

KODIAK / ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center

402 Center St, Kodiak, Alaska 99615

March 6-7, 2025

Invocation:

Council Member Patrick Holmes provided an invocation.

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Quorum Establishment:

The meeting was called to order Thursday, March 6 at 9:00am by Chair Rebecca Skinner. Chair Skinner and Council Members Jeffrey Wasley, Patrick Holmes, Samuel Rohrer, Karen Kalmakoff, Christopher Price, Coral Chernoff, Daniel Smith, Natash Hayden, and Brett Richardson were present.

Attendees:

*Asterisk * identified if present via teleconference.*

- **Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)** –
Glenn Chen – Subsistence Branch Chief*
Rosalie Debenham*
- **Office of Subsistence Management (OSM)** –
Ciisquq Crystal Leonetti – Director*
Chris McKee – Acting Deputy Director*
Robbin La Vine – Policy Coordinator
Orville Lind – Native Liaison*
Lisa Hutchinson Scarborough – Council Coordinator
Kendra Holman – Wildlife Biologist
Jason Roberts – Anthropologist
Jarred Stone – Fisheries Biologist*
Kristen Morrow – Anthropology Pathways Intern*
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)** –
Kevin Van Hatten – Fisheries Biologist and Pilot, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
Danielle Fujii-Doe – Deputy Refuge Manager, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
Jill Klein – Regional Subsistence Coordinator*
Alison Williams – Wildlife Biologist, Izembek National Wildlife Refuge*
Jeff Kalin – Deputy Refuge Manager, Izembek National Wildlife Refuge*
Joy Erlenbach – Biologist, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge*
- **Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G)**
Jackie Keating – Subsistence Resource Specialist
Kelly Krueger – Division of Sport Fish*
Amy Vandervoot – Wildlife Biologist*
Mark Witteveen – Department of Sport Fish*
Dani Evenson – Extended Jurisdiction Manager*
- **Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program**
Julie Matweyou*

Election of Officers

- Rebecca Skinner was elected Chair
- Natasha Hayden was elected Vice Chair
- Coral Chernoff was elected Secretary

Review and adopt agenda

- *Motion* by Member Chernoff, seconded by Member Rohrer, to adopt the agenda with the following clarifications:
 - Item **14(f)(i) (Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning, Research Program in Kodiak Area report)** is scheduled for 2:00 or 2:30 on March 7.
 - Items **13(e) (Alaska Board of Game Statewide Proposals; March 21-28, Consider Developing Comments on Proposals, Due March 7, 2025), 13(f) (Alaska Board of Game, Call for Proposals, Including Unit 8, Consider Developing Proposals, Due April 10, 2025), and 13(g) (Alaska Board of Fisheries, including Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Chignik Finfish Areas, and Statewide Finish, Call for Proposals, Due April 10, 2025)** will be introduced on March 6 but no actions will be taken on these items until March 7 so that Council members have sufficient time for discussion.
 - Prior to item **13(g) (Alaska Board of Fisheries, including Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Chignik Finfish Areas, and Statewide Finish, Call for Proposals, Due April 10, 2025)**, Jason Roberts will be providing an update on the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) actions during the last fisheries regulatory meeting.

The *motion passed* unanimously.

Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

- *Motion* by Member Price, seconded by Member Kalmakoff, to approve the fall 2024 meeting minutes with minor edits to correct a typographical error as suggested by Member Holmes. Member Holmes also noted that future presentations for Federal subsistence proposals related to the Buskin River should include data on both Federal and State permits, not only harvest under Federal permits. The *motion passed* unanimously.

Council Member and Chair Reports

- Member Rohrer: Reported that the last few winters have been easy, which has resulted in a rebound in the deer population. He anticipates the population will continue to improve with this year's mild winter. Coho Salmon numbers were down across the island, especially on the west side; Member Rohrer expressed hope that low Coho Salmon numbers were an anomaly and not the start of a trend. Member Rohrer also expressed disappointment that the emperor geese season shut down.
- Member Chernoff: Reported there was very little snow this year. She reported that her family only harvested two small deer when they were hunting on the west side of Kodiak Island and that they did not see many deer in the five days they hiked and hunted. Member Chernoff stated deer were likely at higher elevations because there was little snow cover. Member Chernoff recognized Island Air for the commitment to subsistence foods, who will fly subsistence foods free of charge. Member Chernoff shared that her family had clams flown in from Larsen Bay recently.

- Member Smith: Reported that control efforts over the past few years by the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak have begun to reduce the crayfish population in targeted areas, and that these efforts will continue with USFWS support for another year. Member Smith shared that they will be hosting a community derby and crayfish boil event in June. He reported that the Coho return was very low along the road system, especially in the American River and Pillar Creek, which resulted in a sport fishing closure on the American River. Member Smith was not able to harvest as many Cohos as normal and was not able to fill his freezer and share with his family due to the low return. Member Smith also reported that the Buskin River weir counts indicate that Coho numbers were also lower than average on the Buskin, but that he saw many spawning at the Buskin Lake outlet and further downstream in December. Member Smith echoed that he also noticed a lack of deer along the road system, which may be due to the warmer weather. There were also fewer gray whales and humpback whales in Chiniak Bay this winter so far. Member Smith shared that there are normally a decent number of whales in the area over winter, especially in Pasagshak and Kalsin Bay. He also expressed optimism at the apparent growth of the swan population across the State, and shared that there has been an increase in the number of overwintering swans along the road system, specifically in Lake Rose Tead and Carlson Pond. With regard to emperor geese, Member Smith shared that local reports indicate that emperor geese are abundant and healthy in the Akhiok and Old Harbor areas, and that more emperor geese are inhabiting the Kodiak road system. Compared to estimates from 2010-2015, survey efforts led by the Sun'aq Tribe find that there is an almost twofold increase in the number of emperor geese along the road system, particularly in the Womens Bay area. The number of emperor geese are also increasing in the Middle Bay and Kalsin Bay areas, which is a new trend compared to traditional ecological knowledge shared by birders who historically never saw this species in those areas. Member Smith also shared there have been healthy and larger groups of dabbling ducks along the road system this winter, such as mallards, pintails, and gadwalls. Member Smith reported that on March 5th he saw the first group of spring migrants, the northern shovelers, which appear to be returning a little earlier than normal, perhaps due to weather.
- Member Kalmakoff: Reported that it was a poor fishing season last summer and that she hoped it would be better this coming summer. Member Kalmakoff's tribe helped all tribal members get a case of salmon through the Trident cannery, which allowed her to smoke some fish. Member Kalmakoff shared she was only able to get 15 humpback salmon (Pink Salmon), which is lower than normal. She was able to harvest seal for meat and for seal oil, and was able to go ptarmigan hunting. She reported there was a good number of ptarmigan this year and the year before. Member Kalmakoff noted she was hearing a lot of mallards in her area. Also, she shared that she was able to harvest subsistence halibut. Member Kalmakoff expressed hope that she would be able to put up more fish for drying and smoking this upcoming year.
- Member Price: Reported that the crab and the halibut seasons have been declining, and that residents of his area have been concerned about reduced quotas. People in Member Price's area are also concerned about the future of their fisheries and about how the warming waters in the Bering Sea are impacting commercial and subsistence fisheries in the region. Member Price also shared that many residents of his community remained concerned about the long-standing issue of salmon and halibut bycatch. He also shared that the Unalaska/Dutch Harbor Advisory

Committee is beginning to meet again and that some people from the Committee will be providing testimony at the upcoming Alaska Board of Fisheries meeting in Anchorage.

- Member Wasley: Reported that Sockeye Salmon numbers were down in Mortensen Lake but appeared healthy in Swan Lake last summer. In the fall, there were a good number of salmonberries. Member Wasley also shared that brant had a good hatch, and he saw several young birds. The fall was very mild, and there were lots of ptarmigan. Member Wasley noted that it seems like ptarmigan are nearing a peak population, which is good to see. He shared that a lot of ducks, including puddle ducks, divers, sea ducks, brant, and emperor geese, stayed in the Cold Bay area longer than normal because of the warm weather. Silver (Coho) salmon numbers fluctuated, with some streams having low returns. Mortenson Lake again appeared to have a weak silver salmon run, which Member Wasley expressed was troubling and has not occurred in a long time. Other creeks were somewhat lower but still had good pulses of Silver Salmon. Member Wasley expressed sadness that the emperor goose season was closed, noting that sport harvest of those birds is very low, and sport hunters will be unable to hunt that species for quite a while due to the current management approach.
- Member Hayden: Reported that she has gone on a couple seal and sea otter hunts this winter and the populations appear very robust. The animals are very healthy and numerous, and are hard to harvest because they are crafty. The winter has been mild but there have been repeated wind storms. The past six weeks have been calmer, which has made it possible to pursue seals and sea otters in a small skiff. Member Hayden shared that as a member of the Native Village of Afognak Tribal Council she has been serving on the Kodiak Island Tribal coalition to work with USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding marine mammal harvest eligibility. Member Hayden shared that their group has been working to address the issues related to blood quantum in determining eligibility, and that USFWS's recent legal opinion is encouraging for the future of regional co-management of marine mammals. Member Hayden expressed optimism for the committee's ability to continue working with NMFS, which is responsible for managing harbor seal in the Kodiak area. Member Hayden also shared that the coalition has been tracking the halibut and sablefish Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQ) programmatic review conducted by North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC). There are 46 communities determined to be Community Quota Entity (CQE) eligible in the State, including 6 in Kodiak. Eligibility criteria include factors like having a population smaller than 1500 people, not having a major airport, and not being connected by road to a hub community. In many eligible communities there are no longer people who own quota, which the coalition is trying to address to return halibut fishing access to those communities. Member Hayden also reported that she has seen more snowshoe hares this year, and that last year there were not very many. Additionally, Member Hayden shared that the rat population appears to be lower, which may be helping the hare population.
- Member Richardson: Reported that since the weir at McLeese Lake was not functional it was difficult to estimate the Sockeye Salmon return, but that local information indicates the return was low. Member Richardson shared it was difficult for people to get fish and they had to go out multiple times with minimal success. Member Richardson stated he would like to get more information on getting the weir installed on a longer basis so that people in the region can stay informed on fish populations. Member Richardson also shared that in later fall the whales were all over in and around the bay in Unalaska, and that there were a lot of humpbacks, minkes, seals,

sealions, and otters. Member Richardson shared there were otters right outside his house and on a quiet day you can hear them eating sea urchins. Member Richardson shared that paralytic shellfish poisoning remains a big issue in the Unalaska region and requested information on that topic. Regarding fish harvest, Member Richardson shared that Sockeye Salmon returns were down but that silver (Coho) Salmon returns were better than in 2023. He set a net 5 or 6 times and overall harvested 20 silvers. Once, he did not get any salmon but did get rockfish and puffins. For crab, Member Richardson shared that he set a pot a few times and caught four bairdi (tanner crab). Berries were very abundant, but only in atypical and less accessible places. Member Richardson reported that there has been very little precipitation but a lot of wind this winter.

- Member Holmes: Reported there have been fewer sea otters in Womens Bay and that he has noticed the shells of two different age classes of Dungeness crabs cast off along the shore, which may indicate some crab could be harvested off the Buskin. Member Holmes expressed gratitude to the Rose family and Tim Longrich for sharing fish with him. Member Holmes also shared that he usually receives deer meat and goat meat from Paul Chervenak, a guide in the area. He also reported that most deer he spotted were up at 2,000 – 3,000 feet elevation along the road system, making it difficult to harvest deer. Member Holmes shared that berries were not very abundant last year, possible due to cold temperatures. Additionally, Member Holmes shared that if April and May are wet then the bumblebee populations likely get a fungus disease and have a reduced hatch, which results in fewer pollinators to support berry production. He noted that he did not see bees until much later than normal. Member Holmes noted that highbush blueberries, salmon berries, and devils club are all coming up with buds and new growth in the Abercrombie area, which is about two months earlier than normal. Member Holmes also acknowledged the Native corporations and villages that conduct paralytic shellfish poisoning monitoring, which can allow people to check the safety of clams they harvested. This monitoring, in addition to the changes in cleaning practices to cut off the siphon tips and clean out the guts and gonads to reduce the toxins, appears to be improving the issue. Member Holmes shared he did not think it would go back to how it was 50 years ago, when anyone could eat any shellfish they harvested anywhere, but that the situation was improving compared to recent years. Member Holmes also expressed gratitude for a community that freely shares resources with one another.
- Chair Skinner: Noted that the Kodiak proposals were all on the consensus agenda during the recent Federal Subsistence Board meeting and were adopted by the Board. Chair Skinner also noted that there was frustration about overlap in Board, North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), and Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) meetings, but that people moved between the meeting to provide testimony on relevant topics, particularly bycatch issues. Chair Skinner shared that she thought it was historic and exciting that the Board approved rural status for the community of Ketchikan. Additionally, Chair Skinner shared that she attended the International Pacific Halibut Commission meeting and that halibut abundance levels are at a low level, similar to what was seen from 1930-1980. She noted the current levels are not emergency-level but are much lower than what they were in the 1990s. Chair Skinner shared that people may perceive current halibut populations to be very low compared to the historic highs in the 1990s, but that it was likely that halibut population numbers will continue at those low levels in line with historic trends for at least a few decades. Chair Skinner also shared that the Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee met recently and submitted minutes to the Alaska Board of Game. Chair Skinner also noted the ongoing uncertainty related to federal staffing, funding, and

priorities. Additionally, Chair Skinner raised the topic of a letter shared by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, which requested that the NPFMC, Board, and BOF collaborate to holistically manage salmon populations. Chair Skinner noted this concern was also shared by this Council and shared her perspective that it was important to interface with other Councils, including those further away from the Kodiak/Aleutians region.

Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items

No public or Tribal comments on non-agenda items were provided on March 6th.

On March 7th, one member of the public who is a resident of Kodiak and a big game guide provided comment regarding potential impact on current federally qualified subsistence users if hunters from Kodiak pursue brown bear hunting under Federal subsistence regulations near remote villages.

Council Member Training

Kendra Holman, OSM Wildlife Biologist, gave a presentation to the Council about how to submit proposals to change Federal subsistence regulations.

Action Items

Council Charter Review

Lisa Hutchinson Scarborough, OSM Council Coordinator, provided an overview of the Council charter for review and renewal.

- Member Holmes made a *motion*, seconded by Member Price, to change Item 9 to state that the Council would meet at least twice per year.

The Council discussed that it is important for them to meet at least twice per year in order for them to have sufficient capacity to provide recommendations on proposed changes to Federal fishing and hunting regulations. The Council also noted they have historically met twice per year and formalizing this in the charter would more accurately reflect the Council's work.

The motion **passed** unanimously.

- Member Rohrer made a *motion*, seconded by Member Holmes, to lower the age for the Youth Non-Voting Member to be 14-18 and to make it a non-traveling, non-compensated position so that individuals younger than 18 may apply to serve on the Council.

The Council felt it was important to allow youth younger than age 18 to apply for the opportunity to join the Council as a Youth Non-Voting Member. Several Council members expressed that youth ages 14-18 often have extensive experience in subsistence and that youth ages 18-25 are already able to apply to be voting Council members. The Council discussed potential concerns related to travel for minors and potential conflicts with school schedules but noted that opportunities for remote participation or flexible expectations could allow younger community members to apply for this opportunity.

The motion **passed** unanimously.

The Council approved the charter with the above changes.

Review and Approve FY 2024 Annual Report

Chair Skinner presented the information contained in the Council's FY2024 Annual report for their review and approval. The Council identified the following revisions:

Item 2: Member Richardson requested that the typo "proving" be revised to "providing."

Item 4: (Lack of Law Enforcement Officers for Monitoring and Enforcing Subsistence, Sport, and Commercial Fishing Violations): Member Holmes requested rewording the phrasing to include reference to Alaska Peninsula communities among those experiencing subsistence and sport fishing violations.

Item 7: (Eradication of Signal Crayfish in Buskin River System in Kodiak): Member Smith requested to add a sentence describing that crayfish consume salmon carcasses, which impacts overall ecosystem functioning by sequestering nitrogen that would otherwise go to other resources.

- Member Holmes made a *motion* to approve the Annual Report with the above revisions, seconded by Member Rohrer. The *motion passed* unanimously.

Deferred Wildlife Proposal WP24-01 Statewide Sale of Brown Bear Hides

Dr. Jason Roberts, OSM Anthropologist, provided an overview of updates to wildlife proposal WP24-01 since the Board deferred action on the proposal at their 2024 regulatory meeting.

- Member Hayden made a *motion* to support the proposal, seconded by Member Chernoff. The motion **failed** 5-5.

Some Council members expressed that elders in the region would not find it culturally appropriate to sell any bear parts and expressed concern about the ability to potentially sell brown bear claws separately from the hides. Other Council members expressed that the proposed regulations would allow federally qualified subsistence users harvesting brown bears in their region to make full use of the bear and provide some economic support to those harvesters. Members speaking in support of the proposal noted that very few brown bears are harvested on Kodiak Island under Federal subsistence regulations, and there is a maximum harvest limit for all Kodiak communities of 13 bears total, so the proposed regulations are unlikely to pose conservation concerns.

Call for Federal Wildlife Proposals

Ms. Holman informed the Council about the window of opportunity to submit wildlife proposals to change Federal subsistence wildlife harvest regulations for the 2026-2028 regulatory years. The Council developed the following proposals:

Unit 8 Brown Bear: Customary & Traditional Use Determination

- Member Chernoff made a *motion*, seconded by Member Hayden, for the Council to generate a proposal requesting that the Board recognize the community of Kodiak's customary and traditional use of brown bear in Unit 8. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Unit 8 Brown Bear: Federal subsistence permits

- Member Chernoff made a *motion*, seconded by Member Hayden, for the Council to generate a proposal requesting that the Board allocate up to four permits for residents of the community of Kodiak to harvest brown bear under Federal subsistence regulations. The motion **passed** with 8 votes in support and 2 votes in opposition.

Alaska Board of Game Statewide Proposals; March 21-28, Consider Developing Comments on Proposals Due March 7, 2025

Proposal 86: Require mandatory harvest reporting of sea ducks

- Member Wasley made a *motion*, seconded by Member Richardson, to submit a letter opposing Proposal 86. The motion **failed** 5-5.

Proposal 87: Anchoring Boats When Hunting Waterfowl

- Member Chernoff made a *motion*, seconded by Member Rohrer, to submit a letter opposing Proposal 87. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Proposal 123: Remove Restrictions Related to Proxy Hunting

- Member Rohrer made a *motion*, seconded by Member Wasley, to submit a letter opposing Proposal 123. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Proposals 126, 127, and 128: Allow Electronically Enhanced Night Vision and Forward-Looking Infrared Devices for Taking Furbearers Statewide

- Member Chernoff made a *motion*, seconded by Member Holmes to submit a letter opposing Proposals 126 and 127. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Alaska Board of Game, Call for Proposals, Including Unit 8, Consider Developing Proposals, Due May 1, 2025

The Council did not generate any proposals for the Alaska Board of Game.

Alaska Board of Fisheries, including Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Chignik Finfish Areas, and Statewide Finfish, Call for Proposals, Due April 10, 2025

Dr. Roberts provided an update on the Board's actions at their most recent regulatory meeting.

- Member Richardson made a *motion*, seconded by Member Hayden, to change regulation 5 AAC 01.360 to revise the allowed times for salmon fishing in the Unalaska district from 6 a.m. – 9 p.m. to sunrise until sunset. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Future Meeting Dates

The Council confirmed their Fall 2025 meeting dates and location: September 17th-18th in Cold Bay.

The Council selected their Winter 2026 meeting dates and locations: March 4th-5th in Kodiak.

The Council selected their Fall 2026 meeting dates and locations: October 1st-2nd in Cold Bay.

Reports

- *ADF&G Extended Jurisdiction Program- Gulf of Alaska Chinook Salmon Endangered Species Act petition status update*, presented by Dani Evenson, Extended Jurisdiction Program Manager

- Member Rohrer made a *motion*, seconded by Member Chernoff, that the Council write a letter requesting that the comment period on the ESA petition be extended, but that the letter not be sent unless the Chair determines it is appropriate to send. Member Rohrer stated that the letter should note that rural communities and Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils should have a chance to provide comments on the petition, and that the possibility of listing king (Chinook) Salmon as endangered affects rural livelihoods. The motion **passed** unanimously.
- Member Rohrer made a *motion*, which was seconded by another Member, that the Council authorize the Chair and staff to write a letter summarizing Council comments regarding the ESA petition, in the event that the comment period is not extended. The Council provided comments on the record regarding the content of this letter. The motion **passed** with 9 votes in support and 1 vote in opposition.
- *Alaska Sea Grant, Marine Advisory Program- Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning presentation*, presented by Julie Matweyou
- *ADF&G Division of Subsistence- Kodiak Road Zone Subsistence Harvest Survey summary*, presented by Jackie Keating, Subsistence Resource Specialist
- *Izembek NWR- Activity Report*, provided by Jeff Kalin, Deputy Refuge Manager, and Alison Williams, Wildlife Biologist
- *Kodiak NWR- Activity Report*, provided by Danielle Fujii-Doe, Deputy Refuge Manager
- *OSM Update*- presented by Robbin La Vine, Policy Coordinator
- *North Pacific Fishery Management Council- Chum Salmon Bycatch update*, provided by Dr. Kate Haapala, Fishery Analyst
- *USFWS, National Wetlands Inventory Program- Kodiak and the Aleutian Islands update*, provided by Sydney Thielke, Regional Wetlands Coordinator

Other Business:

Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program Update

Dr. Roberts and Jarred Stone, OSM Fisheries Biologist, provided an update on the expected timeline for the upcoming Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program funding cycle.

Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program Update

Dr. Roberts and Mr. Stone provided an update on the expected timeline for the upcoming Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program funding cycle.

Council Correspondence Update

Ms. Hutchinson provided an update to the Council regarding correspondence they previously sent. The Department of the Interior (DOI) provided a response to all Councils regarding subsistence fisheries management, a response to all Councils regarding compensation for Council members, and a response to this Council regarding notification and consultation with tribes on the move of OSM within DOI. Robbin La Vine also responded to Council questions regarding the Board's correspondence policy and elevating Council correspondence.

Young Leaders Seat Update

Ms. Hutchinson provided an update on the non-voting young leader seat. Both Ms. Hutchinson and Ms. La Vine answered questions from the Council regarding the age requirements for the young leader seat.

The Board advertised the open period for the non-voting young leader membership on Councils, which closed on February 16th. No letters of interest were received from youth in the region.

Council Member Stipend Card Update

Ms. Hutchinson provided an update on the upcoming changes to how Council members receive per diem funds for Council meetings. Rather than receiving a partial advance and then later receiving the remaining per diem balance, Council members will have the option to either received a stipend card in advance or receive funds via direct deposit following meeting travel. Some Council members expressed concerns about needing to provide personal bank information and concerns about per diem cards being unexpectedly inactivated.

Closing Comments

- Member Rohrer: Appreciated hearing everyone's insights and deliberations during Council discussions, and also thanked staff for their presentations and facilitating the meeting.
- Member Chernoff: Reiterated Member Rohrer's statement and thanked everyone for the meeting.
- Member Smith: Thanked the Council for allowing him to represent Kodiak and appreciated everyone who traveled from across the region to attend the meeting.
- Member Kalmakoff: Reported that during her first meeting she learned a lot and appreciated the opportunity to bring her perspective as a subsistence user and commercial fisherwoman to the Council.
- Member Price: Thanked the new members and the staff for their support during a time of reduced staffing. Member Price also noted the difficulty in understanding ongoing declines in king (Chinook) Salmon and other species, and the importance of considering the future generations when making decisions related to these resources. Additionally, Member Price noted the lack of clarity regarding some Federal subsistence regulations related to Kodiak brown bear and to goats.
- Member Wasley: Expressed gratitude for staff and reports, and appreciation for the different perspectives shared throughout the meeting.
- Member Hayden: Stated her appreciation for staff's efforts hosting the meeting and for Council members who traveled to come to Kodiak. Member Hayden also expressed the importance of attending meetings in-person when feasible. Member Hayden appreciated the opportunity to share Traditional Ecological Knowledge and participate in discussion about how different management systems and perspectives impact resource management.
- Member Richardson: Thanked the Chair, fellow Council members, and staff for working together to bring together the meeting and provide the Council with updated information. Member Richardson expressed gratitude for being able to participate in the process and noted that the Council should stay focused on the aspects of resource management they can control.
- Member Holmes: Reported he enjoyed discussions with Council members and appreciated new Council members providing more input regarding communities in the western portion of the region. Member Holmes appreciated the reports and everyone's points of view and expressed gratitude for being part of the Council. Member Holmes also presented Member Skinner with a memento to acknowledge her contributions to and work for subsistence users in the region.
- Member Skinner: Noted that it is helpful when Council members state their justification on the record so that individual speaking on behalf of the Council can adequately capture their intent. Member Skinner also noted two potential topics for future meeting agenda items: halibut issues and migratory bird issues, including potentially inviting staff to give presentations on migratory birds. Additionally, Member Skinner encouraged staff and Council members to explore

communities during meetings to better understand the rural subsistence communities and practices. Member Skinner thanked staff and Council members and expressed gratitude that all 10 Council members were present.

Adjourn:

- Member Holmes made a *motion*, seconded by another Member, to adjourn the meeting. The motion **passed** unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 PM March 7, 2025.

Kristen Morrow on behalf of the OSM, Council Coordination Division
DOI Office of Subsistence Management

Rebecca Skinner, Chair
Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes were certified by the Chair for accuracy June 2, 2025. These minutes will be formally considered by the Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its Fall 2025, meeting in Cold Bay, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes at that meeting.

A more detailed report of this meeting, copies of the transcripts, and meeting handouts are available upon request. Call Leigh Honig at 1-800-478-1456 or 907-891-9053, email leigh_honig@ios.doi.gov.