60 years after the mining place quit. And to me, it
38 could be considered rural preference and all this
39 subsistence users, the indigenous people, we've been
40 there forever. Our ancestors are there and to me, going
41 out there and killing bears like that for money just to
42 trade is not acceptable. But if you're going to use it
43 for, you know, for yourself and use the meat and
44 everything else, you're going to eat it. There's a lot
45 of parasites in bear meat. And, you know, the health
46 wise, I know a lot of people don't eat brown bear. I
47 live there, and I see this year is going to be a big --
48 you're going to see a lot of people going up to up that
49 in that area, all the mountains, and you're going to see
50 people start selling a lot of bears. It's going to be a

1 lot of wasted meat, because I know they don't eat that.
2 And I'm really concerned about the public because
3 there's a lot of people that don't respect the law and
4 state or federal, and we're going to see a lot of people
5 coming up in the Copper River area just to hunt bears.
6 And, you know, if there's Native people, it's different.
7 But when it's non-Native people, they're benefiting off
8 of their land. And you know, our people don't sell a
9 bear's skin, and we have respect for them. So, I disagree
10 with this. Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
13 Yeah. It's just not native people's rural preference.
14 So, just so we remember that. Andy was first. Go ahead,
15 Andy.

16
17 MR. MCCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 So, there is a process here among us that we can have
19 the OSM do an 804 analysis, section 804 of ANILCA. They
20 can look in there and that would -- you could potentially
21 make a proposal that would exclude McCarthy from this
22 and only allow the certain villages that, you know, have
23 the earlier forms of C&T, and then make it so that only
24 they have the legal right to use that. So, there is a
25 process among us of 804 analysis that you can propose.

26
27 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa
28 Kenner.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: First, go
31 ahead, Kirk.

32
33 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I just want to make a
34 comment to support what she says. And I personally like
35 to eat bear meat, not grizzly bear, black bear meat. But
36 I make sausage out of it, and my family really loves it.
37 But none of the Indians that I share with, and especially
38 the elder Natives and the Gulkana village, They won't
39 even accept black bear meat from you. They won't -- they
40 don't want to eat it.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, yeah,
43 that's a good point. I think there's a lot of things
44 that I look at is the people that use it for handicrafts,
45 blankets, other things, other subsistence uses that that
46 are good. And the majority are kind of looking at that.
47 So, I just point that out. Hannah, did you have a comment
48 to make?

49
50

1 DR. VOORHEES: Pippa may also have a
2 comment, but I just wanted to mention there are some
3 criteria that would be applied when we do section 804
4 analysis. And you know, usually that would be done
5 because there's not enough of a resource. And you're
6 limiting to those most dependent on the -- on brown bear
7 in an area. So, yeah. So, yeah, customary and direct
8 dependence, local residency and availability of
9 alternative resources are the three considerations.
10 Thanks.

11
12 MS. KENNER: Yeah. So, Mr. Chair, may I
13 add on to Hannah's comment?

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Go ahead,
16 head on. We got a motion and a second to vote on, but
17 go ahead, give us some more information.

18
19 MS. KENNER: Well, I was just going to
20 answer Andy's question and that is, within customary
21 trade regulations, we are able to limit legal customary
22 trades to only federally qualified subsistence users.
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Thank
26 you, Pippa. I think that's what I was mentioning. Thank
27 you. Dennis.

28
29 MR. ZADRA: Yeah. Just chime in here a
30 little bit. I'm going to support this. Mainly because
31 it's already happening on the state side. I know guys
32 that harvest the bears in their two years -- or two bear
33 Units and attempt to sell the hides. The market is not
34 very strong for it. You know, the 2000 or whatever. I
35 know guys trying to sell for \$700 and can't get that for
36 them. So, I don't think it's going to be something where
37 they're going to come and try to shoot all the brown
38 bears. But it does give somebody, especially in rural
39 area, opportunity to make a little bit more money off
40 something. You know, if you shoot a bear every year for
41 meat, what are you going to do with all these hides
42 you're stacking up, you know. So, anyway, that's why I'm
43 supporting this.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
46 Judy.

47
48 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Thank you. I
49 guess again, for the new members on the back of your
50 names are these criteria that we use for discussions.

1 And so that that's kind of what we're trying to put on
2 the record here. And I hear your concerns are assumptions
3 and some -- maybe sometimes they're wrong. But our
4 assumption is legally qualified subsistence users are
5 going to follow the rules. So, in so many of the
6 proposals, we hear lots of predictions. Well, this might
7 happen. That might happen, and if it does, then there's
8 other ways to deal with it. So, kind of one step at a
9 time, with our discussions here being looking at these
10 criteria and what I hear is it's going to be beneficial
11 to subsistence users to support this proposal. Thank
12 you.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good comment,
15 Judy. That helps. I think all of us -- yeah, it kind of
16 clarifies what we are limited. But I was just going to
17 make a comment for myself on the support. In our area,
18 we have the federal area that's up in the moose range.
19 And so, we take very little bear. But just so you know,
20 the brown bear in that area used to be one every four
21 years. Now it's one per year or so and most people eat
22 the black bear, not the brown bear. But there are a lot
23 of people that like it for blankets and rugs and
24 handicraft, and stuff like that. So, if the state could
25 do it, we certainly should do it. And the qualified
26 enforcement has to help us out if there's trouble. Any
27 other before we take a vote.

28
29 (No response)

30
31 Hearing none. All in favor, aye.

32
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?
36 Two oppositions. Motion carries.

37
38 MS. PILCHER: And this is. I just want
39 to clarify. The motion was made by Andy, seconded by
40 Michael. And it was to support the OSM most recent
41 addendum.

42
43 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: With modification.

44
45 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. The 2000 -- the
46 modification with the addendum. Correct.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. I
49 should have caught you. You were going there because it
50 says.....

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MR. GREYBEAR: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Number nine that we restate the motion. So.....

MR. GREYBEAR: Mr. Chair, this is Edward GreyBear. I don't know if my vote was counted, but I was against it.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Edward, how did you vote? Against?

MR. GREYBEAR: I said no.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you, Edward. Yeah.

MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, we've had bear discussions before, and it's really clear that particularly in the Ahtna region, there are cultural sensitivities. And so, I wonder if there's a way when this is then presented to the Federal Board, I know in the past there's been some exceptions or carving out so that it might not apply to certain sections within our region. So, that -- I'm not sure if the Board will modify it at that point, but for them to be aware of, because it certainly has been -- they should be aware of it. They've heard it before. Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: The way we probably have to go forward is if you make like Andy was stating an analysis for a specific proposal for your area to get it excluded is probably the way then to get that passed then it would do that.

MR. MCCLAUGHLIN: I might add that that's when there's a conservation concern. So, if there's a limited resource that's only -- that's being overharvested at some level, you can have that analysis run to make sure that your resource still stays in a viable population that will exist into perpetuity for future generations.

MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa, for the record, and I did want to let Kirk and Faye and Edward know that when we do -- your Council's comments will be taken as a whole when presented to the Federal Subsistence Board and the vote while it was eight in favor, three opposed will be in support. There will be

1 comments and included in those comments will be the
2 notation that there are these cultural sensitivities in
3 a specific subpart of the region. And as a reminder,
4 because, as Judy noted, the Board is aware of these, but
5 we will make sure that that is in that -- those comments.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. That's a
8 great point. So, it'll be in there. And then you could
9 also, you know, as individuals go to that Federal
10 Subsistence Board and ask to speak at them and testify
11 at their hearing. Sometimes we change it at that level.
12 Thank you. Okay. Who's hungry? Yeah. Okay, lunch, I think
13 -- how much time do we need? 45 minutes to one, is that
14 enough? Full hour? Okay, okay. Let's take one hour
15 break for lunch. We'll come back at 1:15. One hour and
16 two minutes. Okay. Thank you.

17
18 (Off record)

19
20 (On record)

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty folks,
23 we're ready to go ahead.

24
25 (Pause)

26
27 Faye had to go check at the clinic. She
28 fell down yesterday and banged her knee. So, I don't
29 know if she's coming back in a bit, but we'll go ahead
30 and get started anyway. So, our next -- where are we
31 here? We got called for federal wildlife proposals.
32 Brian. So, Brian, you're up and ready to go.

33
34 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good
35 afternoon council members for the record. Brian
36 Ubelaker, wildlife biologist with the Office of
37 Subsistence Management. And as Hannah alluded to
38 earlier, we are now in an open period for wildlife --
39 call for wildlife proposals and this is the Council's
40 opportunity to submit proposals to change federal
41 subsistence wildlife harvest regulations. An
42 informational flyer on how to submit a proposal to change
43 federal subsistence regulations can be found on page 41
44 of your supplemental materials. As was mentioned during
45 the training, Councils must make a motion and vote to
46 submit proposals. Also, the opportunity for Councils to
47 submit proposals is available during this entire
48 meeting. If a Council member thinks of a proposal later
49 or in response to another agenda item, they are welcome
50 to suggest submitting a proposal then. Of course, anyone

1 can submit a proposal as an individual before the
2 submission window closes, which is on April 4th of 2025.
3 Thank you. That's the brief blurb that I have on federal
4 proposals. I'm happy to answer any questions that you
5 may have. I'll be here to discuss proposals you may wish
6 to suggest. And I also have a couple of proposals that
7 I will float out to you to see if you guys want to take
8 any action on them. Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Very
11 good. Questions for Brian? Do you want to -- go ahead,
12 Andy.

13
14 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I -- thank you, Mr.
15 Chair. I assume we bring these proposals to you in the
16 form of what the old regulation says, what we think the
17 new one should say, that type of format.

18
19 MR. UBELAKER: Through the Chair. Member
20 McLaughlin. You guys can discuss it. Nissa and I will
21 put our heads together afterwards, draft the language
22 for it, and usually route it back through Greg and make
23 sure it captures everything you guys are interested in
24 talking about in your proposal, and then we'll get it
25 submitted for you. Okay. And I guess to fill in on that
26 a little more, if an individual wants to do that, a
27 member of the public if they have one written out, they
28 can hand it to me. I'm not quite sure if we would help
29 draft the language if it's a member of the public, but
30 I can answer any questions for anybody, anytime.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Very
33 good. Kirk see, that's how we get the proposals in for
34 changes. So, we're doing the wildlife section now, so
35 that's good. Anyone got anything, questions for him or
36 thinking of proposals. You think of them that comes up
37 during the next couple of days, we'll entertain them.
38 Thank you, Brian. Oh, maybe Andy got something. Go ahead.

39
40 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I got two. I'll give
41 them to him and let him figure it out.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

44
45 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa. So, Andy are
46 you saying you just rather put them in by yourself and
47 not run them through the Council? Which is fine.

48
49 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Well, I would need help
50 drafting them. I kind of have them already -- almost

1 drafted right here. Two of them. They're just
2 handwritten. I could hand it to Brian.

3
4 MS. PILCHER: Okay, well, we can
5 certainly help with it -- I mean, what you guys would
6 want to -- if you wanted the Council to submit them as
7 a Council, we would just need, like, the basic -- not
8 the basic. The idea behind it.

9
10 (Simultaneous speech)

11
12 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I've got that outlined
13 right here.

14
15 MS. PILCHER: And if that's something the
16 Council wants to pursue, then Brian and I can certainly
17 help work with you, with the blessings of the Council,
18 to make sure that that proposal is written the way that
19 the Council/you would want.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Kirk.

22
23 MR. WILSON: Yeah. You heard me talk
24 about the C&T, and I'd like to write a proposal for that
25 that would read that we no longer do communities at
26 whole. You either individually qualify or you don't get
27 it, and the reason that I say that is, you know, we just
28 went through that with my community at Tolsona and we
29 would bring -- be bringing in a whole user group -- they
30 never even talked to me about this at my community when
31 they put -- and I'm really the only family in my
32 community that qualifies, and to accept a community like
33 that as a whole. And then, I mean, we got 4 or 5 brand
34 new subdivisions in Tolsona. Now one of them's run by
35 the, you know, the State of Alaska. I just don't feel
36 it's right that we should have a community get that and
37 then just anybody that moves in within a year, you
38 qualify. It's just -- it doesn't sound fair to me.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, it's
41 definitely a challenge. Go ahead, Judy. I'm sorry. Did
42 you -- go ahead, Judy?

43
44 MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Mr. Chair. And
45 maybe folks can help refresh my memory. There is such a
46 thing as an individual C&T. Okay, so would that be
47 applicable here? I'm not remembering all the
48 constraints. Thank you.

49
50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELWESKI: Go ahead,
2 Brian.

3
4 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
5 believe individual C&Ts are a park service C&T. They do
6 that for resident communities.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Is that only in
9 the parks then?

10
11 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. This
12 is Hannah Voorhees. And if there's someone from Park
13 Service online, feel free to jump in. But yes, this is
14 -- these are only in park service regulations. And I'll
15 add that when we look at the eight criteria for
16 considering customary and traditional uses, a lot of
17 them focus on the community aspects of use, sharing you
18 know, generational transmission. So, that usually -- I
19 mean, when we look at those criteria, we're looking for,
20 you know, more than use on an individual level. That's
21 how the Board has evaluated these requests in the past.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

24
25 MS. SELANOFF: Sorry I had to clear my
26 throat. I might be jumping ahead, but I was looking at
27 your handout on four. And you have a Unit 15D is -- and
28 that's for the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge land
29 Kachemak Bay State Park and Wilderness Park land and
30 Alaska Native Corporation land. So, looking at this, I
31 don't see a 15D. So, is that a proposal to add a section?

32
33 MR. UBELAKER: Through the Chair. That
34 is currently a proposal before the Board of Game. They're
35 going to be deciding on that in two weeks. And so
36 basically this proposal -- proposed proposal --
37 potential proposal came from my supervisor. She keeps a
38 running tab on proposals going before the Board that
39 will misalign federal and state regulations. This is one
40 of them that caught her attention. If the Board of Game
41 were to adopt breaking Unit 15C into two separate
42 subunits, that would misalign us with federal -- or us
43 with state regulations. So, there's the if you guys want
44 to submit a proposal to say if the Board of Game does
45 adopt proposal 121 and splits Unit 15C into two separate
46 subunits, then you would put forth a proposal to match
47 state regulations. So, that alignment -- so that
48 regulations are still in alignment.

49
50

1 MS. SELANOFF: Okay. So, currently --
2 because they're looking at adding that. Does this all
3 fall -- and excuse my ignorance, does this all currently
4 fall under 15C and that's why they want the split is to
5 separate that out better? I'm not sure.

6
7 MR. UBELAKER: I'm not 100% certain. I
8 read the proposal and the agency comments on the
9 proposal. The proponent believes that it will -- the
10 dividing 15C will -- basically divide it by terrain type.
11 15C will remain more lowland and 15, the new proposed
12 15D would be more mountainous terrain. So, she was
13 talking about splitting it because of terrain type. The
14 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments, they were
15 neutral from what I read. And once again, I'm not
16 speaking to state this. I'm just relaying what I
17 remember. They were neutral on the proposal. They didn't
18 feel that there was any need to separate it out. It's
19 managed the same. There would be no difference in
20 management. There's no current regulations that would
21 be promulgated in 15D, so they would either carry 15C
22 regulations over into the newly created 15D, or they
23 would have to draft all new regulations for a new
24 subunit. So, they were -- it didn't seem like it had --
25 it would make much of a change. So, the State was neutral
26 on it. You know, it all depends on what the Board of
27 Game decides to do with it.

28
29 MS. SELANOFF: And I don't know if this
30 is even the appropriate place to say this, but what
31 caught my attention about this, first and foremost is
32 when it says Alaska Native Corporation land. When you're
33 looking at our Alaska Native corporations, our
34 corporations do have land, but we also have allotments
35 too. And I don't know if the allotment -- the ownership
36 of the allotment owners is not being represented in here,
37 so I don't know if it's a flat-out Alaska Native
38 Corporation lands which is inclusive of Native
39 allotments or if that -- I think it should be. Anyway,
40 I need to learn more about this proposal. Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Diane, I
43 -- likewise, I mean it's my Unit and I'm in 15C and I
44 think it's asinine. But anyway, just -- I need to study
45 it more. I have no idea why they would want to do it.
46 It does affect all of our Native lands down there and
47 to say the highland and lowland, some of the higher land
48 is where you get into federal land, and we get in the
49 federal moose range, and that's where we have the federal
50 preference there. And I certainly don't want to see a

1 bunch of jumbled up regulations in there. But anyway,
2 we'll cross that bridge. I don't know how you got to
3 that, really. I don't see it on my agenda, but it must
4 be in here somewhere. Oh, it's in the handout. Oh, it's
5 not on the agenda. Is that something we're taking up on
6 the agenda is my question?

7
8 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. So, this is Nissa.
9 So, Brian did allude to there was a couple proposals
10 that he wanted to bring to your attention that would
11 misalign. And this is one of two of them.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I got it
14 now.

15
16 MS. SELANOFF: Oh, sorry, I said the
17 supplemental -- it's 4B what we're discussing, but
18 material on page 41 and handout tab 4. So, I figured
19 this was the handout tab. So, I was just trying to
20 keep.....

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Yeah. No
23 that's fine. We just need to finish up where we're at.

24
25 MS. SELANOFF: Yeah. Okay.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Proposals,
28 anti-proposals whatever.

29
30 MR. UBELAKER: Well, member Selanoff
31 covered the one that I was going to bring up. So, I
32 mean, I guess we can leave it up to you all if you want
33 to -- if it's something you're interested in submitting
34 a proposal say you can submit one preliminarily. And if
35 the Board of Game takes no action or declines splitting
36 15C, you can have the proposal withdrawn and we won't
37 worry about considering it, or you can just roll the
38 dice and see how the state plays out. And if we need to,
39 we can submit a proposal later on to align regulations.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: So, if the state
42 passes this, the feds don't have to pass it. Correct?

43
44 MR. UBELAKER: Correct. But that will
45 misalign federal and state regulations.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, I've been
48 trying to misalign them for years. That's why the federal
49 program is in here. It's not to align with the state. I
50 mean, just -- that's the way it is. But yeah, I see

1 really a lot of harm in this one. So, I'm very cautious
2 about it. But thank you. So, if we wish to make a
3 proposal, I would like to make the motion to reject it.

4

5 MS. SELANOFF: I agree because if it's
6 going to -- I mean, we're looking at federal subsistence
7 users and the Native Corporations will be impacted if
8 it goes to the state. So, I very much agree with you.
9 We should do a proposal to reject.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We're
12 gaining traction here. We don't know where we're going,
13 but we're going to make it. Kirk, go ahead.

14

15 MR. WILSON: Yeah, this is Kirk. I'd like
16 to work on that proposal I put in before for all of the
17 federal areas in Unit 13 to be for subsistence users
18 only. And we have a more dire situation than the last
19 time I wrote the proposal right now, because the people
20 in my community, they aren't going to get any caribou
21 here unless something changes. And our moose population
22 is at a point now, and the Native people in my community
23 and subsistence users, we can't compete with urban
24 hunters. We just can't compete. So, we need some space
25 and our federal -- oops, our federal land that is in our
26 area, there's not a lot of it. I mean, there's just not
27 a lot of area -- it would give us another opportunity
28 for people to have food.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: So, that would
31 have to be specific to the federal lands within the
32 Unit.

33

34 MR. WILSON: Yes.

35

36 MR. UBELAKER: Or would you be talking -
37 - you're talking about closing federal public lands and
38 all of Unit 13. Is that...?

39

40 MR. WILSON: Yes.

41

42 MR. UBELAKER: Okay.

43

44 MR. WILSON: If you look at your map in
45 Unit 13, there's not a lot of federal land that we're
46 talking about here. The areas are very small. It would
47 not take away from the urban people very much.

48

49 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50 So, you -- you're wanting to make the federal regulations

1 more strict than the state sport hunting regulations?

2

3 MR. WILSON: We've already done that in
4 Unit 13B. I put in for all federal -- and 13B the there's
5 a pretty good size -- but a lot of it's inaccessible
6 [sic] to the people. But that area that is accessible
7 if you if you check the records, our people have done
8 better there than any place else because they don't have
9 to compete with the urban hunters. The moose population
10 in the area that I'm talking about is lower than it's
11 been in years, and probably more moose was taken out of
12 that area this year. Another because it's local, they
13 know how to hunt.

14

15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So, I'm trying to wrap
16 my head around this, like I have friends up in the
17 Interior who reside out of Southcentral region, but they
18 come down. They're federally qualified to hunt like,
19 say, when the caribou was there. These little postage
20 stamps of you see the signs on the road that say open
21 to federal and then a few miles closed. So, there's
22 these little zones that are open and closed. And you're
23 saying you would want those closed to federal users, but
24 you would, but they still would be open to state users.

25

26 MR. WILSON: No, other way around.

27

28 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Okay.

29

30 MR. WILSON: The federal land would be
31 open to.....

32

33 (Simultaneous speech)

34

35 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So, we don't really
36 manage state in this.

37

38 MR. WILSON: Yeah. We can't manage the
39 state. We can only worry about the federal.

40

41 MC. LAUGHIN: Okay.

42

43 MR. WILSON: Yeah.

44

45 MS. CAMINER: Just to clarify, Kirk, are
46 you talking about all species hunting?

47

48 MR. WILSON: No, just moose.

49

50 MS. CAMINER: Okay, thank you.

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MR. WILSON: Just moose.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I guess I still need a little clarification. So, you want to close the federal lands in the 13 -- Unit 13 that are only open to qualified users, is what you're saying?

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MR. WILSON: Yeah, that's exactly what I'm saying.

11

12

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

13

14

MR. GREYBEAR: Mr. Chair.

15

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yes. Go ahead.

17

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19

MR. GREYBEAR: This is Edward GrayBear. I wanted to work on a proposal. Can you hear me?

20

21

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, Edward. Go ahead. You got the floor.

22

23

24

MR. GREYBEAR: I wanted to propose a proposal to extend the moose hunting to the end of September for Units 13 and 11. So, I guess two different proposals due to the climate change and the subsistence needs not being met by the end of the season.

28

29

30

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, you got to wait to get your proposals to us drafted and emailed or something?

32

33

34

MR. GREYBEAR: Yes, I'll email it.

35

36

37

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Email it to Nissa and then we'll get it. Okay. Thank you, Edward.

38

39

40

MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Kirk, one more question. So, right now, moose hunting Unit 13. Okay. Unit 13 A and D, residents of Unit 13 Chickaloon and Slana. B, Units -- residents of Unit 13. I see, 20D and Unit 13C residents of 12, 13 and E residents of Unit 13. So, most of them are only -- most of the subunits are only open to residents of -- local residents basically.

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MR. WILSON: It open to the state for sport hunting everywhere.

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MS. CAMINER: On federal lands here.

MR. WILSON: The only thing that -- this area right here is the one that they passed in my last proposal, all I was asking for is this little spot. There's a little teeny spot right here. That's all the federal land there is in Unit 13.

MS. CAMINER: Okay, okay.

MR. WILSON: And I mean, that's what I'm asking for, is our local people to be able to hunt there because they can't compete with these other hunters and the rest of that area. They just can't do it.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Sterling, do you want to come up? You got your hand up. Sorry, I didn't see you.

MR. SPILINEK: Thank you. Thank you. For the record, my name is Sterling Spilinek. I wanted to kind of explain a little bit more what Kirk's trying to say, and so the proposal that was submitted earlier was to close all federal subsistence land to non-federally qualified users. The reason for this is because on a state permit, you could hunt both state and federal land following the state regulations. But under a federal permit you can only hunt federal land. So, the request is that if you're hunting state land, you hunt -- or under a state permit, you hunt state land. If you're hunting on a federal permit, you're hunting on a federal regulations on federal land. The reason for this request, again, is because when this was brought to the Federal Subsistence Board, they decided to go with only Unit 13B federal land closure because they said that was a larger portion of federal land. But what wasn't considered is the federal land in the other subunits, how beneficial it is for federal hunting, specifically in 13D, and the one chunk of federal land that I think Kirk is referring to is the drainage that is connected to 5 or 6 other or low land connected to 5 or 6 other drainages. And I personally know of about 6 or 7 federally qualified users that are using that area specifically because of the high moose harvest. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well, that helps me. Go ahead, Judy.

1 MS. CAMINER: I guess I'll just say we
2 would have to consider quite carefully requesting a
3 closure to non-federally qualified people. You know,
4 adequate resources, or maybe they're not adequate
5 resources. Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
8 Dennis.

9
10 MR. ZADRA: Yeah. Brian, if I could ask
11 a question, this whole state-federal management is
12 complicated. Is there any federal lands, federal public
13 lands that are only open to federally qualified
14 subsistence users, or is it -- even though they might
15 have their own regulations under the federal, the state
16 residents can still hunt that? But is there any place
17 that says, no, we don't allow any state hunting here,
18 it is only done under the federal regulations?

19
20 MR. UBELAKER: Are you asking in regards
21 to the special action that closed federal public lands
22 last year?

23
24 MR. ZADRA: Just kind of in general, you
25 know, it seems -- and it's more for my education. It's
26 like, is this being effective at doing what the intent
27 is? You know, I agree 100%. You know, it should be
28 reserved for the people that are there that need that.
29 But it seems like these special hunts and all that get
30 past or get authorized, but at the same time the state
31 has -- there's a state hunt operating concurrently. So,
32 you know, any resident can do that. So, I'm just
33 wondering, is there places that you can exclude
34 residents that are not living in that area?

35
36 MR. UBELAKER: So, under general
37 regulations, Park Service preserves? The hard park lands
38 are not open to state harvest. Outside of that -- so,
39 generally if you take off every federal land closure
40 that we have, the entire State of Alaska is huntable
41 minus hard parkland by state residents, hunting under
42 sport regulations -- state regulations.

43
44 MR. ZADRA: State regulations.

45
46 MR. UBELAKER: Then the only time that
47 they are excluded from federal public lands is when
48 there's a federal public land closure to non-federally
49 qualified users or to every user group, including
50 federally qualified. Does that answer it for you?

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MR. ZADRA: Yeah. But you do have that authority or the I guess the feds have that authority?

4

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MR. UBELAKER: Yes. Yeah. Federal land is open unless closed.

7

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MR. ZADRA: Right.

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MR. UBELAKER: Basically. I just say because.....

12

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Andy's next. Go ahead, Dennis.

15

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17

MR. ZADRA: Oh, I just, you know, I grew up in Colorado, and it's like, everywhere else has federal public lands. But in every other State, the State manages the wildlife. And so that just seems to be the crux up here. So, but that's all just -- trying to educate myself.

22

23

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Andy. Your turn now.

25

26

27

MR. MCCLAUGHLIN: Real quick. A potential wouldn't be just the closure and opening of lands, but could be the season timing. And an example would be how federally qualified users say in Cordova or Unit 6 could still harvest one deer up to the end of January, whereas the state ends at the end of December. So, there's times where seasonings -- season closures and this may be an avenue for you to put a proposal in to change the season or extend the season. You know, with, with things like climate change and other things or just to avoid this state pressure in those zones, you could then allow your federal users to get an extra opportunity that just -- that's kind of relative but not, you know.

39

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MR. WILSON: Right now, on these federal lands, you see this little pink piece up here, and this is another one here. And then there's a little teeny one that's the only federal land in Unit 13. And in those federal areas, as a moose hunter, this is for moose only we're talking about that I put the proposal. It's not for everything. You can start hunting on August 1st. So, the season is already there, and we can hunt this other federal area down here on August 1st, too. But as soon as that state hunt opens up us locals as far as hunting in those areas, unless they close it to those urban

50

1 hunters, we might as well stay home. And I say we, but
2 I'm telling you, most of the Native people in the -- in
3 my community and for federal subsistence users, they
4 don't have the equipment that these urban hunters have.
5 And this is just an opportunity, which this one already
6 is an opportunity for us. But we're just asking for this
7 down here and this in here, for the local people to have
8 a place to get away from all this mass urban chaos.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Judy.

11
12 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, I think I would
13 do better if we saw it written out. Maybe you can work
14 with staff.

15
16 MR. WILSON: What I'll try to do is get
17 my old proposal and bring it. And I can't find it right
18 now.

19
20 MS. CAMINER: Okay. If I there was
21 probably a reason the Board rejected it, and that would
22 be good for us to know as well. And just a quick follow
23 up to Dennis. There are many examples when areas were
24 closed to non-federally qualified users in the history
25 of the program and most recently Yukon and Kuskokwim
26 fishing. So, it has happened. It changes all the time,
27 clearly, but it is a high hurdle to close to non-
28 federally qualified users if there are adequate
29 resources.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Judy,
32 thank you for that comment. I'm going to try and get
33 back some a little bit of control or just so we stay on
34 task. But Nissa, you want to report back to me the three
35 proposals you heard so far, or maybe four anyway, so.

36
37 MS. PILCHER: Okay, Kirk mentioned the
38 Unit 13 moose closure to non-federally qualified
39 subsistence users. Edward mentioned -- somewhere in my
40 notes. I'm sorry Edward. It was a moose extension to
41 federally qualified users in Unit 11 and 13 and I believe
42 that was for moose. There was briefly a mention from
43 Kirk about a C&T proposal that -- about being individual
44 instead of community, but that that conversation seemed
45 to end when Hannah brought up how OSM has looked at that
46 in the past. And then Andy did allude to having two
47 that we didn't actually hear from at the very beginning.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay so, we kind
50 of got one that we need drafted from Edward on extension

1 of the season and one on Kurt for individual C&T. And
2 you guys need to put those together, get them to us
3 because the Board's going to be hard to take action on
4 any of these proposals were just drafted without more
5 information Brian. Just a second. Go ahead, Brian.

6
7 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair when you guys
8 are coming up with proposals and basically just
9 generating the idea of the proposal. You can just say
10 extend the season -- moose season and Units 11 and 13
11 to the end of September. And Nissa and I will put the
12 wording together. So, all we really need from the Council
13 is a motion and saying, yes, we want to submit this or
14 no we don't.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. My
17 concern is that we submit what we really want until we
18 know the details, we can't submit something like that.

19
20 MS. PILCHER: And then -- sorry.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We could get
23 started on it. We could get started with asking you to
24 start the draft of that. And then we got to come back
25 to the Council to make sure we're all concurrent of it.
26 So, we can't just -- it's really hard. We need to, in
27 my opinion, we should take one proposal. We should ferret
28 it through and see, okay, this is the way we're going
29 to do it. Deal with that. Then we go to the next and
30 then next. And so, I mean it's great that you offer to
31 do that. That's fine. I don't have a problem with that.
32 But I got to have some control of how I do it. Okay. Go
33 ahead.

34
35 MS. PILCHER: And another option is if
36 we don't have enough time at this meeting because it
37 does -- the submission date is the beginning of April.
38 So, of course it needs to either be at this meeting or
39 none is -- I at least can help individuals draft and
40 submit proposals on the Council submitted either by a
41 tribe or an individual, and we can get all the
42 information you want down on the piece of paper. And
43 then the Council will, of course, review it in the fall.
44 And based on those recommendations is when -- is also
45 when the Federal Subsistence Board defers to this
46 Council with your guys' -- yeah. In that fall meeting.
47 Of course, bearing in mind that ANILCA provides that the
48 Board will accept the recommendations of this Council
49 regarding take unless the recommendation is not
50 supported by substantial evidence, the recommendation

1 violates principles of fish and wildlife management or
2 adopting the recommendations would be detrimental to the
3 satisfaction of subsistence needs. So, there are
4 guardrails on there, but that is something that this
5 Council could do in the fall if something you don't feel
6 right now is fully fleshed out.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. The other
9 one too is the Unit 15C, division two.

10
11 MS. SELANOFF: That's the one. That's the
12 one I wanted to mention to -- not to forget that because.
13 Okay. All right. Well, I didn't hear it mentioned.

14
15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, sir.
16 Are we ready to ferret out something different? Okay.
17 All right. So, anyhow, this is something I'm surprised
18 that I had never noticed before. I can't believe I looked
19 right through it so many times. But the current
20 regulation on page 43 of the Federal Subsistence Book
21 and Wildlife for Unit 6 under brown bear says no federal
22 subsistence priority and in the far-right column, there
23 is no federal open season. Okay. In my opinion, what it
24 should read is for a proposed regulation change under
25 the C&T column would be Unit 6A to 6D residents of
26 Chenega Bay and Tatitlek. Because an 804 analysis could
27 be looked up and found that they have a C&T for those,
28 I'm quite sure, harvest limit one bear by federal
29 registration permit is what the second column could say,
30 and the open season would be August 1st through June
31 30th. That this change should be made to more accurately
32 reflect the C&T use of specific rural residents of Prince
33 William Sound, of time-honored practices that can be
34 analyzed by the OSM if it's needed and warranted to look
35 up an 804 analysis. Most of Prince William Sound is
36 consists of a lot of federal jurisdiction lands, and
37 many of which contain plentiful brown bear populations.
38 So, that's the brown bear one.

39
40 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. May I
41 jump in? Just briefly, I just wanted to thank member
42 McLaughlin for that proposal, but also to note that when
43 it says no federal subsistence priority, that means
44 there has not been a C&T determination, so there is no
45 determination on which to base a section 804 analysis
46 or anything like that would be starting from scratch.
47 So, the proposal would, you know, ask for the C&T
48 determination for residents of Chenega and Tatitlek for
49 brown bear in Unit 6.

1 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I would gladly request
2 that C&T be determined for Chenega and Tatitlek. I know
3 of stories from elders many years ago back in the skin
4 boat days with brown bear issues. So, I'm -- historically
5 it's been a resource that's been utilized by people.
6

7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Andy, let
8 me get this clear. So, you're making this suggesting
9 that this is a proposal for the RAC to get C&T for the
10 6D, E and D -- 6D. Okay. A through D. Okay. That's what
11 I was trying to get straight. Okay. So, that's the
12 proposal you're suggesting and you're going to help
13 write that proposal, someone is and do we get that down
14 now? That's one down. We all agree on that or do you
15 want to take a vote? Just take a vote. Okay, Dennis. Go
16 ahead first.
17

18 MR. ZADRA: Chair a question to you, but
19 that you're only saying to residents of Chenega and
20 Tatitlek and not Cordova. Is that correct?
21

22 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes. I can't really
23 speak for people on this side of the Sound. I just know
24 that brown bears have been harvested historically by
25 people of two communities to the east, and they also --
26 these same people used to ride -- or reside in Nuchek
27 on Hinchinbrook Island and other places. There's where
28 there's a lot of brown bears and kayak through Montague,
29 which is some of this transfers into other zones.
30 And.....
31

32 MR. ZADRA: I guess my question back to
33 you, though, why are you trying to go all the way to 6A,
34 which is clear down past the Suckling Hills?
35

36 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I just believe
37 that people of Prince William Sound utilized the
38 resources, that -- they were somewhat nomadic people,
39 and they bounced. There's a village that wasn't even in
40 -- that's not even on maps anymore. There's some names,
41 some old maps still have it, like up between Tatitlek
42 and Whittier and other places where these people moved
43 and utilized resource and then kayaked over to another
44 zone and utilize the resource and moved around kind of
45 nomadically amongst Prince William Sound. And I would
46 believe that the 6A would be included in where they
47 ventured to knowing that some of their relatives
48 actually were part of Eyak people. But I don't really
49 know a lot of Eyak people to ask.
50

1 MR. ZADRA: Okay, yeah. I just -- I think
2 you were going to disenchant -- I don't know what word.
3 I'm -- there's going to be a lot of people in Cordova
4 that would be really felt left out of that, you know,
5 Eyaks included if they're not.

6
7 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Well maybe if this comes
8 up to fruition, you modify that to include them.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Judy, go ahead.

11
12 MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Andy and Dennis.
13 Perhaps to OSM as you're doing a, C&T, if we ask you to
14 look at these two communities, is Cordova an option to
15 also be looked at, or if we just say the two, that's all
16 you'll look at? But I mean, certainly in gathering data
17 you'll find out something about Cordova, I would think.

18
19 DR. VOORHEES: Member Caminer. That is
20 an excellent question. And so, because we'd be going
21 from a situation where there's no federal subsistence
22 priority, we would not be analyzing every community. So,
23 there are some cases where we do, for example, if all
24 rural residents are already qualified, we'd make sure
25 to look at everyone before narrowing that. But when
26 there's no federal subsistence priority -- yeah, it
27 sounds kind of counterintuitive, but I believe we'd just
28 be analyzing the communities that are on the proposal
29 in this case.

30
31 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So, yeah. Thank you. So,
32 I recall, and if Pippa Kenner's still on the line, she
33 may recall this too, I think. Greg, other people remember
34 when Kings Bay for moose a long time ago, it said no
35 Federal Subsistence Board priority. And I -- and we
36 brought the same kind of proposal thing forward. And
37 Pippa was involved in an 804 analysis that was like, oh
38 yes, definitely Chenega and Tatitlek, but not Point Hope
39 and Cooper Landing. And, you know, they kind of excluded
40 the people that kind of were Unit 7 at that point, you
41 know. So, there was a point where it was not this exact
42 same way that I'm being told.

43
44 DR. VOORHEES: I imagine that it was open
45 to all rural residents at that, if that's what happened.
46 And I mean, I will add that, you know, any -- there can
47 always be new proposals to add communities. It doesn't
48 close the door. Sometimes it takes a little while for
49 these new C&Ts to be worked out.

50

1 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I believe it was
2 not open. Suddenly, this all -- I remember then when the
3 book came out and I'm like, whoa, hope and what is --
4 oh, well, we had to do it for all rural residents at
5 that. That's how the -- it was originally, how it's
6 written right now in the book about the bears. So, you
7 know, it was different a while back.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: If I may say so,
10 we need to figure out how to just come up with the -- I
11 got my mic pressed.

12
13 MS. TEHEMAQUE: You turned it off
14

15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, no. It says
16 it's read. Can you hear me? Okay. Anyway, we need to
17 kind of get on task to that. We kind of need to get it
18 in there and get moving. So, do we want to just vote on
19 that proposal so we could get it on the record that you
20 submitted that?

21
22 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I make a motion
23 too.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
26 you, Andy. Is there a second?

27
28 MR. OPHEIM: I'll second.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Second by
31 Michael discussion. Nissa.

32
33 MS. PILCHER: Just to clarify the motion,
34 was it only for Chenega and Tatitlek? I'm going to
35 mispronounce it. I'm sorry. Those two communities or was
36 it just for those two communities for that motion?

37
38 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: It's those two
39 communities. And if Dennis thought a modification, then
40 we could entertain that.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You guys
43 got the motion now? You want to read it back or are you
44 good?

45
46 MS. PILCHER: I think -- I know where you
47 guys are going, and I don't want to mispronounce that
48 community again on the record.

49
50

1 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So, did you get
2 the.....

3
4 (Simultaneous speech)

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Chenega should
7 be known well in everyone's mind by now.

8
9 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So, harvest limit. Oh,
10 no. That's the other one. Harvest limit one bare by
11 federal registration permit. Open season, August 1st
12 through June 30th. And the C&T determination part, Unit
13 6A through D residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: He made it too.
16 I told him to go to one and he made two out of it, but
17 that's okay. You guys good with the second? Okay. You're
18 really trying to put them together on me, but that's
19 cool. Okay. Well, we're going to have to figure this
20 out. It's a bad way to do proposals. What I'm trying to
21 get across. We're coming up with ideas, and everyone's
22 just throwing out stuff, and we're all confused. And you
23 could see it around here. We should get a proposal. Get
24 it turned into him. Let him work on it and get it back.
25 And then take a vote on it. Because I hate to vote on
26 something that's not got real clarity, you know. But in
27 this case, I think we're pretty good. Did you want to
28 put the other one with it, too?

29
30 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: No, the other one's
31 about beavers.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well,
34 beavers you could have -- okay. We'll go ahead and take
35 a vote on them. Questions call for? Any more discussion?

36
37 MS. CAMINER: Question.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Question has
40 been called by Judy whether she did it or not. I heard
41 it. Okay. All in favor, aye.

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

46
47 MR. GREYBEAR: Aye.

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49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Edward, I don't
50 know how your vote went on that, but...?

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MR. GREYBEAR: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
Okay.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. This one's shorter, quicker. Not as controversial. Anyhow, current regulation in page 44 of the federal subsistence book under C&T beaver. All rural residents harvest limits one beaver per day. One in possession. Open season May 1st through October 31st, which seems like kind of a weird season. Not that into it, doesn't even include part of the trapping season. So, anyhow, the change that I would propose in this right now that I'm going to make a motion for is the harvest limit one beaver per day, three in possession. The open season is year-round because in general, subsistence is a when opportunity knocks, you take advantage of it and it just kind of the nature of subsistence. That food is available when it's available and year-round seems much more appropriate to me than just May 1st through October 31st, which is kind of like summertime only. And certainly, beavers are under the ice. But if somebody wanted to go catch a beaver trapping or whatever and, you know, federally, you know, I believe that that -- so anyhow, subsistence is largely a current to random opportunities when the resource is available. So, very simple. Beaver and the only other change was the three in possession instead of one in possession. You're only allowed to get one, you know, have it on your possession.....

(Simultaneous speech)

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: There was a shortage of beavers. You know at one time we talked about that. So, that's what happened. But yeah, three. I know we talked about the year-round season too, but I don't remember what the pitfalls were on it. But we'll entertain your things right there. Does anyone know any more about the beavers or are you making that motion now? Okay, we got a motion. Is there a second to it?

MR. OPHEIM: I'll second.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Second. Hang on. Who's that? Come on up. I know there's more regulations to these beavers here.

1 MR. MORRIS: Mr. Chair, Andy Morris,
2 Forest Service law enforcement. I just want to give you
3 a little clarity on Unit 6 beaver. So, the subsistence
4 season is -- opposes the state season, essentially like
5 when the state trapping season closes, it opens. So,
6 that's why those dates -- it isn't year-round. That's
7 just how it is concurrently. I have no opinion on your
8 proposal or whatever, but that's just why -- so,
9 basically, if you can trap then you can -- then you can
10 wear your -- you can use your state regulation. You put
11 your state hat on, and then as soon as that closes, the
12 day it closes for Cordova residents -- well, Unit 6
13 residents, then you can then you can still hunt beaver
14 for you know, for the remainder of the year. The -- and
15 the one difference that just changed in state regulation
16 was you used to be able to -- well, you can't use traps,
17 right. Like you're actually hunting them. You have to
18 shoot them. Which does have the -- I've seen in my
19 enforcement experience, you know, you have a -- you
20 definitely have a loss there because you're not --
21 they're getting shot. They're swimming down, you know,
22 there's losing -- we had a case at one point where, you
23 know, we were finding some floating beavers because
24 people are actually shooting them and then not being
25 able to recover them because it's summer in the middle
26 of a pond. But anyway, just a little bit of background
27 for you guys on that I thought it'd be pretty relevant
28 for the Unit 6.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, I
31 appreciate that because, see, my knowledge, I knew there
32 was more problems than the beaver. But anyway, Andy go
33 ahead.

34
35 MC. LAUGHLIN: I appreciate that that
36 that makes sense of how it was developed, but that still
37 requires a federally qualified subsistence user to have
38 a trapping license throughout the -- or, because you
39 have to have that furbearer license in order to shoot
40 them in the wintertime during trapping season.

41
42 MR. MORRIS: And absolutely. And that did
43 just change also, just so you're aware I guess previous
44 to I believe it was just last year, if no more than two
45 years where you couldn't use a firearm to take beaver.
46 Right. So, you had to actually trap them with steel, so.

47
48 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I'm all for making
49 federally qualified subsistence users have a little more
50 ease in that and not be tied to any type of certain

1 state regulations.

2

3 MR. MORRIS: Yeah, I just want to give a
4 little clarity on how that -- the kind of history on
5 that regulation. Thank you for your time.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good. Yes.
8 The beavers. Go ahead, Kirk.

9

10 MR. WILSON: I'd just like to say one
11 thing to the beaver. I've wrote some proposals on that
12 in the past. And as a trapper, when I go out, I would
13 rather be able to shoot a couple of big beaver and leave
14 all the little ones there and then trapping. It's
15 indiscriminate.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, he's
18 going to get them either way now. Okay. We get a motion
19 and a second to vote. We're ready to vote if someone
20 wants to call the question.

21

22 MR. OPHEIM: I'll call the question.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: The question
25 has been called. Discussion is halted. All in favor,
26 aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

31

32 MR. GREYBEAR: Aye.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Ed. How do you
35 vote?

36

37 MR. GREYBEAR: Yes.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
40 Well, maybe I didn't want that on the record. Okay, we
41 got three proposals. What else we got on proposals,
42 Nissa? Do we want -- let's -- Diane let's just -- do you
43 want to make a proposal on the on the new Unit in 15C
44 and say that we oppose it until we know more about it
45 or...?

46

47 MS. SELANOFF: I will make that a motion
48 to oppose. I believe it is proposal 121 until we are
49 more aware of it, because it can become a state regulated
50 as opposed to federal and we'll lose our.....

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MR. OPHEIM: I'll second it.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Michael. Go ahead, Nissa.

MS. PILCHER: Just to clarify, process wise, what's going on right now is I'm assuming what you're intending to do is to submit a comment to the Board of Game in opposition of proposal 121. Because of that -- because of the reasons you just gave as a -- because you -- a negative proposal doesn't really exist, but you can oppose that current proposal.

MS. SELANOFF: Yes.

MS. PILCHER: Okay.

MS. SELANOFF: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We got to be able to oppose something. Okay, we got a motion and a second, and.....

MS. SELANOFF: Call for question.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Question has been called for. All in favor, aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

(No response)

I didn't hear it, so I didn't hear Ed, so I think he's for it. Thank you. Okay. Now we had we had the individual C&T, Kirk. Do we want to make a proposal on that, or did we need more?

MR. WILSON: I have found.....

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Do we need more study on that?

MR. WILSON: I found my original proposal on that thing, and, I mean, I don't know how we could all read it or look at it. It's on my -- I can't even read it. It's so small on my phone. But I'm certainly, yes, willing to work with somebody and.....

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Kirks going to get with you, Brian and Hannah, whoever work on that proposal. Okay. Is there anyone else that -- what you got?

MS. PILCHER: There was Edwards, that Moose extension in Unit 11.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yep. Okay. Okay. Now we're going to go Edward to your extension in Unit 11 through 13. You want to put that in the motion for a proposal?

MR. GREYBEAR: Yes. I'd like to make the motion to extend the moose hunting dates for Units 11 and 13 to the end of September.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

MR. OPHEIM: I'll second that.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's been seconded by Michael Opheim. Is there any other discussion?

MR. GREYBEAR: I'd like to just say that with the with the moose hunting -- a lot of the moose that you see, you don't see them until the very last week. And that's due to just the changing environmental conditions with the heat. And so, extending it further to the end of September will allow us to meet our subsistence needs.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. From an individual user and a subsistence user I agree with you, but it's a -- the state always fights us on that one because of a lot of reasons. But if we could do that, I'm all for it. Extending in your units there, so. That's a good time. They claim it gets into the rut and all that. But anyway, okay. A lot of discussion on it. Go ahead, Micheal.

MR. OPHEIM: Just a comment on what he's proposing here. A few years back CRRC actually worked with the Native village of Port Graham to extend the hunting season for moose in their area and now they have 60 days of hunting season. Because of what Ed is mentioning here, with climate and inclement weather not being able to get moose in a timely fashion. So, there

1 is a bit of precedent, you know, with the state passing
2 proposal 549, I believe for area -- hunt number 549.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Sounds good.
5 I'm gonna [sic] have to get ahold of that old Todd down
6 there in the Kenai and extended ours, right. Okay, go
7 ahead Kirk.

8
9 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I got a short comment.
10 It's -- this ten-day season would give the subsistence
11 users an opportunity to be away from this mass of people.
12 I'm totally in favor.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Any other
15 discussion on the matter? Andy.

16
17 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, real quickly there
18 was a big hubbub about oh, no, we can't extend the deer
19 season in Prince William Sound to extra 30 days in
20 January and everybody's freaking out. And then also
21 another one that had happened a few years before that
22 was because the snow was like this and not pushing the
23 goats down to where they were easily accessible, where
24 they historically winter range had been, we extended the
25 mountain goat season, and I don't believe there's been
26 any detrimental effects to those populations at all from
27 these extensions of season being harvested at a higher
28 rate, which is probably very statistically insignificant
29 by the federal subsistence users.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, it sounds
32 good. I'll just give you a bit of information on the
33 Kenai. We got a late hunt in end of October the 20th to
34 the 10th of November. That's been helpful for the
35 subsistence user on federal land and so that we've got
36 that there. But anyway. Okay. Michael, you got another
37 comment?

38
39 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. I just was remembering
40 a few years back; we had actually had a climate change
41 proposal come in front of us because of the -- not being
42 able to harvest in a timely manner anymore. So, it
43 wouldn't be the first one that we'd supported.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good comments.
46 Okay. Everyone ready to vote on that one? All in favor,
47 aye.

48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.
50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

2

3 MR. GREYBEAR: Aye.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I heard Ed, loud
6 and clear. He's aye. Okay. No opposition. Okay. That
7 carries. Did I get them all? C&T. We got the -- okay,
8 Brian. Go ahead.

9

10 MR. UBELAKER: Last one, I promise. This
11 is another potential proposal that hinges on a Board of
12 Game proposal. Right now, proposal 57 is going to be --
13 well, it was in front of the Board. They adopted
14 increasing the brown bear harvest limit to two in Unit
15 13. This was submitted by the Matanuska Valley AC. So,
16 they adopted that a bit ago. So, once again, federal
17 regulations are out of alignment. The current.....

18

19 MS. PILCHER: More restrictive,
20 currently.

21

22 MR. UBELAKER: More restrictive. Yes.
23 Current federal regulations is one bear per year. So,
24 if that's something you'd be interested in taking up,
25 we can write that proposal as well.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We need the
28 opportunity. So, yes, I think, but I'm not going to
29 speak to it all either. Council someone want to address
30 that?

31

32 MS. CAMINER: Yes, Mr. Chair, I think
33 that makes sense. Thanks for bringing it to our
34 attention. We don't want to restrict subsistence users,
35 so if the limit is increasing for other users, it should
36 also be applicable for subsistence users.

37

38 I'll make the motion that we would like
39 OSM to prepare a proposal that increases the limit for
40 brown bear to two a year. Is that right? Thank you. In
41 Unit 13. Correct.

42

43 MR. OPHEIM: I'll second.

44

45 (Distortion)

46

47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I didn't hear
48 you, Ed.

49

50 MR. GREYBEAR: Yes.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. I
3 think that covers it. I got a lot of assistance on that
4 one, man. Holy crap. Okay. Oops. I got my mic on. You
5 got more than you asked for, I think. You good?
6

7 MR. UBELAKER: Sorry, I'm sorry. I'm
8 spacing out. That was all that I had.
9

10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Good.
11 Hannah. You're good?
12

13 DR. VOORHEES: I'm good. Thank you, Mr.
14 Chair.
15

16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank
17 you.
18

19 (Pause)
20

21 Nissa is going to do the Council charter
22 review. She'll do it in a timely fashion and give you
23 all the information you would like to know in that
24 review. Thank you very much.
25

26 MS. PILCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
27 is Nissa Pilcher. So, your Council charter is found on
28 page 15 of your meeting book. That's the one that's in
29 the black comb bound book. So, all ten-subsistence
30 Regional Advisory Councils were chartered under the
31 Federal Advisory Committee Act, also known as FACA.
32 Under the act, each Council charter needs to be renewed
33 every two years, so approximately a year before it is
34 renewed, each Council can have a discussion to see if
35 there's anything you want to change. Most of the language
36 in the charter is required by FACA, and that required
37 language cannot be changed, but you can request to make
38 minor modifications with detailed justification. Such
39 things as changing the name of your Council, the number
40 of seats on your Council, adding language on desired
41 geographic membership balance, those kinds of things.
42 If the Council is good with the charter as is, and the
43 requests -- and requests no change, then you just simply
44 vote to forward the charter to the Board. So, either
45 way, this is an action item. Just let me know what you
46 would like to do.
47

48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: What do you
49 recommend anything? No recommendation. More money, more
50 time. We could recommend trolley service here in

1 Cordova. I took a dive, and I got a bad back. But anyway.
2 Yeah. No, we lost. We almost lost two. You got one down,
3 and I'm pretty weak right now. But anyway, I'm pretty
4 strong. Yeah. No problem. Okay. Is there any way, shape
5 or form we have to prove it, right? Correct. Someone
6 want to make a motion to approve?

7

8 MR. OPHEIM: I'll make a motion to
9 approve the charter that's in front of us.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

12

13 MR. WILSON: I'll second.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved
16 and seconded by Kirk. Any other discussions? Hearing
17 none. All in favor, aye.

18

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed? I
22 heard Ed, thank you. No opposition. Okay. Next, we got
23 review and approval of fiscal year 2024 annual report.
24 And Nissa's got a handout there.

25

26 MS. PILCHER: I do. Thank you, Mister
27 Chair. For the record, this is Nissa Pilcher. So, the
28 Council's draft FY 24 Annual Report can be found in the
29 blue folder tab 3. So, your annual report ensures the
30 Board is aware of issues, concerns and current events
31 that impacts your subsistence way of life. With your
32 report and your recommendations, the Board can make
33 informed decisions on regulatory and policy actions. At
34 your last meeting in October, the Council identified six
35 different topics that you wished to include in this
36 report. Two of those items requested action in some form.
37 Those topics were: reevaluation of the criteria for the
38 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. To delve a little
39 further into that to include topics that involved
40 marine. Generally, most marine -- I know it's in the
41 report. I don't want to stumble and say something
42 incorrect. It was to involve more marine -- money for
43 marine projects as well as issues in the ecosystem that
44 involve chemicals. And the other one was to review the
45 effects of the Chitina subdistrict personal use fishery
46 on subsistence fishing opportunities, as well as on
47 chinook and sockeye salmon returns. And the Council also
48 identified some topics for informational purposes to the
49 Board. So, while your Council does not require a response
50 to the issues, the Council felt the Board would benefit

1 from having this knowledge. Those four items are, one,
2 concern over acquiring ceremonial harvest permits for
3 Prince William Sound shrimp. Provide information on the
4 process to list Southcentral region -- Southcentral
5 region chinook salmon as a threatened or endangered
6 species. Ongoing effects of the changing environmental
7 conditions impacting this region in relation to ocean
8 resources. And the last one was the alarming rate at
9 which the Southcentral region's subsistence resources
10 are being depleted. So, at your fall meeting when we
11 discussed this, I mentioned I would draft this report
12 and bring it before the Council at this meeting for
13 review, to make edits or include any additional
14 information you'd like me to. But also, please remember
15 at that Council meeting last fall I did mention we can't
16 add any new topics. But edits to the original -- these
17 ones will be taken at this time. So, either if you choose
18 to edit it or leave it as is. Once again, this is an
19 action item.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Very
22 good, Nissa. So, we could edit or leave as is. Go ahead,
23 Andy.

24
25 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So, keeping the same
26 topics. Number five ongoing effects of changing
27 environmental conditions in relation to ocean resources.
28 I would like to see a grave concern about the trawling
29 effect on ocean resources and the damage to the
30 environment that is happening on the ocean floor,
31 whether that is Prince William Sound, whether chains are
32 tickling the ground, or whether that's out in the open
33 gulf, which is also affecting the resources that migrate
34 to here from the Gulf.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Did
37 everyone copy what Andy stated there for edit number
38 five? Are we in agreement with that edit? Yes, no, maybe?
39 Go ahead.

40
41 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Thank you. Yeah.
42 If that's a -- within -- it is within the realm of what
43 we were saying before. It just hasn't been specifically
44 mentioned. And I think it should be.

45
46 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: It's informational.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Nissa is
49 shaking her head. Right. So, that's good. She said,
50 that's good. Faye it's good to see you back. You're

1 going to make it? Okay. Well, you was dancing around out
2 there. I took a dive for sympathy for you and beat myself
3 up a little bit. Beat both of us up

4
5 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We got --
8 go ahead, Judy.

9
10 MS. CAMINER: I know we asked for more
11 money in point number one, I don't know. I mean, the
12 kind of rings hollow with what's going on right now.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's why we
15 should ask for more.

16
17 MS. CAMINER: But. Yeah, right. Well,
18 anyway, it's we shouldn't put too much faith in that
19 actually being responded to very positively.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, you of
22 little faith. Okay, we will keep it there, I hope. Okay.
23 She was concerned about that the money we asked for may
24 not fall on it. May fall on deaf ears. Although we would
25 like more, we're not so sure how we should push it or
26 if we should edit it. If you could find a more convincing
27 way, we'd be fine with that.

28
29 MS. PILCHER: Ten-four.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

32
33 MS. PILCHER: Understood.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Other edits?
36 Okay, with the edits. If someone wants to make a motion
37 to approve with the edits to approve the annual report.

38
39 MR. OPHEIM: I'll make a motion to
40 approve the annual report, as amended.

41
42 MR. WILSON: Second.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved
45 and seconded by Kirk. Thank you. Any discussion?

46
47 (No response)

48
49 Hearing none. All in favor aye.

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1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

4

5 (No response)

6

7 Okay. You got your amendments to that.

8 That's good. Okay.

9

10 MS. PILCHER: For the record, this is
11 Nissa Pilcher. So, the next agenda item, there's a couple
12 of them, and it involves the Alaska Board of Game and
13 Board of Fish. This is more here as kind of an
14 informational topic. There is a lot of crossover on this
15 Council with your local Advisory Committees, which
16 that's generally under -- that's generally who ways --
17 pays a lot more attention to the state proposals than
18 necessarily this Council. Not saying you can't, in fact,
19 you've already actually done the first one. Alaska Board
20 of Game statewide proposals. You guys have already voted
21 to submit a comment to that meeting on proposal 121. The
22 next is, there's a Board of Game call for proposals.
23 That's in supplemental materials, page 43. There is
24 going to be a call for -- there is currently a call for
25 proposals for the Southcentral region. And then the last
26 one is a Board of Fisheries call for proposals that's
27 included Jessica's -- I generally always try to include
28 it, but this -- there's no overlap with this region
29 unless it's statewide finfish for that call currently.
30 So, if somebody -- yeah. So, I'll leave it at that and
31 let you guys take it from there.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You heard
34 the report on state proposals or anything, anyone want
35 to tackle? Anyone want to add anything or anything we
36 didn't do already? That was an action item to approve
37 that, was it not?

38

39 MS. PILCHER: Conditional action item.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Okay.

42

43 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, it's a conditional
44 action item. So, if you guys wanted to take something
45 up but you certainly don't have to. And you did already
46 take action on one thing.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We took action
49 on this. Any other action needed? Doesn't appear so, I
50 don't see anything, Nissa. Okay, well, I'm going to give

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1 this one to Nissa once again. The next is future meeting
2 dates.

3
4 MS. PILCHER: All right, everyone again,
5 Nissa Pilcher for the record. So, in the blue folder has
6 the most up to date calendars, which include other
7 Councils that have already met calendar. So, you have
8 already selected -- it's tab 5 in the blue folder. Yep.
9 So, for your fall 2025 under tab 5, you guys have
10 selected October -- Tuesday, October 14th and Wednesday,
11 October 15th in Anchorage as your meeting dates and
12 locations. And so, I guess I should talk process. So,
13 one thing you guys can do is you can take each -- there's
14 three things I'm going to need you guys weigh to input
15 on. We can discuss them and then take it up as one motion
16 at the very end. Which is the most streamlined thing to
17 do, or you can also do it one at a time. I'm going to
18 assume you guys want to do it with one motion, and I'll
19 proceed that way unless somebody has an objection to
20 that. So, does anyone want to change the fall 2025
21 meeting dates or location?

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: But this is the
24 first year.....

25
26 MS. PILCHER: don't forget your mic,
27 Andy.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Andy, this is
30 the first year we moved it up a little bit. So, it didn't
31 hit my anniversary on the 10th. But my anniversary, I
32 think has fallen on a Friday. So, you guys didn't want
33 to do it Friday, Saturday. So, I don't know.

34
35 MS. EWAN: Chair, what week is the AFN?
36 I sit on the AFN.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's a good
39 question. It's usually later, but we could -- someone
40 got it. I might have it on my calendar. Let me look
41 at.....

42
43 MR. GREYBEAR: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Go ahead,
46 Edward.

47
48 MR. GREYBEAR: It's October 16th and 18th
49 this year.

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, okay,
2 good. 16th through the 13th -- 18th.

3
4 MS. EWAN: For the First Alaska
5 Institute. It's -- I think the 13th to the 15th.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You go to both
8 of them at the same time. Yeah. First Alaska Institute.

9
10 MS. PILCHER: Also -- this is Nissa. Just
11 also keep in mind that we can't really do more than 2
12 in 1 week, so then you're only -- the only other options
13 really are the end of September, which is generally when
14 everyone is in the field.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We're still
17 hunting. Yeah. Okay. Well, 14, 15 is looking pretty good.
18 So, what else did you say? You needed a motion on three
19 things.

20
21 MS. PILCHER: I got two more meetings.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh. Two more
24 meetings.

25
26 MS. PILCHER: Okay, so the next one is
27 the winter 2026.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I think we'll be
30 around by then.

31
32 MS. PILCHER: Optimistic. So, this is --
33 so you guys have not previously weighed in on when you
34 want your winter or fall 2026 meetings. So, take a look
35 at these two calendars, once again if there's already
36 two Council meetings in one week, we really -- due to
37 both transcription and staff, we can't really do that.
38 So, like the week of February 23rd is already off the
39 table and the week of March 2nd is already off the table.
40 But if you want to look at that and come up with two
41 days to meet in the winter of 2026, and so I need dates
42 and a location.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Is the 16th the
45 week after? March 16th.

46
47 MS. PILCHER: Nope. March 16th is still
48 on the table only. Currently the Y-K Delta are meeting.

49
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I'm looking at
2 March 16th, 17th for me. But what do you guys think?
3 That's good, good, good, good, good, good. Ed, are you
4 going to be able to make March 16th, 17th on the winter
5 of 26?

6
7 MR. GREYBEAR: Yep. Yes, I will be there.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay. We
10 got that one. Now we got one more.

11
12 MS. PILCHER: Okay and that's 16th and
13 17th. One.....

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yep.

16
17 MS. PILCHER: One thing to note, Andy,
18 can you travel on Sundays? Use your mic.

19
20 MR. MCCLAUGHLIN: No, I would have to come
21 in either on the Thursday or the -- Mondays and Thursdays
22 are the travel days.

23
24 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. So, we could -- I
25 could either -- if his schedule allows, bring him in
26 earlier. You could shift to Tuesday-Wednesday meeting
27 up to you.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

30
31 MR. MCCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. That works, 17th
32 to 18th?

33
34 MR. OPHEIM: I'm good with 17, 18.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. I was
37 looking at my calendar and the whole damn week's full.
38 But that's '25. Yeah.

39
40 MS. CAMINER: Really, '26 now.

41
42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, so what
43 did we do, we moved it to the 17th, 18th?

44
45 MS. PILCHER: Yes. Tuesday the 17th and
46 Wednesday the 18th. And then location.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: The location
49 would probably be in Anchorage, but I don't know. But
50 that's St. Patrick's Day on the 17th, isn't it?

1
2 MR. OPHEIM: Nissa will dress in green
3 that day.

4
5 (Off record conversation)
6

7 MS. PILCHER: Yeah that's -- look in your
8 blue folder. Because the calendar in your book is not
9 correct. Yeah, we discovered that the hard way.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I think
12 we're good on the winter meeting. We did -- we say in
13 Anchorage 17th.

14
15 MS. PILCHER: 17th, 18th and Anchorage.
16 And then also, as a reminder, you guys will be taking
17 up these dates again at your next meeting. So, there's
18 -- these are not set in stone as of right now.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: So, now we need
21 the one for.....

22
23 MS. PILCHER: Fall 2026.
24

25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Fall 2026.
26 Okay. The October 6th and 7th is taken. They got two
27 there. You got Columbus Day on the 12th. You could do
28 October 14th, 15th. You might meet the beat the
29 convention. I don't know when it is in '26, but probably
30 that same week again, so or maybe a week later, the 20th
31 or 21st, 23rd. Do you want to tentatively call the 14th
32 15th of October or...?

33
34 MS. PILCHER: We can certainly do that.
35 And like I said, we can adjust granted within the
36 parameters that we've got. If it is going to fall right
37 at AFN.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we'll
40 give you three dates.

41
42 MS. PILCHER: What about a location for
43 the last one?

44
45 MR. OPHEIM: What about Seward?

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's a
48 hazardous drive (indiscernible).

49
50

1 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Perhaps for one
2 of the meetings. If we're allowed to travel, I think
3 it'd be go back to Glennallen, Copper Center area because
4 we haven't been there for a while now. We have members
5 from that area.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, that's
8 going to be a little dicey if we go over to big bear for
9 the AFN.

10
11 MS. CAMINER: That's true.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's a.....

14
15 MS. PILCHER: Mic.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: The only
18 problem with that there's some travel involved that
19 might take us pretty long going that way, unless we make
20 at the end of October.

21
22 MS. CAMINER: Could it be the winter
23 meeting?

24
25 MS. PILCHER: Absolutely.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We could swap
28 these meetings.

29
30 MS. PILCHER: Absolutely.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, then we'd
33 need the same problem, because you'd have to go up to
34 16th and come back to 19th.

35
36 MS. CAMINER: Yeah.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: These meetings
39 take four days when you do that. Yeah. We probably ought
40 to stick to what we got here.

41
42 MS. PILCHER: And we can always take up
43 locations to as we move forward to see what's going on
44 with.....

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We'll see if any
47 of us get reappointed. You might be the only one here,
48 Judy. Well, no, Kirk and Faye will be here. Okay. All
49 right. We got three dates for you.

1 MS. PILCHER: All right. So, as it
2 stands, remain or leave the October 20th -- or fall 2025
3 dates as the 14th and 15th meeting in Anchorage. Winter
4 2026, March 17th and 18th in Anchorage. And October, the
5 fall 2026 meeting, October 14th and 15th, also in
6 Anchorage, with the caveat of the location, could
7 potentially change moving forward depending on what
8 happens. So, that is -- those are the dates that I've
9 got, and I would need a motion.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there
12 a motion to propose those three dates we just agreed
13 upon?

14
15 MR. HOLSTEN: I'll make that motion.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.

18
19 MR. OPHEIM: I'll second.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by
22 Michael. Any discussion? We all good? All in favor, aye.

23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposition?

27
28 (No response)

29
30 Hearing none. That passed unanimous.
31 Thank you. Hopefully we can make a trip. I was talking
32 to Kirk earlier. He had asked me on the reasoning of the
33 trips. And Faye, just so you know, we try to go to a
34 different communities where different things are
35 happening. You know, we went to the Kenai, we've been
36 down in Homer, the Kenai, we had a good meeting there.
37 A hot one was when we put in for a Federal Subsistence
38 the Kenai. Oh boy, I got pointed to a committee with
39 four 400 guides. What a battle that was. Me and Ivan,
40 we did pretty well though. But anyway. Anyway, we did
41 excellent. So, we -- but yeah, we try to go to different
42 communities to try it. That's one of the reasons for it.

43
44 MS. EWAN: Mr. Chair, this is Faye Ewan.
45 Edward GreyBear is on the tribal college and tribal
46 government at Native Village of Kluti-Kaah. And I'm sure
47 he can set up, you know, to have a meeting. Because we
48 have a gymnasium and we have a community hall, and we'd
49 be glad to host. He'll be, the cook and Edward will be
50 the hostess, and I'll make sure it gets done.

1

2

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. That's great information and great offer. Thank you. Thank you.

4

5

MS. EWAN: That way, everybody in the community can be involved. Thank you.

7

8

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

9

10

11

MR. GREYBEAR: I hope you guys like macaroni and hot dogs.

12

13

14

15

16

17

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we're into reports, but we're going to first go see if there's a report of any fresh coffee or water. We'll take about ten minutes and then we'll get onto our reports.

18

19

(Off record)

20

21

(On record)

22

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, folks, we'll go ahead and get started. Okay. We got reports coming up. We got time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance. But anyway, if there's anyone on the phone that wants to talk for tribal governments. But we're going to start out with Ahtna Inter -- Resource Commission and I -- Sterling, are you going to do that report? Okay. Okay.

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MR. SPILINEK: Hello, Mr. Chairman, members of the Board. For the record, my name is Sterling Spilinek. I am the research coordinator and wildlife biologist for Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission. You can find a hard copy of our report in the meeting minutes starting on page 33. Starting off with wildlife. AITRC is in partnership with Cheesh'na Tribal Council through some funding we received through the Tribal Wildlife grant to work on a tribal herd monitoring of the Mentasta Caribou. This is -- we've been working closely with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. Whereas last October, we assisted with some caribou captures where we deployed some AITRC collars, and we just signed an agreement to get caribou collared data that will be used for this upcoming summer for a caribou calf collaring study to look at recruitment. The agreement is that we would get the adult female collar data, and in return we would provide the caribou calf collar data. The caribou calf collaring will be an AITRC led project and like I said, that is going to begin May 2025.

1
2 Moving on. We also have a tribal
3 wildlife grant in partnership with the Native village
4 of Tazlina to do some wolf research. Last November, we
5 were able to successfully capture and collar nine wolves
6 within Game Management Unit 11. Which is anywhere
7 between 3 to 5 packs. Right now, we're observing the
8 collars on a daily basis. We have two technicians that
9 are going in and looking at clustered GPS points to
10 identify kill sites, to collect biological samples from
11 the prey, and to also collect any scat samples present.
12 The purpose of this study is to look at the range,
13 distribution and seasonal diet of the wolves that reside
14 within GMU 11, and this project and the caribou project
15 will continue through the end of 2025. We hope to get
16 out this year to do some more wolf collaring, but as
17 everyone knows, the winter conditions are not ideal. We
18 had to postpone our capture that was supposed to happen
19 next week, and we hope we could get enough snow to go
20 out into March beginning of April.

21
22 Moving on to our ecology department. The
23 first topic is the disease surveillance of the Copper
24 River salmon. We work with our local fish wheel users
25 to sample their sockeye and chinook salmon to look for
26 any disease present. Specifically, we're looking for
27 ichthyophonus, which is a known parasite of the cardiac
28 system that has been found on the Yukon and could be one
29 of the potential reasons for the decline there. We're
30 also looking at parasite load in the gastrointestinal
31 tract, and in that we're collecting samples from -- we're
32 collecting blood samples, heart samples, tissue
33 biopsies, as well as the -- let me make sure I get it
34 right. The kidney, liver and spleen. And so, all those
35 samples, once we get the results back, we have the
36 biological samples that we're going to preserve. So, if
37 anything else comes up in the future, we could look back
38 and see if it was present then or not.

39
40 Moving on to the Moose Health Monitoring
41 Project. This project was brought up by our tribal
42 citizens at one of our annual meetings a couple years
43 ago, asking about the health of the moose and if it's
44 okay to eat. And through that, our ecologist Kelsey
45 Stanbro developed this project to collect hunter
46 harvested samples from the heart, liver, kidneys, blood,
47 hair and teeth to look for any heavy metal accumulation
48 and trace elements in the moose samples. It's also worth
49 mentioning that in this project, we have a tribal
50 master's student Tamra Jones, who is helping collect the

1 samples and analyze the samples at UAF while she's
2 getting her master's. You could see that there is some
3 preliminary findings. I'm not going to get into it too
4 much. Because we still have to do some Q&A. But
5 essentially everything we found so far there's nothing
6 that would be detrimental to humans. The mercury levels
7 are much lower than anything from the anadromous fish
8 that we're eating coming from the ocean. But we did find
9 some potential copper deficiencies in the moose. So,
10 it's something that we're looking into a little bit more.
11

12 Moving on to the fisheries department,
13 we have a couple projects going on. Unfortunately, all
14 of these are kind of funding dependent with everything
15 that's been going on with the new administration. The
16 first one is a water temperature monitoring. So, we have
17 assumed responsibility of the Gulkana River water
18 temperature monitoring logs. And that's something that
19 our fisheries biologist, Dan Gorze, will be going out
20 and collecting the data from and replacing temperature
21 loggers this summer. We're also assuming the
22 responsibility of the Tanada weir from Wrangell-St.
23 Elias National Park, where we're going to be kind of Co-
24 PIs on that project for the first couple of years, and
25 then we'll take full responsibility of that. And then
26 we also have a juvenile salmon abundance that's in
27 partnership with Prince William Sound College on the
28 Klutina Lake. We wanted to start with the Klutina Lake
29 because the Klutina River system is by far the most
30 predominant migration of salmon within the Copper River.
31 So, we want to make sure that that one is safe before
32 we move on to the other tributaries. And then through
33 that we're looking at looking at escapement abundance
34 with the sonar on the Klutina River. This happened in
35 2021 and 2022 and because of funding, it hasn't started
36 up yet. And we're still waiting for funding on that.
37 Hopefully we'll be having it in 2025.
38

39 For our anthropology department, our
40 anthropologist David Hooper has been working on
41 community household surveys. This has been in -- for the
42 residents of Mentasta Lake, Mentasta Pass, Chistochina,
43 Slana and the Nabesna Road. These surveys were done in
44 partnership with ADF&G and Wrangell-St. Elias National
45 Park. Through those surveys and talking with some of the
46 tribal citizens, they expressed that their subsistence
47 harvests are not being documented properly because it's
48 just being done in a one-year period. So, our
49 anthropologist and the anthropologist at Wrangell-St.
50 Elias Amber Cohen, is exploring alternative harvest

1 monitoring methodologies to look at more of a lifetime
2 of subsistence use. And so they're kind of trying to co-
3 develop some questionnaires to ask some individuals.
4 Another big project in the anthropology department is
5 our Ahtna Cultural Preservation Capacity Building
6 Project. This was to help provide a tribal historic
7 preservation office for the Native Village of Chitina
8 down in the O'Brien Creek and Eskilida Creek area. And
9 this is in regards to some potential grave sites that
10 were found underneath the trail. And so, they've been
11 working really closely with the Chitina Village and
12 Chitina Native Corp and Ahtna Incorporated to make sure
13 that those are protected and that there's not any more
14 degradation done to that -- those sites.

15
16 And then the last GIS specialist has
17 been working on a harvest and subsistence sharing app.
18 This is to help document the wide use and sharing of
19 subsistence resources. And so, it will be as simple as
20 logging it into your phone, sending a QR code of what
21 you sent to someone, and then it could go on from there.
22 And then you could go and look and see where your
23 contributions and sharing is and how far they've spread
24 across Alaska and even the world. And then the other one
25 is our harvest app. So, just an easier way for
26 subsistence users to log their permits on their phone
27 so they don't lose it. It's always kind of backed up and
28 just kind of helps with the reporting aspect. And that's
29 all I have for my report. Is there any questions?

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Questions for
32 Sterling? That's a good report. You guys are doing a
33 lot. I was wondering on your wolves, what did you find?
34 What else do you do? I mean, you're doing quite a bit
35 of studying on them, other prey and what they're eating
36 on and all that other stuff. Do you have any trappers,
37 hunters or anyone? Are you taking out wolves too, or you
38 got anything going on like that?

39
40 MR. SPILINEK: Yeah. So, for this study
41 we haven't had anything analyzed yet. We're waiting for
42 our second round of captures to send everything off to
43 the lab. We've also extended our sample collection to
44 trapper harvested wolves within GMU 11, 12, and 13. We
45 -- to date, I think we've had 18 wolves harvested -- or
46 harvested wolves that we've been able to sample. And in
47 those wolves, we've been able to get additional samples,
48 as in kidney, liver, blood, stomach contents and fecal.
49 And the plan for all of those samples and the samples
50 collected from the captured wolves is to do a stable

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1 isotope analysis to look at diet across the different
2 seasons. So, we'll do it on the blood, fecal, hair, and
3 then segmental on the whiskers, where they'll cut the
4 whiskers into smaller sections and then analyze them
5 each to look at the diet changes throughout time.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very
8 interesting. Yeah.

9

10 MS. EWAN: Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Faye.

13

14 MS. EWAN: With this study that you're
15 doing and all these different species and wolves and
16 stuff. Have you found any contamination in any of the
17 test's you guys did, or a high level of any kind of
18 minerals or toxic chemicals in these things?

19

20 MR. SPILINEK: We haven't analyzed any
21 of the wolf samples yet. We have them stored, and we
22 plan to send them out in mid-April and should have
23 results by the fall time.

24

25 MS. EWAN: What about the salmon?

26

27 MR. SPILINEK: The salmon. We haven't
28 analyzed the gastrointestinal tract yet. But we haven't
29 had any confirmed hits of the ichthyophonus yet.

30

31 MS. EWAN: So, what happened to the air
32 samples you guys were doing on the salmon did that
33 defined how the different sizes of salmon, why they're
34 getting so small and declining?

35

36 MR. SPILINEK: Yeah. So, that study, I
37 think, wrapped up in 2022, and that was a contract work
38 that we had through ADF&G and one of their projects. So,
39 I'm not sure how that ended up.

40

41 MS. EWAN: Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Judy.

44

45 MS. CAMINER: Thanks so much for your
46 report. Please send our regards to Karen Linnell, who's
47 usually at all our meetings. And yeah, as an
48 organization, you've certainly expanded and made a lot
49 of progress and a lot of valuable information. So, thank
50 you.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, very good. Others? Thank you, Sterling. Very good report. Thank you.

MR. SPILINEK: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Native Village of Eyak. Tribal government partners for fisheries. Matt, our taxi driver extraordinaire. Oh, and the clinic runs too. Yeah, sure.

MR. PICHE: Good afternoon. For the record, my name is Matt Piche. I am the natural resources coordinator and fish biologist for the Native Village of Eyak Department of the Environment and Natural Resources right here in Cordova. So, welcome new Council members and just as a quick introduction the Native Village of Eyak has had a natural resources department. We've been doing research mainly on the Copper River, but also here in Prince William Sound and here on the Delta for the past 25 years. And I'm going to first present -- all of our info can be found in the Supplemental Materials on page -- starting on page 45 and the 2024 in river abundance estimate for Copper River chinook salmon was 21,069 fish with a standard error of 5,984. Now this is the mark recapture-based estimate. This represents the estimated number of chinook salmon measuring greater than 500mm total length passing through Baird Canyon on the lower Copper River from the 18th of May through the 7th of July. Due to smaller sizes in some of the mark recapture strata, the 2024 direct estimate was less precise. It had a larger standard error 95% confidence intervals than abundance estimates generated by this project in recent years, and it did not meet the preseason precision target. In a nutshell, what that means is we had some fish wheel downtime during what we suspect was the peak of the run and it impacted our ability to analyze that data. Fish wheeling is tough. We've done pretty good over the past 25 years, but certainly this summer had its challenges and that impacted the quality of our data. But based on the data that we did collect the -- once in-river harvest numbers are subtracted from the estimate, it's likely that the escapement goal was not met in 2024 on the Copper River for chinook salmon.

On the next page 46, I just wanted to include kind of in a nutshell, everything we know about abundance of chinook salmon on the Copper River from

1 1980 to 19 -- from 1980 to 1998 abundance was modeled,
2 and that's what you see here. From 1999 on, the abundance
3 estimates spawning escapement in total run size were
4 generated using actual abundance estimates. It started
5 with a fish wheel project -- a fish -- or I'm sorry, a
6 dipnet project Alaska Department of Fish and Game ran
7 for a few years, and then in 2003, the Native Village
8 of Eyak started doing similar methods but with fish
9 wheels. So, this is what we've got for Copper River
10 chinook salmon data in terms of a spawning escapement
11 and total returning run size. I just wanted to put that
12 in front of you. There's a lot of concern over chinook
13 salmon right now statewide, and I just wanted to make
14 sure I shared that information with the Council. And all
15 the sources for that data are located on page 49.

16
17 The next page 47 is just that same exact
18 chart, just in number form. So, you can actually refer
19 to specific numbers there. Again, I just wanted to get
20 that information in front of you. On page 48, I'd like
21 to just introduce a new study that the Native Village
22 of Eyak, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the
23 Prince William Sound Science Center are working on
24 together. This is a radio telemetry study on Copper River
25 sockeye salmon. This past summer, we put -- in summer
26 2024 we put out actually 140 radio tags distributed
27 evenly across the salmon run on the Copper River at
28 Baird Canyon. And we had a series of 13 fixed telemetry
29 stations throughout the entire Copper River drainage
30 along the main stem and also on each of the six major
31 spawning drainages of the Copper River. On top of that,
32 we had close to 70 hours of fixed wing aerial surveys
33 for Miles Lake on up throughout the entire Copper
34 watershed, looking for spawning fish -- tagged spawning
35 fish, and in general the preliminary results we have --
36 again these need to -- they still need to go to the
37 Biometrician and there's likely some weighting that
38 needs to be done. So, when we actually go to publish
39 this report, these numbers will probably change by a few
40 percentage points. But in general, what we saw on the
41 Copper River in 2024 was 50% of the sockeye salmon run
42 returned to the Klutina River drainage, 25% returned to
43 the Gulkana River drainage, 12% returned to upper Copper
44 River drainages. And when I say upper Copper River
45 drainages, I'm talking about everything upriver of the
46 confluence of the mainstem Copper River and the Gulkana.
47 We saw 5% of the sockeye salmon population return to the
48 Chitina River drainage, 3% to the Tazlina, 3% were
49 spawning in the lower Copper River drainages. That's
50 everything bellow Wood Canyon, and 2% returned to the

1 Tonsina drainages. There will be more on that next year.
2 We are doing this study again, so we'll have another
3 thousand plus tags going out across the run this summer,
4 and we'll be tracking those fish to their spawning
5 grounds and their final destination. And I'll have more
6 data to report to you at the fall meeting. And that's
7 all I have for now. Are there any questions?

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Faye. Faye's
10 got a question.

11
12 MS. EWAN: What did you do with all the
13 fish?

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: They lost them.

16
17 MS. EWAN: No, I was going to ask about
18 the silver salmon. We have a silver salmon and the late
19 fall fish that -- I don't know what they called dog
20 salmon or whatever the with the hump on there. This
21 year, we didn't see very much silver salmon and oh, what
22 do they call that? Like not lingcod, but a burbot,
23 rainbow trout. And they come back and we caught --
24 steelhead. We didn't see very much of that. But year
25 before, there was a whole bunch of silvers came in and
26 they were like, you know, king salmon. But this year we
27 didn't see very many in the Copper River. I go to Chitina
28 every day. I watch everybody fish. I videotape you guys
29 when I see that, you know, and I really observed this
30 year because I wanted to know how come there was such a
31 big decline, you know, in the silver salmon and the
32 other fishes, you know, there was like, reds came in,
33 but they were very poor health. And king salmon is --
34 really went down in numbers that, you know, they had to
35 cut off the salmon to people up in the upper Copper
36 River. And I believe that, you know, as a fishing people,
37 we should do something about the limit on the catch if
38 there's not enough salmon. I know our people have been
39 talking about moratorium, and to try to make it come
40 back healthy. But how do we replenish that fish that was
41 there, you know, that was on that river? That's what I
42 want to know. Do we plan -- you know, they had hatcheries
43 and stuff like that. But why the silvers that steelhead
44 had a big decline?

45
46 (Simultaneous speech)

47
48 MR. PICHE: Through the Chair. So, for
49 silver salmon and steelhead, there is -- there's no
50 monitoring on the upper Copper River. There -- the --

1 there's some data actually, that was taken on -- off of
2 our fish wheel platform. There was -- there is some
3 radio telemetry data out there on both steelhead and
4 coho salmon about where they're going, where they're
5 spawning in the drainage. Sample sizes were pretty low
6 on the steelhead data, so there's only so much data --
7 or so much info we can get out of that. But the sample
8 size on the silver salmon, the coho salmon was pretty
9 large. So, we've got a decent grasp of where they're
10 going, at least where they were going and for that
11 snapshot in time. But the Miles Lake sonar is pulled out
12 by the 1st of August, and our fishwheel program that
13 focuses solely on chinook salmon and more recently, some
14 sockeye salmon telemetry. So, we are out of the water
15 by the time those coho salmon are coming through the
16 main stem of the copper and headed to the upper Copper
17 River Drainage. So, I unfortunately don't have a lot to
18 share with you on this -- on the coho salmon or the
19 steelhead. You know, we just don't know a whole lot.

20
21 MS. EWAN: The Ahtna people, the silver
22 salmon and the steelhead is [sic] sacred to us. And the
23 elders look forward to it in the fall time. Now, I
24 noticed that it was a really big decline in that, you
25 know that. And I think it has something to do with the
26 fishing out and, you know, wherever they're fishing. But
27 it's really important to me how we process that fish.
28 And the question I really want to know is that where is
29 the fish going? You know, where they say, go by here.
30 It goes up by Miles sonar -- your sonar or whatever. But
31 from here to there, where are they going? You know, are
32 they -- is it -- you know, by encroached by animals or
33 is it by humans? You know, that's kind of study I like
34 to know. I mean, not just what goes by in the river. The
35 food chain, is that river contaminated, where it's
36 affecting their food chain and stuff like that. I would
37 like to have that kind of information. And, you know,
38 because that's really a concern to me when I see fishing.
39 You know, I started from June 1st till September 30th.
40 I fished all summer, all fall. I don't quit. I make sure
41 we fill up our people's freezer and we fill up, you
42 know, their smokehouse and stuff. And plus, we give away
43 a lot of fish to a different organization like Fairbanks
44 Native Association and Cook Inlet Southcentral
45 Foundation. And then people, we shared with them because
46 we make sure the elders, you know, have this food to
47 them. And if we don't have the food and if it's
48 contaminated, I don't want to feed those people that
49 kind of stuff. So, that would be some kind of data that
50 EIS is environmental study, you know, would be good too

1 if you guys include that in your grant. Thank you.

2

3 MR. PICHE: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Impossible

6 Questions so -- but the good ones. But yeah. Where did
7 they go? But there is -- you know, there's so much data
8 out there and these guys -- you know I know you guys
9 through Eyak. I've been doing it forever. And, you know,
10 we started a lot Ninilchik doing our own studies and
11 it's amazing. We've gathered a lot of data, and we've
12 gathered a lot of things on diseased fish and electrified
13 fish and all kinds of weird things. But to put it all
14 together is pretty hard. But we just commonly know that
15 everything on the kings and silvers is in decline. The
16 plankton that those reds eat, they seem to be coming
17 back, but they are getting shorter and smaller, some of
18 them. But anyway, go ahead, Kirk.

19

20 MR. WILSON: Steelhead in my area -- I
21 had a friend that did a work for the federal government,
22 and they did a study on steelhead. And it's how I learned
23 to fish steelhead because I used their example where
24 they went, and they followed them every so often. So, I
25 sport fish steelhead quite often when I was younger. And
26 one of the things that's happened to our steelhead, where
27 are the fish going? They're not even hatching because
28 those people on those all-terrain vehicles are driving
29 up and down those little, teeny streams, and they're
30 small where the steelhead go. And if the eggs can't
31 hatch, you don't have no fish. And the steelhead
32 population is -- I don't think it's over-fishing. I think
33 it's their spawning beds. They're not getting out to
34 begin with. So, that's part of the deal.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Andy, you got a
37 comment. Go ahead.

38

39 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, so, Matt, a
40 potential -- got me on the idea of Sterling's Ahtna
41 research about parasites and I -- and I'm trying to see
42 big picture of like, upriver because a lot of your focus
43 has always been upriver, and this tagging is wonderful
44 work and great data gathering. Potentially some data
45 that might already be around is going through PWSAC and
46 the hatchery system because they have like -- I worked
47 for them for seven years and did plankton tows and
48 different times of the year when the plankton -- and I
49 recall a time when there was a phytoplankton named
50 chaetoceros, and it's kind of like a little sea urchin,

1 tiny. You got to look at it under a microscope. It's a
2 phytoplankton and it's all spiny. And we -- in our net
3 pens, as you're feeding these fry that have out migrated
4 into these pens in the saltwater, we'd get a big die
5 off. And it happened to coincide with a year when the
6 water was warmer here in Cordova, and a bunch of people
7 got sick from vibriosis. If you might recall, a long
8 time ago in Cordova, a bunch of people ate a bunch of
9 clams and vibrio broke out, and that was the same year.
10 I was like, okay, so the water temperatures went up.
11 Well, why are our baby salmon dying in these pens? And
12 then they did necropsies on these dead fish for us to
13 figure out what they sent to a lab somewhere, and they
14 found that their gills were coated with this chaetoceros
15 little sea urchin kind of phytoplanktons, and it may be
16 a factor in this warming water trend of like, you know,
17 half a degree over every few years, two degrees after a
18 few years, whatever. And maybe a focus could be on to
19 either analyze the hatchery data that already exists or
20 determine some type of chaetoceros plankton counts that
21 are going at the mouth of the Copper when these fish are
22 out migrating, and then tie those in to this population
23 dynamic per year of what you have going on to see if
24 there's a correlation between water temperatures
25 chaetoceros blooms, and then maybe death in the marine
26 environment of these juvenile salmonids that are going
27 out-migrating. I just thought I'd throw that out there
28 as something else that you could maybe check on.

29
30 MR. PICHE: Thank you for sharing.

31
32 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Matt,
33 great report as always. We really appreciate your long-
34 term dedication to the salmon in the Copper River. On
35 your chart, you mentioned home pack. I wondered how you
36 define that. Please, I hadn't really seen that before.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead. You
39 could explain it to her if you want.

40
41 MR. PICHE: Correct. Yeah. You know, home
42 pack is a retention in a commercial fishery. Instead of
43 selling your fish, you're basically -- you're kind of
44 buying those fish from yourself, and you're instead
45 taking those fish home to put in your freezer, feed your
46 family. So, here in Cordova, there's a strong link
47 between home pack and subsistence and years, for
48 example, years when the commercial fishery is closed.
49 Our ANS goes way up because it's understanding that that
50 home pack makes up for some of the subsistence harvest.

1 And if the commercial fishery wasn't there, then the
2 subsistence needs in Cordova would be greater because
3 that home pack wouldn't exist. So, it's a really quick
4 nutshell. That's pretty much what home pack is. Yeah.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, that
7 might be responsible. Home pack for me was I took home
8 all my kings and so. And smoked them and shared them
9 with the community. Unfortunately, that was back in the
10 good old days, right? But yeah, that was home pack for
11 sure. All the fish went (indiscernible) went to special
12 occasions. We did like you did. We first when we all
13 shared in the village and filled the smokehouses. And
14 then. Then we made a few barrels of salt fish, and we
15 had everything for the (In Native), the celebrations,
16 the great times and were just perplexed. But we used all
17 that, you know. But it seems like the fish that eat fish
18 are the ones that are disappearing, so.

19
20 MS. SELANOFF: I had a question. You were
21 talking about your monitoring and when you start
22 pulling. What I've noticed that -- is the fish are coming
23 in later because of the colder temperatures. Is it
24 possible for you to keep the monitoring up longer in
25 case reds are even coming when the water gets colder.
26 So, just a thought that, you know, there's not a lot
27 being documented, but after you quit monitoring. But
28 maybe if we extend that monitoring a little bit longer
29 just to see if any more are coming through due to water
30 temperatures.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Maybe it
33 snowballs.

34
35 MR. PICHE: And through the Chair. Yes.
36 Thank you. We know that we are missing some sockeye
37 salmon at the end of the season. You know, there are
38 runs that are very late. So, for example, like the Long
39 Lake sockeye salmon population that we know come in late.
40 So, we are not -- there are surely some small stocks,
41 especially lower river stocks that tend to come in later.
42 It's just kind of at some point we got to cut it off and
43 you know, we only have so much funding to get our work
44 done. We think we are -- we're covering all of the
45 chinook salmon run and the large majority of the sockeye
46 salmon run. Especially the majority of the upper Copper
47 River stocks, anything spawning above Wood Canyon, but
48 likely some of those lower river later run timing stocks
49 are underrepresented in our sample because of that. And
50 I would love to -- me and my crew, I'm sure we would

1 love to go another month if we could. And then we could
2 turn it into a coho salmon study and a steelhead study
3 as well. So, maybe that's in the future. Thank you.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Andy first. Go
6 ahead, Andy.

7
8 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 Real quick. Are you aware of any, like, state continued
10 monitoring of where the weirs used to be or still are
11 in Coghill and Eshamy and Eyak? Yeah.

12
13 MR. PICHE: Through the Chair. Yes.
14 Coghill is still being run by the Alaska Department of
15 Fish and Game. They have a crew out there every year
16 counting the salmon and they're using that to manage the
17 fishery data. And the Native Village of Eyak is currently
18 running the Eshamy weir over in Eshamy. This year we
19 counted 13 -- I believe it was 13,128 sockeye salmon
20 through the weir. I think our largest day was August 8th
21 with about 1750 sockeye salmon past the weir and -- same
22 scenario. We know that there are some sockeye coming
23 through after we close the weir. But we have some
24 historical data to help inform that. Unfortunately,
25 again, due to our funding, we're out of there on
26 September 1st each year. But, yeah, we -- so, so this
27 year we exceeded the escapement goal on -- the lower
28 bound of the escapement goal on the Eshamy River. Yep.

29
30 MS. EWAN: When you do these radio takes
31 that you guys' process, where does they ended up at most
32 of them? The radio tags us being turned in. Because I
33 know people ask me from Anchorage and Fairbanks, they
34 had -- they find radio tags in the stomach of the fish.
35 They asked me what to do with it and, you know, I just
36 think about what kind of information is those tags giving
37 to those salmon. I mean, what is that? What is that made
38 out of?

39
40 MR. PICHE: So, are you talking about the
41 radio tags from a harvested fish that someone gets? So
42 right on the outside of the tag, we have contact
43 information, a phone number and an address. We are trying
44 to get those back in-season. They're about \$200 a piece.
45 And if we get them back in-season, what we do is we then
46 send them on a plane back down to Baird Camp on the
47 lower Copper River, and we put them in another fish and
48 we get more data that year. So, any tags returned in
49 season, we immediately reuse them. They only have about
50 a four-month, five-month battery life on them. So, any

1 tags that we get now, we can't redeploy because their
2 battery is dead. They're single use tags and in terms
3 of, like, proportions of who's returning those tags we
4 just -- we haven't gone through that data yet to see if
5 the majority of them are coming from the Chitina
6 Subdistrict or the Glennallen Subdistrict we have. We
7 just haven't looked at that data yet. But that is
8 something. By the end of the study, we'll have that
9 information.

10
11 MS. EWAN: Why are you guys put us in
12 subdistricts where we're all in one district? I mean,
13 that's really confusing. One side of the river, you're
14 subsistent the other side you can commercial, I mean,
15 go whatever, dip it in whatever way they do down there.
16 I just don't understand these regulations, how they're
17 being made. But the reason I asked for is I see this
18 chart that Sterling gave here, and there's 50% goes up
19 to Klutina Lake, and all these other tributaries only
20 have so much -- in a very small amount. And how many
21 fish gets up to Batzulnetas to the headwaters of the
22 Copper River? That's where the fish is spawning. And in
23 Paxson, that's where the main, the main spawning grounds
24 is. And you know, to me, when they don't make it back
25 up there, that's when the fish start declining. I know
26 the water temperature has -- I know a lot about the
27 environment, the climate change, all that. But you know
28 what to me is that with this water temperature and
29 everything is that are those fish getting sick? Are do
30 you know, what is what is going on their health-wise? I
31 see all this data about how many things, but what about
32 the health of the salmon?

33
34 MR. PICHE: I think AITRC is going to
35 have some wonderful information on the health of the
36 salmon to share. We are -- for these studies, we're not
37 monitoring health. We are monitoring energetic content.
38 So, that is -- that's an aspect of health. We're
39 measuring the energetic content at the time of tagging
40 a Baird Canyon and then when fish are recovered on the
41 spawning grounds, we're measuring energetic content
42 again there. And we're looking to see if that fish was
43 successful at spawning or not. So, that is information
44 that we will be able to provide. Again, we just haven't
45 gotten into that assessment yet. We're in year one of
46 the study. We're going to have two years of data
47 collection and one year of data analysis. So, I will
48 have more information on some of that for you. But in
49 the meantime, in terms of the pathology and whatnot, I
50 would refer you to Kelsey at Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource

1 Commission. She might have some information for you.

2

3 MS. EWAN: Another thing, too, is that
4 water has been really high. The level of water. I mean,
5 our fishwheel is only like, you know, 15 to 16 -- 18ft,
6 maybe 20ft. But the water level has been high all year.
7 And there's a lot of the riverbanks are eroding. And you
8 can see the different changes in the Copper River that
9 -- the drainage is changing big time. I know my river
10 and I see it, you know, but the only thing I don't know
11 is between (In Native) and down here, which I am going
12 to try to work on to do my study on this. I work with
13 environmental groups, and I listen to the plastic, you
14 know, contamination and all this stuff here. And with
15 our health and our people, you know, it's got different
16 health ailments that I really, you know, I really like
17 to see how the scientific whatever way you guys do your
18 study, is how healthy those fish are, are they edible?
19 Because we need to save our people from getting sick,
20 and we got a high rate of diabetes and all these other
21 sicknesses now. Are those fish are safe to eat, is that
22 we don't eat caribou anymore. They cut us off with that.
23 And the moose, you know, with all the contamination, I
24 just think about -- I just got done dealing with a bunch
25 of health issues in Anchorage. That's why I know about
26 how, you know, people that go eat fish up in Copper
27 River, they have a lot of kidney cancers, a lot of
28 different kind of ailments. And it would be good to put
29 that in your study, too. Sterling, I think this would
30 be a good place for you guys to put this, compile this
31 information, and by next year, I would like to see that
32 information implemented in here so I can read it. When
33 I go to the United Nations Council meeting, I sit on the
34 Arctic Council -- Artic Athabascan Council, and I can
35 make these reports. That's why I'm asking for this data.
36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
39 Faye. You asked for an awful lot there, and I understand
40 your position but, you know, Matt's not responsible for
41 all that. He does an outstanding job, and I know you
42 know that. But there's so many resources out there.
43 They're state or federal. Our people, in aligning these
44 reports to figure out what the hell is going on is what's
45 really confusing. And we might be missing some reports.
46 We're always trying to get the right reports for what's
47 going on. But, you know, anecdotal knowledge, that's
48 what we're here for and we're here to give the history
49 of our area and what's happening. Because we know, you
50 know, they finally passed -- TK, knowledge is one of the

1 factors that they listened to us now and traditional
2 knowledge is important. I could tell you about the silver
3 salmon and I could tell you about the steelhead, we call
4 them (In Native) and the steelhead we always eat in the
5 fall because everything else is gone. And they're very
6 good fish and they're very hardy and they're up to
7 Kasilof. They're in their Kenai. But you got everyone
8 in the world chasing them now, everyone's a steelhead
9 fishery. Years ago, you used to see a few locals there.
10 Fishermen Ninilchik. Now they drive down, they fill up
11 all the parking lots and they fish steelhead till you
12 can't walk across. I used to go down and get a few for
13 the smokehouse, but that's another story. But anyway,
14 you know, there's so much data. But to -- Matt and you
15 could help us on that. Maybe some of these organizations,
16 through OSM, through everyone can compile. You know, we
17 could all argue back and forth who's got know, they're
18 getting up there, and they're not getting there, this
19 is what. I do know sick has been making your fish, reds
20 make you sick. If it's summertime, you don't freeze them
21 first anymore. There's weird things happening out there,
22 so thank you. But this gentleman's got a question here.

23
24 MR. WILSON: Yeah, this is Kirk, and I
25 don't have a question. I just have a comment and you
26 heard me talk about Ken Roberson earlier in this meeting.
27 And Ken used to be in Glennallen, and Ken used to fly
28 every single stream that's involved along the Copper
29 River and knew more about salmon than any of us will
30 probably ever know about the upper river salmon. And
31 that's lacking in our society right now. No one is
32 studying those little rivers, the place where their home
33 is, and they're laying these -- nobodies up there looking
34 anymore. And I don't know if there's something we could
35 make -- go again there, but it's very important. It's -
36 - we got a lot of data, but that data is missing now.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: One of our past
39 Chairmans here, Ralph Lohse and is here and then up in
40 Kenny Lake. But he talked a lot about silver salmon and
41 spawning. And they go in any little creek you could
42 imagine. And we seen them in Ninilchik up the rivers,
43 in the swamps, lands that you would never think are tied
44 to any stream. I seen a little (indiscernible) stream
45 like that with big old fish in it, you know, it's
46 unbelievable. And so, they're spawning all over and like
47 you say, we have the same problem. They get down those
48 caribou hills and they go they run in four wheelers and
49 snow machines and everything and tearing up these
50 trails. Warmer weather, and it's getting worse and

1 worse, you know. So, there's a whole bunch of
2 contributing factors and I don't like to blame anyone.
3 I'm part of it, but they can't blame me anymore. I sit
4 in that all my life, and they shut us down the last four
5 years. What the hell happened? They still got no king.
6 So, you know that ain't [sic] the cause. But anyway,
7 good talk, good discussion. Thank you. Matt, you took a
8 lot of heat there, but you are always good for it, so
9 thank you.

10
11 MR. PICHE: Thank you. And just please
12 be aware we are listening. And I think that's a very
13 important role that tribes can have in going out and
14 collecting their own data and having their own team of
15 scientists. We're here and we know how to listen, and
16 we pay attention, and we use this information to guide
17 what we do. So, thank you very much.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You do a good
20 job. Thank you. Okay. Next, we're going to see who we're
21 going to put in the hot seat there now.

22
23 MS. PILCHER: Micheal.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Who?

26
27 MS. PILCHER: Micheal. Our own Michael.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, Michael boy
30 that's fun. For some reason, I had another -- yeah.
31 Native Chugach Regional Resources Commission. Michael.
32 He's been there quite a while. And you're going to give
33 us a report. Okay. Appreciate it.

34
35 MR. OPHEIM: All right. Raven Cunningham,
36 our tribal Fish and Wildlife director was not able to
37 make it, so she asked if I could read this report for
38 her. It's not for the whole CRRC organization, but for
39 our tribal Fish and Wildlife department. Just some
40 programs that we have going on, things we're working on.
41 We have a alliance strategic planning workshop that
42 we're working on. CRRC is organizing a strategic
43 planning workshop in June of 2025. This event will bring
44 together regional partners, tribal leaders, stakeholders
45 to develop long-term strategies for resource management,
46 policy engagement and co-management efforts.

47
48 The Board of Fish and Game comment
49 letters. CRRC has submitted official comment letters on
50 multiple proposals before the Board of Fish and Game,

1 advocating for indigenous subsistence rights and
2 sustainable wildlife management proposals 85, 86 and 87
3 addressing statewide sea duck regulations. Proposal 88
4 supporting inclusion of wood bison as the recognized
5 species for cultural and ceremonial use. Proposal 121,
6 which we discussed here a fair bit advocating for the
7 creation of Game Management Unit 15D from 15C on the
8 south side of Kachemak Bay. And proposal 263, submitted
9 by our own Maddy Lee, our fisheries biologist in support
10 of reopening Cook Inlet subsistence dungeness crab
11 fishery. And they actually were able to give testimony
12 yesterday at the Board of Fish meeting. There was Maddy
13 and then several members of the communities in support
14 of that, that were able to make it to that meeting in
15 Anchorage.

16
17 Research and monitoring, Cordova
18 subsistence surveys. CRRC is partnering with the Native
19 Village of Eyak, ADF&G Division of Subsistence, U.S.
20 Forest Service, Juneau research stations to update
21 subsistence harvest data and Cordova. The last survey
22 was conducted in 2014, highlighting a significant data
23 gap in harvest trends and regulatory impacts. Hunting
24 pressure mapping. CRRC is working with ADF&G Division
25 of Subsistence to develop an interactive ESRI story map
26 tracking deer and black bear hunting patterns and Game
27 Management Unit 6D. The project will analyze data from
28 2000 onward to assess the impacts of increased vehicle
29 access through the Whittier Tunnel. Chugach-Temak
30 Research Collaborative. This initiative is guiding
31 marine mammal research to ensure healthy populations,
32 balanced ecosystems, sustainable subsistence harvests,
33 and long-term cultural continuity in the Chugach region.
34 Sea Otter Population Surveys. CRRC in collaboration with
35 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and USGS is conducting
36 a regional sea otter survey to assess abundance and
37 distribution. Additionally, tribes are being consulted
38 to identify critical monitoring areas for more intensive
39 research.

40
41 Moose population studies in lower Cook
42 Inlet, Port Graham, Nanwalek. CRRC is funding from a
43 tribal wildlife grant, conducting an aerial moose survey
44 in 2023 counting 22 Moose, the first population update
45 since 2017. And additional game camera study is underway
46 monitoring population trends in these two areas Port
47 Graham, Nanwalek. The Kings Bay moose study. A
48 subsistence hunt for Tatitlek and Chenega community
49 members has remained closed for over a decade. CRRC will
50 conduct a population survey in hopes of reopening the

1 hunt. eDNA monitoring. Through our APMI lab in Seward,
2 CRRC has established an eDNA lab collecting water
3 samples to track herring populations and harmful algal
4 blooms, and trends through genetic analysis.

5
6 Cultural and education initiatives. A
7 signage project. CRRC is installing interpretive signs
8 across the Chugach region to educate the public about
9 tribal history, subsistence practices, and land
10 stewardship. These signs will be placed in key public
11 areas, including harbors and cultural sites. Traditional
12 Hunting and Trapping Guide. A traditional ecological
13 knowledge book documenting the subsistence hunting and
14 trapping practices of Nanwalek and Port Graham is in
15 development. Subsistence curriculum development. There
16 is a -- CRRC is creating a comprehensive K through
17 college curriculum integrating indigenous knowledge,
18 hands on activities and community-based learning to
19 teach sustainable harvesting, traditional foods and
20 cultural connections to the land and sea. Nanwalek
21 Salmon TEK Project and Enhancement program. The Nanwalek
22 Salmon TEK project will be featured in the Smithsonian
23 National Museum of Natural History, launching April 20th
24 of 2025. A Nanwalek salmon TEK film will premiere during
25 Nanwalek Sea Week in April. A coloring book is being
26 developed in partnership with the Center for Braiding
27 Indigenous Knowledge and Science to expand youth
28 engagement. Ongoing salmon age composition research at
29 English Bay Lakes continues, with 80% of land use
30 agreements secured for the restoration project, which
31 includes a new floating weir and removal of derelict net
32 pens.

33
34 Transcription of jukebox interviews.
35 CRRC is reviewing and transcribing interviews from the
36 Port Graham and Nanwalek Jukebox project preserving oral
37 histories for future TEK research and educational
38 materials. Training and community engagement. We have a
39 Board of Game training coming up on March 20th, just the
40 day before the Board Game starts on March 21st. That's
41 for our Chugach regional members. We have folks from
42 ADF&G that are going to participate and also from OSM.
43 So, it's been a lot of fun putting that together. CRRC
44 is to -- the technical field training in Cordova, a
45 hands on training event will teach participants how to
46 set game cameras, collect eDNA samples, monitor
47 environmental data, and use field research equipment.
48 Migratory Bird Book. CRRC is developing a book
49 documenting the history and cultural importance of
50 migratory birds to the Chugach region. This effort

1 originated from CRRC's participation in the Alaska
2 Migratory Bird Co-management Council. Regulatory and
3 public outreach, regulations posters. CRRC has developed
4 hunting and trapping regulation summary posters for each
5 of its seven member communities. These are available
6 online and updated every regulation cycle. And in
7 conclusion, CRRC continues to lead initiatives and
8 subsistence advocacy, marine mammal research, wildlife
9 monitoring, and cultural education. Through strategic
10 partnerships, scientific research and indigenous
11 knowledge integration, we strive to protect our region's
12 resources to future generations. That's all that there
13 is.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, Michael,
16 I'm impressed. That's an awful lot there. You guys -- I
17 didn't realize you was involved that much in it. You're
18 doing a lot of studies, a lot of things. So, you got a
19 lot of answers. Now I know who to put the blame to.
20 You've been holding information on us. So, anyway. Yeah,
21 it sounds good. You guys are doing a lot. They're really
22 getting out to the youth and everyone getting involved.
23 So, questions for Michael on that report? Yeah, I'm
24 pretty amazed. He's right around the corner from us.
25 He's -- he learned fast. He's going up and gathering --
26 you guys are stretched quite a ways. You know the Chugach
27 region, you know I've been with Beretta there and she
28 sheesh, boy there's a lot of stuff going on there. Good.
29 Funny. Any questions for Michael? Andy.

30
31 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you. When and how
32 is the Kings Bay moose monitoring going to happen?

33
34 MR. OPHEIM: That was actually supposed
35 to happen a few weeks ago, but because of lack of snow
36 they couldn't do the flight. And then, you know, last
37 year, when Dustin was able to get out and do the moose
38 in Port Graham, Nanwalek, it was not, you know, the best
39 conditions for that either. So, you know, they kept
40 putting it off, putting it off for Kings Bay there, and
41 that just didn't happen. But they are, I believe, going
42 to try and get some of the game cameras out in that same
43 area, because that's what he did in Port Graham, Nanwalek
44 they set up test areas and then put game cams out.

45
46 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, you could have
47 them ask me -- I can show them on maps great -- better
48 places than where the federal cameras went the last time.
49 That didn't get much. I can tell you where I would put
50 them if I were there.

1

2

MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. I can give Dustin your contact info and he can get ahold of you. Cool. Thanks.

4

5

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Other questions for him? Okay. Thank you. Go ahead, Faye

7

8

MS. EWAN: This is the whole Prince William over in your area that you covered in all the salmon studies?

10

11

12

MR. OPHEIM: I'm sorry.

13

14

MS. EWAN: The area you're from. Is that where you guys did all your studies on your salmon? How come there's a decline? Why did they close all the whole Prince William Sound? I don't understand. Cook Inlet, I mean, I don't understand that.

18

19

20

MR. OPHEIM: The areas that we're working with is Port Graham, Nanwalek on the end of the Kenai Peninsula on the south side of Kachemak Bay which is outside of Kachemak Bay, actually into lower Cook Inlet. And the concern with that the streams there for Nanwalek have been with the red salmon. There was a decline many years ago, and the fish were being harvested for egg takes for other hatcheries, and there was some egg takes that happened that weren't supposed to happen. And so that's when the community kind of took over and started doing the work themselves and making sure that the fish were coming back and that there was enough for the community members. And the -- so, there was some old pans and stuff like that that were left in the lakes that's been washed down. Maddy's been working with folks to try and get some funds to get that stuff removed. Getting funds to hire people in the communities to do the work to put the weirs in, to do the counts and you know -- so that's those two communities.

38

39

40

We've also been trying to work with Port Graham and Nanwalek to add a king salmon fishery, a terminal king salmon fishery similar to what Seldovia has and that has been a slow process. We've been talking with Cook Inlet Aquaculture about that now. And the Cook Inlet Aquaculture was running the Port Graham hatchery, and they pulled out a year or two ago now. And so, you know, we don't know, maybe there's a potential there for us to be able to go in and do something with that hatchery. We don't know yet. I think Maddy's talking to them and figuring that stuff out. But yeah, there's --

50

1 so there's a lot of stuff that we don't know that we're
2 working on.

3
4 MS. EWAN: Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Also, you
7 know, my condolences. There's a great leader, Pat
8 Norman, that he lost over there, Port Graham. He was a
9 very big advocate for subsistence, and he was really a
10 great guy. I had a lot of fun with him. Yeah. But anyway.

11
12 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. And he's the one that
13 suggested the king salmon fishery for the communities.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: He was very
16 supportive of that stuff. And he's a great guy. Okay,
17 well, you come over my way and do some fish studies.
18 I'll be happy. But remember, you bring the king salmon
19 to my house. I had an aunt one time. I don't want to get
20 off story, but she would talk to me and I told the story
21 last night at dinner. But she told me to stay out of the
22 creek and don't be taking these things, you know,
23 illegally or whatever. They were just subsistence for
24 us. But anyway, she said, but when you get to king
25 salmon, you put it in the shed over there (distortion).
26 Anyway, very good. Okay, let's move on. Thank you. We
27 got a summary of Cook Inlet Fish Management Area, the
28 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Go ahead.

29
30 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa, for the
31 record. So, that agenda topic is a handout only. There's
32 no verbal update due to Fish and Game staff -- relevant
33 Fish and Game staff being at that Board of Fish meeting
34 in Anchorage right now. But they did provide that update
35 for us, at the information request that you submitted
36 about the king salmon, I believe I was actually directed
37 specifically to page five of that report to narrow it
38 down. Tab 6, but page five of that document, my
39 apologies, Ed. Yeah and you certainly don't have to read
40 it now. It's just more of a for your information when
41 you want to review it.

42
43 (Pause)

44
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It tells the
46 story of the king salmon decline there. So, that's what
47 it's referring to and that's good for your reading. And
48 king salmon is closed on the Cook Inlet side, most of
49 it and I think the drift fleet is still open and a few
50 other little streams. I think Ninilchik is open for small

1 kings, and it's the only river down there that I know
2 of that's open on the lower Kenai.

3

4 (Pause)

5

6 Okay, next I got the Kenai National
7 Wildlife Refuge subsistence hunt report. Todd, are you
8 still on the phone?

9

10 MR. ESKELIN: I am, can you hear me okay?

11

12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We hear you loud
13 and clear. Thank you. Good to hear you. You're up.

14

15 MR. ESKELIN: Great.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You're up.

18

19 MR. ESKELIN: Great. Thanks Mister --
20 Thanks, Mr. Chair and Council members, especially the
21 new Council members. Good to hear some new voices. For
22 the record, my name is Todd Eskelin, and I'm a wildlife
23 biologist at the Kenai refuge. And I should mention that
24 between our last meeting our manager, Andy Lawrence, a
25 longtime manager, retired. So, just want to give you
26 that update. And Steve Miller, who had been his deputy
27 for a long time, is now the acting manager. With our
28 budget constraints and things, I think we'll probably
29 see and hear more Steve for a while now, but he will be
30 getting my sage advice so. Just an update on the moose
31 hunting. You know, at the fall meeting, we never have
32 completed the whole season. So, I just wanted to give
33 you the final numbers for 2024. Again, it was a good,
34 good year for the number of permits we had 137 issued.
35 And our subsistence hunters are being really good about
36 reporting. You know, the numbers may appear down a little
37 bit with a total of 11, but I would note that in talking
38 to a lot of the subsistence hunters, they were able to
39 find moose that they harvested off refuge and so those
40 went on their sport harvest. So, that seems to be a
41 continuing trend that a lot of folks, especially in the
42 Ninilchik area, are harvesting on their state permit and
43 don't actually get all the way back to the refuge there.
44 And, you know, just looking at the numbers, there was -
45 - eight of those moose were in the spike fork category
46 which I actually like to see because there was some a
47 little bit of chatter when we moved that season later,
48 there was a few people that, you know, were disappointed
49 because they always would get a spike fork in that in
50 that early part of the season. But you can see from our

1 totals that the majority of the moose that they're
2 tagging on their subsistence tags are mostly forks. So,
3 at least that opportunity is still presenting itself.

4
5 And then for our drawing hunts, it's
6 kind of the same continuing trend. We put out a fair
7 number of drawing permits, and most of the people don't
8 actually find an opportunity to go hunting when those
9 seasons are or their -- find the access to expensive to
10 get back. We did have -- one caribou was harvested under
11 the drawing permits and I think we'll just kind of
12 continue to probably see that for a while on the on the
13 subsistence drawing hunts. A couple, a couple of animals
14 of opportunity were, were taken and, and a lot of folks
15 are just -- they put in for the permit and then they end
16 up not going hunting so. Yeah, I'd say in a nutshell
17 that wraps up, you know, last year's harvest and looking
18 forward to this year. And I'm available for any
19 questions.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Todd.
22 Good report. Questions, we got one here from Michael
23 Opheim to start with.

24
25 MR. OPHEIM: Hey, Todd, this is Michael.
26 I was just kind of a follow up question I guess, we had
27 that issue with folks from Seldovia no longer able to
28 hunt. Have they -- have any of the folks that were
29 working on that contacted you with any questions or
30 anything?

31
32 MR. ESKELIN: No, but I think they would
33 -- thanks for the question, Michael. You know, I think
34 that would probably go directly to OSM as far as some
35 kind of proposal seeking C&T for that -- those areas
36 outside of the Seldovia area that's qualified that
37 Seldovia village area. And so, I don't know that anybody
38 would contact me. I think, probably I would mostly see
39 that go to OSM and then we'd see a proposal for, for a
40 C&T addition. But maybe, OSM knows if anybody has
41 contacted them.

42
43 MR. OPHEIM: All right. Thanks. We're
44 just going to say Todd said.

45
46 MR. ESKELIN: That works.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Todd said,
49 okay. Any other questions for Todd?

1 (No response)

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Well thank you Todd. I'm glad to hear that Andy finally made it. You know, it might be a good thing because he sure loved those brown bears. And if they're going to go for two skins, then, you know, he wouldn't -- he would be kind of -- he would be forced into retirement anyway. So, anyway. Thank you, Todd.

MR. ESKELIN: You bet. Have a good day.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yep. My mic. She wants me to be on record for everything. Okay. Evaluation of legal standards for Alaska Native marine mammal harvest eligibility. And this is an update, and it's just an update, and then it's got no verbal update, so.

MS. PILCHER: Well, that's my editing skills. Yes. So, it -- we weren't able to provide an individual to come give you the update and it was I hope member Roberts that wanted that specific update. So, we're going to maybe save it for the fall.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. How about the U.S. Forest Service? Chugach National Forest report, Andrew.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And the Council. For the record, my name is Andrew Sanders and I'm the subsistence program manager for the Chugach National Forest. You can see the report that I submitted for your materials is on page 41. So, I won't read that to you word for word, but I'll just touch on some of the highlights for you. Right at the top there you can see we have a number of staff that are assigned subsistence duties at least some of the time, if not all the time. It says that we have a vacant position for the Moose Pass law enforcement officer, who is the subsistence lead for law enforcement, but I've been told that they do have someone hired for that position and that they'll be starting soon, so that'll hopefully be different next time. We did not carry out any special actions this year. We have two existing cost share agreements, one with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and we work very closely with the department to pursue a number of wildlife monitoring projects in Units 6 and 7. And those especially include aerial surveys for goats, sheep, moose and caribou, as well as some other projects that I'll mention a little later on. We also have a cost share agreement with the Chugach Regional Resources

1 Commission, and you already heard a little bit about
2 some of the work that we're doing collaboratively with
3 CRRC from Michael. The biggest project we have going on
4 with CRRC is the Kings Bay Moose surveys. As you already
5 heard, we weren't able to carry those out again this
6 spring because of the lack of snow in Kings Bay. So, we
7 are working on developing a game camera plan. I'll be
8 very interested in hearing from Council member
9 McLaughlin about where we might be able to put those
10 cameras for most effectiveness.

11
12 As far as harvest, in the Prince William
13 Sound zone, one of our biggest hunts is 60 moose. That's
14 a drawing hunt. We did not change the number of tags
15 from last year to this year, and overall, we had a very
16 successful hunt. So, for bulls we had 24 of 24 tags
17 filled. We had 841 applicants for those 24 tags. And
18 then for the antlerless moose, we had 823 applicants for
19 20 tags, and 18 of those 20 were filled. The two folks
20 that didn't get their moose, one was a case of new hunter
21 that didn't really have the connections that they needed
22 with folks in the community and the experience to
23 successfully harvest. And the other person wasn't able
24 to put as much effort into it this year as they had
25 hoped.

26
27 The Native Village of Eyak did hold
28 their ceremonial moose harvest for sobriety festival --
29 sobriety day and they were successful with that harvest
30 for deer. The winter conditions in 2024 were pretty cold
31 and snowy. It was a good snow winter. That was the winter
32 of '23-'24. And when we did pellet surveys last spring,
33 we did find a slight decrease in pellets that suggested
34 low to moderate winter mortality. The deer pellet index
35 was still in what we would consider the moderate range,
36 although decreasing for a few years in a row, you know,
37 not to the point that I think there's any kind of
38 conservation concern in what we saw in the pellet data,
39 but something to keep an eye on for a few more years.
40 This winter was very mild, so hopefully it has been a
41 good winter for the deer. We have also started a game
42 camera monitoring project on Hawkins Island. So, in the
43 fall, we were able to get out 11 of 18 planned game
44 cameras. Those 11, we focused on the north end of the
45 island where the majority of good winter habitat can be
46 found, and this summer we hope to get the remaining
47 seven out on the southern end of the island and take the
48 data we got this winter and work with the Biometricians
49 at the Department of Fish and Game to come up with a
50 more quantitative estimate for the density of deer on

1 Hawkins Island, and start using that going forward to
2 compare with the deer pellet data, which is a little bit
3 more of an index and a little bit more of a lagging
4 indicator. So, anyway, we're very excited about the deer
5 camera project and the data we're going to get from
6 that. We did not issue any ceremonial deer permits to
7 Native Village of Chenega or Tatitlek this year.

8
9 As far as black bear work, we're still
10 continuing to work with the Department of Fish and Game
11 on the collaborative Prince William Sound Black Bear
12 project. We did send tissue and blood samples out to an
13 independent lab to analyze the stable isotope content
14 of those samples. And the preliminary analysis, we were
15 looking to see if there was clustering in the tissue
16 samples. That would indicate that some of the bears had
17 a significantly different diet or lifestyle than some
18 of the other bears. The preliminary analysis that we did
19 didn't really find any significant clustering. It really
20 just indicated that the bears are utilizing all of the
21 available resources at different times of year and
22 moving around from the beach and up into the mountains.
23 The subsistence goat season closed February 28th. We
24 issued two 6D mountain goat permits and one was filled.
25 Last year we issued three and one was filled. And then
26 for salmon in the Prince William Sound zone, we issued
27 110 permits for the salmon fishery outside of the Copper
28 River. So, that would be the rest of the Delta, Ibeck,
29 Eyak, Alagnik. And we had a reported harvest of 249 coho
30 and 99 sockeyes, which was down quite a bit coho wise
31 from 2023, as has been noted, last year was a poor coho
32 run. The lower Copper River Dipnet Fishery, as Matt Piche
33 with NVE mentioned earlier, people are starting to
34 figure out that fishery and it's a -- really appreciated
35 by the folks in the community. We issued 88 permits this
36 year. The National Park Service will report with the
37 harvest. They are the stewards of that data. And that
38 was a few more permits than we issued in 2023, which was
39 71 permits.

40
41 Over in the Kenai zone, we held a number
42 of community meetings. Oh, I had a community meeting
43 here in Cordova in August, also for moose hunters to
44 help give information to moose hunters, especially new
45 moose hunters that might not know where their federal
46 lands and how the process works. We also did a number
47 of community meetings over on the Kenai. So, you can see
48 there we had fish permit meetings in Hope, Moose Pass
49 and Cooper Landing in May and June, and then in July and
50 August, we had hunting permit meetings to issue permits

1 and provide information to subsistence users. So, in
2 2024, we issued 78 Unit 7 moose tags, 39 people reported
3 that they attempted a hunt and 4 people harvested. We
4 also issued 42 caribou tags for Unit 7, 13 people said
5 that they hunted their tags, and no one reported a
6 harvest in Unit 7. We held a drawing for three mountain
7 goat tags in Unit 7 and two of those permits were hunted
8 and no one reported a Mountain Goat harvest. We also did
9 carry out the Unit 7 dall sheep draw hunting for the
10 first time since that hunt was put into regulation. We
11 issued one permit through the drawing. That permit was
12 hunted. The hunter did not successfully harvest a dall
13 sheep.

14
15 So, we also started a -- working on
16 developing a Substantial Dall Sheep Monitoring Program
17 last year to address some of the information needs
18 related to the dall sheep hunt. And there were two parts
19 of that monitoring program in addition to the aerial
20 surveys that we do with ADF&G. Those usually involve
21 flying each hunt area once every three years. So, we've
22 now started an annual lambing survey of the Crescent
23 Lake subpopulation. This year, the highest count that
24 we saw was 29 sheep, including two lambs. That represents
25 an extremely low ewe-to-lamb ratio of 13.3%, which is
26 about a third of what we would hope to see in a healthy
27 population of sheep. So, we'll be looking forward to
28 doing that again this May, June and July and seeing if
29 this mild winter results in higher lambing rates. We
30 don't really understand all the factors that are
31 contributing to the decline of dall sheep, and we're
32 hoping that this will help elucidate that. So, if we see
33 changes related to the climate and related to lambing,
34 that might help us start zeroing in on some of the issues
35 that we're seeing. We're also looking at how the Swan
36 Lake fire impacted habitat for dall sheep on the Kenai.
37 We're working with the refuge to do that work. We are
38 looking at the plant communities inside and outside of
39 the burn area and looking at where sheep are spending
40 their time, and we are looking to hopefully get some
41 collars on some ewes in the next few years and really
42 get an even better look at where they're spending their
43 time and what they're eating, and the availability of
44 the stuff they like to eat. So, with that, that concludes
45 my report. I'm happy to take questions from any members
46 of the Council.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: A good report,
49 Andrew. We got some questions here. Michael, I think he
50 was up first. Go ahead and then we'll go ahead.

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MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. You're mentioning your deer surveys. Are you monitoring for the chronic wasting disease? Wasn't there a case in southeast now that's been reported?

MR. SANDERS: We're not doing any testing -- through the Chair. We're not doing any testing for chronic wasting disease and I haven't received any reports that would indicate that we've seen -- that there are any animals that are exhibiting the signs of chronic wasting disease. I haven't heard that there was a report of an animal positive for CWD in Southeast, so I will make sure to look into that. It's very concerning if that's the case.

MR. OPHEIM: All right. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah. Through the Chair. I'm glad to hear law enforcement positions going to be filled in Moose Pass. Is that correct?

MR. SANDERS: Yes. That's correct. That's -- I just heard that earlier this week.

MR. HOLSTEN: Okay, well, that person -- I'm hoping that person will spend quite a bit of time or some time and possibly -- I know in the past who've also detailed people to take a look at dip netting up at the falls. It's getting a little more competitive now because we've just got in the last year a new community, Moose Pass. So, we've got Cooper Landing, Moose Pass and Hope, we haven't come anywhere near the allowable take up there. And also, there's a -- as you know, there's a tremendous amount of pressure on the Russian River, the half of one side's Forest Service one side's Refuge. And hopefully we can get some education and good enforcement down there, so thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Anyone else got questions for Andrew? You must have done pretty good. You got off easy. Well, thank you, Andrew.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Mic, mic, mic. National Park Service, Amber and others.

1 MS. PILCHER: Just Amber.

2
3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Just Amber?

4
5 MS. COHEN: Hi. Can you hear me?

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Loud and clear.

8
9 MS. COHEN: Okay, great. So, again, for
10 the record, this is Amber Cohen, cultural anthropologist
11 at Wrangell-St. Elias and I'll be giving the subsistence
12 and anthropology report. I'll shoot it to Dave Sarafin,
13 who is online, and he'll do the fisheries report, and
14 then it will come back to me to do our wildlife report.
15 So, we'll try to make this as quick as we can. So, our
16 report for subsistence and anthropology starts on page
17 45 of your meeting book and in 2024, Wrangell-St. Elias
18 staff and Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge staff issued
19 230 federal subsistence hunting permits for our moose,
20 goat and sheep hunts that are on our Wrangell-St. Elias
21 lands and Units 11 and 12. Our most frequently issued
22 permit was for our fall moose hunt and Unit 11, and we
23 issued 144 permits, 56 people hunted and 13 moose were
24 harvested. We also issue a joint state federal permit
25 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for the
26 northern part of the park, and Units 11 and 12, and for
27 the -- last season, we issued 274 permits, 162 people
28 hunted, 90 of those were federally qualified subsistence
29 users and 14 moose were harvested. Of those 14 Moose,
30 ten were harvested by federally qualified subsistence
31 users. On the bottom of page 45, you'll see that our
32 Ahtna ethnographic overview and assessment is now
33 available. I believe we mentioned it at our last RAC
34 meeting, but if you would like, you can go on our park
35 website and do a nice little read of our ethnography,
36 or we also have physical copies that we are willing to
37 send to people, if you reach out to either me or Barbara
38 Cellarius, we're very happy to share that. That was a
39 lot of work to put that together. And that was in
40 partnership with the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource
41 Commission.

42
43 On page 46, you'll see our updated
44 permit numbers and our updated harvest reports. For the
45 sake of time, I'm just going to point out we have
46 different numbers for our winter moose hunt, which is
47 the third table on the page. So, we had 13 permits that
48 were issued, and we had 8 individuals that hunted and 2
49 moose that were harvested for a 25% success rate. So, I
50 just wanted to give that update for all the -- for most

1 of the hunts, except for our Unit 11 goat and our Unit
2 11 fall moose hunt. We have a 100% harvest report return.
3 I'm just waiting for 3 reports for goat and 2 reports
4 on moose and those people have been emailed, called and
5 sent harvest reminder letters. So, hopefully we will
6 hear back from those remaining subsistence users soon.
7 On page -- the last page of the report, which I believe
8 is page 48, I just want to highlight 3 projects that
9 we're doing here at Wrangell-St. Elias, one of which,
10 Sterling from AITRC already mentioned, which is our
11 upper Copper River community harvest assessment and the
12 big update on that is that by the time we meet again in
13 the fall, we should have a technical paper that is
14 available and published. So, we're excited to move
15 forward with that and it's been a really great
16 collaborative project with the Alaska Department of Fish
17 and Game, Division of Subsistence and the Ahtna Inter-
18 Tribal Resource Commission. So, it's great to see that
19 come to a close.

20
21 The second project on there is our Dall
22 Sheep Local Knowledge interviews. And I've also
23 mentioned that at a previous RAC meeting, and we are
24 moving forward with the data analysis of those
25 interviews and hopefully by the fall, also, we'll have
26 a draft of a technical report that can be -- we can be
27 working on and I just want to highlight that the funding
28 for this work does come from the National Park Service,
29 Alaska Subsistence Advisory Council, and from Alaska
30 Geographic. And then finally our outer coast
31 ethnographic landscape study. We are hopefully going to
32 be transferring funding this year, and this will involve
33 myself and Barbara Cellarius here at the park, as well
34 as our archaeologist working closely with Eyak and
35 Tlingit knowledge holders to gather information to
36 complete an ethnographic landscape study, which will
37 focus on the lands along the park's coastline and create
38 baseline documentation of important cultural and
39 subsistence places that will inform park management as
40 the coastline is facing a lot of rapid environmental
41 changes. So, we're excited to get started with that
42 project. We've met with the Native village of Eyak and
43 the Akutag Tlingit tribe several times on getting
44 started for the project and more work to come. So, that
45 is what I have for you, and happy to answer any
46 questions.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Great. Great
49 report, Amber. Questions. None. Oh, I gotta [sic] turn
50 my mic on. I just said you might have stunned everyone.

1 They -- great report.

2

3 MS. COHEN: Oh, great.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No questions.

6

7 MS. COHEN: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

10

11 MS. COHEN: Well, then I'll shoot it to
12 Dave then if he's still online.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we'll
15 take Dave. Thank you, Amber.

16

17 MR. SARAFIN: Yeah. Good afternoon, Mr.
18 Chair. This is Dave Sarafin the fisheries biologist at
19 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Hello Dave.

22

23 MS. SARAFIN: And I have a the fisheries
24 report I prepared, I believe, is on page 49 in your
25 materials. It was just a summary of key updates. We ran
26 the Tanada Creek weir again at Batzulnetas and
27 documented just under 15,000 sockeye salmon and 13
28 chinook salmon. And we were working on a cooperative
29 agreement with AITRC to collaborate with them in future
30 operations. So, we're still in the process of trying to
31 work on an agreement and get -- a bit of a delay on
32 processing right now, but we're hoping to have that in
33 effect for the summer. As well, we have a planned
34 inventory of harvestable freshwater fish that will be
35 led by Dan Gorze with AITRC and again, that's planned
36 for this season. And for the Copper River salmon run
37 again, for last year it was very similar to the past few
38 recent years where the run began in relatively low
39 numbers during the start of the season, then increased
40 in strength as the season progressed, and harvest
41 opportunities continued throughout the '24 season, and
42 sockeye salmon sustainable goal -- escapement goal was
43 achieved.

44

45 Miles Lake Sonar estimated a total
46 passage of 946,000 salmon, which is 58% above their
47 management objective of 599,000. That's through the
48 period of operation of July 28th. In contrast, the in-
49 river run assessment of chinook salmon, Matt Piche just
50 went over that in better detail than I have. But again,

1 that -- with the status of our assessment at this point
2 that that likely did not meet the minimum bound, the
3 sustainable escapement goal range of 21,000 to 31,000
4 fish, and as a result, the Alaska Department of Fish and
5 Game closed all state chinook salmon fisheries of the
6 upper copper River by mid-season. No management actions
7 were taken in the federal subsistence fisheries of the
8 Copper River. The upper Copper River fishery permits we
9 issued 202 Chitina Subdistrict, 293 Glennallen
10 Subdistrict, and two Batzulnetas permits, and historical
11 federal harvest are provided at the end of this report,
12 tables one through four, and then a new figure I put
13 together for this year that displays a visual of the
14 historic harvest and in-river return estimates of salmon
15 from '05 through 2024, along with some trend lines in
16 there. Overall, the harvest for, you know, upper Copper
17 River combining Chitina and Glennallen. It's -- you
18 know, just right about -- you know, it's above the five-
19 year average and just above or right around the ten-year
20 average for sockeye, but below both five- and ten-year
21 average for chinook.

22
23 And the lower fishery that Andrew
24 mentioned there were 88 permits issued. In season we had
25 a reported harvest of 425 sockeye salmon. However,
26 there's been records in the OSM that that's been updated
27 to 475 sockeye salmon with 2 chinook salmon reported in
28 season. And then regulatory changes at the state -- and
29 state management plans were made at the recent Board of
30 Fish meeting in Cordova. So, for this, the one proposal
31 that -- or there are 3 proposals put in looking at
32 revising the management plan based on sonar escapement.
33 This ended up getting amended with some substitute
34 language. The Chair put out in the record and that
35 instead of managing based on that sonar, it was
36 simplified in a way that the commercial fishery would
37 be delayed basically a week and may only open after May
38 21. They also revised the Chitina personal use fishery
39 as well, to open June 10th or later. And that was --
40 that would be -- it had been written that would open
41 between June 7th and 15th, based on the sonar numbers.
42 So, now that would delay that earliest opening, but will
43 not mandate opening by the 15th. So, if the runs really
44 low, it could potentially you know, just based off of
45 what the sonar is doing at that point. And as well the
46 the retention of chinook salmon in the personal use,
47 Chitina fishery is closed for the month of June. And
48 then ADF&G is forecast for the Copper River return is
49 for 2.6 million sockeye salmon, which is 50% above ten-
50 year average, and 36,000 chinook salmon, which is 25%

1 below the average -- ten-year average. And that --oh,
2 one thing to note on the Board of Fish Action, the Chair
3 did mention, you know, a primary intent of the amendment
4 was, you know, specifically on chinook salmon concerns
5 was a big part of that. So, either way, it should -- has
6 a good chance of helping out some of the earliest run
7 stocks of both chinook and sockeye, which could
8 hopefully get fish distributed further upriver to areas
9 that have stated concerns. And that completes my report
10 and I'm open to any questions.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
13 Dave. Good report. Questions for Dave. We got one. Faye,
14 go ahead.

15
16 MS. EWAN: How do you -- it's Faye Ewan.
17 I was asking about -- how do you figure out your ceiling
18 of your amount of salmon, like 599,000 fish? How do you
19 figure that out in the year before in your in your
20 numbers? How do you -- I mean, this is a number that
21 once it passed out there, then you guys open up the
22 fishing so they can have more fish for their personal
23 use. Is that how it goes?

24
25 MR. SARAFIN: Hello Faye. Yes. The state
26 manages all that. So, they have a management plan that
27 gets approved by the Board of Fish. And with that,
28 they've -- they look at like the -- the management
29 objective they have in season for the sonar, they look
30 at historical run timing that they've documented
31 throughout several years to what -- when they would
32 expect that to come in. And base a lot of management to
33 where they want to make sure they meet the minimum of
34 360,000 spawning escapement goal in there. So, they also
35 account for average upriver harvest to come up with that
36 599,000 that they want to have passing the sonar while
37 it, you know, by the time it's done operating.

38
39 MS. EWAN: On your chart here under
40 dipnet total, it says back here in 2010, 2011, 697%. And
41 then now you got in 2024, you got 6,536 dipnet. Is this
42 a -- that's like 5000, you know, percentage of -- the
43 dip netting went way up and seemed like the Fish Creek
44 went down to me. I'm trying to figure out your chart.

45
46 MR. SARAFIN: Which chart are you looking
47 at? Is this in my fish report?

48
49 MS. EWAN: I don't know who is report,
50 but I'll tell you in a minute.

1

2 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. This is Nissa, for
3 the record. Yeah, it is in your report. It looks like
4 it's the chart -- hold on one second. He doesn't have
5 page numbers unfortunately. It's just in the book. It's
6 the one, two, three, four, fifth page. It's the one
7 that's landscape style. The very first of -- there's
8 several landscape style charts in your report. It's the
9 very first page. And what Faye is referring to is the
10 column on the right. Not quite all the way that says dip
11 net total. Yes. Table one. There we go.

12

13 MR. SARAFIN: Okay. So, yes. Table one.
14 So, this is combined for both Glennallen and Chitina or
15 Glennallen is mostly the fishwheel. And so, your
16 specific question on this again could you run that by
17 me?

18

19 MS. FAYE: Okay. The 9.6% dip net. And
20 then 14 years later our 2023 chart, it says 29.4%. And
21 your numbers of dip net total is 16,000 -- 697. And then
22 at the 2023, you got 6,536. That's a big -- is that per
23 person per net, or is that just a total of all who
24 applied for it?

25

26 MR. SARAFIN: Well, so what this -- what
27 happened in -- I think it was 2018. We started to revise
28 our management strategy federally for Chitina for the
29 subsistence fishermen to where we no longer matched the
30 -- you know, it ended up -- now we no longer match the
31 state openings and closings of the fishery on their
32 schedule. So, this provided a lot -- a beneficial
33 opportunity to federal users to fish there when the
34 crowds of the -- the urban crowds aren't in the area.
35 And so, we had, you know, we have several local community
36 members that might not have a fishwheel or have access
37 to a fishwheel to where they -- this provided a means
38 where people could have a more efficient way of harvest
39 -- getting their subsistence needs met by using a dip
40 net and Chitina. So, that's the primary thing that we
41 can see in this percentage that really jumped-up
42 beginning, you know, at first started in 18 and 19,
43 2019. To where people in our area, federal users that
44 live out here are now getting a larger percentage of
45 their fish from Chitina than they were before.

46

47 MS. EWAN: Thank you.

48

49 MR. SARAFIN: You're welcome.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: And Kirk's got
2 a question for you, Dave.

3
4 MR. WILSON: So, do you have the numbers
5 on the users that took this amount of fish at the very
6 bottom and the number on the users that took the 167?
7 And is that because we have so many new users?

8
9 MR. SARAFIN: Well, I'm not sure. Are you
10 again on table one?

11
12 MR. WILSON: Yes.

13
14 MR. SARAFIN: And you're mentioning a 167
15 on here somewhere.

16
17 MR. WILSON: 1697 was the top number she
18 was talking about and at the bottom it's 6536. Is that
19 because we have more users or the users that was already
20 there are catching this fish?

21
22 MR. SARAFIN: Well let's see, we don't
23 have -- let's see. 2011 was that first dip net thing And
24 if we go to table three, it has Chitina. So, we have --
25 back then we were only issuing -- you know, we had in
26 2011, 85 permits issued where then it jumped up, you
27 know, around 200 and upper 100. So, yes, we did have had
28 more people, federal users that started fishing in
29 Chitina from what they were prior -- you know, to 2014
30 it started jumping a little bit. On table three, you can
31 see the number of permits that we issued. And it's really
32 hard to separate, You know, we have a lot of users'
33 local community members that get both permits and you
34 know, get some of their fish, you know, in Glennallen
35 upstream of the bridge by fishwheel or dip net and then
36 also get them downstream of the bridge and Chitina
37 Subdistrict by dip net. And the database doesn't have
38 an easy way of really breaking out by household and
39 permit you know, tracking that. So, that's kind of why
40 I've taken to combining them to this table one for --
41 to show the federal subsistence harvest combined between
42 the two. Because it's all meeting their subsistence
43 needs regardless of how they prefer to Harvest that way.

44
45 MR. WILSON: Yeah, well, I see that in
46 2011 they had 85 permits issued, and in 2024 they had
47 202 permits, and the number of fish went from 16,097 to
48 6000. Those people, those 202 fishermen must have been
49 pretty proficient.

50

1 MR. SARAFIN: Well, again in 2018 and 19,
2 we allowed more liberal opportunities there where they
3 didn't have to go by the state regulations on it. You
4 know, there was -- it seems if you look at table two to
5 the Glennallen subdistrict there may have been a
6 corresponding drop from some of those years. You know,
7 I think, you know, with the people who had been getting
8 it upstream of the bridge, and then they found they
9 could go downstream of the bridge without the crowds
10 when they wanted to. That provided that opportunity and
11 so that was less that they are harvesting by fishwheel
12 upstream of the bridge. So, that's where if we look at
13 the table one again, where they're combined, you know,
14 2013, I mean, it's based on the five and ten year
15 averages. It's fairly stable. If you look at the figure
16 three, the final page, you can see that you know a visual
17 image of the total combined harvest between Chitina and
18 Glennallen for -- you know, since '05 and the trend line
19 -- trend line through that period is actually a slight
20 rise in harvest of the combined harvest. But there are
21 cycles up and down, and a lot of it's based on you can
22 see the in-river numbers in there. And a lot of times
23 they tie together how many fish are in-river and how
24 many fish get harvested. So, if you look at the 2016 to
25 '24, it's not a steady rise in harvest. You know, we had
26 those really high return years, 2013 to 15. But since
27 then, we have had some ups and downs in whatever our
28 return has been.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Dave, you
31 did a good job trying to explain it, but it's getting
32 more confusing. We're going to a lot more tables back
33 and forth. I would -- I think what we need is we just
34 need some of that information broke out. Just separate
35 categories from this year, what it did to this year for
36 these to see overall, I mean, basically we're trying to
37 figure out did a whole bunch more dippers get fish and
38 dip in the same area or did they just get a lot better
39 fishing. But I think you kind of explained it, but you
40 got to jump behind three schedules to figure it out. So,
41 yeah. Anyway.

42
43 MR. SARAFIN: Yeah.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

46
47 MR. SARAFIN: Okay. Yeah. Sorry. It's a
48 it is a little difficult to explain. So, that's a -- you
49 know, we did see a rise in the number of people dip
50 netting when we allowed less restrictions as far as

000143

1 timing there. So, but they're the same -- tend to be the
2 same users that would have been harvesting on fishwheel.
3 We go upstream of the bridge.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Good
6 enough. Andy's got a question for you, too.

7
8 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. No, not a
9 question. Just a comment. Maybe clarify, 2010 if you
10 divide those out is 18 fish per person and 2023 is 32
11 fish per person. So, yeah, those lesser restrictions
12 made it easier to catch a few more fish.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Got more
15 efficient. Got better. Maybe bigger, longer nets, I
16 don't know. Okay. Crazy. Okay. Thank you, Dave.

17
18 MR. SERAFIN: Okay. You're welcome.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Amber, where
21 are you?

22
23 MS. COHEN: Hi, Mr. Chair. I'm here.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
26 you.

27
28 MS. COHEN: All right. Hopefully I can
29 give another great report here with our wildlife report,
30 which starts on page 59. And for the record, this is
31 Amber Cohen from Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
32 Preserve cultural anthropologist. So, at Wrangell-St.
33 Elias, we have three caribou herds that go through our
34 lands. But I'm just going to focus on two of those herds.
35 The first one being the Mentasta Caribou Herd. A total
36 of 189 adult caribou were estimated during a survey that
37 was done back in June and July, and this is the lowest
38 estimate since 2017. There was a composition survey that
39 was conducted in September, and the calf to 100 cow
40 ratio was similar to the previous four surveys since
41 2017, and so the for -- the four-year survey average was
42 21 calves, and in 2024 it was 26. The bulls 100 cow
43 ratio was lower in 2024, we were looking at 33 bulls
44 compared to the previous four-year surveys, which was
45 74 bulls for an average. There are a total of 28 GPS
46 collars that are out on this herd, and right now they're
47 pretty scattered. They're not congregated together.
48 Which is interesting and a project will start in 2026
49 that will evaluate changes in the herd overlap for the
50 Mentasta, Nelchina and Chisana Caribou Herd. And as you

1 guys know, there is a federal hunt on the books for the
2 Nelchina Caribou and Unit 11. It is currently closed.
3 That only opens when all the herds are overlapped
4 together. So, understanding this herd overlap and how
5 it occurs at Wrangell-St. Elias will allow us to have
6 better management of that hunt that is on the books. The
7 study will begin in fall 2025 and concludes in 2027, and
8 you can see the survey result numbers and table one. At
9 the bottom of the page starts on the Chisana Caribou
10 Herd. There was a composition survey that was done in
11 October, and the survey results indicated that there was
12 high calf production. So, 32 calves per 100 cows and the
13 survival of bulls was looking pretty good at 44 bulls
14 per 100 cows. The current three-year average for both
15 calves and bulls was higher than the herd goals of 15
16 for 100 cows and 35 bulls for 100 cow ratios. There are
17 15 GPS collars that are on the Chisana Herd as of last
18 October, and so there are a total of 32 collared caribou
19 in the herd. And this upcoming fall, we will do another
20 composition survey as well as deploy additional collars
21 on the Chisana Herd.

22
23 For moose, our last survey was done in
24 the fall of 2023. The estimated population of moose that
25 was observed in 2023 was at a record low, which was a
26 nearly a 40% decline from the 2013 survey and slightly
27 lower than the 2007 and 2010 estimates. Changes in the
28 spatial distribution of moose was seen through a spatial
29 model, and it indicated there was a sharp decline on the
30 north side of the Wrangell Mountains since 2013, and the
31 moose on the west and south side of the Wrangell
32 Mountains had showed less of a population decline. We
33 are currently exploring the role of record snow amounts
34 on moose declines across the survey area, using
35 satellite data on snow, and in 2025, there's going to
36 be an analysis that will explore the influence of that
37 recent record snow amount on recent declines of moose
38 across the survey area.

39
40 Finally, on page 61 sheep surveys were
41 conducted across a 2.5-million-acre landscape on the
42 northern Wrangell Mountains, which included the Nabesna
43 area, the Mentasta Mountains and the Nutzotin Mountains.
44 A total of 148 individual ten-mile long transects were
45 flown by two aircraft over six days, for a total of 48
46 hours of survey time, and then sheep groups, including
47 age and gender, were recorded. Survey results indicate
48 that there is a slowing in the decline of adult sheep,
49 while land production did increase slightly over that
50 record low that we saw in 2023. So, a new project will

1 start in the fall of 2025 and go on for two years. That
2 is going to evaluate factors that have contributed to
3 the recent sheep decline at Wrangell-St. Elias. This
4 project will occur across all sheep habitats in
5 Wrangell-St. Elias starting in the summer of 2026. The
6 project will use a south to north snow gradient across
7 Wrangell-St. Elias to ask whether dall sheep declines
8 are occurring park wide at the same rate compared to a
9 historic baseline, and to identify factors influencing
10 sheep abundance in repeat surveys since 2011. Also in
11 2025, the NPS will resurvey the long-term monitoring
12 area to evaluate recovery and along with expanding
13 surveys into the southern side of the Wrangell
14 Mountains. And table three shows our recent survey
15 results for 2024, with the adult count at an estimated
16 943 and a lamb count at 153. And that is what I have for
17 you.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Very
20 good. Questions for Amber on that? Michael.

21
22 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. Amber this is Michael
23 Opheim. You were mentioning snow surveys for your moose,
24 caribou and rams, are you also doing monitoring for ice
25 events to see how that affects them getting to the food?

26
27 MS. COHEN: Yes, through the Chair.
28 Again, for the record, this is Amber Cohen. The --
29 particularly like the ice on snow events is something I
30 know Kyle Cutting, our wildlife biologist, wants to look
31 into. In particular, and this is not with the work that
32 I mentioned here, but in my previous report with the
33 dall sheep interviews that we were doing, that was a
34 particular phenomenon that came up throughout the
35 interviews as something that needed to be looked into,
36 because it likely did prevent ungulates from getting to
37 their food source. So, that definitely is a phenomenon
38 that we're looking into and not so much that we're doing
39 snow surveys, but they're looking at data and doing like
40 analysis of data that we already have. And seeing if
41 that -- you know, those huge snow amounts that we had
42 out here in the Copper Basin, had it -- played a role
43 in the decline for dall sheep.

44
45 MR. OPHEIM: Okay. Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Judy.

48
49 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50 Thanks, Amber. Once again, a good summary and good

1 report. And I know this is Kyle's. So -- and so I don't
2 want to put you on the spot, but maybe you could ask
3 Kyle to send us information on the two snow water
4 equivalent graphics that are here because you say what
5 they are, but it's not clicking with me what exactly
6 they mean? I can see the different colors, but some
7 interpretation of that might be helpful to us. If you
8 could send it to Nissa, she can get it out to us, or if
9 Kyle could please.

10
11 MS. COHEN: Yeah. Through the Chair
12 again. For the record, Amber Cohen. That's something I
13 can definitely do. And also with your next fall RAC
14 meeting, if you'd like Kyle to come and give an
15 explanation on that, I think he'd be more than happy to.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: She said that'd
18 be great. Thank you. You did a good job, Amber. Thank
19 you.

20
21 MS. COHEN: Yes. Thank you everyone.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No more
24 questions, okay. Alrighty. Next one, I got the Bureau
25 of Land Management. Caroline.

26
27 MS. KETRON: Hi, everyone. Can you hear
28 me all right?

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Hear you good.
31 Thank you.

32
33 MS. KETRON: Okay. Good afternoon,
34 everyone. I'm Caroline Ketron. I'm the anthropologist
35 for the Bureau of Land Management, Glennallen field
36 office. I'm sorry I can't be there in person, but I'm
37 glad to hear all of you and glad to hear some new Copper
38 Basin voices in the room. So, welcome to the new members.
39 You have our report, I believe, on page 63 of your
40 meeting book, so I'll just present some highlights from
41 federal subsistence in Unit 13 this year. First news,
42 the BLM did support emergency special action requests
43 for the Federal Subsistence Board to close Nelchina
44 hunts -- federal Nelchina hunts in Units 11, 12 and 13
45 for 2023 and 2024 for conservation reasons. And we're
46 expecting the federal season to be closed this coming
47 season to also for conservation reasons. The state
48 opportunities for Nelchina caribou are also entirely
49 closed. Wildlife Special Action 24-06 closed federal
50 public lands to state moose hunters in Game Management

1 Unit 13B this past season, and that will continue through
2 this fall moose season. The BLM let hunters know, as we
3 were permitting, and also developed a map for hunters
4 that included both state and federal lands in the area
5 in 13B to try to guide folks in hunting where -- hunting
6 under the proper regulations where they were supposed
7 to be. The Federal Subsistence Board did pass Wildlife
8 Proposal 25-01, which included giving delegation of
9 authority to the Glennallen Field Office manager for the
10 federal Caribou hunt, FC 13-02 and changing it to a may
11 be announced season by regulation while we're in this
12 interim period waiting for the caribou to recover. We're
13 waiting for the final rule to be published on that. But
14 again, we're expecting the federal season to be closed
15 this coming year.

16
17 I have a mini report from the Alaska
18 Department of Fish and Game on their fall 2024 survey
19 data showed the Nelchina Caribou Herd at around 12,000
20 animals, with about 40 calves per 100 cows and 26 bulls
21 per 100 cows, compared to 2023, that is better. It's
22 still not enough to open a hunt for conservation reasons,
23 but it's trending in the right direction. They also --
24 Fish and Game also relayed to me that the calves they
25 did see were in good condition going into winter. So,
26 we're all hopeful that they did a little better this
27 spring. It's been a mild winter in the Copper Basin.
28 Although we do have some snow. But we don't have the
29 heavy, wet snow that we saw the past couple of years,
30 so maybe that'll help with some of the calf survival
31 rates. People have also seen groups recently along the
32 Denali Highway. So, we're rooting for the caribou. The
33 Glennallen field office issued 853 federal moose and
34 designated hunter permits from the Glennallen field
35 office, and also for three days out of Delta Junction.
36 And as usual, hunters must get permits in person,
37 demonstrate Alaska and rural residency, and have a
38 current Alaska resident hunting license. As many hunters
39 in this group know, the online reporting function of the
40 permit database wasn't working this year, and Glennallen
41 field office fielded hundreds of calls from hunters and
42 created extra public outreach materials. And so, thanks
43 to that extra effort from our staff answering phones and
44 to the public for turning in your hunt reports, we still
45 achieved over 90% return rate. So, we're probably close
46 to 100% at this point. So, I just really appreciate
47 that. It's great data. So, thanks to all the hunters
48 that returned to reports.

1 Let's see, the harvest report for moose.
2 There were 46 Moose harvested under the federal Unit 13
3 Moose hunt, which is FM 13-01, out of 853 permits. And
4 it was about on average as far as success rate, which
5 is around 11%. But it's -- yeah. It's -- 46 is the
6 number. It's a little down, our moose permit number is
7 a little down from our average of about 1200. Likely
8 because there's still no caribou hunt in Unit 13. So,
9 most hunters targeting caribou in Unit 13 would also get
10 a moose permit just in case. And since there's a little
11 bit less activity there for caribou, our permit numbers
12 are down slightly. Thank you. And that concludes my
13 report, but I'll stay on.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Very
16 good. Anyone any Council member questions. Faye's got a
17 question for you?

18
19 MS. EWAN: Are these -- hi this is Faye
20 Ewan. Are these numbers that you're giving us is federal
21 permit that you guys distribute? Are you including AITRC
22 and the state in these numbers?

23
24 MS. KETRON: Thank you for the question,
25 Ms. Ewan. These just include the ones that we issued out
26 of the Glennallen field office this year, not state and
27 no -- from report AITRC gave me some information on
28 their permitting this year, and I think it was just 4
29 or 5 this year. But we're working with the Park Service
30 and hopefully with AITRC too, to maybe provide some joint
31 permitting opportunities. So, I'm hoping that their
32 numbers will go up. But it was just a handful out of
33 AITRC this year.

34
35 MS. EWAN: But the reason I'm asking is
36 that in the last ten years, you don't see any more bull
37 moose with racks. Do you see them with 2-4 brow tines,
38 you know, and not even a fully developed. A lot of the
39 two, 2- to 4-year-olds is, you know, being killed for
40 but you never see a really full rack bull moose. I
41 haven't seen one in probably about ten years. I've
42 noticed that we used to see them all the time, and now
43 we don't even hardly see any. But we see along the
44 highway all these hunters from Paxson to Eureka to Valdez
45 Way, it's amazing how much these people can get out
46 there and hunt and have all these camps. Valdez has one
47 place where called by Tonsina River, they just developed
48 this place here, and I bet you there was a hundred cars
49 there. So, you know the ratio between that hundred
50 people. And there's probably four you see in each car.

1 That's over 400 people hunting moose. And you got the
2 statistics here, but you don't really know in reality
3 how much moose is out there, because the Chugach National
4 Park is right there, and you have the one on the
5 mountains up there and average, you know myself, I know
6 that a lot of our people are feeding themselves with
7 roadkill, and none of us are getting moose to be
8 successful hunters. And that's what we teach our young
9 boys how to hunt, to support their family. And it's our
10 tradition. And I think a lot of these numbers are maybe
11 round off, you know, what you see in the area of how you
12 count it. But I live there. Thank you.

13
14 MS. KETRON: Thank you, I had one
15 clarification through the Chair, if that's all right
16 with you.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yes. Go ahead,
19 Caroline.

20
21 MS. KETRON: Yeah. I just wanted to make
22 sure that I clearly answered her question that these
23 numbers, like the number 46 moose harvest, that's just
24 from the federal permit for Game Management Unit 13. So,
25 that's just for the FM 13-01 hunt. So, it doesn't include
26 any of the state numbers, I think that was clear. But
27 just to make sure.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: She's shaking
30 her head yes so. Okay. Very good. Judy.

31
32 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
33 is Judy. That was a great report. We do appreciate it.
34 I just wondering if you have been able to fix whatever
35 was wrong with your permit database, so you won't have
36 all the extra work again this coming year?

37
38 MS. KETRON: I hope so, it's actually --
39 it's -- the database is managed by Office of Subsistence
40 Management. And I know that they're working hard on doing
41 some upgrades to that. So, we are very hopeful it will
42 be in -- fully operational by permitting season.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. OSM,
45 under the bus.

46
47 MS. KETRON: Yep.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you
50 again. We'll go ahead and move on. And let's see -- I'm

1 gonna [sic] -- go ahead, Nissa.

2

3 MS. PILCHER: So, we're on the Office of
4 Subsistence Management updates but if the Council is
5 willing. We'd like to move number four, the Ketchikan
6 Nonrural determination up to the top. Since Brent is
7 called in and the rest of us are all in person.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is that
10 agreeable with everyone to completely blow the agenda
11 that we said we wouldn't move and move it for a special
12 item? Anyway, I just thought I'd throw that out there.
13 Okay. We're fine with it. Ketchikan. You're on, Brent.

14

15 DR. VICKERS: Okay. Can everyone hear me?
16 Okay.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We hear you.
19 Good. Thank you.

20

21 DR. VICKERS: Okay, great. Thanks. Hello.
22 I wish I could be there. I plan on being there. I really
23 would have liked to give you guys an update in person
24 but unfortunately had to stay home this time. I'm Brent
25 Vickers, I'm the anthropology division supervisor with
26 OSM, and I'll give an update on the Ketchikan Nonrural
27 determination I -- the update will be pretty slim. I --
28 from what I understand, you guys might have some
29 questions for me. So, the -- at the Board meeting in
30 February, the Board approved Nonrural determination
31 proposal NDP 25-01 for the Ketchikan area. That proposal
32 had been submitted in 2022 by the Ketchikan Indian
33 Community asking for -- to rescind their Nonrural
34 determination. So, therefore, going -- changing the
35 status from a non-rural community to a rural community.
36 So, it passed through the threshold analysis. We did a
37 full analysis of it last year. We had three public
38 hearings and brought it to the Council, the Southeast
39 Council, the Southeast Council, after a full day of
40 discussion and testimonies, really, really hard day.
41 They voted in opposition and of the proposal. Then it
42 was brought before the Board. There was a lot more
43 testimony, and the Board approved it. So, now all the
44 residents of the Ketchikan area, which includes
45 Ketchikan City and pretty much the rest of the road of
46 Revilla Island. And so, we're talking about 13- to 1,400
47 or thousand residents are now have rural status in the
48 Federal Subsistence Board, federal subsistence program
49 and our federally qualified subsistence users for a
50 number of resources in Southeast Alaska. So, I open the

1 floor for any questions.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, I can
4 guarantee you're going to get a lot. Well, maybe not
5 from us, but you'll get them. Okay. We'll start with
6 Michael.

7

8 MR. OPHEIM: Hi, Brent, this is Michael
9 Opheim. I was watching the -- or listening, I can't
10 remember, watching, listening, one of them, the meeting
11 down there, and it seemed like there was some confusion
12 of whether or not it was just the tribe that was going
13 to become rural or if it was the whole area. And so, I
14 was still a little bit confused on that. So, maybe if
15 you could clarify that a little bit and you might have
16 while you were speaking there.

17

18 DR. VICKERS: Yeah. Great. No problem.
19 Thanks for the question, Mike, because that was a source
20 of confusion and a real source of, some consternation
21 throughout the whole process is that we do not -- in the
22 federal subsistence program there is nothing
23 specifically for tribes and or specific people within a
24 community. It's the whole community one way or the other.
25 And so, the proposal -- and Ketchikan Indian community
26 knew this. And so, they knew they had to submit the
27 proposal for the entire Ketchikan area. So, all
28 residents, tribal -- whether they're members of a tribe
29 or not (distortion).

30

31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, we got the
32 gist of it, but anyway, we lost you.

33

34 MS. PILCHER: It seems like we just
35 dropped.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: What? You guys
38 didn't pay the bill till after five.

39

40 MS. PILCHER: All right, just to double-
41 check Caroline and Amber, can you guys hear me?

42

43 (No response)

44

45 Hey, this is Nissa. Can you guys hear
46 us again?

47

48 UNIDENTIFIED: I can hear you, but not
49 the room.

50

1 MS. PILCHER: I think we're good to go.
2 I think we're back up. Thanks.

3
4 DR. VICKERS: Okay. Well, I don't know.
5 I guess I'll just get back to it. I don't know where I
6 got cut off.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, folks.
9 Grab them out in the hall. Faye, we're going to go ahead
10 and go. I think Kirk's out in the -- he was outside
11 there. Heath had to take off, so I told him that was
12 cool. He had to go, but he -- okay, where was I? Yeah.
13 Brent, did -- you back online?

14
15 DR. VICKERS: Oh, I'm here. I'm
16 ready.....

17
18 (Simultaneous speech)

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I'm okay. We
21 were right to -- we were right to questions. I don't
22 know if we finished up there, but we lost you. So, I
23 know there's not a lot of explaining to do for Ketchikan,
24 but we kind of got to reply on that. But I'll open it
25 up for questions. Judy's got a question for you.

26
27 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
28 is Judy. Brent, I was at the discussion, but I might
29 have missed it. I mean, I don't think -- did the state
30 object at the meeting, and I understand that they're
31 objecting now. So, could you bring us up to date on
32 that?

33
34 DR. VICKERS: You know the great
35 question, Judy, from my memory in this whole time,
36 they've taken a neutral position on this and have not
37 really had any comments. I haven't heard anything about
38 any objections at this point. So, if there is an
39 objection, I think that would be news for me.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Any other
42 questions for Brent? Okay, Brent. Well, thanks for the
43 report. And thanks for sticking with us through the
44 little bump, but I think we're good to go on you. Thanks.

45
46 DR. VICKERS: Okay. All right. Have a
47 great evening there. Bye.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you much.
50 Okay. Next, I got -- we're ready for Katya, overview

1 update. Wait a minute, wait a minute. We got -- I see
2 what I did is I goofed up. They moved the Ketchikan to
3 the top. Yes, yes. And I forgot we didn't do all that
4 in between there. Sorry about that. Okay. Update right
5 now. Hannah, you got it on the Federal Subsistence Board
6 Fishery regulatory meeting.

7
8 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
9 members of the Council. Good afternoon. My name is Hannah
10 Voorhees and I'm an anthropologist with OSM. And I'm
11 joined on the phone by Kevin Foley, who is a fisheries
12 biologist with OSM. This is an update on the recently
13 concluded fisheries regulatory cycle. The Federal
14 Subsistence Board took action on all of the fisheries
15 proposals and closure reviews at their February
16 fisheries regulatory meeting, and we expect the new
17 regulations should be published in the Federal Register
18 in late spring or early summer this year. We'll provide
19 a formal 805C report during your fall meeting since there
20 was so little time between the Board action and the
21 start of the Winter Council meeting cycle this year.
22 Having said that, if you'd like, I could give you a
23 summary of actions that might be relevant to this
24 Council, if you're interested.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Sure.

27
28 DR. VOORHEES: All right. So, first I'll
29 talk about proposals FP 25-03A and B. The Board rejected
30 both these proposals. FP 25-03A had requested that the
31 Board recognize the customary and traditional use of
32 salmon in the Chitina subdistrict of the upper Copper
33 River district by residents of Tolsona, and the B portion
34 of this proposal requested that the Board recognize the
35 customary and traditional use of freshwater fish in the
36 Copper River drainage upstream from Hailey Creek by
37 residents of Tolsona. And the Council -- this Council
38 voted to oppose both those proposals at your fall 2024
39 meeting, as did the Eastern Interior Council.

40
41 And then one other proposal of interest,
42 is -- was Wildlife Proposal 25-01. So, kind of unusually,
43 during the Fisheries Board meeting, the Board considered
44 this proposal, which requested changing all Nelchina
45 Caribou Herd hunts in Units 11, 12 remainder and 13 to
46 may be announced seasons, delegating authority to
47 federal in-season managers to manage the Nelchina
48 Caribou Herd hunts, and conducting an Alaska National
49 Interest Lands Conservation Act Section 804 User
50 Prioritization Analysis for the Nelchina Herd. The Board

1 adopted proposal WP 25-01 as modified by OSM, to specify
2 which communities are eligible to hunt caribou versus -
3 - via the Section 804 User Prioritization Analysis,
4 added Wrangell-St. Elias and Denali National Park
5 superintendents to the entities consulted in unit 13
6 remainder and rescinded the delegation of authority
7 letters moving existing delegated authority to unit
8 specific regulations. And then in addition there were -
9 - so the Board adopted modifications that were made by
10 the Southcentral Alaska and Eastern Interior Councils
11 to add Gakona to the Unit 13A Section 804 user
12 prioritization Gulkana to Unit 13C and Mentasta Lake and
13 Chistochina to Unit 12 remainder. Got all that? Okay.
14 So, the next fisheries cycle will begin during your
15 winter 2026 meeting. At that meeting, we will provide
16 the Councils with draft closure reviews, if there are
17 any, for your region, and will also solicit proposals
18 to change the federal Fish and Shellfish regulations.
19 This concludes the Fisheries Regulatory Cycle Update.
20 Unless you have any questions. Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Judy's got a
23 question.

24
25 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
26 Hannah. This is Judy again. Just a little background for
27 the new members. Hannah mentioned that the Board adopted
28 for the wildlife proposal regarding the Nelchina Caribou
29 Herd and analysis of that resulted from 804 when there's
30 a shortage. That was a recommendation of this Council.
31 So, that's the value of these meetings that we make
32 recommendations for what work should be done and that
33 now resulted in a regulation. So, it is worth being
34 here.

35
36 MS. EWAN: I have a question.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

39
40 MS. EWAN: This is Faye Ewan from Native
41 Village of Kluti Kaah. I wanted to ask about why did
42 Gakona want to get into 13A and the other part 11? Were
43 they in the district 11? I mean Unit 11 before or were
44 they in 13A?

45
46 DR. VOORHEES: Through the Chair. I do
47 not have this analysis in front of me at the current
48 time. And I guess I would just say I can pull that up
49 as soon as we're done discussing here and answer your
50 question, if that's all right. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I'm going to ask Nissa to get a follow up on that for you, because we don't really know. Okay. Thank you. All right. Any other questions on the regulatory meeting? If not, Hannah, you could proceed, I guess.

DR. VOORHEES: All right. Number two. So, this is -- next is an update on OSM Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and there are no materials in your book for this update. The Office of Subsistence Management administers the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program to gather information for the management and conservation of subsistence fishery resources in federal public waters. The monitoring program is also directed at supporting meaningful involvement in fisheries management by Alaska Native and rural organizations, and promoting collaboration among federal, state, Alaska Native, and local organizations. OSM is expecting to publish the notice of funding opportunity for the 2026 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program in the very near future. Application information and supporting materials will be available on the OSM website at dio.gov/subsistence/frmp. We'll be seeking applications for projects that address Priority Information Needs developed by the Councils. Applications will be reviewed by the Technical Review Committee, and summaries of project proposals submitted for your region will be presented to you at your next meeting for your input. This concludes the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program update. Are there any questions?

(No response)

Through the Chair. I did want to -- I could answer one part of member Ewan's question on the record, and that is that I believe AITRC had requested those additions at the Council meetings. And so that's why Gakona was added to 13A, Gulkana to 13C and Mentasta Lake and Chistochina to Unit 12 remainder and I also -- So, this -- when I say add, I mean these communities weren't included in OSM's original analysis. But they already had C&T, they just weren't included in the narrower section 804 determination, which pairs down which federally qualified users can harvest under situations when there's a shortage. Yeah. So, there was testimony from AITRC that led to those additions. Thanks.

1 All right, so update number three,
2 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program Update. The
3 Partner's Program is a competitive grant for Alaska
4 Native and rural nonprofit organizations to strengthen
5 Alaska Native and rural involvement in federal
6 subsistence management by providing salary funds to
7 organizations so that they can hire a professional
8 biologist or social scientist or educator. Program funds
9 may also be used for science and culture camps and paid
10 student internships. Again, OSM is expecting to publish
11 a NOFO or a notice of funding opportunity for the 2026
12 Partners Program in the very near future. Application
13 information and supporting material will be available
14 on our website at dio.gov/subsistence/partners, and you
15 can also contact Jarred Stone or Liz Williams for more
16 information about the program. Their contact info is on
17 the partners web page or if anyone here is interested,
18 you can come see me during the meeting. So, thank you,
19 Mr. Chair and members of the Council, for your attention.
20 And this concludes my updates.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you
23 much. Michael has a question for you before you leave.
24

25 MR. OPHEIM: Michael Opheim, for the
26 record. I just had a -- I guess it's a funding question.
27 Has that funding stayed pretty steady over the years?
28 Is it still going to be at a static level going forward?
29

30 DR. VOORHEES: This is in reference to
31 the FRMP particularly? I don't know the answer to that
32 question. I'm not sure if anyone online does. I'm going
33 to put out a call, and we don't know what will happen
34 in the future. Yeah, there's a lot of unknowns right
35 now. Yeah.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

38
39 MR. OHPEIM: Thank you.
40

41 MS. EWAN: My question is, you said
42 there's a grant for the tribes to apply for this or
43 whoever. What is the amount? I got to know what I'm
44 dealing with here.

45
46 DR. VOORHEES: I would refer you to -- I
47 can connect you with Jarred Stone or Liz Williams. I do
48 not know the answer to that.

49
50 MS. EWAN: Okay. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you, Hannah.

DR. VOORHEES: That's all, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good reports. Thank you. Okay, we got that done. Now we're going to go on the other side of the Ketchikan anthropology. We got program overview by Katya. Katya, welcome.

MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the Council. First of all, I represent here the OSM leadership team and on behalf of OSM, I would like to thank you all for your outstanding and work on behalf of your communities and your user groups. We won't be able to do our work without all the expertise, knowledge and your current observations that you bring to these meetings. So, thank you so very much for your time and your contributions. Sincere thank you.

So, I just would like to update you on the latest happenings at the Office of Subsistence Management. Some of you already might know, but some of you might not, especially the new Council members that OSM used to be a part of Fish and Wildlife Service. But as of last year, we've been moved into the Office of the Secretary under the Assistant Secretary for policy, Management and Budget. And this move became effective on July 15th 2024, we were moved by the Congress. And this move was one of many efforts that the Department of the Interior made to strengthen the federal subsistence management program and to ensure that federally qualified subsistence users and Alaskan Native peoples have an opportunity for meaningful engagement in our public process, implementing the federal subsistence priority and have an easier access to the decision makers. So, you know that in January there was a change of administration. President Trump returned to the White House and with him a new team of political appointees. Doug Burgum was sworn as the Secretary of the Interior here recently. Meanwhile, the -- there is business as usual at OSM. We continue working and doing the same things that we've been doing, and we continue working with many of the same people in Washington, D.C., in the Office of the Secretary. And that's the same people who helped us with the move, and we continue working with the new political appointees.

1 So, the other change in the federal
2 subsistence management program that in February, the
3 Federal Subsistence Board welcomed three new public
4 members, and they are Raymond Oney of Alakanuk, Benjamin
5 Payenna of Nome and Frank Woods of Dillingham. And in
6 February, also the Federal Subsistence Board completed
7 another successful meeting which was fisheries
8 regulatory meeting. We hope to have the final rule
9 published for the fisheries very soon, and the proposed
10 rule for the 2026 wildlife regulatory cycle have been
11 published on February 7th. And you know that since you
12 were working on the proposals today. So, the proposals
13 are accepted 'til [sic] April 4th. So, please let people
14 in your communities know in case somebody else wants to
15 put any proposals. Because as it's been said, anyone can
16 put a proposal in individual, organization, tribe, you
17 know, another federal agency, State of Alaska, anyone
18 really can put a federal proposal in.

19
20 So, now about OSM staffing updates.
21 We've been kind of understaffed, like a really
22 understaffed at OSM. We have about ten vacant positions
23 currently and the changes that happen over the last few
24 months since you met last time in the fall is, in
25 December we welcomed a new director of the of OSM,
26 Ciisquq Crystal Leonetti. She's been acting as a
27 director for a few months before that, and then she was
28 appointed to be the new director. And prior to that, she
29 was the Native affairs specialist with the U.S. Fish and
30 Wildlife Service. She was born and raised in Alaska and,
31 you know, pretty much worked in Alaska all of her career.
32 And among our regular OSM director responsibilities,
33 Ciisquq continues to lead OSM through administrative
34 move and has done tremendously wonderful job doing it.
35 So, since the fall Council meetings, several OSM staff
36 acted as the deputy director. And starting in February
37 of this year, Chris McKee came over to OSM on a detail
38 from BLM and he is the current acting OSM Deputy
39 Director. So, Chris, in his regular job, he is the
40 subsistence Program coordinator at BLM and he's also a
41 member of the Interagency Staff Committee. So, Chris
42 also worked previously for OSM, first as the wildlife
43 biologist and then as the wildlife division supervisor.
44 And with -- we welcome Chris, since that allowed other
45 OSM staff that have been acting as deputies and there
46 were many of us doing that, return back to our regular
47 duties and responsibilities. Because that's what's been
48 happening in OSM, because of vacancies, many people
49 carrying duties of several positions at the same time.
50

1 So, the other changes within OSM or one
2 of our fisheries biologists, Karen Hyer retired recently
3 and our state subsistence liaison George Pappas whom you
4 might know, he moved to another job with the state of
5 Alaska. He is the lead now at the subsistence division
6 at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. So, you still
7 probably will interact with him in that new capacity
8 that he has. So, that's what's happening in regards to
9 staff at OSM. Now, the topic that was brought up to you
10 many times before Real ID, so I'm not going to belabor
11 it, but May 7th, 2025. If you don't have a Real ID by
12 that date, they will not let you on the airplane, even
13 if it's a small commuter bush airline. So, you need to
14 have either the Department of Motor Vehicles issued Real
15 ID or a passport and other details. You can find this
16 information on the State of Alaska Department of Motor
17 Vehicles. So, I'm not going to say any more about that.
18 Sorry. We just want you to come to the next meeting, you
19 know, so it's not like you show up at the airport and
20 they're like, you can't get on the airplane.

21
22 So, correspondence, as you remember in
23 March of 2024, some of you attended the All Council
24 meeting in Anchorage. As a result of that meeting, there
25 were several joint Council letters. Then there were also
26 separate Councils sent various letters on various
27 topics, and at the end of last year, we received several
28 pieces of correspondence from the Department of the
29 Interior in reply to the Council's correspondence. And
30 I think Nissa is going to talk more a little bit about
31 correspondence. So, I am not going to again, belabor
32 this point too much, but we are very keenly aware at
33 Office of Subsistence Management that the Councils are
34 concerned very much about not getting responses to their
35 correspondence. So, we are putting our best foot forward
36 and working with the Office of the Secretary as much as
37 possible to receive replies to your correspondence. And
38 of course, we're working with the Board and with an
39 interagency staff committee on ensuring that there's
40 going to be, you know, replies to the issues brought up
41 by the Councils.

42
43 Now, also, I want to mention the
44 upcoming meeting dates. The next time the Board is going
45 to officially meet, it's going to be during their summer
46 work session, which is scheduled for July 23rd and 24th.
47 And during the work session, the Board will discuss
48 replies to your annual reports. So, today you approved
49 your annual report, so the Board will hear, you know,
50 an overview of your annual reports during that session

1 and discuss the draft replies that will be provided for
2 them. And also, the Board will discuss correspondence,
3 and we'll talk about the Council and non-voting young
4 leader nominations and their recommendations to the
5 Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture on the
6 appointments. The other dates to remember that -- tribal
7 and ANCSA consultations that are usually taking place
8 before the Council meetings in the fall, and sometimes
9 also after the Council meetings in the fall. They will
10 take place on August 23rd and 24th. The exact times for
11 these consultations is still being determined. So -- and
12 the next year, the Federal Subsistence Board is going
13 to meet first. The next year, 2026, they will first meet
14 for a FRMP work session, which will happen either during
15 the last week of January or the first week of February.
16 They are still determining the exact dates. And then in
17 April, mid-April, there is going to be the Board's
18 regulatory work session on wildlife proposals. So, the
19 exact dates are still being determined, and they will
20 be posted on our website, and we'll let you know next
21 meeting the exact dates.

22
23 And the last topic that I want to touch
24 upon is litigation updates. And I will read that. A
25 litigation update was provided to the Councils during
26 the fall 2024 Council meeting cycle. Since then, in the
27 Kake Emergency Hunt Matter, Alaska Department of Fish
28 and Game versus Federal Subsistence Board briefing has
29 been completed before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
30 and a three-judge appellate panel heard oral argument
31 on February 7th. We expect a decision sometime this
32 summer. In the Kuskokwim matter U.S. versus ADF&G, the
33 District Court found in favor of the U.S. on all claims
34 and enjoined the state from taking any further actions
35 in violation of Title VIII on the Kuskokwim River. The
36 state has appealed and briefing before the Court of
37 Appeals is now complete. Oral argument is scheduled for
38 April 11th. So, that concludes my OSM general update.
39 And is there any questions from anyone?

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
42 Thank you, Katya, a great report. A lot of stuff there.
43 We got a couple questions for you. Faye, you start.

44
45 MS. EWAN: With this Real ID, our Tribal
46 ID won't work?

47
48 MS. WESSELS: It might work, I have not
49 looked actually at the DMV website, so I don't know.
50 Nissa, do you know?

1
2 MS. PILCHER: I'm actually trying to find
3 that right now. I can find it on some websites, but no
4 federal website. So, I'm trying to find it officially.

5
6 MS. EWAN: Because that's all I use when
7 I travel, is my Tribal ID, not my BIA card or my state
8 ID. I use my tribal card from my tribe.

9
10 MS. WESSELS: I think from what I saw
11 previously, I think the Tribal ID would work, but I
12 would hate to say something wrong. And so, you will have
13 to go to the DMV website, and I'll look after I'm done
14 here so, and I can let you know.

15
16 MS. EWAN: That's a lot of money to buy
17 those Real ID cards. Not everybody can afford it, you
18 know. Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Okay,
21 Judy, go ahead.

22
23 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
24 is Judy. Katya, excellent report. I just want to say, I
25 can't imagine the stress that all the federal employees
26 are going through with all the uncertainty and not
27 knowing what's going to pop into your inbox next. So,
28 we appreciate the diligence you all showed by pulling
29 together all these materials and making the
30 presentations and goes for all the staff online as well.
31 Thank you.

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Judy. We really
34 enjoy working with all of you, so.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: One more? Okay,
37 one more.

38
39 MS. EWAN: And what about this youth
40 leader seat update. Is that from the like, Southcentral
41 RAC. You'll have a youth delegate there, or is it on a
42 Federal Subsistence seat?

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's still on
45 the agenda, Faye but we're going to get to it to hand
46 out in tabs.

47
48 MS. EWAN: Well, she mentioned it. That's
49 why I'm saying.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I know, and she
2 said that Nissa would say it.

3
4 MS. EWAN: Okay.

5
6 MS. WESSELS: I -- Mr. Chair, I can do
7 it right now.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Go ahead.

10
11 MS. WESSELS: So, I know it's out of
12 order, but.....

13
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's fine.
15 We'll go. That's okay, that's okay. Go ahead. Gotcha.
16 If you want to do it.

17
18 MS. WESSELS: So, as -- you know, again,
19 for the benefit of the new members, the Council's been
20 asking for many years to involve younger generation in
21 the Council work because it takes, you know, more than
22 you know, a minute or two or one or two meetings to
23 learn about the complexities of the federal subsistence
24 management program and dual management. And a lot of the
25 Councils have Council members that are, you know, quite
26 elderly, and they want to be able to pass the knowledge
27 to the younger generations. So, the request was put
28 forward by, I think, nine out of ten Councils in 2023
29 to add a non-voting youth -- young leader seat to the
30 Councils. And last year, when the charters were renewed
31 at the beginning -- well, it was -- they actually were
32 renewed at the end of 2024, right? It's 25. Yes. No.
33 They were renewed at the end of 2023. So, when they were
34 renewed, the Secretary of the Interior added the new
35 language that -- to the charters. You have it in your
36 charters now. You can look at the -- in your packets.
37 You have your charters. So, there is a language on the
38 non-voting young leader seat, one for each Council. And
39 this January, we announced the call for the letters of
40 interest from the younger leaders. And that's ages 18
41 through 25. So, the call closed the same time as the
42 call for the Councils applications and nominations,
43 which was February 16th. And for the Southcentral
44 region, we actually received three letters of interest.
45 I -- we are working on the process with the department
46 on how these appointments are going to go forward, but
47 they're probably going to be something really similar
48 to the same process that all of you undergone when you
49 were appointed as a Council members, although probably
50 less rigorous than what you had to go through, so you

1 will know the results of it probably during the winter
2 of 2026, because the appointments are usually not made
3 earlier than December, and a lot of the times they come
4 in later than December. So, we will have another update
5 for you during the winter of 2026, and hopefully you
6 will have a non-voting young leader sitting here, and I
7 hope you'll take good care of that, whoever that is, and
8 teach them everything you know and help them to figure
9 out all the labyrinths of regulations. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

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Okay. Thank you, Katya. Okay. We're going to -- now.
Nissa thinks she's up next, but she's not. Anyway.
Program overview. I want to slip one in here, and I
don't want to forget it. So, Kirk had asked about putting
in a proposal, and it was in the Unit 13, and he couldn't
quite find his proposal, and he was going to make it an
individual. But it would be good if the RAC would support
that proposal to put it in. And if we want to just make
a quick motion to let him work with OSM and Hannah to
get the proposal, then we could move forward on that.

MS. PILCHER: If that's the will of the
Council, yes.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's the will
of the Council. Sure. Okay. Thank you. Okay. Is there a
second to that motion?

MR. OPHEIM: I'll second that.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
Michael. Any discussion? I'm leaving the details out,
but we got the general gist, and we'll put it in from
the Council support. Okay. Question.

MR. HOLSTEN: Excuse me. Can you reword
the motion?

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We don't have it
yet. No. Yeah, I could re-word it for you. Kind of,
because basically, Kirk has a motion to work with OSM
on a proposal in Unit 13. The big discussion we had on
the two units and stuff, and so I don't know the details,
but that's the motion in the second. Okay. So, okay. You
don't. That's okay. We're good. Okay. I got a motion a
second. Questions been called. All in favor, aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
2 you. I got that -- I didn't want that on the record. So,
3 anyway, I said it left him open to work with the OSM.
4 And Nissa to get that -- we talked about a lot today.
5 So, so whatever you refine that'd be great with us.

6
7 MR. WILSON: Okay I found -- my name is
8 Kirk Wilson. I found my old proposal and Hannah has it
9 now and she could bring it forward to us. And what I'd
10 really like to see happen in these federal areas and
11 only got 13B when I did this motion, I asked for all
12 federal land in Unit 13. And basically, 13D has an area
13 and these are small areas and the area in 13B. And then
14 there's a little area up by Paxson and down the Gulkana
15 River that is very close to a lot of the village people
16 and subsistence users. And I just -- I put that in as a
17 -- what do you call it? It's not a permanent, it was
18 just for a couple of years. I'd like to see it. Those
19 two areas or those federal areas in Unit 13 open to the
20 residents, federal users until this caribou thing and
21 our Moose population comes back. Because right now, the
22 people in our villages they're not getting the food they
23 need.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, we
26 understand that. And we went through it, and we agree
27 with you, and we passed you the motion. So, you work
28 with Hannah, and we're going to take it when you guys
29 get it finished, and it'll come back to us for approval
30 and that'll be it.

31
32 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. It'll come back to
33 you specifically for approval. And then the Council will
34 discuss it in the fall again, as your proposal.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: As our
37 proposal, okay?

38
39 MR. WILSON: Thank you very much.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good.
42 Okay, Hannah, it's on your shoulders. Thank you.
43 Someone's laughing. Okay, now I got my mic on. Okay,
44 where am I? Nissa, I swear I'm not going to get in your
45 business again. But you want to go (indiscernible)
46 Council.

47
48 MS. PILCHER: Okay. It's my turn now.
49 Okay. So, the very first one is Council correspondence
50 update. So, in your blue folder, the very back, a couple

1 pages are a couple pieces of correspondence. All of the
2 Council members, other than the new members, would have
3 received this in January via email. Here it is in
4 hardcopy, and it's also available to the newer members
5 that that weren't on in January to receive that. So,
6 normally what happens during this correspondence update
7 is a I give you in hard copy any letters that the Council
8 requested to be drafted at the previous meeting. You
9 didn't do that. So, these are -- what these are -- there
10 three responses that were received from the Office of
11 the Secretary in January in response to letters your
12 Council co-authored with other Councils, stemming from
13 a conversations that happened at the All RAC meeting in
14 2024 on Council compensation, Council correspondence and
15 a letter on fisheries concerns, which I do not believe
16 that this Council was a co-author on, but you were listed
17 as a CC on, so you got a copy of it anyway. And then
18 that is what this agenda topic was for. They all -- all
19 of your guys' correspondence for the past couple of years
20 are now located online. Not on the meeting materials
21 website. There are a couple tiles down. There's a
22 correspondence tile. So, we're starting to put those
23 online now too. If you did want to go back and review
24 the letters that you guys sent to the secretary in the
25 first place, and that concludes that update. Thank you,
26 Chair.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Read your
29 material. It's all in the book in the back. Tab 8. This
30 one. You got it on the very bottom. Very bottom. Yeah.
31 Back in tab eight. That's what she's talking about. Those
32 letters. Okay. Okay. Everyone got that? If that's good,
33 we're going to move on. We took care of the young leaders
34 so, -- well, this one sounds a little sketchy. You ready
35 for it?

36
37 MS. PILCHER: I sure am, because you guys
38 already talked about it already with Katya. So, it is
39 no longer.....

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah.

42
43 MS. PILCHER: No longer an agenda item
44 that you guys need to talk about.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. How about
47 the declining balance?

48
49 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, that's the one. I
50 already talked to you guys individually about that.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's where
3 you say you don't want your money and you're going to
4 put it somewhere else. Anyway. Okay. Council members,
5 closing comments. Generally, what we do and for Faye and
6 for Kirk and for hopefully we still got Ed on the line
7 there, but -- Edward Edwards on? Okay. What we generally
8 do is we go around the Council in a fairly orderly manner
9 and make any short comments that we want to make about
10 the meeting. It's getting pretty late, so I'm not going
11 to say don't say what you want, but let's try and keep
12 it brief for each member to get around the table and
13 we'll do that for closing comments. And of course, she's
14 going to try and interject something, but.....

15
16 MS. PILCHER: It was brought to my
17 attention that we actually didn't do a motion. Did we
18 do a motion on the proposal?

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we did.

21
22 MS. PILCHER: Okay we did. I see Faye,
23 by Michael. Yes. Unanimous. I wrote it down. I just
24 don't remember it. My apologies. Carry on.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It's getting
27 late. Okay. Okay, Judy, we'll start with you and go that
28 way. And then jump across the street here.

29
30 MS. CAMINER: Thanks to everybody for
31 making this meeting quite a success. We packed in a lot
32 of information for one day, but you can see once we get
33 rolling, we get rolling and we get things done. So,
34 thank you all for being here and for Cordova for hosting
35 us. And again, to all the staff who helped make this
36 happen, who are here online and probably back at the
37 office who helped us get here. Thanks a lot.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
40 Judy. Go ahead Michael.

41
42 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, just a little bit of
43 what Judy said. Thanks to the OSM staff for getting us
44 here and all this information. It's amazing how you guys
45 get all this stuff together. And thank you Greg, for
46 taking the seat again and getting us through these
47 things. It's always pretty impressive to get through
48 three pages of information. And yeah, it's a great area.
49 Glad we got to come back here. Thanks.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
2 Michael. Ed.

3
4 MR. HOLSTEN: Yes, parroting I want to
5 thank OSM staff and Chugach folks, Eyak folks for helping
6 us through this meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chair, for moving
7 us quite a ways quickly. And thank you for not backing
8 out the Chairmanship (indiscernible).

9
10 (Simultaneous speech)

11
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

13
14 MR. HOLSTEN: It was a good meeting, and
15 I really appreciate our two new members, Faye and Kirk.
16 And I really appreciate listening to their knowledge and
17 interest and awareness of the issues we're facing. I
18 think we've got two really good additions, three. That's
19 right on the phone. Three additions. So, thank you so
20 much.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good. Go
23 ahead, Dennis.

24
25 MR. ZADRA: Well, first I'd just like to
26 thank everybody for showing up to Cordova. I wish we
27 were a little more accommodating. It's just kind of tough
28 in the businesses. But anyway; and I just want to go
29 back to the proposal that we voted on and unanimously.
30 But I really didn't vote and I do think if we're going
31 to do an analysis of the brown bear hunting in unit six,
32 that Cordova definitely needs to be included in that,
33 and not just Chenega, Tatitlek, you know, that goes clear
34 down to Icy Bay, and there's plenty of C&T or customary
35 use for residents of Cordova and that. So, I just wanted
36 that on the record. And again, thanks everyone, and thank
37 you for bringing the sunshine.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, you got it
40 on the record. So, thank you. Edward GreyBear you on the
41 you on the line. You want to make a comment?

42
43 MR. GREYBEAR: Yes. I just want to say
44 thank you, everyone, for this being the first meeting
45 is really exciting. And I'm glad to be part of this
46 Council. And thank you guys for being so welcoming. And
47 thank you, staff.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you
50 Edward. And we look forward to meeting you and getting

1 with you. And sorry you got hung up there, but it sounds
2 like we're buzzing through here. And so, we'll catch you
3 next trip. Thank you. It's always great to have new
4 members. Andy.

5
6 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Yeah. I didn't leave Cordova out on purpose or anything.
8 I can speak for the people in my part of the Sound about
9 that. Dennis, I appreciate those comments and be glad
10 to like we can introduce that as a modification or a
11 change or improvement to that. I was just speaking from
12 what I know about the history of it. And I also wanted
13 to reiterate Kirk's report, it's bigger than Walmart
14 parking lots, Faye's comment more than 100 cars. I've
15 counted nearly 200 cars in some of the parking lots over
16 by Eureka. And these are like unbelievable trailers RVs,
17 \$200,000 RVs. Like the place is so full of I don't even
18 know how an animal even lives out there on those trails.
19 And I watched the trails get muddier and muddier. So, I
20 just wanted to say I've witnessed the very same thing.
21 I've also witnessed wolf hunting effort. Because of the
22 caribou are down, I see more wolves and more wolf
23 encounters. The predators you know one quick comment on
24 the trawling fleet. I've had boats come into the docks
25 in Chenega and offer us their bycatch. And you can say,
26 I would like a wolf eel, I would like an octopus. I
27 would like shrimp, I would like, and they flash frozen
28 it and they sell it to you right there, kind of at a low
29 cost, I think. So, they don't have to go back to a dock
30 and have a bunch of other bycatch a little beyond what
31 they're allowed to have. I wanted to mention 36 boats
32 are out there in in Alaska. I know the names of the
33 boats. I have the list, if you'd like. They rake the
34 ocean floor at about six square miles per day, which
35 makes in one year 27 million acres of the sea floor. And
36 when I ask them, how does that work? Oh, those chains
37 tickle the bottom. No, they're basically raking the
38 bottom. Kick stuff up and that bag catches it. I Just
39 wanted to mention that, but I wanted to thank the OSM
40 for everything they do to keep all this stuff organized.
41 It's amazing to see how that comes together. I wanted
42 to thank Greg and Judy for keeping us on track and
43 everything else and the new members. Thank you.

44
45 MS. SELANOFF: The productivity of the
46 meeting today was really appreciated. I feel like, you
47 know, if I'm going to leave home and leave everybody
48 behind when I come to these meetings, I appreciate that
49 we get stuff done. So, thank you for that. And welcome
50 to the new members. It's good to have you here, but I

1 also like to congratulate Greg, Judy, and you for
2 stepping up and taking over. So, thank you.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
5 Diane. Okay.

6

7 MR. WILSON: Okay. I'd like to thank the
8 Ahtna people for having the confidence of put me here.
9 I'm going to do the best I can do to serve my community
10 and subsistence users and the Ahtna community. And I
11 really thank you guys today for welcoming us and working
12 so fast. This is -- this has been one of the most
13 productive meetings I've been in in my lifetime, really.
14 We've covered a lot of ground here today. And I just
15 thank you all for your hard work and dedication to this.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
18 you.

19

20 MS. EWAN: (In Native). I said thank you
21 in my language. And thank you very much for allowing us
22 on this land here. Thank you to the Eyak people for
23 allowing us to speak here. And I -- this is my first
24 time ever being on a -- on the RAC, and I learned a lot
25 today, and I worked with OSM, with Crystal Leonetti
26 before, and I was -- one thing I really liked to see is
27 that we protect the fish and wildlife for the next seven
28 generations. That's what I'm looking out for. And by
29 choice, I was talking to getting nominated to a seat by
30 young people. They're the ones who nominated me and put
31 me on this Board. They were 30 years and under, said,
32 we need your voice, grandma. Let's write this out and
33 it was 11:55 the night of the deadline. They submitted
34 my application, and I told them good luck. And then they
35 gave me the notification. I was like, I told those young
36 kids, they said, well, I'm going to go do your job, but
37 you better -- you're going to be the next one in line.
38 We're going to teach you how to be a delegate and
39 represent your tribe. And, you know, that takes a lot
40 of training to understand the Robert Rules of orders.
41 But I sat on many Councils all my life. Since I was 18
42 years old, I've been on the tribal government and I
43 worked in different, you know, fields. And I really
44 enjoyed your company and all the things that I learned
45 today. The OSM, you know, the staff and the people that
46 all came here from different areas presenting your
47 issues and your -- what's going on and how to, you know,
48 work on. Now I understand how to go home and work with
49 Kirk and I work with AITRC already, but all these other
50 agencies, federal agencies that Copper River, I work

1 with them, and I do a lot of work with anthropologists.
2 And this is going to be something that I'm going to have
3 to make a testimony when I get home and to present this
4 to your -- what I seen, you know, my report, and I'm
5 very thankful for you guys, you know, accepting me and
6 listening to what I have to say. This is concerns that
7 my people gave me to ask questions, and I did what they
8 asked me to do. And I'm very happy to see those young
9 people who had seen something in me to be step in line
10 and to start, you know, to get them to -- they're going
11 to be here in the next couple of years. I got -- like,
12 Edward, he's a young man. He's just -- and I nominated
13 him to the Village Council. I stepped off the Council
14 so those young kids can take over. But don't ever tell
15 anybody you're retired. They think you got all the time
16 in the world. Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. That
19 brings it to me. Thank you, Faye. Do you have another
20 comments? Okay, good. Anyway, I want to comment on a few
21 things. And Faye, I got I got to talk to you a little
22 bit, you know, these youth ones and I don't expect a
23 response, but the youth ones and I'm not the youth. I'm
24 the elder like you, and they constantly nominate me to
25 come back too, and I tell them this is BS, it's time you
26 step up and do it. And so, I'm looking very forward to
27 these youth leaders coming on the Councils. I think
28 that's the way we could progress. It's very hard to
29 engage the young people. They're busy. They sometimes
30 have different thoughts, but we engage them by teaching
31 them and teaching them the traditions, the lifestyle and
32 the storytelling and all that and we have to do that.
33 If we don't tell our story, no one else is going to tell
34 it for us. So, I appreciate that.

35
36 The one thing that I reiterate quite
37 often, and I'm not one to take a lot of time, but is,
38 you know, if there's a group out there or there's a
39 desire for C&T, there's a desire for a proposal. We want
40 the proponents of that proposal to come here and testify
41 before this RAC. We want them to come out and explain
42 it. We want the people -- sometimes we get people putting
43 in for a village C&T, and they -- not one of them been
44 here, you know. So, it's real important to have the
45 people that are asking for something to show up. The
46 other thing I appreciate, you know, the confidence that
47 put me in Chair and I try not to move things too fast
48 because I want to make sure everyone has a chance to
49 fully speak. And I think we've done that. We've -- you
50 think I move fast now? Wait till the next meeting. Okay.

1 But anyway. So, I'm just kind of kidding you. But OSM I
2 want to thank you guys too. And all the staff and Katya,
3 you know, when you live in tumultuous times, which we
4 do, things are uncertain. Life is uncertain. There's a
5 lot of upheavals in the world. The one thing we do know
6 is we got the beautiful sunshine to get the fish and get
7 the beautiful place in the world, and we need to save
8 it for future generations. So, we'll give what we can
9 to do that.

10
11 I talked about the next generations. I
12 want to thank the Council members here. They're all well
13 versed and well, they're growing and moving in a lot of
14 ways. And we do cover a lot of ground. Sometimes it's
15 hard. We were very disappointed a little bit on the
16 Federal Subsistence adding the people, not because of
17 we wanted it. We backed it from the tribal level and we
18 pushed it very hard. But the only problem was we never
19 got a chance to put in our nomination from the tribes.
20 And so, I don't know how that went, but it got cut short
21 and I was told it was because they wanted to get it in
22 before the elections. But anyway, so be it. Hopefully
23 they're all good choices and you met some of them and
24 they're probably great. So, thank you all. I hope you
25 get home. I beat the hell out of myself on the cement
26 out here, but I'm still kicking. So, anyway, thank you
27 all and have a great night. I look for a motion to
28 adjourn. I got a motion here to have a second.

29
30 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We stand
33 adjourned. Thank you.

34
35 (Off record)

36
37 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Rafael Morel, for Lighthouse Integrated Services Corp, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 171 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 12th day of March;

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

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

DATED at Isabela, Puerto Rico this 21st day of April 2025.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager