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WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

PYKE'S WATERFRONT LODGE  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
February 24, 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Reakoff, Chair  
Donal Honea  
Timothy Gervais  
Darrell Vent  
Robert Walker  
Jenny Pelkola  
Tommy Kriska

Regional Council Coordinator, Nissa Pilcher

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 2/24/2026)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And so, we're going to be short on quorum this morning cause [sic] of the weather events. So, we got -- Tom Kriska is going to be flying up from Anchorage this morning. And Jenny is supposed to come out of Galena. And Pollock Simon is in, I'm not sure about Pollock and so, his son is here, we'll find out. But he's -- the weather was really bum over there in Allakaket yesterday. So, Nissa, we're going to -- so we're going to have an invocation. So, would you like to say the invocation, Don? Yeah. Sort of you and Jenny are our go to for that.

MR. HONEA: Do I use this? Lord God, we just thank you for this day. We thank you for bringing us together and we just pray for those that aren't here. And we pray for our villages out there, our people. Lord, despite the storm, we just pray that you would just watch over them, watch over anyone on the rivers and anyone flying this morning. And Lord, we just pray that you would help us as the next couple days, give us wisdom. Lord, we ask for -- we ask for your help in deciding future for our people, our villages, our state. We thank you and just give us insight. And Lord, we just pray that you would just continue to bring our people in and have a successful meeting, and we thank you for it. Amen.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Appreciate that. It's been called -- call this meeting to order now. Housekeeping announcements, Nissa.

MS. PILCHER: Good morning, everyone. This is Nissa Pilcher with the Office of Subsistence Management. Welcome to the Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. I am the Council Coordinator for this Council, and I am the designated federal officer as well. So, I do have a few housekeeping announcements before we get started. So first off, if everyone in the room can sign in there's a sign-in sheet. I didn't put a pen out, but I know I saw some people signing, so I think we're good to go there, so sign in. Meeting materials are also located over there by the door. For those of you that have called in or are on

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1 Teams, you can find the meeting material online if you  
2 go to the Federal Subsistence Program website  
3 www.gov./subsistence and under the Regions tab choose  
4 Western Interior and then the Meeting Materials tile.  
5 So, for everyone listening, please remember to keep your  
6 phone muted when you are not speaking. So, if you're on  
7 Teams you can use the mute option. If you have called  
8 in, you can either use the mute button on your  
9 smartphone, or you can also use star 6. That will both  
10 mute and unmute you. But once again, please do leave  
11 your lines muted if you're not speaking. And if there  
12 is a line that is unmuted and causing a distraction, we  
13 will mute it for you. And that wraps it up right now.  
14 Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Excuse me. So, Roll  
17 Call. And so, what do you want to call the roll?

18  
19 MS. PILCHER: I sure can. Don Honea

20  
21 MR. HONEA: Here.

22  
23 MS. PILCHER: Jack Reakoff.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Here.

26  
27 MS. PILCHER: Robert Walker

28  
29 (No response)

30  
31 MS. PILCHER: Tim Gervais

32  
33 MR. GERVAIS: Here.

34  
35 MS. PILCHER: Jenny Pelkola, we are  
36 expecting after lunch, same with Tommy Kriska. Darrell  
37 Vent.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I called Darrell  
40 just a minute ago. He said he was going to get on his  
41 computer. I woke him up and he said he had a cold, so.  
42 But I was hoping he was going to call in. Are you there,  
43 Darrell?

44  
45 (No response)

46  
47 So, go ahead.

48  
49 MS. PILCHER: And then, Pollock Simon,  
50 Sr. Who is also absent. I believe in part due to the

1 weather. So, we currently have 4 members of 8 seated,  
2 so we do not have quorum, I will announce when we do  
3 have other members join us and we establish quorum. Thank  
4 you.

5  
6 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you,  
7 Nissa. And so, we're at Election of Officers, but we do  
8 not have quorum, so we'll table that until after lunch  
9 or until we do get quorum. So other Meeting  
10 Announcements, Nissa. It says Meeting Announcements.

11  
12 MS. PILCHER: I do, I'm trying out a new  
13 format for my script, and I'm not sure it's working as  
14 well as I would like it to. So, Meeting Announcements.  
15 So just to let everybody know, the Council does currently  
16 have 2 vacancies, as you noted a little bit ago, I said  
17 with of 8 members, this Council should have 10. The  
18 council application period is currently open right now  
19 and it'll run through March 30th. Applications packets  
20 are on that back table. They're also online from the  
21 Federal Subsistence Management Programs website. You can  
22 also reach out to me in any manner. And I will gladly  
23 get you a copy of an application, if either you or  
24 someone you know may be interested, and I will help  
25 answer any questions and get it submitted. So just to  
26 once again, we do have 2 vacancies, and there are  
27 currently no Kuskokwim drainage representation on this  
28 Council, which this Council does cover both the mid and  
29 the headwaters of that drainage.

30  
31 So, anyone interested in supplying  
32 comments to the Council during the meeting, if you're  
33 in the room, there's blue tape -- blue cards on the back  
34 table. Just fill one of those out and hand it to anybody  
35 who works for OSM, and we will call on you when the  
36 appropriate agenda item is ready. If you are calling in.  
37 If you're on the Teams app, use the raise hand function.  
38 If you're on the telephone, you can use star 5 and that  
39 alerts us that somebody who is on the phone is interested  
40 in giving public testimony. Once again, that star 5 to  
41 raise your hand, but it is star 6 to mute and unmute  
42 your phones. So, there's 2 different opportunities to  
43 give public testimony during these meetings. There is a  
44 time for non-agenda topics in the morning on both days  
45 of the meeting, and then another opportunity under  
46 specific agenda topics. So when it is your turn to give  
47 your public testimony, if you could state your name and  
48 if you are representing any affiliation, if you could,  
49 please also note that for the record. If you're  
50 interested in submitting written comments, you can

1 either hand those to me or they can be emailed to the  
2 email address, subsistence@ios.doi.gov.

3  
4 And just a quick reminder about conduct  
5 and ethics. So, these meetings are conducted by Robert's  
6 Rules, which helps provide structure and maintain order  
7 throughout the meeting. All participants in the meeting  
8 are expected to be courteous and respectful in  
9 interactions, and it is understood that the nature of  
10 some of the issues discussed at these meetings can be  
11 difficult, and conversations can become passionate. But  
12 please remember that no insults or foul language will  
13 be tolerated in this public meeting and unruly behavior  
14 or insulting language -- if that does occur from anyone,  
15 the designated federal officer of the meeting, which is  
16 me, will need to intervene immediately. So just  
17 remember, we're all here for the same reason we're all  
18 passionate. Just let's work together. But thank you very  
19 much for allowing me the time to share this information.

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, thank you,  
22 Nissa. And so, regarding the reapplication, I'm up for  
23 reappointment, and I have submitted my application, and  
24 I did that by -- sent it through my coordinator here.  
25 Tim is up for reappointment. Are you going to reapply  
26 again, Tim?

27  
28 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, Mr. Chair.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And Robert, you're  
31 up for reappointment, are you going to -- okay.

32  
33 (Talking)

34  
35 Turn on your mic there, Robert.

36  
37 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair, I mean, I -- it  
38 just seemed like I spent almost one third of my life  
39 here and I'm not saying that we're not doing okay, but  
40 I think it's time for somebody younger to step in for  
41 me to take my place now and I'm not going to reapply.  
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, do you have  
45 somebody on -- in your GASH area in that you would --  
46 younger person that -- we really need somebody from your  
47 area in GASH. If you could come up with somebody that  
48 you're like, your younger gung-ho would attend meetings  
49 if you could get them to apply or at least send them  
50 names up to Nissa here. We need -- we really need

1 somebody to represent your part of the Yukon in our  
2 region. Thank you. Go ahead.

3

4 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair, I think we have  
5 a young man. We're kind of working on this right now,  
6 and all of a sudden, you know, like, a lot of people  
7 don't realize how important it is now for food, and it's  
8 just like taking back a lot of people. And so, I will  
9 give that in my report. Yes, we do have 1 maybe. Thank  
10 you.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, appreciate  
13 that. So, I just want to get that since you were talking  
14 about the applications. And so, I was talking to Orville  
15 just before the meeting here about this, trying to get  
16 people on these -- on this Council and how important the  
17 Council business is to the whole Federal Subsistence  
18 Board process, since the Councils have deference with  
19 the Federal Subsistence Board. So, we're going to  
20 introduce guests. We're going to go through the room  
21 here. And so, I guess we'll start with Lisa. She's kind  
22 of a guest. Go ahead, Lisa.

23

24 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi, Lisa Grediagin,  
25 Wildlife Division Supervisor for the Office of  
26 Subsistence Management, and I'll also be serving as a  
27 Leadership Team Lead for this meeting. Thanks.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, thank you,  
30 Lisa. And so, can -- do people come up to the mic?

31

32 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. We'll need everybody  
33 to come up to the mic.....

34

35 (Simultaneous speech)

36

37 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We'll go down this  
38 side of the room and come around to get everybody  
39 introduced on the record, so.

40

41 MS. MORAN: Good morning, this is Tina  
42 Moran. I'm the -- with Fish and Wildlife Service, I'm  
43 Acting Refuge Manager, Kanuti, Koyukuk, Nowitna and  
44 Innoko Refuges.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you,  
47 Tina.

48

49 MS. O'MALLEY: Morning. Anna O'Malley,  
50 BLM Central Yukon Field Office.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning, Anna.

MS. LEONETTI: Waqaa! Good morning, Mr. Chair, Don, Robert, Tim, good to see you here. My name is Crystal Leonetti. Ciisquq is my traditional name given to me by my grandparents. I'm the Director for the Office of Subsistence Management, and my goal is to go to at least 1 RAC meeting per cycle. So, as the 1st one officially in my job, I've been in my job for over a year now. I'm happy to spend the full meeting with you all. So, quyana.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thanks so much for attending our meeting. I appreciate your selecting our Council to visit, thank you. Mark.

MR. DOWDLE: Good morning. I'm Mark Dowdle with the National Park Service, and I have the honor of serving as the Superintendent of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you, good morning.

MR. BEMBENEK: Good morning, Mr. Chair and Council Members. My name is Tim Bembenek. I work for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence in the Kuskokwim Region.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning, Tim. Appreciate that.

MS. JOCHUM: Good morning, Mr. Chair. Members of the Council, this is Kim Jochum. I work for the National Park Service. My normal job is at the Regional Office in the Regional Subsistence Program, and I also get to work as Acting Integrated Resources Program Manager with Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, right now. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning, Kim.

MR. CAMERON: Good morning, Mr. Chair, Council Members. It's really nice to see you. Thanks for your time. My name is Matt Cameron. I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the National Park Service for Gates of

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1 the Arctic National Park and Preserve and Yukon-Charley  
2 Rivers National Preserve.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Morning, Mark.  
5 (Indiscernible). Excuse me. Writing and talking at the  
6 same time doesn't work.

7

8 MR. HERRON: Good morning, Council, I'm  
9 Keith Herron. I work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
10 Service. The Assistant Fishery Manager on the Yukon.

11

12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning.

13

14 MR. GRAHAM: Good morning, Mr. Chair,  
15 Members of the Council. My name is Cory Graham. I'm a  
16 Fisheries Biologist with the Office of Subsistence  
17 Management.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Morning, Cory.

20

21 MR. MARTIN: Good morning, everyone. I'm  
22 Ross Martin. I'm a PhD student at the Yale School of the  
23 Environment studying subsistence management in the  
24 state.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,  
27 Ross.

28

29 MR. SIMON: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.  
30 PJ Simon, Allakaket. Interested party. Good morning,  
31 Board.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning, PJ.  
34 Thanks for coming.

35

36 MS. MORROW: Good morning, Mr. Chair,  
37 Members of the Council, this is Kristen Morrow in the  
38 Anthropology Division at OSM.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,  
41 Kristen.

42

43 MR. LIND: Good morning, Chair, Council  
44 members. Good to see you folks in person. My name is  
45 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of  
46 Subsistence Management. It's really happy to be here.  
47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,  
50 Orville. And our court recorder, here. You want to

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1 introduce yourself?

2

3 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Certainly.  
4 Jonathan Butzke, B-U-T-Z-K-E, Talking Circle Media with  
5 Lighthouse.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you,  
8 Jonathan. So, then we have people on the phone. Who do  
9 we have on the phone or online? Go ahead, Nissa.

10

11 MS. PILCHER: I'm going to call folks out  
12 by affiliation. It might speed things up a little bit  
13 if that is okay with you, Chairman?

14

15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yes.

16

17 MS. PILCHER: Alright. So, if you are on  
18 and representing tribal governments, if you could let  
19 us know that you're on.

20

21 (No response)

22

23 All right. How about anybody with a  
24 Native organization?

25

26 (No response)

27

28 How about non-government agencies?

29

30 (No response)

31

32 Members of the public?

33

34 (No response)

35

36 All right, how about Alaska Department  
37 of Fish and Game?

38

39 MR. POETTER: Hey, good morning, Mr.  
40 Chair, Members of the Council. Aaron Poetter with the  
41 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Good morning.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning.  
44 Thank you.

45

46 MS. PILCHER: Good morning. Aaron, how  
47 about U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

48

49 MR. HAVENER: Yeah. Good morning, Mr.  
50 Chair, Council members. This is Jeremy Havener. I'm the

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1 Refuge Subsistence Coordinator and Acting Deputy Refuge  
2 Manager for the Northern Interior Refuge Complex out of  
3 Galena. And with me is our RIT, or Refuge Information  
4 Technician, Marie Cleaver.

5  
6 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,  
7 Jeremy and Marie.

8  
9 MR. SMITH: Good morning. This is Cody  
10 Smith, Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Good to  
11 hear some familiar voices. And looking forward to  
12 joining in person either later today or tomorrow.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Good  
15 morning, Cody.

16  
17 MS. PILCHER: All right, I should have  
18 actually said when I said ADF&G, ADF&G or other State  
19 agencies.

20  
21 (No response)

22  
23 All right. How about National Park  
24 Service?

25  
26 (No response)

27  
28 How about BLM?

29  
30 (No response)

31  
32 I don't see anyone on from Forest  
33 Service, but I'll call it out just in case. Anybody from  
34 Forest Service on or BIA?

35  
36 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair and  
37 Council members. This is Glenn Chen, the Subsistence  
38 Branch Chief for the BIA. Always a pleasure to attend  
39 your meetings.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,  
42 Glenn. Long time no see.

43  
44 MS. PILCHER: And then finally OSM.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We have any other  
47 OSM people on the phone?

48  
49 MR. UBELAKER: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
50 Brian Ubelaker, Wildlife Biologist with OSM.

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1  
2 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Good  
3 morning.

4  
5 MS. LA VINE: Good morning. This is  
6 Robbin La Vine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator with OSM  
7 calling from Anchorage. Good to hear you all.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good to hear from  
10 you, Robbin.

11  
12 MS. WESSELS: Good morning.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead.

15  
16 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
17 This is Katya Wessels, Council Coordination Division  
18 Supervisor with OSM.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Good morning,  
21 Katya. That's it from OSM. So, that -- I think that  
22 covers the phone. Did Darrell get on there? Do you see  
23 Darrell? I'm not sure. He said he was going to try and  
24 call in. So, Review and Adopt the Agenda. The Council  
25 is not meeting quorum. I would rather take Council  
26 Reports later in this -- than this -- right now, or at  
27 least -- I would like to give the public -- I'd like to  
28 move the public forward in the agenda. So, then we can  
29 go into these. Approval of the minutes, we can table  
30 that until we get quorum, but we can move into the  
31 Council Reports for the Council Members that are here  
32 after the public. That's the only change I would like  
33 to see in the agenda. Any other comments on the agenda?  
34 We can't vote. Go ahead, Robert.

35  
36 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair, thank you. I  
37 didn't really have a chance to get over it because I  
38 never got a copy of it back home. I don't know if -- did  
39 you mailed it to me? Okay. So, Mr. Chair, I was just  
40 looking at it this morning here, so I didn't have any  
41 comments on it at that time. Thank you.

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Any comments  
44 on the agenda? Don.

45  
46 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair, I thank you for  
47 that question, but no, it seems -- I mean, we just met,  
48 what, maybe a month and a half ago or something, and I  
49 don't really have any comments on this. And like Robert  
50 mentioned, I just got it, but it's all good.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And Tim. Just general comments [sic], we're not adopting the agenda. We're just -- we can't. So go ahead. Any additions or.....

MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I was wondering if OSM was going to give us an update on what the relationship with the Solicitor and the Federal Subsistence Board and the Secretary of Commerce is? If that was anywhere in the agenda, or do we have to wait until the Federal Subsistence Board gets back to us?

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I think Crystal is going to give us sort of an update on that kind of stuff. So, she's in the room here. So, I think that's -- where would Crystal be in this agenda, Nissa? Okay. Yeah. So, we can move you up. Well, actually, I would like the whole Council to hear your update. So, but we can give sort of our Council Member Reports. But I would like to get -- so, no additional -- the agenda is full. I think it's a good agenda, other than how it's going to have to be timed because of our lack of quorum right this morning. So, we have PJ Simon signed up to speak to us from the public. I have a blue card here. So, we're going to come up to the mic there, PJ.

MR. SIMON: Yeah. If this is not going to be on the minutes if we don't have a quorum?

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Are you here for an extended period of time, or are you going to be -- because we may -- we most likely will meet quorum this afternoon. If you wanted to speak to the entire or more of the Council, as many as we're going to get. Would you like to do your report later or your discussion later?

MR. SIMON: I'd just like my comments for the record when there's a quorum.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We can do that. That would be after noon. So, after lunch.

MR. SIMON: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, if you wanted to do it then, that's fine.

MR. SIMON: Okay. Thank you.

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Do we have  
2 any other persons on the call or in the room that would  
3 like to speak on non-agenda items, or just public  
4 comments in general? Go ahead.

5  
6 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.  
7 Chair, our last meeting here over at Wedgewood, we -- I  
8 don't remember if we got to do our, you know, whether  
9 the presenters from Jeremy at the Galena Refuge,  
10 Nowitna, the GASH area, the whole thing there. So, it's  
11 been a month or two, and I just thought that maybe they  
12 would give kind of a full report of what it's looking  
13 like out there on the refuges. And I certainly would  
14 like to see that on the agenda before I leave. Thank  
15 you.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF Well, that's under  
18 Reports, number 12.e, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service -  
19 Kanuti, Koyukuk, Nowitna, and Innoko are going to all  
20 be -- they'll be giving reports. It's at the top of the  
21 page on the 2nd -- on the 3rd page of the agenda. So  
22 yeah, they'll talk to us later on in this meeting and  
23 hopefully when we got quorum here.

24  
25 MR. HONEA: Okay. Mr. Chair, I was just  
26 I was just wondering if he was able to attend in person.  
27 Thank you.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: The weather was  
30 really bad down in Galena, so nobody was really getting  
31 out of there. Jenny's not here, so that's kind of the  
32 problem. So, Jeremy's on the phone currently with his  
33 RIT, Marie. So, nobody on the phone there or anybody  
34 raising hands online there, Nissa?

35  
36 (Talking)

37  
38 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Say again.

39  
40 MS. PILCHER: Darrell did just ask me to  
41 send him the meeting information, so I'll be doing that  
42 right now. Hopefully.

43  
44 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, he's on there?

45  
46 MS. PILCHER: He's not yet, but maybe  
47 very shortly.

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So,  
50 Darrell's queuing up so that's good. That's good news.

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1 So, at this time we can go through the Council Members  
2 Reports that are here. Because I don't want to lose the  
3 whole front part of this meeting, this whole half day  
4 here. So, would you like to give a report, Robert or...?

5  
6 MR. WALKER: You want me to give a  
7 report?

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Your Council  
10 Member Report. You know what.....

11  
12 (Simultaneous speech)

13  
14 MR. WALKER: Oh. Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Updates from your  
17 Advisory Committee or just general stuff.

18  
19 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I've  
20 attended 2 conferences in Anchorage, North Pacific  
21 Fisheries and Department of Fish and Game. All of the  
22 proposals that were being going through. First of all,  
23 our tribe -- I stepped down from the tribal Council. I  
24 didn't rerun, so I thought it was -- I thought it would  
25 be time for the young people to take over. And they  
26 appreciated that move because I told them I wasn't going  
27 to be Chief forever. You know, those things got to come  
28 to an end, but they are pretty appalled and really  
29 pleased about it. And -- but they asked me if I want to  
30 do some extra work, like travel for them. And I told  
31 them, I think my traveling days are pretty much getting  
32 done with, it's time you have to step in and take over  
33 just about everything I could tell you -- I could advise  
34 you what to do, but I can't tell you what to do.

35  
36 So that's -- and being in this North  
37 Pacific Fisheries with the Department of Commerce, it  
38 was the most cruelest thing that I have seen come out  
39 of the federal government. Very cruel to the indigenous  
40 people. And I'm not the only one that's saying that. We  
41 had, like 6 tribal chiefs there from the he Yukon, the  
42 Koyukuk River and so forth. And there were -- as we  
43 speak, I was listening to them, and a lot of them were  
44 so negative toward our way of thinking, toward our way  
45 of -- and working to get the proposals in the Department  
46 of Fish and Game, how they opposed a lot of them. And  
47 in fact, I haven't brought up -- I got my bag here. I  
48 brought up 3 issues that was -- and I did talk to our  
49 tribal people about this is -- I brought my homework  
50 with me, so. One of them was like, how come there's a

1 90 percent chum decline on the Yukon River? And also,  
2 there was a 90 percent chum decline on the Kuskokwim  
3 River. They couldn't answer that. And I got further into  
4 it and I said, (indiscernible) plays a pretty much a  
5 factor on the AYK region, especially -- I can speak for  
6 the Yukon that we can't eat fish. And I brought this up  
7 a couple of years ago, if you remember, that the Catholic  
8 Church requires you to eat fish once a week on Friday,  
9 and also during Lent and Advent. In all these religious  
10 holidays that you have to give up meat and eat fish.  
11 That's not respected in -- from the federal government.  
12 I was surprised. And I did bring up that the President  
13 Donald J. Trump, how, you know, he pardoned these church  
14 people that were testifying at some I think it was some  
15 kind of a clinic. And they were elder people. And the  
16 Biden Administration threw them in jail. And here we are  
17 in Alaska, we're trying to -- even though we don't have  
18 a preacher or a priest, we still practice our religion.  
19 Because that's in the doctrine, that you grew up with.  
20 So, and this is something they couldn't answer either.  
21

22                   And I went on to the animals and I said,  
23 the animals are being depleted by the grizzly bear  
24 because there's no fish, because that's the circle of  
25 life. And again, they quite did not know how to  
26 understand that. And, I said the grizzly bears are really  
27 depleting the black bears. There's no more black bears  
28 in our area. The grizzly bears are using them for a  
29 source of food since they have no fish. And now the  
30 grizzly bears are moving out to the flatland where the  
31 moose live. So, this is something that is going to be  
32 down the line here somewhere to be discussed at. And I  
33 just kind of like asked him right out -- right out to  
34 them, to the Chairman of the Board, the lady, I said,  
35 how much dark money has gotten into the Department of  
36 Commerce to make them support other organizations other  
37 than tribal people, what they're supposed to do? She  
38 couldn't answer that. She looked away at me, and I said,  
39 ma'am, I'm right here. You can look at the videos if you  
40 want to from that meeting. You know, and it was -- and  
41 I said, how about the soft money? How much is infiltrated  
42 into this department? I mean, it seemed like the whole  
43 federal government is corrupt. It is. Because Minnesota  
44 is just an opening door. I believe if you really watch  
45 it. California other places. So, I don't see where it  
46 would be different for Alaska too, so.

47  
48                   And these are the questions that I  
49 asked. And I asked too, you know, the Department of  
50 Commerce and Wildlife, why did they reject our

1 resolution from 2017 to have a member from either Tanana  
2 Chiefs, AVCP, Kawerak, or somebody to be on that Board?  
3 And I asked our person who worked for us, he's our  
4 supervisor for the Yukon Inter-Tribal Fish Commission,  
5 and he read that too 'em [sic], and I didn't get an  
6 answer for that either. And it's just a big question of  
7 why? How come? You know, we always -- and then we sat  
8 down after this, there was -- there were 7 tribal chiefs,  
9 and I just sat in with them and say, whatever happened  
10 to federal government? They abandoned us? Did they just  
11 say, well, the OSM says, well, we're not going to support  
12 the tribe anymore because maybe we have more money, I  
13 don't know. But you know, Jack, you know all these people  
14 who sit here representing all the federal agencies in  
15 our State of Alaska, how come they're not coming through  
16 for us? And that's a question, you know. And one other  
17 thing that really blew my mind here was, we have more  
18 birds in our area. The seagulls are gone, they  
19 disappeared, I don't know why. There's no more fish. And  
20 this was a Anchorage paper on Sunday. I don't know if  
21 you guys want to look at it, but we don't have eagles  
22 in Anvik no more. There used to be 100 -- used to circle  
23 right over town with the updraft from the sand bluffs  
24 in the fall time. Last fall, there was only 2. Why? You  
25 know, is it -- why can't the government step in or  
26 something? This is something wrong with this picture  
27 here.

28  
29 And I did get on to the Board of Fish  
30 too. I said that, you know, we have our current members  
31 on the page here. I said, how come the Fish Commissioner,  
32 Doug Lange is not on there? Does he -- does he doesn't  
33 [sic] want to be on there? And I talked to Doug Lange,  
34 and after we testified and I asked him if we could have  
35 a dialogue with Area M fisherman, could you set that up?  
36 And he said, I don't know. I don't think I want to do  
37 that. I said, why? I said, did you hear that young man  
38 testified the other day, that he said, the Yukon River  
39 is nothing but a sewer? How could they say that? I mean,  
40 they're so -- Area M fishermen are so dominant now that  
41 they can ride over just about everybody? And I talked  
42 to Doug Lang for the 2nd time and I said, you -- okay,  
43 5 us, 5 chiefs and me [sic], got up and talked to him,  
44 why did he shut the Yukon River down for a 7-year  
45 moratorium? And his comment was, we have to protect the  
46 fish that goes to Canada. Well, really? I said, well,  
47 what about us in between, I mean, we have the spawning  
48 rivers, Anvik River, the Andreafsky River, the Koyukuk  
49 River, Tanana River, Innoko River. I said, what about  
50 those? But he didn't want to comment on that. He just

1 kind of, like, shunned us away and put us on -- put us  
2 on our way. I mean, I think the state is really -- have  
3 our tribes in a position where we can't eat. And I did  
4 testify to the lady at North Pacific Fishery. I said,  
5 in God's law, you know that's -- the 8th commandment is,  
6 thou shalt not steal. And now we have to steal to eat.  
7 You know and couldn't answer that question either. But  
8 anyway.  
9

10 So anyway, the Chairman of the Fish  
11 Board, you know, I said, you know, like we are in a  
12 position where we don't have agitators, we don't have  
13 signs. But there were people protesting outside of the  
14 Egan Center, you know, for fish. And, you know, they  
15 weren't stopping traffic or anything. And it just seemed  
16 like we're invisible people all of a sudden. And it's  
17 just like how hard you work at this -- I don't know if  
18 they burn out the paper up (indiscernible), I left last  
19 night from there and out of 5 proposals that were there,  
20 only 1 passed, so. But I think today is going to be the  
21 big day for proposals. And I think Jasmine Vent, I talked  
22 to her. She's part of the TCC crew there. She's going  
23 to be here on Wednesday to talk to us. Maybe she'll give  
24 us more information on what happened with the proposals.  
25 But, you know, like I told her, I said, you know, you  
26 guys are so much, you know, like a John Wayne movie. You  
27 know, he's an icon in the Western movies. And I did say  
28 that to her, too. She said, you know, John Wayne was  
29 talking to an Indian Chief. Indian Chief asked John  
30 Wayne, how come the people kill all the bison and only  
31 take the hide, they don't take the meat? And John Wayne  
32 told that Chief, you know this has got to be a dirty  
33 white man trick. And I didn't want to say that at the  
34 Board of Fish, but I did tell the Chairman of the  
35 (indiscernible) that, and she looked at me, and I said,  
36 well, it's true, isn't it? You know, and she didn't  
37 answer that question.  
38

39 So, Mr. Chair, I'm going to leave it at  
40 that. I asked that -- I didn't get any -- nobody asked  
41 me questions because, you know what -- was this? And one  
42 of the other things, too, Charlie Green, when he  
43 testified from -- he's a Tribal Chief from Galena. One  
44 of the Board Members asked Charlie Green, is that, why  
45 didn't -- when do you guys had (indiscernible)  
46 fisheries? You know, you guys fished the Yukon out of  
47 chum salmon for roe. And Charlie Green you know, he's  
48 out there and he says, you know something here, you  
49 know, you're on the Board of Fish. The Board of Fish  
50 approved that proposal, not us. The guy just sat there,

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1 turned his mic off and never asked another question. So,  
2 these are things that they try to use against us. But  
3 I'm just glad these younger people are getting smarter  
4 and they read everything now. And that's why I always  
5 tell them. I -- excuse me, here. Anyway, I think that's  
6 my report, Mr. Chair. I can't think of anything else.  
7 Thank you.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: If I might ask you  
10 a couple questions. Did you advocate for the various  
11 options on the North Pacific Fisheries Management  
12 Council meeting regarding the chum bycatch caps and, you  
13 know, areas of closure where you commenting on those to  
14 the North Pacific?

15  
16 MR. WALKER: Yes. Mr. Chair. I believe  
17 that we did discuss that when I mentioned this right  
18 here earlier. And I did mention that to them and they  
19 didn't comment on it, and a lot of them didn't give us  
20 an answer like what we would like to hear. So, and there  
21 was another thing too. I asked him, why can't you guys  
22 step down and let the Department of Interior or the BIA  
23 take over this department? Again, I -- they didn't answer  
24 my question. So, with all due respect, and that's what  
25 I told him, that I am not here to cause trouble, but I'm  
26 here to ask questions. And I want to have answered  
27 before, and I go back to my tribe or the lower Yukon  
28 subregion in the Tanana Chiefs area so we could talk  
29 about this. Yes, I did talk about that, Jack.

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, thanks. Thanks  
32 for your report, Robert.

33  
34 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair, I have a  
35 question for Robert.

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead.

38  
39 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
40 Robert, thanks for attending. So, you went to 2 meetings.  
41 You went to North Pacific Management Council meeting,  
42 and then you were at Board of Fish this past week?

43  
44 MR. WALKER: Yes. I had a 4-day break. I  
45 went home and they brought me back in to testify again.  
46 Yes.

47  
48 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. So, can you provide  
49 a little more information when you had those  
50 conversations with Doug Vincent-Lange, Commissioner of

1 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, like did he have  
2 -- did he have much concern about the status of chinook  
3 and chum salmon on the Kuskokwim and the Yukon Rivers,  
4 or was he where -- was he kind of dismissive and not  
5 interested in engaging with those issues?  
6

7 MR. WALKER: Thank you for that question  
8 there. Yes, we did talk about that. And we talked about  
9 some other things too. But one of the things he noted,  
10 I said, you never gave the tribes on the Yukon a chance  
11 to speak up for themselves before you put a 7-year  
12 moratorium on this. And he said, well, with my authority,  
13 I could use this because we have to get escapement to  
14 Canada, and that's our international agreement that we  
15 had with Canada. So, their priority was getting fish to  
16 Canada over the tribal people having fish. Yes.  
17

18 MR. GERVAIS: Okay, yeah. And in my  
19 experience, like the seat that the state of Alaska has  
20 on North Pacific Management Council, that's usually  
21 represented by the Commissioner of Fish and Game from  
22 Denby Lloyd, Cora Campbell and now Doug Vincent-Lang.  
23 They have not -- they've just deferred in their  
24 regulatory -- their proposals and their voting and their  
25 -- they just seem to have a bias towards the trawl fleet,  
26 and they don't seem interested in two important things.  
27 They don't seem interested in maintaining a healthy  
28 stock and escapement on both Yukon and Kuskokwim River.  
29 And they don't seem to recognize the significance of the  
30 subsistence resource to the residents there. So, I hope  
31 as we come into -- we're going to get a new governor  
32 next year and hopefully we can get a commissioner of  
33 Fish and Game appointed that is more serious about  
34 representing our subsistence resources and putting  
35 Alaska ahead of the commercial fleet. I had one more  
36 comment here. I just lost my thought, but.  
37

38 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Can you question  
39 Robert and you can make.....

40 (Simultaneous speech)

41 MR. GERVAIS: Oh, okay.

42 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You can do that  
43 stuff in your report.

44 MR. GERVAIS: Okay.

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1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You got more  
2 questions for Robert?

3  
4 MR. GERVAIS: No, I was just mainly  
5 concerned with if Commissioner Lang was very interested  
6 in getting any kind of solution or acknowledging the  
7 lack of escapement and the hardship to the residents of  
8 the rivers.

9  
10 MR. WALKER: Yes. We did talk to him  
11 about that. We went through the numbers. Of all the  
12 weight, all the weight, how much fish does that? And we  
13 came up and we brought this to Commissioner Lang. Is  
14 that how come 115,000 fish disappeared from the ocean?  
15 Where did it go? And he didn't have an answer for that.  
16 He said, I'll have to go back and look at how the people  
17 -- pull this up and see what happened. But how do you  
18 lose 115,000 fish? I mean, that's a heck of a big pond  
19 to lose. So, yes. And let's go back to what I said  
20 earlier is that I asked that we have a dialogue with  
21 Area M fishermen and I think our President of TCC Brian  
22 Ridley met with him and they didn't want to have a  
23 discussion just yet. But talking with one of their  
24 fishermen from Area M that I knew I went to school with  
25 and we talked, I said, you know, just Yukon River is  
26 going to be out of fish pretty soon. It's going to be  
27 extinct. I said, we're going to have a green, thriving  
28 river with running water, with no fish. And this is --  
29 you can't go back and fix it. Once it's extinct, it's  
30 extinct. And he brought back that to his people. And I  
31 don't know what happened after that because I left last  
32 night. And so, I would probably find out next couple of  
33 days after I talked to him. Thank you for those questions  
34 there, Tim.

35  
36 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you. Do  
37 you have any questions for Robert, Don? So, Nissa tells  
38 me Darrell's online. Are you there, Darrell?

39  
40 MR. VENT: Yep. Yeah, I'm here.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, we're  
43 doing Council Member Reports. So, can I have you.....

44  
45 (Simultaneous speech)

46  
47 MR. VENT: Okay.

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Can I have you come  
50 give your give a report after Don, here?

1

2

MR. VENT: Sure.

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4

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, Don, you want to give a report?

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MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You know, actually, a few years ago I believe we were at a TCC convention or something, and Robert and I were offered a board for a few years, and we decided to run again. And it's, you know, I think in this particular situation, continuity is important, whether it's the Doyon Board, whether it's TCC and particularly in this area, we are -- I think, without representation from McGrath and all the way down to Aniak, we're lacking information. And so, I think just a word to Robert to maybe, when I say continuity, it's important he brings up stuff and he does it in a frank and open way. And I -- just listening to some of the comments that he made I'm glad for him to be on this Board. So, I think I just wish that he would reconsider because he brings a wealth of knowledge after years and years, you know. I was on there, you know, we were on there, Carl Morgan, Ronnie, Sam, Robert, another guy from Holy Cross. What's his name there? James. And, but -- yeah. So, I think it's really important that we have continuity on here, that we have expertise on here. And speaking from experience, I like it when they bring stuff here in a down-home kind of way and ask these questions, I mean, to the general public, it might say, hey intrusive, but it's true. I'm glad for that.

Other than that, we started off with a fairly mild winter. We didn't have a whole lot of snow early on, and it's just coming later in the last few weeks, and I thought that was good. It is good for the for the moose, for our population. Because doggone, I mean, you know, I've been saying for years, if we can't do anything about our fish population, there's so doggone, many variables to it. Whether it's global warming, whether it's Area M, whether it's out on the ocean, the bycatch, whatever. There's, you know, it's -- I don't know, it saddens me that, you know, like we mentioned years ago and I keep saying this at our meeting in Galena. Well, we don't care about the king salmon, we'll let that go. We'll let them go on to Canada because it's so low. We always counted on the summer and fall chum. And they were, you know, 500,000/700,000. Those were numbers that -- and you know what I mean, I'm sitting in a fish camp in the fall time, whether it's

1 this fall, last fall or whatever and it's really eerie  
2 when you -- when you're sitting there and it's a place  
3 called Big Eddy, about 20 miles above Ruby and you don't  
4 see any fish jump, you don't. It's scary. And like you  
5 say you know, years ago, I mean, when fish -- you had  
6 all this fish, you had tons of butterflies and seagulls  
7 like he mentioned and stuff like that and it's -- but  
8 anyway, I mean I -- the reason I mentioned because, the  
9 last time we were here, we did not have a whole bunch  
10 of questions and maybe the refuges have done their  
11 studies and stuff in November and I'm just wondering,  
12 what's our population? What's our moose count look like  
13 out there? And we should be concerned about it. I can't  
14 -- I don't know what's going on in the GASH area. I  
15 don't know what's going on with the Mulchatna Herd, but  
16 I'm certainly going to try to protect what we have. You  
17 know, and when we met with Eastern Interior, we have a  
18 lot of like causes, a lot of like concerns. And that was  
19 good because it borders. Ruby and Tanana borders  
20 somewhere around Nowitna River. And so, you know, we  
21 could help each other out. And I like the fact that when  
22 we meet that we can support each other. I don't care if  
23 it's from Kawerak or any place else. I mean, if it's a  
24 -- if it's a concern to them, it should be a concern to  
25 us.

26  
27 And so, with that, I just, you know, to  
28 me, I sit on the Migratory Bird Council with TCC and I'm  
29 kind of surprised and a little disappointed that TCC  
30 hunting and fishing or whatever is not sitting in the  
31 public here. Maybe tomorrow, maybe I'll give them a call  
32 a little later. But I think one -- I mean, this concerns  
33 us all. And whether it's, you know, whether it's TCC,  
34 whether it's Doyon, I think we should push them, pressure  
35 them. Other than that, I look forward to testimony. I'm  
36 not a type of person to go to Anchorage and testify  
37 before the Board of Game or before the North Pacific  
38 Management Council, but I just, you know, we do what we  
39 can do where we're at. And that's -- I appreciate the  
40 people here, and I appreciate the fact that we're still  
41 -- I'm really concerned about some of the things that  
42 are coming out with -- out of Washington and changing  
43 the mandates or changing the Subsistence Board, panel  
44 or whatever. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you for those  
47 comments, Don. And anybody got questions for Don?

48  
49 (No response)  
50

1                   It looks like your moose are back away  
2 from the river with the shallow snow. They're not --  
3 they can move all around. There seem to be doing a lot  
4 better down in your country?

5  
6                   MR. HONEA: Well, it's hard to say.  
7 That's why I'd like to see from Jeremy or somebody from  
8 the RAC that does there -- I actually believe their  
9 account is in November. So, because I'm flying over the  
10 over the Novi River , as we call it. It's about 30 miles  
11 east of Ruby, and I don't see nothing down there. I  
12 don't see no tracks. And, you know, I'm just kind of  
13 concerned about the populations and stuff like that.

14  
15                   CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, excuse me.  
16 Would you say that people in your area had a harder time  
17 catching a moose this fall than they normally would? You  
18 had high water also? We had lots of high water in the  
19 Koyukuk country.

20  
21                   MR. HONEA: Oh, actually, I think we in  
22 the village, we have this, like 30-mile road out to --  
23 toward McGrath, toward Poorman and Long Creek, and we a  
24 lot of moose are taken there, and so we hardly even used  
25 it. But I heard the numbers were kind of discerning on  
26 the Novi itself, so. And that's a concern to me. I was  
27 actually gifted a moose. So, our family was taken care  
28 of. But to me, it's always a concern. It's a concern for  
29 you know, all of us that live out there. I gotta [sic]  
30 reiterate that. Hey, that's all we have is our moose. I  
31 mean, for food. So, I'm going to try my best to keep  
32 that population steady.

33  
34                   CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.  
35 Any questions for Don? Robert. Go ahead.

36  
37                   MR. WALKER: Not at this time, Mr. Chair,  
38 Thank you.

39  
40                   MR. GERVAIS: No, Mr. Chair.

41  
42                   CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And do you have  
43 questions for Don, Darrell?

44  
45                   (No response)

46  
47                   Still there Darrell?

48  
49                   MR. VENT: No, Mr. Chair.

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1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead. You  
2 got questions?

3  
4 MR. VENT: I'm here. No, I didn't.

5  
6 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, did you  
7 want to give a report, Darrell?

8  
9 MR. VENT: Sure. Yeah.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead.

12  
13 MR. VENT: This year, you know,  
14 everybody's been, you know, busy hunting this fall for  
15 moose, but it's been high water last 3 years. Caribou.  
16 There's seems to be a little different -- I think the  
17 Teshepuk Herd might have come down off the Doakolik  
18 mountains somewhere back in there as they came into  
19 Doakolik Flats there. And maybe they're -- I guess they  
20 were stressed or something was going on, but they weren't  
21 traveling as far as they used to. I guess they held up  
22 there by Anaktuvuk Pass there for a while, and they  
23 tried to go back up north, but they end up coming back  
24 into Anaktuvuk (indiscernible) lake. But I think it's  
25 just a, you know, predator pressure right now. It's --  
26 they don't have a lot of big bulls or, you know,  
27 something to protect them when they're traveling. So,  
28 they couldn't quite, you know, migrate the way they  
29 wanted to.

30  
31 That's what I'm wondering about this  
32 Northwest Arctic Herd is what what's going on with the  
33 migration pattern? They used to come all the way to the  
34 shelter cabin, but they haven't been doing that for the  
35 past couple of years. And then we heard that they've  
36 been running up into the hills by Shungnak. Because  
37 there's a lot of predation there. So, I'm assuming that  
38 it might be, you know, because they don't have the big  
39 leaders no more, the big bulls, you know. Maybe it's  
40 because the hunting pressure on, you know, for the horn  
41 or might be, you know, because a lot of them are blaming,  
42 you know, taking too many cows. But I think it was  
43 overall what happened with the fish. You know, you take  
44 the big ones, and you end up with the small ones. And  
45 then, you know.....

46  
47 (Distortion)

48  
49 Someone turned their mic on or  
50 something. But anyway.....

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah, it kind of got wonky, but you're good. Keep going.

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MR. VENT: Okay, well, you know, what concerns me is that we got to start learning how to protect these animals by their leaders. You know, if we do that, I think we'll, you know, be able to provide more for sport, for subsistence. What should have been done with the fish. But, you know, once, once they took the big ones out, they don't go into Canada no more. We seen that. It's a known fact that, you know, once you take something out, it don't come back to normal. Well, we're looking at the kings, and they don't come back to normal no more. So how do you replace that? Well, that's the big question that maybe the biologists or state could look into and try to put some money into it, you know, with all the money received from commercial or, you know. There are -- like they go do these hunting -- these hunts, and I see that, you know, a lot of the state of Alaska put out, you know, a lot of reports saying that they got these hunts packets that they utilize, but it doesn't say, you know, how to protect our animals. It doesn't say how to take as much as you need like we do when we're younger. You know, we took what we need, what we didn't, you know, kill off the herd. Well, the way that things have been going, we noticed that, you know, these herds are being killed off and it's not right. We know that. And we have to find ways to try to sustain what we have there. But that's not being provided.

And we've been fighting, you know, this arguing with, you know, state, federals how much of that information that we provide as advisory has been taken up to the top level? When it comes to Washington, DC, Juneau, how much improvement have we been given from all this information we've provided? I know, you know, I looked at it over and Fort Yukon area, there's some pretty good individuals that (distortion) in Washington DC. Well, we went down, I see that they got an argument with Don Young and Don was, you know, saying, these are not Alaskans, but he got proven wrong on that. Because Don is not -- he's got over 60% (distortion) funded by outside interests when it comes to being on the state. And how much [sic] of these other, you know, representatives do we have? You know, that's been funded more outside than you know here in Alaska? We're fighting a really hard thing, but we need to know where we gotta put our fight at. You know, how much you know, represent -- I mean, how much do we see, you know, percentage when

1 we put in proposals, how much make it up that level? And  
2 why is it not being reported to the tribes, you know,  
3 or to the Western Interior Region? You know, for our  
4 information, that's, you know, kind of, you know, got  
5 me curious there. I'm just thinking, you know, do we  
6 need representation somewhere else so we can improve our  
7 way of living? It's just, you know, hard to deal with,  
8 you know, the state and federal level right now because  
9 we talk and we talk, and it's just it hurts, you know,  
10 because our people are hurting. I mean, your prices and  
11 stores are not going down. It's going up. And where our  
12 food resources are not being taken care of, it's going  
13 down. That's, you know, made me wonder. I'm just, you  
14 know, giving you what information I could think of. It's,  
15 you know, over the years since 80s, 70s, you know, when  
16 we had a lot of fish, a lot of caribou, a lot of moose.  
17 Now we're dwindling and our people are really hurting  
18 for this, and we're here trying to represent them. So,  
19 you know, we got to put it in a big picture now. We have  
20 to see where we can go with all this information. What  
21 we could provide for our people. All right, thank you.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you,  
24 Darrell. Always appreciate your comments and been, you  
25 know, you haven't attended a meeting for a little bit,  
26 and we need to have you on if even if you can get online.  
27 That really, really helps out kind of because you're  
28 representing your area in the Koyukuk pretty well. You  
29 know, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd has dropped from  
30 153 to 121 thousand and that's, you know, the harvest  
31 of large bull, or large older animals and caribou grow  
32 antlers. So, larger cows are taken before younger cows.  
33 Those are the breeding stock. You know, if you're -- if  
34 you look at caribou, they don't have calves till they're  
35 3 at the earliest or 4 if they have a hard winter when  
36 they're a young one. So, when you kill older cows, cows  
37 that got bigger antler, they stand out as larger animal  
38 because they're skeletally mature when they're 5, that's  
39 really hurting our reproductive portion. So, killing all  
40 the large bulls, killing all the large cow caribou, it's  
41 really, really starting to affect the Western Herd. And  
42 the herd doesn't travel as much if it's smaller. It's  
43 just a known fact. The smaller the herd, they don't have  
44 to go anywhere. So, they stay closer to their calving  
45 range more or less. So, they get real central to their  
46 little minuscule areas. It's happening with Fortymile  
47 and Nelchina, so they don't go as far as they used to.  
48 But I do appreciate your comments. Are you going to be  
49 with us for this meeting online then?  
50

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1 MR. VENT: Yes I will. I'm not feeling  
2 very well. So, I'm at home.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah. So, you know,  
5 right now we're -- you'd give us quorum right now. So,  
6 we have quorum. And so, we didn't have quorum this  
7 morning because Jenny couldn't fly. And Tom -- Tommy was  
8 stuck down in Anchorage or something. So, they'll be  
9 coming in this afternoon. So, if you can be with us, I  
10 really appreciate that because we need 5 members to have  
11 quorum, and it was just 4 of us here until you got on.  
12 So, any questions for Darrell? Robert? Don? Tim? No?

13  
14 MR. VENT: Hey, I just had one more.....

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead.

17  
18 MR. VENT: One more piece of information.  
19 You know that Teshepuk Herd -- I know they had a really  
20 hard hit up there where that -- come into the village,  
21 and they were really hunting them hard right there.  
22 Pretty much stressing them out. But it seems like once  
23 they slowed down that hunting area. I don't know how  
24 much they did, but there seems like caribou are starting  
25 to move a little more. But it's not, you know, maybe  
26 because they're able to get away from predation or  
27 whatever. It's just, you know, we saw a little bit of  
28 them coming down off that (indiscernible). So, I, you  
29 know, I just didn't have any information from the state  
30 on that, you know. What -- where they're coming from or  
31 what was going on. Was the hunting pressure less this  
32 year or, you know, we didn't have any information, but  
33 we knew that caribou were there.

34  
35 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah. Well, the  
36 snow isn't as deep this year. And so, when the caribou  
37 moved in October, they only had like 6 inches of snow.  
38 They can go a lot faster and they can go -- they cover  
39 a lot more country when they're shallow snow year. So  
40 that's a kind of a positive thing for caribou. And Don  
41 was pointing that out for his area with less snow for  
42 moose. So, did you want to give a report there, Tim?

43  
44 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,  
45 today is the final day of the Board of Fish meeting for  
46 Chignik and Area M and so this Council has this proposal  
47 148 trying to reduce depth of net and length of net and  
48 I'll check it. I don't have any information on it right  
49 now. Hopefully, Tommy will or yeah, Tommy will arrive  
50 this afternoon and give us an update. I'm going to try

1 to check the Board of Fish website at lunch to see how  
2 they voted on that. The Chignik Intertribal Coalition  
3 has Proposal 152, which is similar language. So, there's  
4 some -- that's some similar effort by regional groups  
5 down in that right next door to Area M, that is on the  
6 same pushing for the same kind of regulation. And I just  
7 wanted to comment, Robert kind of got me thinking in  
8 this, when he's talking to the fishermen from Area M,  
9 they're -- I fish I fished down in Chignik in the  
10 summertime, and I have quite a bit of interaction with  
11 the people that have fished Area M. And their comment  
12 on why the Yukon River has no fish anymore is there --  
13 there's -- there just sat on this roe stripping from the  
14 1990s, when it was mostly at an egg fishery, especially,  
15 for the for the chum. Not so much the kings. But that's  
16 their mindset and that's their go to response or defense  
17 and trying to counteract any kind of restrictions on  
18 their fishing time or gear type. So, I would encourage  
19 all of us and just the residents of the Western Interior,  
20 when you have, when you have opportunity to speak to  
21 people from the Peninsula, let them know what's going  
22 on and try to get your story out there, so they can  
23 understand what the situation is and kind of get away  
24 from this old narrative that was roe stripping that's  
25 destroyed the Yukon River.

26  
27 And then -- it just keeps -- I would  
28 like this Council to consider during this meeting if  
29 they would -- if we could put together a letter to the  
30 Kuskokwim Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and ask them to  
31 work harder or work more harder [sic] on getting somebody  
32 from that -- from the Kuskokwim drainage on this Council.  
33 So, we're really -- we're missing so much since Kevin's  
34 gone and we're just not -- this Council is not  
35 functioning at a level that needs to without any  
36 representation from the Kuskokwim River. We hear from  
37 our Council Members, Robert, Don Jr. and Jenny, if she  
38 was here, Tommy, when he gets here. They're all going  
39 to, you know, talk about lack of fish resources. And I  
40 just want to reflect back on, we look at, like,  
41 historical levels of fish in the Yukon River. And just  
42 one book I have when he's describing the salmon on the  
43 river, he's talking about king salmon, and he just says  
44 they're 5 foot long. This is 1868. So, when -- and he's  
45 not saying that's like a large one. That's just the size  
46 of the king salmon. So, we can -- from that kind of  
47 description -- and also this gentleman talks about in  
48 1868, all the Yukon villages from Russian Mission down,  
49 they barely hunt. It's really not part of their  
50 subsistence economy.

1

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(Distortion)

3

4           It's all fish. That's how much fish was  
5 around that they didn't have to worry much about if  
6 there was caribou or moose available. But when you --  
7 we have a situation where you go from having people  
8 being able to harvest 5-foot-long king salmon with gear  
9 made out of natural materials to a king salmon that's  
10 16 pounds. That just shows the stress that the species  
11 are under now. And we have to -- we talk about returning.  
12 We're just like -- a lot of our conversations about  
13 trying to get escapement. But we also have to realize  
14 to the quality of our escapement is just a fraction,  
15 like less than 50% on salmon size alone over these,  
16 whatever that would be 150 years. So that shows a long-  
17 term trend in the wrong direction. And we need to realize  
18 that the status quo of what we have going on with  
19 industrial trawl fishing in the Bering Sea and the Gulf  
20 of Alaska, it's just -- it's training us down into not  
21 being able to meet escapement, and small fish.

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          And then as I was looking at comments  
from that North Pacific Council meeting that Robert  
attended, and the council members are not -- they're not  
taking any responsibility for the damage that that BASI  
trawl fleet in the Gulf of Alaska trawl fleet has caused.  
They're just deflecting. They say it's from warm water.  
They're saying that the amount of bycatch has been  
reduced in the last 5 years. But they're not correlating  
the reduction in bycatch to the smaller level of  
population. So, for whatever reason, the North Pacific  
Council's not being solution-oriented to helping us out  
with our salmon. I mean, it's stated in in ANCSA that  
Alaskan Natives will have access to fish and game  
resources. And right now -- and then that kind of morphed  
-- that did morph from just Alaska Natives to rural  
Alaska residents with ANILCA. But definitely at this  
point in time, and for several years preceding 2026,  
Alaska Natives, rural Alaskan residents are not -- do  
not have access to fish resources when they have to  
stand down. And to me, it's just unconscionable that  
there's commercial fishing going on that does harvest  
bycatch, even if it's a low percent of their overall  
catch, because of the volume and because of the egregious  
bycatch that started in, I think, 1992 with that fishery,  
that the status of the stocks has been so damaged that  
really in a ecological crisis with both chinook and chum  
salmon.

1                   There's the injustice of the resource  
2 management through -- to North Pacific Council. And I  
3 partially put a substantial amount of blame on this --  
4 these commissioners with Alaska Department of Fish and  
5 Game that have a prominent seat on that Council, and not  
6 supporting the salmon resource or the subsistence users  
7 in our region, specifically Kuskokwim and Yukon River.

8  
9                   I've also been -- since we had our last  
10 meeting and I realized or Jack was telling me that the  
11 Ambler Road was back on. So, I've been doing some more  
12 research on that. That Ambler Mining District and the  
13 main the main developer there's a company called Trilogy  
14 Meadows, (indiscernible) the Vancouver Exchange, and  
15 they -- I think it became an issue because there was a  
16 fellow that owned like 10% of that company. He's a  
17 billionaire from Florida. His name's John Paulson, and  
18 he's a hedge fund manager, and he's a friend and a --  
19 for since -- through 2016, 2020 and 2024 has been a huge  
20 fundraiser for Trump. Like probably raised more than 60  
21 or \$70 million for Trump's election campaigns. And so,  
22 they -- he was he was pushing to get this road approved,  
23 the Ambler Road approved, and they did last October. And  
24 the US government put in a \$35 million investment on it.  
25 But at the same time, while that was going on and this  
26 -- as this road approval came in, the stock price of  
27 Trilogy went up like 2 and a half times. And then this  
28 billionaire, Mr. John Paulson, he sold all of his stake.  
29 So, he's out of the mix. And so, I'm wondering if at  
30 this point, if that's a not a -- that may be a good  
31 thing for our subsistence perspective is if that Mr.  
32 Paulson was able to make a big profit on selling his  
33 shares that. There'll be less emphasis to getting the  
34 funding for that road.

35  
36                   And another one final aspect on that  
37 project based on metal prices, 2 years ago, they said  
38 that reserve from those the 2 main prospects, the Arctic  
39 Prospect and the Bornite Prospect just had a net present  
40 value of 1.4 billion. The road estimates are cost of  
41 building the road, and the bridges is like 1.5 to 2.5.  
42 And I mean based on what I'm seeing for like buying  
43 parts and materials for my boat with this inflation we've  
44 had within the last year, I would be surprised if they  
45 could construct that road for under \$3 billion. So that's  
46 really strange that AIDEA, Alaska Industrial Development  
47 and Export Authority, why they would be so aggressive  
48 about building a road when the value of the deposit  
49 doesn't justify it. And then also on the reserves that  
50 keep getting mentioned in mining journals and investing

1 journals, they just keep coming up with presumptive  
2 reserves and inferred resources, which are -- they're  
3 low confidence estimates of the mineral well. So, to me  
4 it feels like that Ambler Mining District is just a --  
5 it's just kind of a show to, well, to pump up the stock  
6 price and get this road build. And I don't feel like the  
7 definition of the resources is developed enough. And the  
8 volume and value of the deposit is developed enough to  
9 make the project feasible. But it seems to be getting  
10 pushed forward because of this fundraising aspect and  
11 political friendship between John Paulson and Trump, so.

12  
13 And one final -- I hate to I know we're  
14 supposed to be in subsistence, but I gotta bring this  
15 in. I have a commercial user seat for this Council. So,  
16 I'm bringing this stuff in because it affects why this  
17 road is being developed. But, just also, within the last  
18 week, Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick, who's  
19 ultimately in charge of NOAA and North Pacific  
20 Management Council, he's getting implicated on telling  
21 a lot of false information regarding his interaction  
22 with Epstein. And so, I don't know if he'll ever resign  
23 or what will come of it, but it just reinforces what  
24 we're seeing in these ideas that's coming up where  
25 subsistence users and the tribes were not getting -- the  
26 way the things play out with code of -- federal  
27 regulation and the management allocation, bycatch  
28 reduction things play out is the subsistence users and  
29 the salmon resources are getting destroyed because of  
30 greed. And that's all I have.

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Tim.  
33 Appreciate your comments and perspectives. Robert.

34  
35 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Tim,  
36 you fish down there around in Area M?

37  
38 MR. GERVAIS: Chignik Management Area.  
39 It's just east of Area M.

40  
41 MR. WALKER: Okay. I -- I've talked to  
42 Axel and George. You know them? Okay. So, they're one  
43 of our Yukon Inter-Tribal and the Kuskokwim Inter-Tribal  
44 Fish Commission best allies. They're really -- they  
45 really do their homework. They record everything that  
46 goes on during the Board of Fish for information too and  
47 our information. And they work with us to help us. They  
48 work with TCC President. Even with AVCP President and  
49 Kawerak too, they work with them. So, they ensure that  
50 we have fish. But, you know, they are just the same

1 organization that's fighting the state government too.  
2 But it's just interesting. I'm really glad to hear your  
3 comments, because I think something that's not only the  
4 tribal people are having this comment, and it has to be  
5 with other organizations that could step in. I thank you  
6 for that, Tim.

7

8 MR. GERVAIS: I had one response to that,  
9 Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

12

13 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. And when I'm fishing  
14 down there, I mean, I've fished on the Yukon up till --  
15 through 1998. And then at that point I realized that you  
16 couldn't earn enough money to even, you know, cover  
17 expenses. So, then I went fish [sic] Seward, Bristol  
18 Bay, and now I'm in Chignik. And while I'm down there,  
19 I've just -- I feel like I identify as an economic  
20 refugee. I would -- my dream was to just be able to fish  
21 off the beach in front of my cabin. And at this point,  
22 I may have one week of life left, or I may have another  
23 30 years of life left. But that's about it. But I don't  
24 see the resource coming back on the Yukon that's going  
25 to allow me to be able to fish commercially out in front  
26 of my cabin. It's just -- it's not in the cards. And  
27 we're not getting the management or regulatory support  
28 to rebuild these stocks. I mean, it's just, I -- really  
29 upset with the industrial trawling Bering Sea and Gulf  
30 of Alaska. We know as a society of the world that  
31 industrial trawling has destroyed the codfish resource  
32 off of the Georges Bank and Grand Banks on the Atlantic  
33 Ocean. We know that industrial trawling destroyed the  
34 Native Atlantic salmon resource. And so, it's proven  
35 that the ocean cannot sustain that level of technology.  
36 And the industrial trawling that was going on in the 60s  
37 and 70s is nothing compared to the technology and the  
38 horsepower and the net technology that's being utilized  
39 today in the Bering Sea, in the Gulf of Alaska. It's  
40 just a replay of an ecological disaster that's going on.  
41 And for whatever reason, the resource and the  
42 subsistence users aren't getting the results they want  
43 from the regulatory scheme.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That's true. Thank  
46 you. Any comments on Tim's discussion? Don or Darrell?  
47 Don.

48

49 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah,  
50 it's kind of interesting concept, Tim, that you bring

1 up. That somebody in in defense of fishing or something  
2 may go back and say, because of the roe take and stuff  
3 back -- and I remember, we all remember back in the 90s  
4 or whenever it -- and it's kind of ludicrous to even  
5 think of that idea. Because, you know, I mean, I'm  
6 talking about 6 or 7 year cycles out into Bering Sea,  
7 Bering ocean, maybe. But that concept, it's -- to me  
8 it's -- you know, one time just a couple of years ago,  
9 there was a article or there was something on in an  
10 Anchorage paper or something where an Anchorage person  
11 commented that, you know, why there's no fish on the  
12 Yukon? It's these 18-foot basket fish wheels and stuff.  
13 Hundreds of them. There's not hundreds of them. There's  
14 like, in Ruby, you know, there's maybe 4 or 5 at 6 or 7  
15 at the most at one time. And those are just -- they're  
16 obsolete. We know that. Look at Tanana. They got about  
17 a dozen fish wheels that are just sitting on the bank  
18 that you can't do anything with, and it's -- but I just  
19 wanted to remark on that concept about, you know, taking  
20 a roe years and years ago. It has absolutely nothing to  
21 do with that. And, you know in defense of that. That's  
22 all. Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Appreciate that  
25 comment, Don. Yeah, the roe fishery declined long before  
26 this chum salmon, even as late as in the mid 2000, 2015-  
27 17 to 2.5 million summer chum. Huge summer chum runs  
28 going into the into the (indiscernible) drainage and the  
29 and the Yukon fall chums were doing really well. Then  
30 they started plummeting, big time, around 2019-2020,  
31 started going way down long after the fishery had  
32 occurred. So, there's exterior forces to that. Yeah, you  
33 got a comment, Darrell?

34  
35 MR. VENT: Yeah. These are 2 comments for  
36 you know..... (distortion)

37  
38 (Simultaneous speech)

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Say it again. Go  
41 ahead.

42  
43 MR. VENT: Yeah, I wanted to -- oh, I  
44 just wanted to comment. You know, we're (distortion)  
45 some information. So, one of them was, you know, we  
46 always (distortion) impacts. And we try, you know, put  
47 into regulations, you know, because of mining, you know,  
48 what kind of damage could happen. I mean, you know, it's  
49 not for certain that, you know, when that fish died off  
50 in the in the Koyukuk River, but there's a mine there in

1 that area that -- the Hog River mine. I don't know  
2 whether there was an increase of salt or whatever  
3 happened, but the water really warmed up right there.  
4 And the river was low so, you know, all this, you know,  
5 could have been, you know, what the mine put in the  
6 river. We don't know because we don't have no study on  
7 it. But the fish, you know, they started coming belly  
8 up in that area. And that wasn't just in that structure  
9 right there. Just, you know, they wound up above there,  
10 but they died up above there too.

11  
12 But we tried putting in was, you know,  
13 areas of critical environmental concern. And they keep  
14 shutting that down when it came up, you know, went down  
15 to Washington, D.C. And I know that's important for our  
16 people to, you know, have that information given because  
17 the downstate Natives were doing the same thing. They  
18 were trying to give them that information. You know, all  
19 this archaeology and everything that happened in those  
20 areas that, you know, we utilize a lot of these areas,  
21 and they didn't want us to mark those areas where we  
22 use. So, we're kind of concerned about, you know, how  
23 are we going to get any kind of help with our land? If,  
24 you know, they try to go in there and they just destroy  
25 it, because there's no saying that they could put it  
26 (distortion) its natural state. There's, you know, some  
27 place like (distortion) where they put in a fund when  
28 they started mining. (Distortion) million dollar fund  
29 so they can return it to his natural state. But that  
30 doesn't really, you know, make it happen. It's so we're  
31 -- up here, we're unregulated. We're not regulated, you  
32 know, like in those other areas because our people are  
33 haven't, you know, really gone down to Washington, D.C.,  
34 to represent our ideas, our, you know, areas of critical  
35 environmental concern. When it went that far they --  
36 there was nobody there to represent when they put  
37 (distortion) information up. Or there was but there's  
38 not enough from the -- not enough of our people were  
39 down there because we can't afford to go down and  
40 represent. We need to find the avenues to, you know, try  
41 to help with our fish, with our all our, you know,  
42 resources. And we're behind, we're lacking.

43  
44 And another thing that I want to ask him  
45 about was, does he see any difference in this, you know,  
46 I know this pollock fishing been going on for quite a  
47 while. That was after the king salmon crash. Now I'm  
48 wondering, you know, that's going to be depleted  
49 sometime. Now, one thing that I see that's going on is  
50 they got this fish that, you know, can become adult in

1 a year. Is that because they could, you know, genetically  
2 enhance them, or is that because they can -- they get  
3 them in hatcheries and they're able to, you know -- do  
4 we have any information on -- it's, you know, if it's,  
5 you know, somehow genetically enhanced and that's, you  
6 know, maybe it's not good for people to eat that fish.  
7 I don't know. It's, you know, I don't understand what's  
8 going on there, but they're making money if they able  
9 [sic] to sell that kind of fish. Does he have any  
10 information on those, you know, those 2 questions there?  
11 Thank you.

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So those are a wide  
14 range of questions. The Atlantic salmon that were  
15 genetically modified, Franken fish, that's -- those are  
16 not raised here at Alaska. There's -- the upshot is  
17 climate change has beat the tar out of these salmon in  
18 the last -- within the last 10 years. Well, yeah, a  
19 little over 10 years from 2013, the North Pacific started  
20 to get really super warm. 2019 was excessively hot and  
21 caused the ocean to get even warmer, reducing  
22 phytoplankton, zooplankton. It also killed -- you're  
23 talking about those dead salmon laying on the bank of  
24 the Koyukuk River. They died from heat stress. They went  
25 over 70 something degrees. In the Koyukuk River got so  
26 hot it killed them. And they didn't even get to spawn.  
27 They were full of eggs and stuff. Holly Carroll  
28 documented that.

29  
30 So, we got climate change. So, then --  
31 they're still releasing 1.2 to 1.9 billion pink and chum  
32 salmon smolt into the North Pacific in a marine crash  
33 which ate all the fish for the wild stocks. So, a lot  
34 of our chinook and chums go out into the North Pacific.  
35 They're out competed with all the depletion of the  
36 nutrients in the ocean. Then we have interception,  
37 trying to get back once we have a few resulting -- few  
38 remaining adults trying to come through the north --  
39 south Alaska Peninsula fishery, the Areal M fishery, the  
40 Bering Sea. And so, the subsistence users have had to  
41 do all of this conservation, trying to get the last very  
42 few fish that have gone -- run the gauntlet through all  
43 of these various pitfalls to spawn. And we only got  
44 24,500 kings into Canada last fall. That's a pathetic  
45 situation. We're looking at extinction on the Yukon  
46 River of chinook salmon if we don't, if the agencies  
47 don't start doing something. So yeah, everybody's saying  
48 the same thing. But that's the big picture. The managers  
49 are not responding fast enough to the problem. And the  
50 fishery is going to go completely into the toilet and

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1 has gone into the toilet. So, we've been on here for  
2 quite a while and we've had -- I'm going to make a  
3 report, and I would like to get Jenny and Tom's after  
4 lunch, but we need a break. Don is calling for a break.  
5 Time out. So, we're going to take a probably a 20-minute  
6 break since we've gone so long, coming back at 11:00.  
7 Back on, we'll stand down for -- till 11.

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(Off record)

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(On record)

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So, we're going to bring this meeting  
back to order. We had a 25-minute break. So, Don is  
back. And Darrell, are you still there?

(No response)

You see Darrell online there? Yeah.  
Okay. So, I -- we see your computer there, Darrell, if  
you can hear me. You're muted. So, on our agenda, we're  
giving.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. VENT: I'm here.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, thanks,  
Darrell. Appreciate that. So, we're giving member  
reports and we're going to try and pick up Tom Kriska,  
and Jenny after -- when they get here after lunch, which  
is -- so they're flying up from Anchorage in Galena.

The Chair Report, I -- I'm the Advisory  
Committee Chair for Koyukuk River, and we've -- we went  
over the Area M proposals predominantly. And some  
statewide proposals for fishery to submit to the Board  
of Fish. And Jack Wholecheese is one of our members. He  
attended the Board of Fish meeting for the Koyukuk River  
Advisory. So, if you saw Jack from Huslia down there,  
Robert, that's -- he was there for the Advisory  
Committee. We were supporting a proposal that would  
limit Proposal 31 and 32, basically limiting the amount  
of time in the middle of the June fishery so that they  
would -- the Area M fishery could not be prosecuted when  
the majority of the chum and chinook were going through.  
And so, we're on pins and needles about what the Board  
of Fish is going to do to protect the interception of  
chinook and chum that are passing through Area M. There's  
a lot of fish going into the North Pacific, and they

1 move through the South Alaska Peninsula. My opinion, and  
2 I'm opinionated, is that the Area M actually goes around  
3 to the north side of the Alaska Peninsula, all the way  
4 to Cape Menshikov, right there by right by Ugashik. So  
5 my opinion is that instead of a closure, they should  
6 move the Area M fleet around to the north side of the  
7 Alaska Peninsula, close the rest of the South Peninsula  
8 in the passes, and have the -- prosecute the sockeye  
9 fishery from what's that, mud bay or mud flat or  
10 something down to Menshikov and make the fleet fish down  
11 there during their -- this window period to let the  
12 chums and chinook go through to the Bering Sea to  
13 continue on up to the Yukon and Kuskokwim deltas. That's  
14 my opinion. I haven't seen a proposal like that, but  
15 when we were in discussion about this window closure, I  
16 thought, well, that's actually probably a valid proposal  
17 for next round of -- see how this goes.

18  
19 But they're allocated, what is it, 7.2%  
20 of the Bristol Bay projected sockeye run. That's what  
21 Area M is going after. And so, let's just move them  
22 towards Bristol Bay. Let's get them away from the passes.  
23 That's what I -- that's me. That's just the way I think.  
24

25 So, we had those proposals. We -- I, you  
26 know, we're having call for game proposals through --  
27 for the Interior Region through May 1. We're going to  
28 have a Koyukuk River Advisory Committee meeting -- in  
29 person meeting in Huslia March 26th, I think it was 24-  
30 26 around then. And we're going to be talking about game  
31 proposals. And there's issues that should be addressed  
32 through the Board of Game process. One would be a draw  
33 permit for Unit 24A, where I live for the thousands of  
34 hunters that are coming on the Haul Road for Dall sheep,  
35 it should be a draw permit for Dall sheep in Unit 24A.  
36 Because there's literally thousands of people. And are  
37 -- we have been on closure from -- a federal closure  
38 from 2022 to 2026 regulatory year. So, it end in July  
39 1, is the end of the regulatory year for the '25. And  
40 so on this fall, the sheep season will be open. And so,  
41 we've protected some older sheep. We've got some  
42 recruitments. We've had some brutal winters. And last  
43 year exactly at time, we had 52 inches of snow. People  
44 are crying about 34 inches out there in the yard. We had  
45 snow this deep. We had snow nearly twice that deep. And  
46 we had -- that plastered onto the mountains. We had --  
47 Department of Fish and Game had 120 GPS collars on Dall  
48 sheep east and west of the Road. There was 30 ewes and  
49 30 rams east, and 30 ewes 30 rams in the Gates of the  
50 Arctic National Park. Last year, there was a 20%

1 mortality of the adult sheep, that died last winter. So,  
2 the recruitments, the survey that they did east of the  
3 Road, it shows that there was virtually no increase. In  
4 fact, we had slightly declined in the sheep population.  
5 It's the second lowest, the sheep population. But it's  
6 the structure of the sheep population. We've got some  
7 younger sheep that have come in. We're losing older  
8 animals off the top end with the bad winter. So, we're  
9 restructured the population where we have -- and that's  
10 so, so important that we have a sheep management  
11 strategy. That we have to have composition of the rams  
12 in the survey. And we're going to -- we're going to  
13 address that at this meeting. So, we had a discussion  
14 with Gates of the Arctic staff. The only comments we  
15 got. We need to have in the surveys our -- in our region  
16 -- sheep will be -- aerial surveys. They're going to  
17 have to survey for half-curl, which is 3 and 4 years  
18 old. So, we know if we got baby sheep actually entering  
19 the population as they grow in groups, we'll know if we  
20 actually got recruitment out of it. A three-quarter  
21 curl, which is like 5- and 6-year-old rams and then  
22 full-curl is 7 and 8, and older. So, that's what we need  
23 to know. There's not a moose -- caribou population or  
24 moose population that doesn't hardly have small bulls,  
25 medium bulls and large bulls. And Western Arctic doesn't  
26 have it. Western Arctic is not getting the right  
27 composition because it doesn't -- they have no idea what  
28 the recruiting. We have to have science. This program  
29 is under ANILCA mandate for maintaining healthy fish and  
30 wildlife populations using recognized scientific  
31 principles. Period. And there's no science involved in  
32 the current sheep strategies of taking aerial survey and  
33 going, we have so many legal rams which are eligible to  
34 be shot that fall, and then everything below that. That  
35 doesn't tell you anything. That doesn't tell you  
36 anything at all. So that's a real problem.

37  
38 So, our sheep management strategy needs  
39 to move forward at this meeting. It's for our region  
40 only. We can't make Eastern or other regions do what we  
41 want to happen. We know, I understand what we need to  
42 do because they've dealt with Fish and Wildlife  
43 Management for 35 years, and I've read a heck of a lot  
44 of management reports. And I mean, Lisa over here has  
45 read a bunch of them. But I've read fish and wildlife  
46 management reports and lots of them. So, this is science.  
47 This is what we need to do. We're going to tell the  
48 Federal Subsistence Board we want to adopt this sheep  
49 management strategy. And the only thing that we're going  
50 to change in our strategy is the delineation to half-

1 curl, three-quarter curl, and full-curl. That's easy to  
2 see from the air and that's easy to get -- then you know  
3 what your composition is in the population. Our sheep  
4 population has restructured slightly. We have some  
5 younger, so we have some older rams that now can be  
6 taken. That's the only reason I'm not having a conniption  
7 fit about an opening right now, because those sheep can  
8 actually be taken off their 10 and 12 years old. We can  
9 take those off the top of the population. I would rather  
10 have a draw permit along the Road though.

11  
12 So, the weather this year is -- the cold  
13 air mass, the polar air mass moved way to the south. You  
14 know, Southcentral had some really cold weather.  
15 Fairbanks had a lot of cold weather, and it made this  
16 cold, dry snow and it dumped the snow south of the Brooks  
17 Range. Well, this is the 1st time in 12 years we've had  
18 snow at home at 17 inches. Our sheep and our caribou are  
19 jumping up and down and clicking their little hooves  
20 together about that one. Because it's so easy at winter.  
21 Caribou hide gaining weight. They're getting fat on a  
22 year like this. So, our sheep population and caribou  
23 population are having an exceptional winter for the  
24 first time in nearly over a decade. So, this could  
25 possibly give the sheep that we have right now and the  
26 caribou. They flew a survey for the Porcupine Caribou  
27 Herd, it's at 146,000 coming off of 200,018 in 2017. And  
28 so, we had a late spring last year, deep snow, sheep and  
29 caribou populations dwindled. Central Arctic Herd was  
30 34,500, it's down to 26,500. Western Herd is down to  
31 121,000 off of 154. These caribou populations needed  
32 this winter to get -- to start the recovery. We need to  
33 have a couple of these good winters. Polar air mass  
34 coming down and dumping snow south of us is really  
35 helping out the Arctic populations that have taken a  
36 beating. The Arctic is the focus of -- heat travels  
37 towards cold, the law of physics. So, heat travels. The  
38 heat was dumping all that snow on the Brooks Range and  
39 caused a lot, a lot of demise.

40  
41 This fall was one of the worst flood  
42 events, the 4th highest flood event in the 120-year  
43 history of the place I live in, in Wiseman. The first  
44 cabins there are 1901. There's a long oral history in  
45 that area. 1938 was a huge flood event. 1994 washed  
46 Allakaket away. It was an equitable flood event, in 1994.  
47 '98, in the spring, we had a large flood event. The 4th  
48 largest flood event was this fall, a huge flood event  
49 that scoured the rivers and the creek's right -- it  
50 scoured everything right into boulders. There was [sic]

1 areas that I've never seen that kind of erosion. The  
2 bottom erosion of the rivers was excessive this fall  
3 with this event because we had 90.3 degrees. The warmest  
4 temperature ever recorded in Wiseman's history. I take  
5 it from the National Weather Service. And the warmest  
6 temperature previous was 1930 at 89 degrees. So, the  
7 warm ground and the warm permafrost allowed the river -  
8 - the water to wash deep. We lost every last egg of a  
9 salmon that was spawned in July and August. We lost  
10 everything in the Brooks Range. So that cohort, you know,  
11 you could go into, you can go into Henshaw. You've  
12 probably been in Henshaw. It's going to be scoured out.  
13 So, all if any summer chum that spawned in Henshaw  
14 scoured right down to the bottom. It -- the water at the  
15 lower Koyukuk was so huge and that big monsoons kept  
16 coming that flooded out Western Alaska. It was a  
17 catastrophic event for the fisheries this fall. So,  
18 climate change at its ugliest face. The warm Pacific  
19 Ocean was sending typhoons at us one after another. And  
20 everybody felt that and it kept going and going. So, but  
21 this -- that's a catastrophic thing for the fish. But  
22 it's actually, you know, it's more beneficial for the  
23 animals this year because when it stopped raining, it  
24 stopped. The precipitation quit, fortunately.

25  
26 Our hare population is starting to  
27 increase. So, we're starting to see more lynx  
28 immigrating into the area. We see more lynx moving  
29 around. And so, our wolf population is -- they're not  
30 as fat as they are. When you got shallow snow, they  
31 don't catch animals as easily, they're running pretty  
32 hard. So, they're cannibalizing. There's a friend of  
33 mine's trapping out of Coldfoot. He's catching wolves  
34 that are chewed up and they're skinny. They're a lot  
35 skinnier than they were last year. Last year, when the  
36 deep snow, the wolves were just running around on top  
37 of the snow, there was fat as a pig. And I got dogs and  
38 I feed wolf meat to my dogs. I got -- received donated  
39 carcasses besides the ones I caught, and they were so  
40 fat. I'd never seen wolves -- I've fed dogs to my --  
41 wolves to my dogs for years and I'd never seen wolves  
42 that fat which made their fecundity go way up, they had  
43 lots of pups. There was lots of pups this fall, but this  
44 shallow snow year is rectifying that. Wolves will self-  
45 regulate back to within their food parameters. They're  
46 not doing so good. They start eating each other, so  
47 they're going to cannibalize their population down. So  
48 that's this -- just the way they work that's documented  
49 in Denali National Park. I've been on this Council for  
50 -- since 1993, and Denali gave us a really nice graphic

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1 of wolf population with telemetry. Wolves follow snow  
2 depth with synchrony. The deeper the snow, the  
3 productivity goes up with the wolf population, the snow  
4 backs off again and in the wolf population follows the  
5 snow right back down again. Why does it go down? Because  
6 they eat each other. They cannibalize themselves right  
7 back down. And it's well documented with that Riley Creek  
8 pack, how they ate -- I forget what the north of them  
9 was. The Toklat pack or some pack, just so they ate  
10 every last one of the 9. They ate that pack. That's  
11 what's happening this year in the Brooks Range, the wolf  
12 population is declining.

13

14 (Unmuted microphone)

15

16 So anyways, our Council Reports and our  
17 member reports are about what's actually going on in our  
18 area. And I'm giving you sort of an overview of what the  
19 environmental conditions and what, you know, what this  
20 Council does is to let the Federal Subsistence Board  
21 more know what we're sort of like the hand on the pulse  
22 of what's going on out there in the woods and in the  
23 rivers and so forth. And what the likelihood of response  
24 of the populations to regulations or to environmental  
25 factors. And so, climate change has just given us so  
26 many reads of different factors that have either  
27 decimated or highly restricted our populations of fish  
28 and wildlife within this region. So, I'm sick of it.

29

30 When I was a kid, we had snow up to my  
31 knee. I skied in soft snow right to the bottom all the  
32 time. There was lots of caribou. There was ptarmigans  
33 all over the place. It's like -- it's way different.  
34 Avian influenza has decimated our -- first it decimated  
35 the ravens, they kind of disappeared last year and the  
36 year before. Now I don't see nearly as many, we had  
37 thousands. When there's less predation, the ptarmigan  
38 population exploded. Their ptarmigan went way down, you  
39 know, with no predators. So that means they've also  
40 contracted -- one person, had a had a spruce grouse  
41 laying dead in front of their house in our village, you  
42 know. So, did you touch it? You shouldn't touch it  
43 because it might have bird flu. It's a fairly strong  
44 virus. So, we do have virus attack on some of our birds.

45

46 So, that's all I kind of got for my Chair  
47 Report. We're going to be developing game proposals for  
48 the Koyukuk River. This Council can also develop game  
49 proposals to submit to the State Board of Game. And we're  
50 also called for fisheries proposals at this meeting. So,

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1 any questions? Robert.

2

3 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I  
4 remember right, we did a proposal a couple years ago,  
5 Tim, and about this -- the seine net that was used down  
6 in Area M.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yes, Robert. You  
9 want to give the numbers, that's one 148. Was it 148?

10

11 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. Thank you, Robert.  
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair. So, during the break, Lisa showed  
13 me they're updating the Board of Fish website as they  
14 move through the voting progression. And so, Proposal  
15 148, the one from WIRAC passed with amended language.  
16 And so, our original proposal was to reduce the depth  
17 of the net from 375 to 325, and the amended language is  
18 -- 335 is going to be the new rate. 335 so, pretty close  
19 to 325 and that's 40 meshes -- 40 mesh reduction, which  
20 is substantial. And -- but -- so there's 2 portions to  
21 our proposal portion A and portion B. And portion A was  
22 about length of the seine itself and the lead. And we  
23 couldn't figure out if that got included in the proposed  
24 language or it got struck. It just says the RC208, the  
25 amended language. It just has to B. And there's no  
26 reference to A. So, I don't at this point in time, I  
27 don't know if they changed the length of the lead and  
28 the seine and the overall allowable length of lead in  
29 seine together. So, we'll have to follow that up a bit.  
30 But at least half of the proposal had -- they almost  
31 matched the original request.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That's good news.  
34 And it -- did it -- does it say that they adopted with  
35 the -- with that amended language? Adopted with the --  
36 that means that they reduced the length unless they  
37 specifically struck it. They either adopt the proposal  
38 as written or amend the proposal. The amended language  
39 would tell you what they're amending. I would be  
40 surprised if they just threw out the length thing and  
41 didn't say it.

42

43 MR. GERVAIS: Said passed with amended  
44 language.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And the amended  
47 language is in.....

48

49 MR. GERVAIS: Was only part B with the  
50 depth.

1

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: But, the whole -- the proposal passed with the amended language on part B. That would tell me. But unless I'm absolutely wrong, they should have said that they were striking A. Lisa is giving me -- let me take a look at it.

7

8

MS. GREDIAGIN: I don't think they made any modifications to A. Like I think they just kept A as it currently is. And then this is the modification of B.

12

13

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.

14

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17

MR. GERVAIS: What do you -- what do you think, Nissa? You have the most Board of Fish experience of anyone in the room.

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MS. PILCHER: Yeah. So, the this is Nissa Pilcher for the record. So, in B the bold underlined words are the additions. And then there's this -- the bottom -- the second sentence in subsection B is -- was erased. Because generally capital letters means it was removed. So, the information about leads may not be less than 50 fathoms nor more than that looks like it was struck. But subsection A was not changed at all. So, the change was to the purse seine or hand purse seine. That was changed.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, I see. I'm not -- I didn't have the proposal before me. So, you're right. So that -- they didn't address the other the other portion of that B so, we did get the depth though.

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MR. GERVAIS: And it's effective 2027 so that -- there's a 1 year wait on that. But that's reasonable. That's a -- that would be a lot of money to modify your net like that within a couple months.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, thanks for clarifying that, Nissa. I appreciate seeing what they actually are doing there. In that sub -- in that section B. So that answers your question, Robert? That with the proposal -- the proposal actually -- we found out that it actually partially (distortion).

47

48

49

50

MR. WALKER: Well, excuse me. Thank you, Mr. Chair, but I was thinking that, you know, because we went through that last year, was it or year before?

1 MS. PILCHER: So, you guys would have  
2 discussed it last year.

3  
4 MR. WALKER: Oh, yeah.

5  
6 MS. PILCHER: Last year we submitted it  
7 by April of 2025 for them to discuss it at this meeting.

8  
9 MR. WALKER: Okay. So, I -- when we went  
10 through the portal, I didn't see that. That was why my  
11 question came up.

12  
13 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. So now I'm just  
14 recalling it as you're talking. We Discuss this in the  
15 All-RAC meeting in Anchorage in '24. We submitted it as  
16 an out-of-cycle proposal. It got -- it didn't -- wasn't  
17 accepted out of cycle. So then last year it came into  
18 the call for proposal cycle. And so, now it just gets  
19 passed. So yeah, we try to do something in 2024. But it  
20 was out of out of sequence, out of cycle. And so that's  
21 why it's been going on for almost 2 years now. Year and  
22 a half.

23  
24 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah. So, the  
25 Council prevailed on mostly about what, you know, that  
26 -- the depth. The depth is a big deal especially for  
27 chinook, interception of chinook. They swim pretty deep.  
28 A lot of times, unless it's windy. So, if it's windy,  
29 they come up on top right, so. So, but it helps. It's  
30 gonna help. So.....

31  
32 (Simultaneous speech)

33  
34 MR. GERVAIS: I think it'll be a  
35 substantial help with the chum also.

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah, they do swim  
38 some deeper. So that answers your question, Robert? Do  
39 you have another one?

40  
41 MR. WALKER: No, Mr. Chair. But now that  
42 I'm thinking, I think it was to lengthen or to shorten  
43 the depth because the salmon swam under the other fish,  
44 was it the 2 or 3, or 4 or 5 year old was swimming under  
45 the sockeye or the chum salmon? Was it?

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Sockeye swam  
48 closer to the surface a lot of times. They can swim  
49 deep. You know, they -- there's most of the time they're  
50 swimming within the reach of most of the gillnet depths

1 that we have. But there are times when they can swim  
2 under the net. But if for, you know, the stratification  
3 of the salmon and the high seas would be from fishing  
4 in clearwater. You get you get fish, sockeye towards the  
5 surface. Chums and kings, chinook are lower in the water  
6 column. So, that's what this is trying to address. And  
7 then every fish counts. And so, if we get additional  
8 fish through the fishery that -- that's a kind of a big  
9 deal. Tim.

10

11 MR. GERVAIS: I have one more comment  
12 that's relevant on the history. So, a few years ago,  
13 Silver Bay Seafoods built a big plant in False Pass. And  
14 prior to that, it was -- there was 2 processors in Area  
15 M. There's Trident in Sand Point, and Peter Pan in King  
16 Cove. And then there was a small CDQ Processor in False  
17 Pass. And then Silver Bay came in and built a large  
18 state-of-the-art plant and False Pass. And when they did  
19 that, they brought in a lot of seining power, like  
20 probably increased the harvest capacity of Area M by 40%  
21 from a -- lot of fishermen from southeast and a lot of  
22 fishermen from Kodiak came in. And so, there was more  
23 boats and some really talented fishermen and just more,  
24 more harvesting potential. And that's what was one of  
25 the contributing factors why we saw that spike in chum  
26 interception.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: My question for you  
29 is, you know, there were 12 vessels caught chucking chums  
30 a couple of years ago. And do you -- is your perception  
31 is that that still may be occurring to reduce the  
32 perception of interception?

33

34 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair, I would just  
35 speculate. I've never seined or gillnetted in Area M but  
36 there's a lot of economic incentive to bring less chum  
37 to the dock. So, the potential is there.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right. That was a  
40 documented issue. The enforcement found 12 vessels  
41 actually literally throwing chums overboard so that they  
42 wouldn't be enumerated in the incidental harvest with  
43 the Bristol Bay -- with the sockeye harvest of the June  
44 fishery.

45

46 So, I think we've covered that pretty  
47 good. That's -- and we, you know, we -- at the break,  
48 we're talking about when, you know, there some political  
49 stuff started coming up in our Council reports, which  
50 I'm on the line about that. But that's your opinion.

1 It's your time to talk before the Council. It's not good  
2 to talk about politics because this Council is under the  
3 Advisory Committee Act. And so, we can't have -- we  
4 don't state political stuff. We can't send letters about  
5 political -- for political reasons, that's under the  
6 Hatch Act. So, but you're -- in your, basically your own  
7 comments and you're not requesting any letters to be  
8 written or if you would have requested letters to be  
9 written about political things, we wouldn't go there.  
10 But it's best not to get into politics in our discussion.  
11 We're focused on the subsistence aspect of fish and  
12 wildlife management with the Federal Subsistence Board.  
13 And so, we really shouldn't be -- really trying not to  
14 do that. I know, I understand the impassionment [sic]  
15 of how things happen. Go ahead, Tim.

16  
17 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
18 wanted to clarify what I was trying to say is, there's  
19 laws on the books. ANCSA for over 50 years. ANILCA for  
20 45 years. So, trying to echo frustration of other council  
21 members and subsistence users in Western Alaska that  
22 there's existing law, existing code of federal  
23 regulation to not destroy the resource and provide  
24 subsistence opportunity. But due to the nature of the  
25 way the government, society interaction plays out we're  
26 losing the -- I don't know battle losing the -- we're  
27 not -- I don't feel like the intent of law is being  
28 followed by the regulatory scheme.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah. I, you know,  
31 I've been frustrated by, you know, we made the Board of  
32 Game meeting of March of 2024. We made -- Koyukuk River  
33 Advisory Committee made explicit and long comments on  
34 various proposals, including caribou and our member  
35 Michelle Quillen attended the meeting. She presented a  
36 PowerPoint in this room, and the Chair of the Board of  
37 Game says they'd never had a PowerPoint. It went over  
38 what the biology of caribou are. You know that caribou  
39 are in lactation way until September right before the  
40 rut. And so, they need a cow protection, you know, cow  
41 protection when they're in lactation. The proposal was  
42 for 5 caribou, cows, bulls, the whole works. We didn't  
43 want to see that kind of cow harvest. 10 minutes later,  
44 during deliberation, a Board Member asked the Department  
45 of Fish and Game when do cow caribou quit lactation? And  
46 the department couldn't answer the question for 2  
47 minutes, and Michelle had just put it on the screen 10  
48 minutes before, which told me that the Board of Game  
49 pays virtually no attention to the Advisory Committee  
50 comments. I was very frustrated and of course, adopted

1 the proposal for 5 cow caribou, with thousands of hunters  
2 hunting on the Haul Road. So, the cow caribou -- cows  
3 don't have a calf till they're 3. Just like a moose or  
4 4 if they have a hard winter when their calf. And they  
5 never have a twin. Moose have twins. Caribou never have  
6 a twin, ever. So they -- they're more sensitive to manage  
7 than.

8  
9 So, I get super frustrated when a Board  
10 process doesn't listen to the advisors. 84-86 Advisory  
11 Committees, and are they really even paying attention?  
12 I mean, it's like, I mean, Michelle was there with this  
13 PowerPoint, how more graphic can you get? And they still  
14 didn't pay attention to the comments of the Advisory  
15 Committee. So, that's a little frustrating. I feel the  
16 frustration of, you know, at previous Board of Fish  
17 meetings on various issues. And so, I -- I have -- I do  
18 feel that the Federal Subsistence Board process listens  
19 because there's deference to the Councils. That's why I  
20 enjoy this program, because they have deference to the  
21 Councils. They actually listen to the Councils. The  
22 Councils can comment during -- at the table with the  
23 Board. The Advisory Committees, they make comments, but  
24 they don't actually -- can't enter into the  
25 deliberation. And they don't -- the Board doesn't have  
26 deference to the -- to the advisory -- the Board of Game  
27 and the Board of Fish don't have deference to the  
28 Advisory Committees at all. They don't even weigh --  
29 really validly weigh what they're actually saying. And  
30 a lot of times ignore them, which I'm super frustrated  
31 with that. But that's just the way -- that's the  
32 difference in the systems. So, I -- any other discussion  
33 on that? Do you have any comments, Darrell?

34  
35 (No response)

36  
37 Still there, Darrell? I'll give Darrell  
38 opportunity to -- so, you have comments on this?

39  
40 MR. VENT: No.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.

43  
44 MR. VENT: No. I'm good.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Alright. So that  
47 covers that. But we do have quorum now with Darrell on  
48 the phone or online. So, we -- what should be our  
49 strategy here, Nissa? In the last -- we got about maybe  
50 20 minutes before noon. So, then we're going to break

1 for lunch. And then we got going to have hopefully we'll  
2 have Jenny. The weather's decent here, they should be  
3 able to come up. This is coming out of the West. I would  
4 hope she's flying in. Go ahead, you got an update on  
5 that? Go ahead.

6  
7 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. This is Nissa for the  
8 record. So, Jenny is in the air. I believe she's just  
9 about getting into Fairbanks now, so she will be with  
10 us after lunch. And Tommy should be landing about 12:30  
11 as well, so we should have everybody minus Pollock senior  
12 when we come back after lunch. So, the 1st action item  
13 is Election of Officers. If you guys would like, we  
14 could just wait until after lunch when we have the 2  
15 more folks here to do that. You guys could Adopt the  
16 Agenda if you'd like. A quick note on Meeting Minutes.  
17 Meeting Minutes don't need to be certified until 90 days  
18 since your -- from the original meeting, and you guys  
19 are like, 62 days since you guys were together. So, you  
20 don't need to Approve Meeting Minutes for this minute -  
21 - meeting. You'll be approving both this set and the  
22 December set in your fall meeting coming up. So, if you  
23 guys wanted to do the agenda. You -- but. Yeah.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. I think we  
26 could Adopt the Agenda. It's pretty straightforward. I  
27 would like to take -- my position as if the public  
28 arrives to comment before the Council. I would like to  
29 take those as needed. I just -- that's just me, because  
30 they might have something pressing to say, but they only  
31 have a break for to come to the -- to a talk to us. So,  
32 if they can get a card before us, I would like to take  
33 that. But that's just -- that's up -- I would like the  
34 discretion of the Chair to address public members if  
35 they arrive and have something to say in, and so we can  
36 take a break from what we're doing to take that  
37 testimony. Not long testimony, you know, like 5 minutes  
38 or 10 or whatever. So, if that's clarified for the  
39 agenda, the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt the  
40 agenda as presented.

41  
42 MR. GERVAIS: So, moved.

43  
44 MR. HONEA: Second.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Moved by Tim.  
47 Second by Don. Any further discussion or insertions?

48  
49 MR. WALKER: Question.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Questions called  
2 by Robert. Those in favor of adoption of the agenda  
3 signify by saying aye.

4  
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6  
7 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Darrell, is that an  
8 aye?

9  
10 MR. VENT: Aye.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Aye, okay. So  
13 unanimous adoption of the agenda. And as  
14 Nissa says, our minutes -- we don't have minutes. So,  
15 we're going to do those in the fall. So, we're moving  
16 into Public and Tribal Comments on Non-Agenda Items. And  
17 we have we have PJ in the audience. Do you want to wait  
18 till after lunch to get our other comments? You can go  
19 now if you would like. If you would like to go now or -  
20 - yeah. So PJ is in the audience and I would like to  
21 hear what he has to say. Go right ahead.

22  
23 MR. SIMON: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.  
24 Chairman. Members of the Board. My name is PJ Simon. I  
25 live in Allakaket and I just want to express my gratitude  
26 for all of you for serving in preserving our natural  
27 resources. And really quick, a lot of times I call Jack,  
28 I call around and just really pay attention to flora and  
29 fauna around Allakaket. And I hunt caribou. I was  
30 actually in Coldfoot last week, shot 2 caribou. When the  
31 Haul Road was built, Alyeska made a deal, or the federal  
32 government made a deal with our tribe that we work with  
33 industry. Then my tribal members that reside in  
34 Allakaket can hunt the Haul Road. And I don't think we  
35 had a meeting with any of the agencies or what's the go  
36 forward plan with the Public Land Order 5150.

37  
38 That caribou herd is vitally important  
39 to -- part of our diet. We don't -- we -- I've been  
40 shooting caribou about 4 years now since I moved back  
41 to Allakaket and qualified as a federally qualified  
42 subsistence user. And saying that, you know, my tribe -  
43 - as chief of the tribe, we do support the Ambler Road  
44 project. We support Doyon Limited on Wiseman, Metals.  
45 They have a mine up there, my native corporation. And  
46 also, South 32 Mining company just 35 miles north  
47 northwest of Allakaket. And they've been hiring my  
48 tribal members and they've been gainfully employed. And  
49 I think the moral building capacity for mental health,  
50 retirement, healthcare that goes hand in hand with

1 subsistence as we live out our lives out there. Because  
2 we do need money to go out and hunt, and everything is  
3 about balance. My tribe has met with Alaska delegation,  
4 Kate McGregor, the deputy of DOI on Ambler and other  
5 developments around our area. We have worked well with  
6 Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority. For  
7 years we battled the Ambler Road on one concept that no  
8 agency, not Doyon, not Kake Corp, not the state of  
9 Alaska, not the mining companies have went to Allakaket  
10 to talk to the tribe. Everybody leapfrog over us until  
11 we just said we had enough. And we just -- it's part of  
12 our self-determination as a Native Tribe. And I wanted  
13 to let WIRAC know that my tribe recently, this fall, we  
14 filed a 1106B. We passed a resolution.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Can I stop you  
17 there for a second, PJ? Jenny has just come in. I want  
18 to recognize Jenny Pelkola arrived. Welcome to the  
19 meeting, Jenny. We're glad you're here. And PJ is giving  
20 a testimony about -- you know, PJ, so.

21  
22 MR. SIMON: My cousin.

23  
24 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, cousin. Cousin  
25 PJ here. Go ahead.

26  
27 MR. SIMON: Yes. So, with all of this  
28 administration and the politics of a new administration  
29 you know, Jack, you know as well, they forced out new  
30 federal employees with every presidency and the stump  
31 speeches that ran on presidency. And this one is all  
32 about resource development and extraction. And  
33 Allakaket, we've -- we passed a resolution recently, and  
34 we're furthering our steps of 1106B of ANILCA, a  
35 transportation utility system, to go from Allakaket  
36 across Kake Corp in Doyon Inholdings, and about 27 miles  
37 of Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, then tie in into the  
38 State of Alaska lands on the Haul Road. So, we need a  
39 winter road or access to the Haul Road because we pay  
40 so much in fuel. \$1.80 a pound after 40 pounds at Wright  
41 Air is quite a bit. A jar of pickles will cost \$9, where  
42 you pay 3.45 here at Freddy's or Safeway. But I just  
43 want to say those things and get into what I've been  
44 seeing a lot of marking tracks on along the river system.  
45 I'm part of the -- I go out everywhere towards Tanana,  
46 Allakaket trail. Not much snow until last week. We --  
47 Ray Mountain caribou, we've been -- we haven't been  
48 shooting them because we can hunt the Haul Road caribou.  
49 But now that we might not hunt the Haul Road caribou,  
50 we'll probably go south and shoot the Ray Mountain herd.

00051

1 And the Western Arctic Herd hasn't come around for a  
2 while.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I will comment on  
5 this 5150 issue after your testimony, so.

6

7 MR. SIMON: Okay, thank you.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I'd like to comment  
10 on that right after your testimony, because you're  
11 believing what BLM told you and BLM is incorrect. I told  
12 them at our December meeting that if the 5150 is lifted,  
13 it allows the state to select, it's like no different  
14 than any other BLM land. Otherwise, they would have to  
15 close all BLM land until the state selects. It's not  
16 until it's tentatively approved. And so, the reality  
17 is you can still hunt on the Haul Road period. That's  
18 just -- and you can get your -- you can get Doyon  
19 attorneys or somebody's attorneys to explain to the BLM  
20 that it's under selection process until tentatively --  
21 to -- until they actually look at the -- they actually  
22 decide which areas of the utility corridor they want and  
23 then select. Then they have to go through a tentative  
24 approval period. And then they go -- once they're  
25 tentatively approved -- once they've selected, they're  
26 tentatively approved. Then we can't hunt there. But  
27 we're -- they're not selected until -- they've been  
28 selecting land for 65 years. Are we're going to stop on  
29 50 million acres of federal public lands, Bureau of Land  
30 Management managed lands just because the state of  
31 Alaska has the opportunity to select? No, we don't stop  
32 until they select and they have 5.2 to go. I put my  
33 thing out there -- previous -- but you're saying you  
34 have to go back to Ray Mountain. It's like, no you don't.  
35 You can continue to hunt those. Those are Porcupine  
36 Caribou. You could continue to hunt Porcupine Caribou.  
37 And you can get an attorney to -- in fact, this Council  
38 should actually request the Office of Subsistence  
39 Management to have the solicitor and analyze that  
40 statement. I feel that this Council should request the  
41 Federal Subsistence Board to analyze that statement,  
42 because it's just the fact of how conveyance has  
43 happened. The BLM has been telling me back when they  
44 were talking about lifting this public land order to  
45 allow the state to select. And I told them in the summer,  
46 and I wrote them an email, the regional director would  
47 not respond to me at all. And then we had the director  
48 or the -- back when we had our meeting in December at  
49 Wedgewood, we had the acting district manager for  
50 Central Yukon tell us that this -- that when they left,

1 it's going to be close to subsistence. I says, no, it's  
2 not. This -- their solicitor has been wrong over and  
3 over again. They told us we couldn't harvest timber  
4 resources, forestry products, on federal public land.  
5 It says in ANILCA there's a rural priority for fish and  
6 wildlife and other wild renewable resources, for food,  
7 fuel or shelter. They lost on that one. They're lost on  
8 this one. These lands are now under selection status.  
9 They're not -- the state is not selected yet. Not until  
10 the state selects and they're tentatively approved. You  
11 can continue to hunt on the Haul Road. Period. That's  
12 my -- that's the way -- that's the fact of the BLM lands.  
13 Otherwise, you know, they would close all federal lands  
14 to subsistence, and they haven't. Congress didn't do  
15 that. Congress did not close all federal public lands  
16 until the state is -- because it's in a selection  
17 process. So, the Bureau of Land Management is trying to  
18 fool you, your tribe. And they tried to fool me, but I'm  
19 not fooled by that stuff, because that's not the way  
20 this works. There's a whole process. You can go -- I'll  
21 tell you all about it. Google it. So, go ahead, PJ, keep  
22 talking. I'm just correcting your perception before we  
23 let this go too far.

24  
25 MR. SIMON: So, I think clarity would,  
26 really help, me and my tribal members. About 5 of us  
27 made trail to the Haul Road last week and a week before.  
28 And we pay 11.50 a gallon for gasoline. And, you know,  
29 we tie into the Haul Road, and Chief Frankie T., he  
30 finished the winter road yesterday. And when that's  
31 usually complete, I'll take the hunters up north and we  
32 just shoot caribou. Sometimes we shoot 7, sometimes we  
33 shoot 5. We try to not shoot any moose out of season.  
34 There's a bull moose season right now, but it's pretty  
35 tough to take what we call mayonnaise moose. It's just  
36 pretty tough meat. We'd rather have caribou. Follow our  
37 traditional calendar. And part of my Council they talked  
38 about, Mr. Chairman, is where is the verbiage of this  
39 agreement from years ago? And you look at all the, the  
40 news, Anchorage Daily News, Fairbanks Daily News, none  
41 of them mentions Allakaket tribe or our ability -- and  
42 Evansville tribe, to -- where is the outcome of that  
43 decision? No one has explained -- no agency has  
44 specifically brought this up and have a government to  
45 government with Allakaket tribe and talk specifically,  
46 okay, if we knew this was coming in, we're okay with it.  
47 I said we support development, but if we're giving up  
48 an indigenous right, that's in the Federal Register  
49 somewhere in the annals of the Code of Federal  
50 Regulations, or however our federal laws are made, then

1 we can't just -- I don't think it has to -- something  
2 has to come out of this is what I'm saying. We're at a  
3 loss, and we're sitting around our Council and saying,  
4 what the heck is going on?

5  
6 You know, the same with salmon. The  
7 salmon disappeared. 2018, we had 308,000 salmon in  
8 Henshaw. To us that's an old fight. It's 2026. It's been  
9 7 years. And 4 years ago, I testified to the Board of  
10 Fish, the North Pacific. I said we need hatchery  
11 enhancement in the upper Koyukuk. And in the meantime,  
12 then we can actually get physical salmon while everybody  
13 goes through the politics of salmon. From North Pacific,  
14 to NOA, to Commerce to, you know, Senator Cruz, the  
15 Chairman of that Senator Sullivan's the ranking member  
16 on that. So, there's a lot of politics you know, and  
17 thank God for John Sturgeon with -- he clarified a lot  
18 before we were told we couldn't hunt -- we couldn't cut  
19 timber at the mouth of the Henshaw for house logs when  
20 my young tribal members were trying to build their own  
21 homes because it was within the refuge. When John  
22 Sturgeon came along and went to the Supreme Court, it  
23 clarified that Doyon lands inside a federal refuge, BLM,  
24 National Park, Kanuti is Indian land and we have inherent  
25 right to take our renewable resources. You see, before  
26 ANILCA, before all this came around. We used to hunt and  
27 fish in harmony with nature. And then fast forward, you  
28 know, just offhand, I grew up seeing hundreds and  
29 hundreds of blackbirds, waterfowl, seagulls, salmon  
30 going up to John River to hunt sheep, we used to see  
31 hundreds of sheep by riverboat. And moose, we used to  
32 have moose. So much salmon, we'd watch them just be in  
33 awe. But you fast forward to 2026, you know a lot of  
34 pink salmon getting released into the Gulf of Alaska.  
35 And then we have a lot of fishing. But I don't blame the  
36 people that are hungry. You know, the living's gotta eat  
37 and with every ten years you have another billion people  
38 on the planet. I don't blame them for being hungry, but  
39 where's our fight in terms of what we can control is,  
40 maybe throw in some hatchery enhancement find out about  
41 our laws on, you know, this is the Western Interior  
42 Regional Advisory Council for subsistence in part of the  
43 Haul Road PLO 5150 is subsistence, our inherent right  
44 that was written into federal law somewhere.

45  
46 So, we're at a loss on that. But, you  
47 know, the salmon that I hope they come back a lot of  
48 hungry people out there. A lot of waterfowls  
49 disappeared, too. I've hunt just about every year. I go  
50 down to Big Lake. I have 160 acres at Lake Toad, halfway

1 to Tanana. We hunt (In Native) in our Koyukon, that's  
2 the sandblasted areas. We got good beaver. We got good  
3 whitefish. Good sheefish. More than enough sheefish. We  
4 have so much sheefish it's crazy. I don't know, not --  
5 you know, maybe that's why a lot of the salmon is  
6 disappearing. I thought about salmon sharks, sea otters  
7 that eat salmon, but I just want to put it out there.  
8 Earlier, I heard testimony from your Board that talked  
9 about, you know, AIDEA, Alaska Industrial Development  
10 and Export Authority. They've been a good friend to us.  
11 And I'll say it as a Chief that no one reached out to  
12 us in 14 years of Ambler Road, and AIDEA was the one  
13 that came in and said, you know, let's engage in  
14 cooperation than in conflict. And I think that kind of  
15 good politics goes hand in hand on any topic with this  
16 administration, but they've been good to us. You know,  
17 everything's about compromise. We hope that the politics  
18 of it all works out for everyone. We don't have -- my  
19 tribe doesn't have anything against anyone. Red, white  
20 or blue or anything. We just, we welcome everybody in  
21 Allakaket. We hunt, we fish, we trap, we do the best we  
22 can, you know whatever hat we wear. And but I just I  
23 think, felt compelled to come here to find out -- Ken  
24 Slaughter actually called and left a message. He's one  
25 of the top guys with BLM, and I have -- didn't want to  
26 call him back until I talked to the Doyon lawyer, like  
27 you said, or my ex-wife's attorney. So, just get some  
28 clarification. But we're just at a loss and just want  
29 to make this testimony to WIRAC that our people do count  
30 on the Haul Road caribou, wherever they come from. We  
31 grew up caribou just going through town. That's what I  
32 remember as a kid and those days -- those doesn't [sic]  
33 exist anymore. We don't see hardly any birds.

34  
35 This is not a boo-hoo testimony. It's,  
36 you know my grandma used to say, you gotta learn to be  
37 strong, and that's what we're doing, whether through  
38 COVID, whether through everything else, engaging in  
39 cooperation. And we do realize, you know, whatever  
40 administration, state or federal, the president, that  
41 not everybody is going to like us. And you know, not  
42 everybody is your friend. But we do have to work together  
43 and a lot of different facets of politics in whatever  
44 affects our life in any form of economy, from Comm Fish,  
45 to forestry, to oil and gas to gold. I dredged for gold  
46 also. So, it's all out there for people that want to  
47 make the most with what they have in front of them, but  
48 by no means my testimony want to be disrespectful to any  
49 other tribe, any other agency. I just speak for our area  
50 in our area alone. And with respect to all the agencies

1 state or federal and tribes. So that's what I wanted to  
2 testify about mostly. If Mr. Chairman or the powers that  
3 you guys have and your team and your intellectual  
4 property that you guys have is some clarification on  
5 this 5150, because no one's saying anything about it.  
6 Not the Anchorage Daily News, not the Fairbanks Daily  
7 News. No one. And we don't want to go quietly off into  
8 the sunset, you know. And Neil Gorsuch, the Supreme Court  
9 justice, said that, you know, that the American Indian,  
10 we have a right to raise our child how we want. We have  
11 a right to offer opportunity for our people. In one of  
12 his comments towards the end of his comment. And that  
13 was on ICWA, was that he'd want us to go into the  
14 twilight of history and, you know, and if -- so, be it,  
15 if we do lose our hunting rights when they went through  
16 our area, our traditional homeland that's just the way  
17 it goes. But, you know, I'm going to ask, as a chief of  
18 my tribe to do the best I can under the circumstances.  
19 You know, we're fighting an uphill battle with this  
20 administration, and I've met them. They're all pro-  
21 development, which is good. Again, I said, it's good for  
22 moral compass, mental health, retirement, health  
23 benefits. The median household income in Allakaket was  
24 14,000. Now, with South 32, K Corp, Doyon, Wiseman,  
25 Bettles, it's up to 25,000. And it's all about, you  
26 know, balance. I commend the people that are against  
27 development. They provide balance. But I'm pro  
28 development and respect everybody else. I think I'm  
29 talking a little bit too long kind of gliding off to the  
30 right to your Jack, Mr. Chairman.

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I appreciate all  
33 your comments. I want the Council to have an opportunity  
34 to ask any further clarifications. Oh, Tim. Go ahead.

35  
36 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. PJ,  
37 thank you for your comments. I always appreciate all  
38 your reports throughout the years and stuff. It's really  
39 great that you take the time to come and tell us what's  
40 going on in the Allakaket region. So, give me an update.  
41 I'm on -- I'm under the impression looking at the public  
42 record that Evansville and Bettles didn't want the road,  
43 the Ambler Road, and that the Ambler Road was 8 miles  
44 North of Bettles skirting their tribal land. And then  
45 is AIDEA suggesting or proposing to put a spur from  
46 Allakaket to Ambler Road, or is it mainly the employment  
47 and the being able to get fuel closer to the village,  
48 that you can haul on a winter road or something?

49  
50

1 MR. SIMON: Yes, Mr. Gervais. Yes. From  
2 2011, when DOT first came into Allakaket and started  
3 talking about a proposed road to 2026, you know, we've  
4 had talks with the powers that be. We agreed to  
5 (indiscernible) years ago, maybe 2012, to put the road  
6 right through Allakaket, and we would own it and that  
7 didn't go through. To all kinds of agreements and those  
8 types of negotiations, I suppose, happened when they  
9 were building the Trans-Alaska pipeline. But what my  
10 sovereign tribe and my Council, you know, we keep our -  
11 - we've kept Ambler quiet for years. And just because  
12 it's just the way it is, we deal with mining companies.  
13 South32, Doyon, Wiseman, Metals, Trilogy. And South 32,  
14 you know, they've gone to Allakaket 4 times a year.  
15 Doyon is twice a year. So, they've been working with us.  
16 Unfortunately, but maybe in a good way. We're surrounded  
17 by minerals up there by Allakaket. We have rare earth  
18 in the Ray Mountains. We have a multitude of metals in  
19 Southern Brooks Range and rumors that a mining company  
20 may be found more minerals than Red Dog, or just as  
21 much. So, 5 years ago, I told the people at a town  
22 meeting, I said, the whole world is coming to Allakaket.  
23 We're going to be a focus on the national stage, the  
24 politics, you know, it was nasty. But we held our ground,  
25 we kept our talks private as a sovereign tribe dealing  
26 with state and federal agencies, mining companies. And  
27 that's just part of how things work nowadays, and how  
28 things play out. But we kept an open mind and that's  
29 where we're at. Saying that, you hear stories of, oh you  
30 know, the roads are bad for fish. Well, we didn't have  
31 fish since 2018. We've watched the caribou go from  
32 420,000 to 120,000. We've watched our moose fluctuate.  
33 It's a good year this year for recruitment. And with the  
34 Bering Sea open, we've got a lot of snow in the Brooks  
35 Range. I think that has a lot to do with mortality of  
36 sheep. I quit hunting up the Alatna years ago, Mr.  
37 Gervais, because there's a lot of traffic up there in  
38 the winter and the summer, in the fall from floaters.  
39 And we -- I'm just afraid we -- I spend 90 gallons of  
40 gas at 11.50 a gallon to go up to Alatna. And, you know,  
41 you come around the bend, there's eight guys and gals  
42 and in a rubber raft enjoying the great outdoors. I have  
43 no issue with that, but I just quit hunting, and that's  
44 just from tourism. So, to find that balance, it's  
45 complicated. And to say I'm right, I'm not right. You  
46 know, it's we're all wrong here. Our elder years ago,  
47 the regional elder for Tanana Chiefs Conference. I  
48 remember him saying, you have to find that balance  
49 between the Western way and the traditional way, and  
50 that's where we're going. My tribe practicing self-

1 determination, building capacity for my 390 tribal  
2 members, 220 live here. 120 live over in Allakaket to  
3 get them to be gainfully employed. Have a healthy  
4 retirement. Good health benefits in waning times of less  
5 federal dollar going out to the villages. It's, you know,  
6 you have to look after your own, and you have to work  
7 with the people that want to work with you guys -- with  
8 us. And that's what we've done. So, I hope I answered  
9 your question. I kind of went in 7 different topics, but  
10 trying to give you an perspective from Allakaket view  
11 from the inside, looking out at everybody, looking at  
12 us.

13  
14 MR. GERVAIS: No, that was excellent.  
15 Thanks.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, I wanted to,  
18 you know, you're -- we're hunting caribous within this  
19 region. That's Unit 24A, that's in our region. We're  
20 here to protect the rural subsistence users and your --  
21 have customer and traditional use determination and the  
22 federal regulation book right in front of me here. You  
23 have a 5 caribou bag limit per day. And that -- that's  
24 not changed yet. So, you can get plenty of meat for your  
25 community. And we're here to protect -- to be the liaison  
26 between the rural people and for -- a public forum for  
27 people to express concerns or anything to do with fish  
28 and wildlife management. You're expressing concerns. And  
29 my opinion is -- I'm also in the same boat as you are,  
30 that the lifting of the 5150, which is a -- I wrote to  
31 my community, you know, because I -- people were pretty  
32 concerned about this issue. I sent this out that this  
33 was news release just the other day. So, I'm going to  
34 read this into the record. This is what I would like --  
35 this is my statement. I would like this Council to write  
36 to the to the Federal Subsistence Board process,  
37 requesting an interpretation, correct interpretation, of  
38 what's actually occurring with this Federal Bureau of  
39 Land Management lands and the state's election process.  
40 So, on January 20th, 2025, the President Trump signed  
41 an Executive Order 14153, Unleashing Alaska's  
42 Extraordinary Resource Potential, which directs the  
43 Secretary of Interior to review and potentially revoke  
44 public land orders, PLOs that restrict resource  
45 development, including those covering (d)(1) lands in  
46 Alaska. The order seeks to lift these withdrawals to  
47 facilitate state selection and private development of  
48 resources. Is not just that PLO, that public land order  
49 of the Dalton Highway. That's all the 28 million acres  
50 in Western Alaska/Bering Sea coast PLOs also. There's a

1 confusion by the news media on what this -- that PLO --  
2 that executive order actually said. The new appeal order  
3 that was just issued was lifting the 5150. And the  
4 Secretary of Interior ordered Public Land Order 7966  
5 allows the state to select 2.1 million acres of the  
6 utility corridor. The BLM is also ordered to lift the  
7 28 million acres on the Western Interior/Bering Sea  
8 coast. That's part of the executive order. That's what  
9 was not discussed in the news media, but that's what the  
10 executive order -- Trump told them to do. The state is  
11 vastly over selected, there's already -- hugely over  
12 selected and with top files, not only just their top  
13 file of the top of the PLOs by 6.8 million acres.  
14 Currently, the state has about 2 -- or 5.2 million acres.  
15 Just the top files are -- they're over selected even on  
16 the top files. They only have 5.2 million to go of their  
17 105 million acres. But can cherry -- now they can cherry  
18 pick from out of around 50 million acres. There was  
19 13.5, plus the 2.1 million there, 28 over there. That's  
20 nearly -- that's 57 million acres. The utility corridor  
21 only has gas. The state selects for subsurface value.  
22 They want oil, gas or minerals that are value. That's  
23 what they want. Utility corridor only has natural gas  
24 at the north edge. It comes down -- the U.S. Geological  
25 Survey did a seismic in the 80s. There was natural gas  
26 to the Galbraith Lake. That's where the gas -- that's  
27 where hydrocarbon ends. The rest of it's just  
28 sedimentary structure. It has no subsurface value, very  
29 little in the utility corridor. To the east, there's  
30 more. To the west there's more. The utility corridor has  
31 the -- there's gold bearing ground around Wiseman and  
32 Coldfoot. And then there's the Ambler Road offtake to  
33 the south of Coldfoot. That's the value to the state of  
34 Alaska within the utility corridor.

35  
36 The state is -- will very likely be  
37 cunning in their last selections. Now that they have --  
38 they're going to get these PLOs lifted. They only have  
39 5.2 million acres to go. They're not going to select  
40 stuff that doesn't have value -- subsurface value to  
41 them. That's the way the state thinks. I'm not stupid.  
42 That's how they -- that's what they select for. There  
43 is a strategic rare earth minerals in the Western Alaska  
44 sector. The Western part of Alaska, the Seward Peninsula  
45 and over there they got graphite, molybdenum. They got  
46 a whole bunch of stuff over there. Now that's all going  
47 to be available. There are three more years of this  
48 administration, and the state needs to relinquish many  
49 of the lands to prioritize their tentative selections.  
50 Currently, the utility corridor is still in BLM federal

1 public land status, like all other of the 50 million  
2 acres held until the state actually selects what they  
3 want. The process phase is the state selection. The state  
4 has to identify and prioritize lands. Adjudication. The  
5 BLM reviews the selection for conflict with other  
6 claims, such as mining claims or native allotments. The  
7 first their state's going to select and they're going  
8 to have to figure out is your allotment in the way?  
9 We're not going to give your allotment away. They've got  
10 to figure out where these allotments are at. And then  
11 there's the tentative approval process. Tentative  
12 approval, TA is an interim step allowing the state to  
13 manage the lands before final surveying. They're not to  
14 TA yet, so they can't -- you're still -- they haven't  
15 selected the utility corridor selected anything in the  
16 utility corridor to this moment.

17  
18 So, then they survey and patent final  
19 boundary surveys are conducted following the issuance  
20 of a patent to transfer the legal title. But the way  
21 this -- the BLM's interpretation is, it has to be under  
22 tentative approval -- has to be selected and has to be  
23 under tentative approval before they can actually start  
24 to manage the land before the final survey. They're not  
25 at TA yet. Go and shoot your caribou PJ, and I am too.  
26 So, we're going to -- this letter, this statement here.  
27 I would like this Council to adopt this statement to be  
28 written as a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board as  
29 an issue that has come before this Council recently. And  
30 so, the Chair will entertain a motion to submit this  
31 statement to the Federal Subsistence Board with the  
32 request that the that the legal solicitor for the Federal  
33 Subsistence Board process defines what the legal  
34 parameters of the of the continued use of subsistence  
35 until the state selects the lands. That's my intention.  
36 Do we have a do I have a motion to that effect?

37  
38 MR. GERVAIS: So, moved.

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Moved by Tim. Do  
41 we have a second?

42  
43 MR. VENT: Second by Darrell.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, Second by  
46 Darrell. Darrell's online too. So, Don, said first, we  
47 register you there, Darrell. So further discussion. This  
48 is a new and pressing issue. This before this Council.  
49 This has just happened just in the last few days. This  
50 is something that has to happen at this meeting, because

1 the State of Alaska, The Bureau of Land Management, is  
2 in quandary. They don't seem to understand their own  
3 regulations. And so, we need to have them define for  
4 them. And so, I would encourage the Office of Subsistence  
5 Management to work with other native organizations to  
6 delineate what the legal -- actual legal parameters are,  
7 because of your Bureau of Land Management is confused  
8 as to their own process. I'm reading their process of  
9 their own regulations. So, comment, Tim.

10  
11 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah.  
12 So, what you just read. What's the origin of that?  
13

14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: These are origins  
15 of what the states, what -- how much land, what the  
16 public land orders require. The presidential executive  
17 order. What the BLM is going to have to do to accommodate  
18 that executive order, which is lifting the public land  
19 orders. And then it's going to give the state the ability  
20 to select the 5.2 million acres. And they haven't  
21 selected anything yet. They haven't selected anything  
22 on these public land orders.  
23

24 MR. GERVAIS: Right. But that's something  
25 you wrote.  
26

27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: This is what I  
28 wrote. This is extracting it off the internet and writing  
29 an interpretation for the BLM. Because there [sic] came  
30 before this Council back in December and sat right out  
31 in front of us and told us that when they lift the order,  
32 that's the end of hunting. It's like uh-uh, I told him,  
33 I says, you go back. I told -- Anna, who is your acting  
34 Central Yukon district manager? Not Jamie, what was the  
35 right over. Ken Slaughter. I told Ken, you go back to  
36 the regional office and you tell them -- they didn't  
37 answer me when I asked them that question in September.  
38 You go back and tell them that their process is not --  
39 they're informing this Council incorrectly, and I take  
40 exception to that. I'm not a little annoyed with them  
41 for doing that. I'm really annoyed with them for doing  
42 that because they're supposed to inform this Council  
43 with facts, not speculations. And so, they're  
44 speculating that there's a closure to subsistence until  
45 when they lift the public lands. Just turn the BLM status  
46 goes to other status for selection. So, that's why I  
47 wrote this out for our community so they would understand  
48 where we're at in this process. Was that clear to you,  
49 Jenny? What I just read, is it clear to the Council  
50 members what I read? Yeah. Got a comment, Robert?

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(No response)

So, we have a motion to write this letter for request for legal interpretation from OSM.

MR. VENT: Jack, this is Darrell.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Darrell. You got comment?

MR. VENT: Yeah, I just raised my hand. I just, you know, kind of pondering about, you know, our average, you know, Native Alaskan that live in the village. You know, we already have a tough time, and you know, getting promised jobs that, you know, probably going to go to about 18% of the people and the rest, you know, live at poverty level. You know, how, you know, I always fight for those people. Those are, you know, people that are in the village. You know, we have, you know, like Peter said, we have to represent everybody. And that's, you know, our thing. And I, you know, I comprehend where PJ is coming from. You know, he's village, you know, he's having some tough issues there that they gotta figure out. Same thing with Huslia. You know we have issues. We have a lot of young people and you know, a lot of them don't know how to fish no more because, you know, this state had, you know, regulations to manage this fish and our other resources. And what the way things are going, it's not about management. It's about, you know, what kind of money can be made out of this management. It's not geared toward our people. And we have a rural preference on our federal lands, and if they try to open up this lands, what kind of what kind of, you know, what's going to happen with our people? You know, it's making it harder and harder for us to live in these villages. You see, like a lot of outmigration coming out of Tanana, Nulato, you know, possibly Ruby, you know, all these other villages and there a lot of them are living at poverty level in this, you know, Fairbanks or Anchorage area. We tend to forget about, you know, those are the bottom line of people that we really have to take a look at and how to figure out, you know, what's an easy way for us to, you know, get into this manager of our natural resource, which is subsistence food, which is what we call traditional and cultural use. I don't see an easy answer for that because the state is not willing to work with us. They haven't been willing to work with us. We've been, you know, trying to get answers for years. And that's

1 representing, you know, a big population of people,  
2 because we're not the only village people in Alaska.  
3 There's a lot of areas. And right now we're getting  
4 overrun because we, you know, the fish disappeared.  
5 Well, we know how that happened. And the caribou  
6 disappeared. We know how that happened. So, you know,  
7 we have to, you know, have a voice in this somehow. You  
8 know, it's a rural preference. And when you're talking  
9 about, you know, you have to you know what they took,  
10 we have to try to get, you know, get back to the people  
11 what they had before. But how is that going to be  
12 possible? Those are answers that, you know, there's  
13 questions that need answers. Thank you.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you,  
16 Darrell. We have a motion before us with a -- we're in  
17 discussion. Any further discussion? Go right ahead,  
18 Robert.

19  
20 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You  
21 know, Mr. Simon, that the road that you're going to is  
22 going to go through. There's going to be more  
23 ramifications for this because they're going to come to  
24 ask you who's going to maintain the road. Did they ask  
25 you that yet?

26  
27 MR. SIMON: Yes, Board Member Walker, we  
28 have a Subsistence Advisory Council, and that's what --  
29 I read what AIDEA submitted to Bureau of Land Management,  
30 344-page report. The first phase is 16ft wide, the  
31 proposed road. Second phase is 32ft wide. I think there's  
32 like 52 bridges, about 10 or 12 of them major bridges.  
33 In that detailed report, there is also that Subsistence  
34 Advisory Council that AIDEA has right now is the same  
35 type of model that Red Dog uses on their access to bring  
36 the ore that's mined out to a staging point. So, that -  
37 - in that report, the Subsistence Advisory Council,  
38 which comprises of Upper Kobuk, Inupiaq and then the  
39 Koyukuk River, Koyukon. And part of that -- that group  
40 will get to decide on road maintenance, security,  
41 culinary. And I think that's type of thing is years  
42 away. I that road still has to be bonded. And it's an  
43 expensive road, like Mr. Gervais says. But those are the  
44 types of things my tribe has been sitting in these  
45 meetings with the powers that be. And so, you know, keep  
46 in mind I think north of the Yukon River bridge, half  
47 of the Department of Transportation funding, half of  
48 that for the state goes to the Haul Road for maintenance.  
49 So, I think if you add another 211 miles, that's a lot  
50 of road to maintain. And I think those types of answers

1 are, not for me, I'm here asking about caribou and trying  
2 to get clarity and bring in my concerns as a First Chief  
3 of my 390 tribal members to this Council. To request  
4 clarity in terms of the situation going on with the  
5 Public Land Order 5150 and the -- however that this  
6 plays out, it plays out. But I think my tribe, my Council  
7 asked, we have to ask this question. You know, we never  
8 did -- my tribe never did sign on to the Haul Road, to  
9 the pipeline. Out of the 6 tribes that stopped the  
10 pipeline, Allakaket never did ever sign that agreement.  
11 And then we had money set aside and that money went to  
12 First Alaskans Institute. They took our money. So, we're  
13 mired in history in terms of pipeline. Now we have a  
14 road, and I think getting back to the -- this caribou  
15 hunt deal not only caribou, but also animal, also moose,  
16 also sheep that we can hunt from mile 98 by Finger  
17 Mountain all the way to the site of Atigun Pass. And  
18 again, thank you for your motion. I think adding if we  
19 can get a statement or a joint letter with BIA Jolene  
20 John because the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I'm an Indian.  
21 I'm a chief of a tribe. We're Indians, and they supposed  
22 to represent us to some degree. And I think no one asked  
23 us or told us or explained to us how this was going to  
24 unfold. And isn't ANILCA supposed to benefit rural  
25 priority here? In a sense, it's counterproductive and  
26 taken away rural priority. How? You know, we're just  
27 asking for clarity from, where is the original  
28 agreement, you know, those types of things, so. That's  
29 why I flew in on my own, paid my own way, you know, just  
30 out of concern. I think talking to the council members  
31 that's something needed to be said. But getting back  
32 again to your question, Board Member Walker, there's a  
33 there's been talks on things like that. We just say,  
34 talk to our village corporation. They're the people that  
35 deal with money, you know we tell them, hire us, train  
36 us. Much like Doyon. With Doyon Foundation, they have a  
37 53 million training endowment for our Native people. So,  
38 I hope I answered your question.

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I want to clarify  
41 for the record that this letter that's going to be sent  
42 to the Federal Subsistence Board and the OS -- Office  
43 of Subsistence Management and BIA as part of the Federal  
44 Subsistence Board process, the Federal Board can answer  
45 the, you know, the -- our position. This Council's  
46 position is that those lands are under selection process  
47 -- status right now. They're not close to subsistence  
48 until the state selects. So that's what our motion is  
49 and that's where it'll be addressed. The Federal  
50 Subsistence Board would have the opportunity, I think

1 their next meeting if I -- did you want to say something,  
2 Crystal? But I think their next Federal Subsistence  
3 Board meeting is in April, what, later April 20th. So,  
4 they could address that, this question at that meeting  
5 if they chose -- or chose. Crystal, you have a comment?  
6 Go right ahead.

7  
8 MS. LEONETTI: Question. Thank you, Mr.  
9 Chair. I just wanted to clarify on the motion that the  
10 request is to the Board, to get that clarification from  
11 solicitors, because our process is that the only the  
12 Board can ask for that, not the Council's. Okay.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, we're at --  
15 we're asking the federal side, understand, we're moving  
16 through the Federal Subsistence Board process. And OSM  
17 and the Federal Board have a solicitor. And so, the BIA  
18 is part of the Federal Subsistence Board. It's one of  
19 the agencies that actually is on the Board. So, this  
20 letter is we don't -- we can't speak to the Secretary.  
21 We can't speak to anybody but the Federal Subsistence  
22 Board, we move through the Federal Subsistence Board  
23 process. So, I don't think of anything more. I think  
24 people want to go to lunch. Any other -- one final  
25 comment. Go ahead.

26  
27 MR. SIMON: Yeah. When we hunted 4 years  
28 ago, initially got the permits. You know, we had 7  
29 caribou in the back, took the hunters from home and then  
30 we're driving to Jerry Evans cabin, where we tie into  
31 the winter road. And we're just going to offload the  
32 caribou and bring it back home and skin it. And a state  
33 trooper came behind us, you know, for about 5 miles. And  
34 finally, he stopped, turned his lights on. You know, the  
35 boys got scared. The hunters got scared. And he walked  
36 up. He said, how's it going? I said, good, how are you?  
37 He said, oh, what are you up to? I said, taking a ride.  
38 You? He said, it looked like you got a bunch of caribou  
39 in the back. I go, you know, you can't answer my question  
40 because it's in the Federal Register. That's harassment.  
41 He said, I know. It's in the Federal Register, Jack  
42 they're not supposed to ask us for a license or what  
43 we're doing. It's somewhere in there. I read it before  
44 because I had told that to Mike Spindler years ago when  
45 he landed by me. You can't ask me for my license or ask  
46 me what I'm doing. That's a form of harassment. It's in  
47 the Federal Register. And he said, I know, but you don't  
48 have mud flaps on your tires. So, you know, he just  
49 said, hey, you know let me do my job, please. And I  
50 said, sure. You know, I handed him my permit, and he

1 said, you're good. He said, just a bunch of truckers  
2 were calling in that bunch of Natives were shooting --  
3 skinning caribou on the side of the road. So that's how  
4 it started about 4 years ago. We don't shoot in excess.  
5 We don't showboat, we don't mock anybody. We're just  
6 getting food, getting home as fast as we can, being  
7 respectful to everybody. And I tell -- when I got the  
8 permit 2 weeks ago, I told Tim Maureen, the guys and the  
9 gals over at ADF&G going up the Haul Road, going to look  
10 around. Tell your troopers. And then when I get up there,  
11 usually I ask where the troopers at, and let them know,  
12 and I let the Coldfoot Camp know we're going hunting if  
13 there's concerns. And it's a deal the pipeline people  
14 made with the Tribe of Allakaket. So, that's all I know  
15 about it. And that's why I came here for -- to humbly  
16 request clarity from this body to a higher body, maybe.  
17 And I'm not going to call anybody until this is, you  
18 know, somebody says, here's the agreement here, you can  
19 still hunt, or why am I losing my ANILCA rights or my  
20 sovereign rights to hunt. There was a deal between  
21 Alyeska Pipeline or the state or the federal government  
22 on -- when they built the pipeline.

23  
24 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: The Alaska  
25 Pipeline Act of 1973. Specifically directs Alyeska  
26 Service Company to not impede any subsistence activities  
27 within the right of way. It's in the -- it's in their  
28 statute that made the pipeline. So, -- and it refers to  
29 subsistence activities. So, as you bring along a copy  
30 of this, in case you get a new trooper that doesn't  
31 understand the federal regulations, there you are right  
32 there. You got your customary traditional use  
33 determination. And apparently that trooper knew what was  
34 going on. But yeah, that's going to -- you're going to  
35 get calls because, you know, people are shooting caribou  
36 in the ditch with rifles, like yeah, that's subsistence.  
37 And so, I've had to -- I bring this regulation book. If  
38 I go hunting up north, I get Alyeska security like starts  
39 talking to me like here it is right here. Oh, oh,  
40 somebody said something about that. Okay. So, it's and  
41 we're asking the Federal Subsistence Board basically to  
42 ask the -- request the BLM, clarify. And it's the truth  
43 before the Board that this is -- the state is under  
44 selection. Until they select it's still federal public  
45 lands, period. That's just the way this works. So,  
46 Robert, one final question. Go right ahead.

47  
48 MR. WALKER: No, I don't have a question,  
49 but I'm just glad that you're doing crossing all your  
50 T's and dotting all your I's on this here. Because this

1 is a process here. You know, you're going to have to go  
2 through some more hoops yet before you're done. And  
3 somehow, I think that you're going to accomplish that  
4 because we had people try to come into our portion,  
5 Lower Yukon subregion from the Bethel area. We went  
6 through all their proposals, and they didn't cross all  
7 their T's, and they didn't dot all their I's. So that  
8 was something that we used to keep them out of our area.  
9 And they came back in a second time at us, and they  
10 tried to put a road again through the Yukon from the  
11 Kuskokwim. I went through it, I had our crew go through  
12 it, and I had some guys that were former board members  
13 from the Western Interior RAC. And we found a process  
14 where again, it goes back. They wanted Yukon tribes or  
15 Yukon cities to pay for their road maintenance. And this  
16 is something that we found that we don't have to do  
17 because we didn't build the road. So, when you look at  
18 this, you know, you have your crew to do this and the  
19 state DOT, you know, working for you. That is perfect.  
20 I would say that, you know, that's one hoop you jump  
21 through, and you passed. So, congratulations, young man,  
22 on doing all that. Mr. Chair, I don't have anything  
23 more.

24  
25 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, I'm going to  
26 call a question on the motion.

27  
28 MR. WALKER: Question.

29  
30 CHAIRPERON REAKOFF: Those in favor of  
31 the motion, a letter to be transmitted with the language  
32 I read into the record with the request from the Federal  
33 Subsistence Board to -- in the specific to the BIA and  
34 the Bureau of Land Management. As to the -- clarify that  
35 these lands, the public land orders that were lifted  
36 5150 and new order issued, that those lands are under  
37 selection status and still are eligible for subsistence  
38 use until such time as they're tentatively approved.  
39 Those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

40  
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Darrell. You  
44 there, Darrell?

45  
46 (No response)

47  
48 We can't hear you there.

49  
50 MR. VENT: Yeah, aye.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, we got Darrell. So those opposed same sign.

(No response)

Motion is adopted unanimously. Let the record reflect. And so now it's time for lunch. Go ahead, Don.

MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would just like to thank PJ for his testimony. You know I completely agree that whatever their tribe does, is their tribe's, is their tribe decision. You know, it -- we wanted to it could be a really controversial thing. I mean, we went through this as our own tribe. And -- but I want to compliment him from even this discussion. We came up with something, you know this proposal supporting. So, I thank you. I thank you for being frank and honest with us. And, you know, that's, you know, whether this goes before public forum or into politics or something, you testified and, hey, if anybody else, that's why we're here. They have every right to testify to, you know, your hunting and fishing rights. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I do appreciate you coming before the Council. Under 805 of ANILCA, this Council set up for a public forum for you to comment on anything that's affecting you. This Council is -- it's incumbent upon this Council to address these issues. And this is -- I was intending to address this, and you just helped me out a whole bunch. And I really appreciate that, PJ, bringing this before this Council.

MR. SIMON: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Board. Yes. And thank you for taking the tribal concerns of Allakaket Tribe. There was an agreement. And, you know, again, my people have served in Vietnam. They fought for this country. Desert Storm, the Gulf wars. We have veterans that served our country. And, you know, we just want things on paper from BIA or BLM or DOI or, you know, we -- I'm glad I'm an American Alaskan, you know. But I think there's a due process for everything and just trying to get some answers in writing to what the -- how things are playing out. Again, thank you so much, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board. Thank you for allowing me to testify.

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thanks for coming  
2 forward. So, we're going to break for lunch now. It's  
3 about 20 to 1. We're waiting for Tommy to show up. So  
4 how long do you think a good lunch break would be? Until  
5 1:45 -- or correction 2:45 or.....

6  
7 MS. PILCHER: I do -- I did just miss a  
8 call from Tommy, so I think he might, I -- he might be  
9 on the ground. He might have just called to tell me he  
10 didn't make it. So, if you just want to do a normally,  
11 you normally do an hour and a half, but.....

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I guess if we came  
14 back at 2, that would be an hour and 20. Is that enough?  
15 2:00. 2 pm. All good. Great. Okay, so break till 2 pm.  
16 Stand down.

17  
18 (Off record)

19  
20 (On record)

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, we're going to  
23 bring the meeting back to order and get back to our  
24 agenda. So, we got -- we need to get Tommy Kriska and  
25 Jenny's Council Reports. Our Council Reports. So, who  
26 would like to go first?

27  
28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Ladies first.  
29 Jenny's first. So go ahead, Jenny.

30  
31 MS. PELKOLA: Thank you. It's good to be  
32 here after a hard time to get up here but made it.  
33 Actually, the -- I think from the last meeting when we  
34 had it up here, I gave a report about, you know, our  
35 Council Report. But ever since then we've gotten a lot  
36 of snow. I don't know if I'm talking loud enough because  
37 I have the -- am I? okay. I have hearing aids, so  
38 it's.....

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You sound good.

41  
42 MS. PELKOLA: .....they battle. Anyway,  
43 I noticed that a lot of wolves around and people are  
44 getting wolves in Galena, which is really good for our  
45 area to keep our moose up. But there's a lot of snow. A  
46 lot of snow. Like Fairbanks, I guess. I don't know what  
47 the -- what our breakup is going to look like. Seems  
48 like we've -- ever since I've been back from -- back to  
49 Alaska. I moved out for about 11 years and moved out  
50 away from Alaska, but I came back. Ever since I've been

1 back, seems like this is the most snow I've seen since  
2 I've been back. So, I don't know what our spring breakup  
3 is going to look like, but where -- everybody is going  
4 to be ready because we had a big one in 2015, in Galena.  
5 So, it's just something we have to watch out for. But  
6 people are ready. They get ready in advance. Other than  
7 that, I don't really know what to add. If you have any  
8 questions, ask me something, so.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You see any  
11 ptarmigan down there? You see ptarmigan down there?

12  
13 MS. PELKOLA: I haven't seen any  
14 ptarmigan.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Some years  
17 you get ptarmigan, they migrate around. They go down,  
18 they get -- they come there and then other years they're  
19 not there. So, any other -- any questions for Jenny?

20  
21 (No response)

22  
23 No. So, Tom. Tommy.

24  
25 MR. KRISKA: Yeah. Good afternoon, this  
26 is Tom Kriska. I got here a little late. But better late  
27 than never, I guess. Yeah. There is a lot of snow out  
28 there. It's been accumulating. It was really cold from  
29 the start of the year to for about a month and a half,  
30 around 40. 60 below a few days. The recording of the ice  
31 in front of Koyukuk wasn't -- it usually was like two  
32 foot [sic] to maybe three-foot ice, but they're  
33 recording right now it's over four foot [sic] thick  
34 that's out on the Yukon. And it's with all the snow  
35 weighing down the river. Right now, in some places  
36 there's like, overflow about 6 to 10in of overflow along  
37 the banks there. And that's going to add to the thickness  
38 of the ice. It'll freeze this week. So anyway, the --  
39 we did get some wolves with the boys. Snow was -- not  
40 enough snow for a while, and we never usually go after  
41 them until right like, middle of February to end of  
42 March. But we somehow caught a few, I think ten or  
43 something like that.

44  
45 The moose. They're going to start having  
46 a tough time out across the other side of the river. a  
47 few days ago, it snow it just it happened this past  
48 week, and there's like maybe three and a half to four  
49 foot of snow. So that's you could see the moose starting  
50 to plow around. Anyway, I usually have a lot to say, but

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1 I -- mind went blank. I'm just, in the fishing part I  
2 kind of missed the -- some of their things, maybe this  
3 morning, but I just hope they make great decisions. Maybe  
4 today or tomorrow on the Board of Fish. Yeah, I was  
5 supposed to be down there, but we had a family death,  
6 so. Anyway, had to stay home for that. And glad I made  
7 it here, so I have more to say, but I'll save that for  
8 later. Yeah, let me see, later. Thank you.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah.  
11 Thanks, Tommy. Appreciate that. You know how deep the  
12 snow is there and how -- but that shallow snow early  
13 gives the moose a chance to fatten up. Like, the caribou  
14 are doing a lot better with -- we got shallow snow up  
15 north. We only got 17in of snow 18-19 right now.

16  
17 MR. KRISKA: Yeah. The moose -- the snow  
18 just started a couple of weeks ago, so the moose were  
19 moving around. It's like maybe a little over a foot of  
20 snow all fall, but it really froze. The ice froze thick.  
21 But there's a lot of moose out there, and I've seen some  
22 nice-looking moose out there. Really healthy. Yeah.

23  
24 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That was a big deal  
25 to get the snow later in the year. Plus, it's not you  
26 know, it's not raining. So, it's not -- they can push  
27 it. It's not like when it's stiff and they have to push  
28 on it. So yeah, that really thick ice is not good for  
29 breakup though. That cold ice. That overflow makes it -  
30 - exposes it to the cold and it gets in there. If you  
31 drill the hole in springtime and stuck a pole in there  
32 to keep the water, and that pole froze in there, like  
33 right away. That ice is super cold. It takes a lot of  
34 time for that cold to come out. So okay, that's our  
35 Council Members' reports. And Darrell. Darrell's online  
36 there also? Darrell has been on the line this -- earlier  
37 this morning until we went to break. And no, he's not.  
38 Okay. So, we're -- well we're back at public and tribal  
39 comments non-agenda items. We took PJ a little bit out  
40 of cycles. Nobody else is in the room that I see that  
41 may want to comment. Is anybody on the line there? Any  
42 commenters?

43  
44 MS. PILCHER: Not currently, Jack.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.

47  
48 MS. PILCHER: But once again, if anybody  
49 would like to, it is star five to raise your hand, or  
50 you can use the raise hand function on Teams.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So now we're on to action items 11, Call for Fisheries and Rural Determination Proposals. Cory Graham, you're going to come on up. And this is page 47 it says. So put 47 in your meeting book. Go ahead, Cory.

MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair, Members of the Council. I'm Cory Graham, Fisheries Biologist with OSM. So, I'm here to announce our call for proposals to change federal fish regulations. The Federal Subsistence Board is currently accepting proposals to change federal subsistence fisheries regulations for the 2027 through 2029 regulatory cycle. The Board will be accepting proposals through April 3rd, 2026. The Board will consider proposals to change seasons, harvest limits, methods and means, customary and traditional use determinations for federal fisheries. If the Council wishes to submit a proposal, you may do so, or you'll need to do so during this meeting. The public may also submit proposals to change federal fish regulations, and the public can find information on how to do so on our website at [doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries](https://doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries). And of course, if they can't find it, they can always contact anyone at OSM. And we'll be able to help you out.

The proposals will be analyzed by OSM staff and presented to the Councils during your fall meetings for Council recommendations. Proposal analyses and Council recommendations will be presented to the Federal Subsistence Board for its action at the February 2027 Fisheries Regulatory Meeting. And at this point, does the Council have any regulatory proposals you all would like to put forward?

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yes, that's a good question. Since it is called for fisheries proposals, federal proposals. Does any Council Members have anything that they've been thinking about for fisheries issues? The Federal Board works fisheries one year, game the next. Go ahead, Don.

MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah, I actually had a question on -- are these -- are you talking about special action proposals or just in general? Because, I mean, I don't know exactly how it works. Across from Ruby it goes from federal waters all the way up to, I believe, 20 miles below Tanana. So, okay, so I'm saying, is there any use in submitting something? I mean, isn't that state? I mean, is

1 realistically, can I submit something that like two  
2 weeks in advance or two weeks of the windows be open or  
3 something like that for fishing? And I mean, have you  
4 had any proposals to open up federal waters on the Yukon  
5 at all? I mean, could we go into a little bit of that?  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair, so these  
9 regulations would only apply to federal waters. So, if  
10 those waters are state that you're talking about, this  
11 wouldn't be the process for that. That would be the  
12 Board of Fish.

13  
14 MR. HONEA: Yeah. I am talking about  
15 federal waters. I mean, these are federal waters. But  
16 what I'm saying is the state overrides the federal, even  
17 the federal waters. I mean, so is there -- I'm asking,  
18 is it realistic to even -- because aren't -- isn't a  
19 federal waters -- aren't we just going by what the state  
20 says? Am I unclear?

21  
22 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair.

23  
24 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, go ahead.

25  
26 MR. GRAHAM: Holly Carroll is the federal  
27 manager, and Holly Carroll actively manages in federal  
28 waters, so she manages -- they work together with the  
29 state, but she's making federal decisions for federal  
30 waters.

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, did you have a  
33 proposal, Don?

34  
35 MR. HONEA: Well, actually, I don't have  
36 a proposal, but that's always been on my mind. On  
37 federal, it seems like the proposal works really well  
38 on the Kuskokwim. I -- you know, they're happy with  
39 that. Of course they have no, you know, no boundaries  
40 to it. They don't have to, like we do have to let 45,000  
41 or whatever get into Canada. They don't have any  
42 restrictions like that. But what -- I guess what I'm  
43 saying is, do you know of any proposals by Eastern or  
44 Western Interior or any to utilize and that's in effect?  
45 I mean, right now, last summer, year before?

46  
47 MR. GRAHAM: Through the Chair. So, the  
48 call for proposals is currently open right now. Eastern  
49 Interior has not met yet, so I don't know if they're  
50 going to submit proposals or not for this cycle. So

1 that's to be seen. You're meeting before them. And we  
2 haven't gotten any proposals that I know of and like  
3 invalidated yet. So, I can't really speak to what we're  
4 going to get at this time or this cycle yet.

5  
6 MR. HONEA: Okay. Thank you. I'm not  
7 trying to be negative. I'm just saying that the state  
8 overrides the fishing, whether it's Holly or it's at the  
9 call of Holly. It's at the call of the state. So, you  
10 know, I'm just saying, realistically, are these, you  
11 know, are these going to be passed? I mean, can they be  
12 passed? That's all. No further questions. Thank you.

13  
14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I will maybe try  
15 to answer that one. So, the in-season manager had --  
16 they're under mandate for managing -- for health of the  
17 population. So, like if you had a proposal to open the  
18 season for two weeks for king salmon fishing and that  
19 federal waters, they can't do it because they don't have  
20 the fish to support that. But they -- if it was something  
21 to do with like lengthening the pike season in the Innoko  
22 or Novi country, you know, those kind of proposals can  
23 go through. If there's a conservation concern, which  
24 there's a severe conservation concern for salmon, then  
25 in-season -- you could submit the proposal, but the  
26 Federal Subsistence Board might not even pass it because  
27 of conservation. If it violates the conservation of the  
28 population or subsistence use or is a public safety  
29 issue. That's kind of the criteria for passing the  
30 proposal. So yeah. No, you know, the federal waters are  
31 still in effect for federal management, but they also  
32 have to be you know, it's a common thing, no known fact  
33 that we don't have the salmon to support seas and  
34 extensions or, you know, there is -- the state has you  
35 know, cultural permits, you know, there's a limited  
36 stuff that they can do. But these managers, you know,  
37 like Deena and Holly, they're pretty stuck. They don't  
38 have any fish to give. We got 24,500 get into Canada and  
39 we're supposed to get 71. Well, that's not enough. That's  
40 like -- that population, the numbers keep going. Those  
41 numbers keep going backwards. We're hoping for the  
42 marine system to cool off and get a little better  
43 productivity. But it's going to -- we got a long row in  
44 front of us on trying to get these populations back.

45  
46 But no, we can submit proposals for  
47 fisheries as long as they're in federal. You know, this  
48 is the jurisdictional map. You know, we got this thing  
49 right in front of us here you can see waters that have  
50 rivers and so forth that are inside of the colored areas,

1 the BLM or the refuge lands or park service lands, those  
2 we do have -- those have for federal jurisdictions. But  
3 that's what we're called -- they're calling for  
4 proposals for -- on those federal waters. But I don't  
5 know of any proposal myself unless council members have  
6 ideas. So, Darrell usually will -- yeah, Huslia seems  
7 to always want to come up with a fisheries proposal. And  
8 so, did Darrell drop out or...?  
9

10 MS. PILCHER: He did let me know that he  
11 was in another meeting, but he was going to switch over.  
12 I haven't verified he has.  
13

14 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So but any  
15 other council members have proposals. Did you have  
16 something, Jenny? Robert? No.  
17

18 MR. WALKER: I do, but I'm not going.  
19 I'll wait for later.  
20

21 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. And Tommy.  
22 No. Okay. Right now, we may -- not -- by the end of this  
23 meeting, we might. We'll see how this goes. So. Okay.  
24 Thank you, Cory. Okay. Nissa.  
25

26 MS. PILCHER: So, one thing we did forget  
27 to do that is actually pretty important. And actually,  
28 time sensitive is we do need to have Chair Elections  
29 because that was supposed to be done right at the  
30 beginning of the meeting.  
31

32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh, yeah. We  
33 skipped over that because we didn't have quorum. So. So,  
34 Coordinator for the Chair position. So, Nissa is going  
35 to, you know, to speak to that issue. Go ahead.  
36

37 MS. PILCHER: Yep. All right, everyone,  
38 this is Nissa Pilcher the Council Coordinator. So, per  
39 the Council charter Council members elect a Chair, a  
40 Vice Chair and a Secretary for a one-year term during  
41 this meeting. So, as a reminder, of course, Member  
42 Reakoff is the current Chair, Member Pelkola is the  
43 current Vice Chair and member Vent is the current  
44 Secretary. So, I'll open the floor for nominations for  
45 the Council's Chair. These nominations do not need to  
46 be seconded. So, I will go ahead and do that. So, I'd  
47 like to open the floor for nominations for Chair.  
48

49 MR. HONEA: I'd like to nominate Jack  
50 Reakoff for Chair.

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MS. PILCHER: All right. Thank you, Don.  
Are there any other nominations for Chair?

(No response)

As there are no other nominations for  
Chair, I am not sure we need to vote. Do we need to  
vote?

MR. GERVAIS: Sure.

MS. PILCHER: Let's vote. We like to  
vote. Yes. Yes. Katya says yes, we vote. So, we vote.  
All right, so everyone, this is what Jack says. And I  
don't know actually how he says it. So, for Member  
Reakoff to be voted Chair can I get a yay. Everyone in  
a in affirmative. Please say yay.

IN UNISON: Yay.

MS. PILCHER: All right. And then  
everybody opposed.....

MR. VENT: Yay.

MS. PILCHER: Thanks, Darrell. Everybody  
opposed, same sign.

(No response)

All right. Looks like it was a unanimous  
decision. I'll turn the meeting back over to, again,  
Chair Reakoff.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. I appreciate  
the Council affirming my Chairmanship, and I try to do  
the best job I can and sometimes I don't, but some I  
try. So, the Vice Chair. The Chair will open the floor  
to nomination. We have Jenny is the Vice Chair. And so,  
the floor is open for further nominations, there can be  
more than one.

MR. VENT: This is Darrell. I nominate  
Rob Walker.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: One problem. Are  
you going to resubmit your application, Robert?

MR. WALKER: Yeah, I'm thinking about it.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So, Roberts got a nomination. We have -- Robert's declining the nomination. Do we have other nominations?

MR. KRISKA: I nominate Don, Jr.

MR. HONEA: I decline. Thank you.

MR. WALKER: You can't decline!

(Talking)

MR. HONEA: I nominate Jenny Pelkola.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So we have two nominations. Do we have any others?

(No response)

Close the nominations. We have to have a vote. Do you want to just pass out paper and vote on the -- everybody will have a vote. Okay.

(Pause)

Darrell, can you text me your vote, please. Sorry, there was no sound there for a second. I was passing out ballots. But if you'd let me know if your vote for Vice Chair is Don or Jenny. Thanks.

(Pause)

All right. We have four votes for Don and three votes for Jenny. So, Don will be the next Vice and then after that, Secretary.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. The floor is open for -- the floor is open for Secretary nominations. Go ahead, Tim.

MR. GERVAIS: I nominate Tommy Kriska.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: All right. We got Tommy as a nomination for Secretary. Do we have any others?

MR. VENT: I nominate Jenny.

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Another nomination  
2 for Jenny.

3  
4 MR. KRISKA: I nominate Darrell.

5  
6 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We have three. So,  
7 okay. We have any others?

8  
9 (No response)

10  
11 All right, close the nominations. We're  
12 going to pass out papers again, and Darrell will vote  
13 by text to Nissa.

14  
15 (Pause)

16 MS. PILCHER: All right. And Member  
17 Kriska wins or carries the vote. How about that? So,  
18 Member Kriska will be the new Secretary. Tommy.

19  
20 (Pause)

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you very  
23 much. We have our officers elected. So, we're going to  
24 go back to the agenda. We're going to go to -- for  
25 fisheries closure review. Cory is going to give us an  
26 overview of those. Well, the first one starts on page  
27 7.

28  
29 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair, Members of the  
30 Council. So, I want to first give some just kind of a  
31 little bit of a background on the closure review process.  
32 So, the Board has asked OSM to periodically review  
33 existing closures to make sure they aren't in place  
34 longer than necessary. It's the Board's policy that the  
35 closure is no longer needed, it should be removed to  
36 allow federal subsistence opportunity. The federal  
37 closure review process follows the same steps as  
38 regulatory proposals. We'll provide the Councils with  
39 an analysis, you'll make recommendations and those  
40 recommendations will go to the Board. The Councils will  
41 be able to recommend keeping the closure in place,  
42 removing the closure or modifying the closure. And I'm  
43 just going to specifically focus on modifying the  
44 closure because certain modifications require a  
45 proposal. The other two keeping and removing the closure  
46 do not.

47  
48 So specifically, proposals are required  
49 for modifications related to establishing gear type or  
50 harvest limits. So, for example, maybe the Council

1 doesn't feel a full closure is necessary but want  
2 conservation measures in place to protect populations.  
3 Getting any changes to harvest limits or gear types would  
4 require your Council to submit a proposal during this  
5 meeting. These changes cannot be made through the  
6 closure review process. So again, in summary, we'll be  
7 reviewing fisheries closures in your region this  
8 regulatory cycle and you'll make recommendations on  
9 those to the Board during your fall meeting. If you want  
10 the closures to remain in place or be fully removed, no  
11 action is needed today and no proposal is needed. You  
12 can make those recommendations at your fall meeting, but  
13 if you want to remove the closure and establish harvest  
14 limits or gear restrictions again, you'll need to submit  
15 a proposal at this meeting today.

16  
17                   So now that I've provided the  
18 background, I'll briefly describe the closures that are  
19 coming up in your region. So, there are salmon fishing  
20 closures in three systems: Jim River, Kanuti River and  
21 Bonanza Creek. All three systems are in your region in  
22 the same area, so I'm just going to discuss them  
23 together. They're all located near Wiseman and Coldfoot.  
24 So, these three systems were closed to federal  
25 subsistence fishing for a long time, since the beginning  
26 of the federal program. Your Council reviewed these  
27 closures and associated proposals during the last few  
28 cycles, and recommended removing the closures to non-  
29 salmon fish, limiting non-salmon fishing opportunities  
30 to rod and reel only and establishing a grayling harvest  
31 limit. The Board adopted your recommendations.

32  
33                   Your Council and the Board declined to  
34 remove the salmon closures due to recent salmon  
35 conservation concerns in the Yukon. So, the salmon  
36 closures remain in effect in the three systems, and your  
37 Council again will be providing recommendations related  
38 to these closures next meeting. So if your Council has  
39 any interest in removing the salmon closures for these  
40 three systems, but wants to establish harvest limits or  
41 gear type restrictions, again, you'd need to submit a  
42 proposal now, if you have no interest in doing that and  
43 likely want to either remove it fully or keep it in  
44 place, no action is needed on your part today. So, thank  
45 you.

46  
47                   CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That's my area  
48 there. The salmon populations are very low, there on  
49 spawning ground. They're in really low condition. There  
50 was harvest at Wiseman historically, but the closures

1 been in place. And with the salmon declines, there's no  
2 inclination to remove these salmon closures. And these  
3 salmon need to be under full on protection. Including -  
4 - I've made -- I got a hold of Alaska Department of Fish  
5 and Game. There's fisher -- sport fishermen were  
6 catching these spawning chum salmon underneath their Jim  
7 River bridge and then just throwing them up on the beach  
8 and I was like; you got to put a sign there. And they  
9 got signs there, no harvest, no catch and release, no  
10 kind of harvest on these salmon. They're under full  
11 protection and this should stay in place. These closures  
12 should stay in place. So, I have no inclination to change  
13 anything. Thank you.

14  
15 So that's clear to the Council. There's  
16 three, actually three closures Kanuti, Bonanza and Jim  
17 River drainage. All those are under the same status for  
18 salmon. There's been -- they should be under full  
19 protection for the foreseeable future. And then under  
20 there's number c, there'd be Fisheries Resource  
21 Monitoring Program. Kristen.

22  
23 I want to clarify when I read the  
24 statistics on the populations of Wiseman-Coldfoot in the  
25 previous analysis -- Kristen, when I read the previous  
26 analysis, the demographics of Wiseman-Coldfoot are kind  
27 of way up -- not correct. Wiseman has a population of  
28 13 people, not 4. And there's a -- Coldfoot has a flux  
29 population of -- there's people that work there and they  
30 work on rotational cycles. There's about 10 people that  
31 actually live all the time at Coldfoot. And there's other  
32 people that spend like the summer season or the fall  
33 season or first part of the winter, last part of the  
34 winter. So, there's people rotating in and out, but  
35 there's 10 people that live in Coldfoot on a year-round  
36 basis. So, I want to clarify that for your edification  
37 and understanding of the demographics of that area.  
38 Wiseman has a has a year-round population. We actually  
39 have homes. We have properties. Coldfoot is leases from  
40 the State of Alaska. That's what -- Coldfoot is all  
41 revolving around a state development not leases. So  
42 that's clarifying for the record for those last  
43 proposals, the demographics of the analysis. So, I'd  
44 like to see that corrected if I could. So go ahead on  
45 the next one Kristen.

46  
47 MS. MORROW: Sure. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
48 For the record, this is Kristen Morrow and thank you for  
49 those updates. We'll make sure the analysts who worked  
50 on those proposals get the information corrected

1 accordingly. I will be giving a brief update on the FRMP  
2 Program, the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. The  
3 mission of this program is to identify and provide  
4 information needed to sustain federal subsistence  
5 fisheries. This monitoring program also supports  
6 meaningful involvement in fisheries management by Alaska  
7 Native and rural organizations, and promotes  
8 collaboration among federal, state, and Alaska Native  
9 and local organizations. Right now, OSM is in the final  
10 phase of the 2026 monitoring program funding cycle. The  
11 Federal Subsistence Board met early in February and  
12 approved the final monitoring program funding plan. So,  
13 this cycle is coming to an end, which means it's now  
14 time for Councils to begin developing priority  
15 information needs for the next monitoring cycle, which  
16 won't begin for two years in 2028. These priority  
17 information needs, or PINs, are an important component  
18 of the monitoring program. They outline knowledge gaps  
19 or local concerns related to subsistence fisheries and  
20 can help guide which projects are selected for funding  
21 in that 2028 program in two years from now. So, we are  
22 asking for volunteers from this Council to meet by  
23 telephone this summer to help identify knowledge gaps  
24 and information needs. So, this would be a meeting of  
25 council members outside of your regular meeting to help  
26 start to develop these priority information needs for  
27 the next funding cycle. This draft list that's developed  
28 by volunteers over the summer will be presented to the  
29 entire Council for approval and any changes at the fall  
30 2026 meeting. This is not an action item, but we are  
31 looking for volunteers that may like to help develop  
32 these priority information needs. Thank you.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So we need council  
35 members. Weren't there two people from the each Council  
36 that was participating? Go ahead. How many there were?

37  
38 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Chair, this  
39 is Kristen Morrow. I do believe it's usually two,  
40 although I might let Cory or if LT has any guidance on  
41 if there's a maximum number. I'm not sure about that.

42  
43 MR. GRAHAM: There's generally around  
44 two. The full Council could volunteer if you wanted. We  
45 just would like at least one.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right. Okay. So,  
48 are there council members that would be like to  
49 participate in that in that call? That's when is that  
50 call typically. Is it -- it's actually kind of a bad

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1 time for people that are subsistence fishing sometimes.  
2 So, what -- do you have an idea when that time would be?  
3 So, the council members can formulate whether they can  
4 participate?

5  
6 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair, we work around  
7 your schedule. Last time I think it was in August, late  
8 summer. But it's just dictated when you all are  
9 available. We don't have a set time.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Any council  
12 members willing to participate in that? Don, your Vice  
13 Chair. Yeah.

14  
15 (Laughter)

16  
17 MR. HONEA: I didn't notice what I was  
18 getting into here. How does this exactly work? I mean,  
19 does do you -- do we just find out through email or  
20 something, and we discuss that? I mean, can you go --  
21 give us a little overview of this?

22  
23 MS. MORROW: Yes. Thank you. For the  
24 record, this is Kristen Morrow. These meetings are  
25 usually somewhat informal in that they happen over the  
26 phone. We can find a time that accommodates everyone's  
27 schedule. It will be council members online with  
28 analysts at OSM discussing issues related to subsistence  
29 fisheries, and your perspectives on what sorts of  
30 research needs are relevant to your region.

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Cory.

33  
34 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair. And one last  
35 thing to add. So, we'll have volunteers from the Eastern  
36 Interior and YKD also meet the Yukon based members. So,  
37 it'll be kind of a collaboration among Councils to  
38 develop the pins.

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I would  
41 participate if I had had a time and as maybe a fallback  
42 or a secondary, but I -- sometimes I work in the summer  
43 and I got pretty busy schedule, so but I would  
44 participate just to listen in on the call, even just to  
45 listen. I want to hear how those discussions are going.  
46 So, I would -- you can put me down also. So, okay. Go  
47 ahead, Cory.

48  
49 MR. GRAHAM: Mr. Chair, just to clarify.  
50 So, Don, did you get voluntold for this or are you are

1 you going to be on here? I just want to make sure that  
2 we contact you if you're interested.

3

4 MR. HONEA: Through the Chair, Mr. Chair.  
5 Thank you. Cory, I, you know, I mean, I'm not -- I don't  
6 feel pressured. Like I have to do that or anything like  
7 that, but correspondence is, to me is a is a must. I  
8 want to know what I'm dealing with. And, you know, I,  
9 I'm not familiar with some of the rivers here, except  
10 for maybe Kanuti or and up around Allakaket or something,  
11 and I don't know if what actually, rivers are tributaries  
12 you're talking about, but, hey, I'm willing to, if it's  
13 not too time consuming. And you know, fishing is kind  
14 of a bust right now, but sure. Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And I want to give  
17 other council members an opportunity to participate in  
18 that also. Tommy. Yeah. That'd be great or others. I  
19 mean, it could be the full Council if -- but I want  
20 everybody to -- Jenny, would you like. Yeah. So, get  
21 some of our council on there.

22

23 (Talking)

24

25 So, Robert and Jenny. Did you say yes?

26

27 (Talking)

28

29 So, Robert and Jenny would also like to  
30 adjoin to that so.

31

32 (Pause)

33

34 We've got quite a bit of interest in  
35 that -- developing those PINs. And so then other council  
36 members that have ideas and are -- cannot participate  
37 can also submit ideas to the PIN formation group.

38

39 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And  
40 for the record, this is Kristen Morrow. Just if there  
41 are council members who are interested in this but aren't  
42 able to participate over the summer, this list of  
43 information needs will be presented at your fall  
44 meeting, and additional topics can be added at that time  
45 as well.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. So next is  
48 the Partners Fisheries Monitoring Program Update.

49

50

1 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
2 is Kristen Morrow for the record. So just as a brief  
3 update on our Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program  
4 also known as the Partners Program, we posted a notice  
5 of funding opportunity for this program in spring of  
6 2025. And this is a competitive grant for Alaska Native  
7 and rural nonprofit organizations. The intent of this  
8 program is to strengthen Alaska Native and rural  
9 involvement in federal subsistence management by  
10 providing salary funds to organizations so that they can  
11 hire a professional biologist, social scientist, or  
12 educator. The grant also provides funds for science and  
13 culture camps and paid student internships. The funding  
14 can last for up to four years in total, and the Partners  
15 Program Review Panel, which is made up of subject matter  
16 experts across various DOI agencies have now reviewed  
17 the proposals that were submitted, and the Office of  
18 Subsistence Management Regional Director, who is  
19 Crystal, here with us today has approved funding for  
20 three new partners that includes the Bristol Bay Native  
21 Association, Native Village of Eyak and the Ahtna  
22 Intertribal Resources Commission. The next notice of  
23 funding opportunity will be sometime in the spring of  
24 2027, and we will notify you when that exact date is  
25 finalized. For that next notice of funding opportunity,  
26 the funding would begin in 2028. If you would like to  
27 learn anything else about this program, you can contact  
28 Jarred Stone or Liz Williams, who are both with OSM and  
29 are the analysts that lead the Partners Program at our  
30 office. And I can help get their email or phone  
31 information to anyone who would like that. And it's also  
32 listed on our website under the Partners tab of our  
33 website, which is [www.doi.gov/subsistence/partners](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/partners) or I  
34 can give you any of that information during a break if  
35 anyone would like. Thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Any questions on  
38 that?

39  
40 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I do.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

43  
44 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 Kristen, can you tell me that -- I mean, if the -- are  
46 you like -- do you work with, like, TCC or villages or  
47 what is it? I mean, because you know, I mean, if I was  
48 like my tribe or somebody was interested in doing this,  
49 do they have to -- do you guys have a contact team?  
50 Because I have always been in support of some of these

1 fishing monitoring things as a source of employment and  
2 maybe so is it a kind of a repeat thing? Do you guys go  
3 directly to the tribes or do you -- can I get this  
4 through TCC?

5  
6 MS. MORROW: Thank you for that question,  
7 Member Honea. For the record, this is Kristen Morrow.  
8 We do not approach tribes with this opportunity. We post  
9 a notice of funding opportunity that tribal  
10 organizations and rural nonprofits can apply to. So,  
11 it's a competitive grant and application needs to be  
12 submitted outlining how the funds would be used by that  
13 particular organization applying. And those funds last  
14 for up to four years. So, it's a process where you would  
15 reapply as the funds are expiring if you wanted to retain  
16 a position that was funded. If that doesn't answer your  
17 question, I'm happy to try and go more in depth, or I  
18 can pass the mic over to Cory if he has any details to  
19 add.

20  
21 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I guess I was kind of  
22 confused about all the programs out there. I was talking  
23 -- I was thinking mainly specifically where you dealt  
24 with tribes or do you at all? Or is -- because you know,  
25 I mean, or do I go directly to fisheries at TCC? Seems  
26 like I'm kind of bouncing around here. I mean, do you  
27 know my intent, though? I'm just trying to find out how  
28 somebody could access these funds, these programs. Thank  
29 you.

30  
31 MR. WALKER: Kristen, TCC means Tanana  
32 Chiefs Conference.

33  
34 MS. MORROW: Thank you very much. Sorry.  
35 Let me try to clarify. So, the funding source, the funds  
36 are allocated through our office for the organization  
37 to employ staff. And then those staff pursue their jobs  
38 as the organization has defined find it. So, if the  
39 organization were to hire a fisheries biologist, the  
40 organization then determines what exactly it is that  
41 fisheries biologist does in their region. Same process  
42 if they hire an educator or a social scientist. The  
43 staff at OSM do provide support to the folks who are  
44 funded in their position through the Partners Program,  
45 but we don't necessarily dictate what they should be  
46 doing in their position, if that makes sense. And if you  
47 know, LT or Cory next to me has anything to clarify  
48 here, they may have more experience with the Partners  
49 Program than I do. Please jump in if I'm misstating  
50 anything.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You're good, Don?  
Any other questions?

(No response)

Okay. Thank you. So, we're calling for Alaska Board of Game proposals, and so would be West -- Board of Game is in call for Western Arctic, Western region Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A and Eastern Arctic regions Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B and 26C. So, they usually have that Interior Board game meeting here in this room typically. And so, there are, the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee is slated to have a meeting on March 26th in Huslia. That meeting is face to face to try to come up with proposals. And then I may personally submit proposals also under my name regarding sheep issues close to where I live there, but I will -- the Council would then review those game proposals in our -- in session. So, but at this time is there anybody that has within our region which is 21, 24 and 19, portions of 19. Anybody got proposals on those for this region, which is fairly vast area?

MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

MR. HONEA: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Thank you. So, the March 26th is that -- did you say that was the Middle Yukon meeting?

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That's the Koyukuk River.

MR. HONEA: Oh, the Koyukuk River. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That's going to be up at Huslia. Don't have any game proposals from -- that I want to -- I would rather have the Koyukuk River. The Advisory Committees are actually part of the Regional Council process, so I prefer to have the proposals coming out of the Koyukuk River advisory and work up to us to make recommendations on to go to the State Board of Game eventually. So that's the way I would prefer them to occur. So, if you discussed any proposals at Ruby, Don? Game proposals yet? And GASH proposals, if you got any GASH proposals for game?

1 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair I didn't have a  
2 chance to talk with the AC Chairman for 21A, and the  
3 (indiscernible) like 21A but the thing that they were  
4 worried about with 21A was that it's being overhunted  
5 that's the only thing, but nobody put a proposal. We  
6 tried to do it from the TCC, but that didn't go through.

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Now this -- 21A is  
9 in call for proposals right now. You have through May 1  
10 to submit a proposal. We are hearing about a lot of  
11 harvest Innoko, but we don't have any -- I haven't gotten  
12 any -- we're hearing about a lot of rotten meat coming  
13 into McGrath. We're hearing a lot of complaining from --  
14 -- it's basically 21E, is getting hunted pretty hard. And  
15 when we get the Innoko Refuge, Jeremy will give us --  
16 we would like to get some data on that moose population  
17 in 21E. That -- the last numbers I was hearing to get  
18 their comp data, their bull cow ratios, were going down  
19 fairly significantly and that is not a good thing. Bull-  
20 cow ratios do not contract like that unless you're  
21 getting too much harvest from people. So that is an  
22 issue that -- but I don't -- I can't. We don't have  
23 enough information at this point to make that proposal.  
24 But GASH might be able to make that proposal. Then we  
25 would be able to review that. But we also are going to  
26 get -- Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko is going to give us a  
27 report here at some point. That'll be when they -- so  
28 go ahead, Nissa.

29  
30 MS. PILCHER: I don't think anything's  
31 finalized yet.....

32 (Simultaneous speech)

33  
34 MR. VENT: Chair. Oh.

35  
36 MS. PILCHER: .....but I did hear rumors  
37 that the GASH AC might be meeting in April sometime, but  
38 it's still very preliminary. So, the plan is that AC  
39 should be meeting prior to that May deadline.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay and I heard  
42 Darrell on there. Were you talking, Darrell?

43  
44 MR. VENT: Yeah. I just wanted to mention  
45 you know, that we get transporters in our area, and  
46 we're wondering, you know, what kind of ways could we  
47 work with them? You know, one year we had this guy, he  
48 had a meat stand, you know, a meat rack hanging and, you  
49 know, up upriver from Huslia. And people asked him, you  
50

1 know, what he's going to do with that meat? And he didn't  
2 really answer. So about a week later, he came up to the  
3 airport, and he was trying to sign that meat over, which  
4 was not in very good condition by then. And I don't know  
5 if there was any way we can put anything in for transport  
6 and where we could, you know, accept meat, but they'd  
7 have to, you know, understand that with within 1 to 3,  
8 1 to 4 days, that you know, that meat would be in good  
9 shape, you know, we take that meat. But, you know, after  
10 what he did with that, you know, it was in a plastic bag  
11 and stuff. And it would be helpful if they, you know,  
12 had some kind of training so they could just say, hey,  
13 you know, we want that meeting. Well, he was going to  
14 take the meat, but I guess it must have been too  
15 expensive for him or something. I don't know what  
16 happened. But we sure would appreciate it, you know,  
17 they give it to us early instead of waiting, you know,  
18 and then trying to give it to us.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That transporter,  
21 if he's got a camp on the above Huslia, would be within  
22 the Koyukuk control use and on the Koyukuk Refuge. And  
23 so that would be -- Koyukuk must have a permit. Would  
24 you like to come up to the mic there, Tina, since you're  
25 deputy now? It's not -- the seat isn't nearly as hot as  
26 it was before you got -- so are you aware of how many  
27 transporters you have in the Koyukuk Refuge?

28  
29 MS. MORAN: So, Mr. Chair, this is -- for  
30 the record, this is Tina Moran with the Fish and Wildlife  
31 Service. And for Koyukuk, I think we only had one  
32 actually air taxi transporter permitted for Koyukuk. We  
33 do have one guide.

34  
35 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Let me stop you for  
36 a second there, Darrell. Are you talking about air or  
37 no, it's got to be a riverboat transporter, correct?

38  
39 MR. VENT: No, they had a raft. They had  
40 a raft. So, I guess they came in up the tributary  
41 somewhere. I don't know where they came from, but when  
42 they caught that moose, it was down in the cut off area  
43 up in the state around that area. We, you know, we were  
44 hunting and we ran into it. And then you know, people  
45 reporting, you know, that it was there for a while. And  
46 we just wanted, you know, how could we -- you know, they  
47 wanted to us to get the meat we could have, you know,  
48 helped them out. But, you know, we have to wait till  
49 they come to the village or is there any kind of  
50 regulation stating that, you know, we could talk him

1 into giving us that meat or if they didn't want it, they  
2 could make a decision. They're not just, you know, wait  
3 till they're trying to take off an airplane or something.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, I'm trying to  
6 get down to the root of this thing. Were these  
7 actually.....

8

9 (Simultaneous speech)

10

11 MR. VENT: This was -- these were  
12 hunters. Yeah, they were the hunters, not the  
13 transporter. The hunters.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.

16

17 MR. VENT: They're being transported.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So maybe it's an  
20 educational thing. You know, the hunters that float down  
21 the river driven, dropped out outside the controlled use  
22 area and floating down the river need to have an  
23 education as to what -- how big this animal is and what  
24 it's going to take to get out. And if you're going to  
25 give it away, you really should be have an -- in reach  
26 to text Huslia tribe to say, we got this moose, you want  
27 it and this -- and they should be well aware that they  
28 should start on this project getting in contact with  
29 somebody that's going to take this moose within the first  
30 day after they get this moose so that people are aware  
31 of it, can gear up to go get it. You can't just like,  
32 oh, gee, we got this moose and it's been hanging here  
33 for ten days in the rain and it's green. What am I going  
34 to do with it? It has to be -- that's an educational  
35 problem. A State Board of Game is way into this education  
36 thing. Is -- if it is a transporter that's flying hunters  
37 out near the refuge, they must have a refuge permit. And  
38 they should have this, like an informational card as  
39 part of their refuge permit. Is that provided some kind  
40 of a meat care quality retention and how to how to convey  
41 it to a local people. Is that part of their permitting  
42 process for the Koyukuk Refuge?

43

44 MS. MORAN: Well, within the permitting  
45 process, they do have a permit. And then they also have  
46 special conditions that they have to follow. And then  
47 they also have to follow the state regulations, which  
48 there is meat care in the state regulations.

49

50

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: In the -- in these  
2 permits for Innoko and Koyukuk do they stipulate that  
3 the meat has to be removed from the -- air taxi has to  
4 be removed from the field in a very timely manner?

5  
6 MS. MORAN: Yeah. And that follows state  
7 regulations. Yeah.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You have a time  
10 frame of like four days or three days or two days or  
11 some.....

12  
13 MS. MORAN: Not in the permit, but it  
14 should be in whatever the state regulation. Jeremy, if  
15 you're on if you have any more information on that area,  
16 you're welcome to contribute. But it is -- they do need  
17 to follow the state regulations, and they do have an  
18 online education on that.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right. Well, the  
21 state statute says that the meat has to be recovered  
22 from the field in a condition that's palatable for human  
23 consumption for two weeks after removal from the field.  
24 And I don't think the public is informed by the state  
25 nearly enough that they have to -- the meat can't just  
26 come to Fairbanks be tossed into the dumpster. That  
27 happens commonly because they think it removed -- but  
28 the statute actually says, Board support sent me the  
29 statute book this big, and that's what it says in the  
30 statute book. And they have to -- have it in a condition  
31 for human consumption for two weeks after removal from  
32 the field. So, hearing about a lot of meat coming out  
33 of the Innoko and I hate to bring this up since you're  
34 in that seat, but we're hearing about a lot of rotten  
35 meat coming over. And Kevin Whitworth can attest to how  
36 much rotten meat has been shown up and you're well aware  
37 of that. And we're concerned about this issue. We're  
38 concerned about the number of hunters that are being  
39 transported into the Innoko, were concerned about the  
40 kind of -- the meat is being left out too long. If they  
41 can't get over the Kuskokwim Mountains, they got to take  
42 it down to Aniak, go the other way. You know, you're  
43 flying an airplane, you can get to Aniak easy. You can't  
44 get over to McGrath very easy because you got over the  
45 mountains. So, there has to be some tightening up of the  
46 permitting process for the refuges. If you know, Innoko  
47 got -- having some problems there. So, but going back  
48 to Darrell's thing, we're trying to hunt this down.  
49 People floating down that's probably just got -- just  
50 an educational thing. And so, I don't know -- are you

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1 aware what rivers they're floating down and they're  
2 coming out on the gravel bars on the Koyokuk there,  
3 Darrell?

4  
5 MR. VENT: Well, there's a lot of areas  
6 that they can come out of. You know, there's a (In  
7 Native) and up there in the Hog River and then up, you  
8 know, further up above Allakaket, you know, there's a  
9 lot of places they could be dropped off, but they can  
10 raft out on with those rubber rafts. So, you know, it's  
11 just -- yeah, you know, we don't know where they come  
12 from or, you know, how many there are or -- you know,  
13 because we, you know, we notice them, but you know, we  
14 just don't know what kind of regulations or what we  
15 could do about trying to get that meat. You know that  
16 meat is important to us.

17  
18 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: The legal thing is  
19 they have to sign a paper that signs it over to you.  
20 They have to sign a transfer of possession over to you,  
21 which is in the back of the regs books I got the regs  
22 book.

23  
24 (Simultaneous speech)

25  
26 MR. VENT: Yeah.

27  
28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That's on the table  
29 next to me.

30  
31 MR. VENT: That's correct.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, you got.....

34  
35 MR. VENT: Yeah. That's correct. And they  
36 were trying to do that. But you know it was not in very  
37 good condition. So, they didn't want to take it.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: But again, Huslia  
40 tribe can get a hold of Commercial Services Board and  
41 say, you know, there are also licensing these  
42 transporters as commercial services. And so, they need  
43 to get -- be informed from the Commercial Services if  
44 you're going to drop these hunters off, they better know  
45 what they're doing. Tommy got comment.

46  
47 MR. VENT: Yeah. It's kind of really  
48 thinking about that because a lot of times I hunt on  
49 Koyukuk River. I'm a transporter myself. But then on the  
50 Koyukuk River, there's a lot of Wanton waste, too. I

1 mean, you have hunters coming from the -- I think they  
2 come out of the bridge up there or either Nenana or  
3 mostly the bridge. And a lot of times you see on top  
4 their caps, there's like five moose horns, big moose  
5 horns or six. And there's a few times I was parked down  
6 below the check station just in the creek there and  
7 these guys, they're idling down the river. They're not  
8 on strip or anything. They're idling because they're --  
9 the weight they have in their boats. And after they go  
10 through the check station, I mean, I was, I think six  
11 miles below the check station in the creek and I was  
12 just standing there on the bank and that boat out there,  
13 they were taking the bags off the meat and tossing it  
14 in the river. It's coming out of the Koyukuk River,  
15 because with that much weight, once -- they have to go  
16 upriver 300 miles. So, with that weight, once they hit  
17 the Yukon, there ain't no way they can get on step going  
18 upriver. So, a lot of it is tossed, so. And there's a  
19 lot of complications with that. Like, if you have a  
20 rainy hunting season, there ain't no way that meat lasts  
21 at least six, seven days. I never seen meat that, I  
22 mean, you know, if it was cool -- calm, cool days, a lot  
23 of people aged or meat for like nine days. But in these  
24 conditions, their bags and everything. And I don't know.

25  
26                   Going back to that whole place in the  
27 Koyukuk. It's a controlled used area. It's there for a  
28 reason. With that, I think they should put in more  
29 restrictions to the wanton waste, to you know, say that  
30 during rainy conditions here can be up there only so  
31 long. I mean, six days, I don't -- there's no way I  
32 would leave my meat out there, even 1 or 2 days. I'd  
33 have that home and taken care of because we -- that's  
34 what we're after. The meat, not the horns. And there's  
35 a lot of -- I see the trooper there, the boats, and he's  
36 checking all the locals. But I see the hunters never,  
37 ever check their meat. I mean, he should go check their  
38 meat and see if it's salvageable, right, in Galena. Or  
39 either have them that they require to hold their meat  
40 all the way back to wherever they launched their boat  
41 into. If they launched into -- at the bridge, have a  
42 trooper there checking the boats for if they shot six  
43 moose. Well, let's see your six moose. And then I mean,  
44 that's the way it should be. We can't shoot a moose and  
45 throw it overboard and go home with the horns. Well, we  
46 won't anyway. And then if they go back to Nenana same,  
47 the vice versa. They should -- if they are out for two  
48 weeks and they're -- I don't know, I think they should  
49 be responsible for the meat instead of it going  
50 overboard.

1

2 I mean, I'm a boater myself and race  
3 boats and I hauled a lot of weight and boats. I do have  
4 big boats, small boats, all sorts of boats. But then  
5 there's a limit to it. And they have on these boats a  
6 capacity of weight that a boat -- I don't know if they  
7 ever use that for you know, like it's the horsepower,  
8 150 horse [sic], the required weight in there, 1100lb  
9 or 2000lb. I don't know. In a way that some of these  
10 boats can hold 7 or 8,000lb. I mean, they're -- I know  
11 they're going up the river with no less than 3 to 400  
12 gallons of fuel, you know. So, I don't know if there's  
13 just a lot of things that need to be checked here, but  
14 that's causing a lot of issues to us people that -- you  
15 know, times are getting tougher, eyes are opening up  
16 more. People's eyes are like, what the hell? How the  
17 hell are they doing that? I mean, sorry about my  
18 language, but it is -- the people are -- they're seeing  
19 all of this stuff. They're kind of -- they don't like  
20 it, but I just think that the Fish and Game or somebody  
21 need to step in here. The troopers more on, not -- like  
22 I mean they go after our local hunters like crazy. They  
23 should leave them alone. They're already having a tough  
24 time. They can't even fish. They're having time with  
25 fuel, \$10 a gallon. They're having a lot more issues,  
26 and this issue with this snow. And this ice is going to  
27 be another big issue for a lot of them on the Yukon. So,  
28 I think that, you know, the -- they should check more  
29 with the hunters that's coming from way upriver. They  
30 put it down check station at the bridge. And if you're  
31 going to Koyokuk River, well, you better come back here  
32 with your meat. I don't know. Just saying. Okay. Thank  
33 you.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: It should be when  
they check through Ellis, if that boat is loaded beyond  
capacity, then they should have to have a referral to  
check to contact a trooper when they come out up at the  
bridge so that that trooper can check that meat again.  
If they're overloaded, they're not going to get there.  
They're going to throw that out. They're going to throw  
it out somewhere. They better have a transfer of  
possession at Galena or Koyokuk or somewhere, or they  
better show up at the bridge. The troopp, the check  
station -- Glenn should be like, this boat is beyond its  
capacity. It's got six moose on here. There's no way  
it's going up. And so, it's got to have -- that person  
-- those -- that crew better get referral to another  
trooper for checkout because they're they are going to  
waste that meat. That's what they're going to do. There's

1 no way you can go upriver with six moose. That kind of  
2 waves, I mean, you gotta [sic] have like a real ocean  
3 boat almost to go upriver with that kind of weight on  
4 board. 8,000lb of meat, no way are they getting back up  
5 to the bridge with that.

6  
7 So, there needs to be a better process.  
8 That's beyond the Board of Games process. It needs to  
9 be worked out with the troopers themselves. The public  
10 safety, the Commercial Services Board. A lot of these  
11 are non-residents. They don't -- they want -- they're  
12 actually illegally guiding sometimes, you know they got  
13 their own boats, and they got all these friends all the  
14 time. It's like yeah how many friends can you come up  
15 and do that kind of work for you. They must be super  
16 good friends to pack moose like that. They're probably  
17 illegally guiding. There's some stuff goes on that  
18 really needs to be looked at. You got another comment,  
19 Tommy?

20  
21 MR. KRISKA: I was just going to say  
22 that, that no controlled use area is a -- it's kind of  
23 regulated a hunt. So, with that, it's already sitting  
24 there, wonder if there's a way somehow that we could add  
25 the wanton waste to that? So, to put it along with the  
26 regulation that's there. I don't know.

27  
28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: According to Glenn  
29 Stout, you know, they check all the meat, they're  
30 checking the -- we got the meat on bone regulation. They  
31 got to keep the meat on the bone. They got to keep it  
32 on the ribs and Glenn is checking all the meat. You  
33 know, that's -- but it's the -- once it gets past the  
34 check station, that's when it goes into the void. They  
35 don't know what happens to the meat after that. And so,  
36 when they -- what should be happening is Glenn sees six  
37 moose on one boat that's only got a tonnage of like two-  
38 ton boat. You got six moose. There is no way -- the boat  
39 is not even -- it's dangerous to even run it like that.  
40 Loaded like that. You get down to the Yukon with a west  
41 wind. It's like you got swamp, that thing. So that's why  
42 they want to get rid of that weight. So, they should  
43 have to have a referral to a trooper down at Galena to  
44 actually check in again. Okay, we got this boat. It's  
45 got all this meat. He better be shipping it out of Galena  
46 or better be giving it away. They have to have some  
47 accountability. But that all works through the public -  
48 - Department of Public Safety. And that should be --  
49 that could be, you know, through the tribes could request  
50 that kind of stuff or work with the U.S. Fish and

1 Wildlife Enforcement, but you don't have enough  
2 enforcement. You got a comment there, Tina?

3  
4 MS. MORAN: Yes. And earlier Cody Smith  
5 was on, he -- and I'm not sure if he's still on. He's  
6 our -- one of our law enforcement officers, and he did  
7 do a patrol in the Innoko this year and a little bit of  
8 Koyukuk and Kanuti. So, we're hoping again to do that  
9 this fall as well. And if he's still on, he could maybe  
10 give some comments, or we could have him comment during  
11 our report time.

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah, I happen to  
14 run into him one time up there. He's gung ho and he  
15 says, I'm looking to (indiscernible). Go after some of  
16 these guys. So, he's a good guy. Go ahead, Don.

17  
18 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I had  
19 a question. Maybe of Tommy or maybe of the lady there.  
20 So, when you're signing off something, are those  
21 transporters given papers that you have to sign off or  
22 meat? I mean, is it the transporters or guides?

23  
24 MR. KRISKA: It's not the -- it's not  
25 only transporters. Like she said, there's only a couple  
26 transporters. I know there's a few other ones than me,  
27 but then it's not -- that's just probably about three  
28 boats. And you have 50 or 100 other boats that are not  
29 transporting. They're just local hunters from Anchorage  
30 or everywhere that's into this river, too. So, it's not  
31 only transporters, it's just the hunters. They just need  
32 to check everyone. It's not -- some of these guys are  
33 not even transporting. They're just out there hunting  
34 buddy buddy doing whatever.

35  
36 MR. HONEA: Okay. Thank you, Tom. Because  
37 I brought this problem up before, and you know, and it's  
38 ongoing. And, you know what Darrell mentioned, I think  
39 education is key. I think we've got to educate people.  
40 You don't know what you're signing off for. I brought  
41 that up, you know, Tim and I discussed it before. Across  
42 from Ruby the Melozi River, local transporter person.  
43 And he, you know, he brings over rotten meat 4 or 5 days  
44 old. It's getting sour. It's getting in -- you know,  
45 people don't know. Oh, you want this? Here sign it. And  
46 so, I think education in that area is really key.  
47 Because, you know, whether it's happening up there or  
48 whether -- you got to know what the heck you're signing,  
49 I mean. So that was my question. Is it transporters --  
50 I don't know you know, I guess transporters get these

1 papers from the state that they have to -- that they're  
2 mandated to go by. I don't know the process there, but  
3 I think that, you know, we have to educate our own  
4 people, tell them, hey, you shouldn't be signing that  
5 because it's happened more than once. And sometimes, you  
6 know, I would not even trust your local game biologist.  
7 I mean, we have to be careful who we're dealing with,  
8 and I'm not trying to implicate anybody here but know  
9 who you're dealing with. Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Look on the back  
12 of your reg book that's laying right here on your table.  
13 You got your regulation books on the pile over there.  
14 So, in the last page is a transfer of possession form.  
15 This is what all of those hunters, when they come into  
16 your village, this is what they have to sign. Otherwise  
17 -- you shot two moose this year. You got you killed one,  
18 and you got another moose hanging there. The trooper's  
19 going to go like, where'd you get this other moose? So,  
20 this is a -- it's a straightforward form. This fills it  
21 out. I took the whole moose. He signs it, you sign it,  
22 you go, then you got possession of this moose. But a lot  
23 of this stuff has to do with public safety. It has to  
24 do with Commercial Services. It has nothing to do with  
25 Board of Games. It's going to go like, you know, they  
26 have a salvage requirements and so forth. They can't  
27 really do too much more than what they're -- but it's  
28 how the enforcement actually operates. They go through  
29 this check station, this boat is overloaded, this one -  
30 - and you guys are going to have to check in up there  
31 at Galena. You're going to have to check in with a  
32 trooper so we can make sure that you actually got --  
33 because you're overloaded. You're not going to get home.  
34 So, you're going to check in with the refuge. Or if  
35 you're coming off the refuge, you can check you killed  
36 all these moose on the refuge. You can check in with the  
37 refuge. So, you got to have some kind of accountability  
38 because there's, like, 150-200 trailers at the Yukon  
39 River bridge in the fall time. There's all kinds of --  
40 people come with boats. There's just a huge, huge parking  
41 lot full of boats and you see them. Where do they go?  
42 They all go down river. They go to Koyukuk and go up the  
43 Koyukuk River and on below they're going to the Innoko  
44 also. But I don't know that we can actually submit a  
45 proposal on any of this stuff. It's stuff that the tribal  
46 councils can get a hold of, you know, enforcement try  
47 to get education, work with Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko.  
48 Try to get people that are going, checking through or,  
49 you know, enforcement should give them like a card on  
50 how, you know, this is a big animal and you're going to

1 have to take care of this meat, and you can't just leave  
2 it out in the rain for a week or two. That's not going  
3 to do it. So, but I don't know that we can -- I don't  
4 know of a proposal that we can submit. You got a comment  
5 there, Nissa?

6  
7 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. Nissa, for the  
8 record, and I think when you start dealing with proposals  
9 involving wanton waste you -- it'd probably be best if  
10 they get submitted at a statewide level. Unless it is  
11 something like in Unit 24, you must leave the meat on  
12 the bones of the hindquarters and ribs. Something very  
13 unit specific. But wanton waste is generally a much more  
14 statewide topic and that's not under the current call.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right. Yeah. Go  
17 ahead, Jenny.

18  
19 MS. PELKOLA: Is there -- maybe we can  
20 write a letter to somebody. Would that help or...? I  
21 mean, I understand Tom's, what he's concerned about. You  
22 know, being in camp and watching all these boats go by  
23 with all the seven moose they have on board. Plus, they  
24 have seven hunters. So, you know.

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: It's an issue. It's  
27 an issue that these hunters haven't the slightest idea  
28 how big these moose are. You know, it happens all the  
29 time on the road. Some guy -- some person drives up the  
30 road, they got five caribou limit. They shoot a whole  
31 pile of caribou. Then they go like, oh, my gosh, I can't  
32 get that in the back seat of my car. They drive in a  
33 car. This happens a lot. This happens kind of a lot. So,  
34 it's happening with these boats. So, what do you think  
35 we should do, Tommy?

36  
37 MR. KRIKSA: I think we shouldn't do  
38 anything. I think the state should put that in their own  
39 regulation themselves. Enforced by the state, not the  
40 controlled use area here. The -- anywhere, it should be  
41 a state regulation, the state law. You know that you  
42 bring home what you went out to get. Make sure you get  
43 back into your yard or anywhere that they're pulling --  
44 put their boats in they need to bring everything back  
45 to that point. I think that definitely needs to be in  
46 there.

47  
48 MS. PELKOLA: Can I say one more thing?

49  
50 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead.

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MS. PELKOLA: To add to Tommy. And make them eat it.

(Talking)

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, we -- I -- we -- I'm not sure what letter we could write, you know, to who on this issue. You know, this is a -- we could write a letter to the Department of Public Safety, Fish and Wildlife Protection, say we're concerned about the amount of -- the boats that come down there killing -- but they only have a specific tonnage capacity, and they intend to kill multiple moose and haul them all as one party on the same boat. That needs to stop that or they have to observe, are they actually shuttling all those moose, two at a time, down to Galena and unloading them and flying them out? There has to be accountability for these boats that are beyond capacity. That's what -- I don't -- how do I know how to address that so, but.

(Talking)

But I talked to a Fish and Wildlife Protection Officer this this fall. He was driving through my yard, so I like stopped him. I says, are you checking out caribou hunters? And I says, are you going to come -- he says, I'm going back to Fairbanks. I says, are you going back up? There's like thousands of hunters up north chasing caribou. I said, you're going to go back up there? He looked -- he leans out of his car, in his truck. He says, we only have three fish and Wildlife protection officers in the Fairbanks office. We don't have enough people to handle all of the thousands, 100,000 people in Fairbanks. And all these hunters going up out of Anchorage, all over the whole upper part of Alaska on that road system. They're like, the troopers are overwhelmed. So, what we're asking -- what I'm proposing is like, that's probably too much work for the available workforce, trooper enforcement we have.

MR. KRISKA: It's pretty simple. When you can -- you're only launching your boat. Two places to go to the Koyukuk River, coming out of Fairbanks and anywhere in the state of Alaska. It's either the bridge or Nenana. And that's where they need them.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Well, they -- we -- there could be a regulation that if they launch at Galena or at the Yukon River bridge that they have to

1 check in at Fish and Wildlife Protection in Fairbanks.  
2 Once they've been removed, the boat from the water, they  
3 coming in. They've got this moose. You better check in.  
4 You know, here's my number. You got a number or  
5 something. You got to be some way for accountability.  
6 But the troopers don't have enough people because they  
7 come in -- they come out at the Yukon Bridge over, like  
8 a two-week period. You know, they might come out at  
9 night.

10  
11 They had a checkpoint there back in  
12 2000. This check had road traffic, and there were over  
13 2000 hunters a year in year 2000. Well, it's a lot more  
14 hunters now. So, it's -- but they stopped. They  
15 discontinued doing checkpoints on the road. The  
16 Department of Fish and Game has been adverse to having  
17 any more checkpoints. Ellis is like as far as they want  
18 to go with that. But there's got to be some way to get  
19 these people to check back in with this meat, but I'm  
20 not exactly sure what the -- how to get it. The Board  
21 of Games not going to want to do it. That's not the kind  
22 of thing they'd like to do.

23  
24 MR. VENT: Well, that -- you know, you  
25 have a lot of Fish and Wildlife people in Fairbanks and  
26 as well as Glenn out there that 15-mile Koyukuk River  
27 check station and he's doing reports who's going by with  
28 meat and everything like that. And I think you don't  
29 need troopers at the Yukon Bridge. You probably just  
30 need Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife people there doing  
31 reports.

32  
33 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

34  
35 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

36  
37 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair, I really, really  
38 like this conversation because the next time we're going  
39 to meet again is probably fall time. And, you know,  
40 we're going to have all these same complaints and  
41 whatever. And, you know, maybe Tommy has a point there.  
42 Maybe at Galena or maybe at, certainly at the bridge.  
43 So, if you left Galena with so much -- 900lb of meat and  
44 you get up there and you have 30lb of meat. What  
45 happened? I mean, you know, in between, I've heard  
46 reports of even at Ruby throwing meat overboard and stuff  
47 like that. So, I certainly, you know, before we get out  
48 of here I'm hoping to hear from refuges. I mean, from  
49 the from the refuge manager, see if they have anything.  
50 But doggone, it'd be nice to have something concrete.

1 So, we're not just faced with this every year. And I can  
2 understand, I mean, because we're just sitting on the  
3 banks of our village here, whether we're in a village  
4 or a fish camp or trapping cabin and see all these racks,  
5 moose racks on top of the -- proudly going up the river.  
6 And we never got a moose or anything like that. But I  
7 really liked this conversation and I know it's -- you  
8 know, McGrath, I'm sure they have the same problems. And  
9 I just kind of feel for Innoko because, you know, Innoko  
10 is getting a lot of pressure in the last couple of years,  
11 this fall. And so, I'd like to, you know, see what they  
12 say about it. What you know, what the problem is there,  
13 but definitely, I wish we could come out of here with,  
14 you know -- what Ruby did just recently, this fall, we  
15 went all the way up to the refuge. Almost our little  
16 tributaries. No trespassing and it worked. I mean, you  
17 know, hunters just see that at the mouth there and they  
18 didn't want to go in. So, hey, I mean, anything that we  
19 could do. And I really liked this idea of check station  
20 here at Galena or -- and at the bridge correspond with  
21 each other. You left with this. You know something that  
22 we could do. Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah, I -- the --  
25 there's -- I don't know of a Board of Game proposal.  
26 This is an enforcement issue. And so, you know, once  
27 they've checked it through Ellis, it's working with the  
28 troopers. Maybe we should just do what Jenny says. Let's  
29 write a letter to the Alaska State Troopers, Fish and  
30 Wildlife Protection that if these boats coming up with  
31 -- that have -- don't have the capacity to take the  
32 amount of moose. That they're -- that each boat should,  
33 you know, this boat can only haul two moose and the and  
34 the two passengers on board. That's it. You can't have  
35 six people killing moose on the same boat. There's got  
36 to be some way to control that. I don't know, we could  
37 submit a proposal for the Unit 21D and 24D and the  
38 Koyukuk controlled use area that boats cannot take any  
39 more moose than the boats tonnage or the weight capacity  
40 of the boat. They can -- they cannot kill, you know, if  
41 you got a two-ton boat, you can't kill over two moose  
42 in that boat. Period. That's all you're going to take  
43 in that boat, put some kind of limitation on that. They  
44 put -- the Board of Game, put a 50-horsepower limitation  
45 on the Hoholitna River. They can't take over a 50-  
46 horsepower. So, they have done things similar to that.  
47 We could actually even maybe submit a proposal to that,  
48 something to that effect. When they go through Ellis  
49 check station, they can only have -- their boat capacity  
50 is limited to -- the amount of moose that can be taken

1 with that boat is only limited to that amount or  
2 something like that, I don't know. but that's kind of a  
3 complex issue and that's going to be hard to get -- you  
4 know, to deliberate before the State Board of Game.

5  
6 MR. KRISKA: That probably might cause a  
7 little issues, too, because a lot of our hunters do,  
8 they have little boats, too, and, you know, it's going  
9 to cause trouble with the capacity of things like that.  
10 But I'm just saying that on the other hand you come out  
11 of the check station with the amount of meat that you're  
12 supposed to have. Well, that amount of meat better make  
13 it back to the bridge or either Nenana. Wherever you put  
14 your boat in the water, you need to haul all that back  
15 with you. I don't know how else to do it.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Write a letter to  
18 the Fish and Wildlife Protection and say that, you know,  
19 we've -- that we've actually had members observe people  
20 tossing meat overboard after passing through Ellis check  
21 station.

22  
23 MR. KRISKA: Yep. I've seen it done. I  
24 seen a lot of meat. For one boat, it was coming through  
25 15 miles, was eight of them, under eight moose in there.  
26 And I just kind of mosey down the river checking it out.  
27 And I was watching them, actually, they threw probably  
28 3 or 4 moose overboard.

29  
30 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Wow. So, we could  
31 identify this as an issue so that they, at least maybe  
32 they'll write back to us. We wrote about trespass issues.  
33 Did we ever get a response? So, see, they don't even  
34 want to write back. That's kind of the problem, so. But  
35 we could write that letter. We could write a letter that  
36 we're concerned about boats are coming up with too many  
37 people on Board for the amount of harvest that they  
38 intend to take, and then they're dumping the meat. It's  
39 been witnessed. So, we're concerned that they're not  
40 actually -- and suggest that they actually put up a, it  
41 can be a rookie Fish and Wildlife Protection Officer at  
42 the Yukon River bridge and write plenty of tickets. You  
43 could do it at the Coldfoot truck stop. You could sit  
44 there and fill up ticket books all day long. These guys  
45 pull in there. They don't -- they got 6 or 8 caribou  
46 antlers on top of their truck, but their truck is sitting  
47 real flat. They do not have a caribou -- but I don't  
48 have enforcement. I can't ask to see how much meat they  
49 got. They get to sit there at Coldfoot and write tickets  
50 all day. I've told them that lots of times. Get a rookie,

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1 just put them right there at the truck stop. Put them  
2 right -- that's a truck stop right there at the Yukon  
3 River bridge. They just put them there, boat comes up.  
4 Got moose? Let's check it. I saw them, somebody come  
5 down from Stevens. I saw Fish and Wildlife Protection  
6 run down there. They were checking fish nets and stuff.  
7 Run down there and start checking those people from  
8 Stevens. Checking their meat. Coming down from up at  
9 Stevens. So, they were like, you're right. They want to  
10 check the locals because they're an easy catch, but they  
11 don't want to get -- it's the guys coming out at night.  
12 You know, they're gonna have to have somebody that's  
13 going to want to check them.

14  
15 But we could suggest that they put  
16 enforcement at the Yukon River bridge to check these  
17 boats. The hunters that are coming up to make sure that  
18 they have their amount of meat, because we you're  
19 testifying that, you know, there's been people throwing  
20 meat overboard. I see some of the boats. There's like,  
21 no way can they haul that much weight on that kind of -  
22 - that river with that kind of, you know, it's a long  
23 ways. It's like 407. What is it 407 miles up to the  
24 bridge, Tommy, from the mouth of Koyukuk? It's got to  
25 be like 600 miles up where they're moose hunting and all  
26 those waves, like, you're going to sink. So, would you  
27 like to write a letter? Do you think we should write a  
28 letter, Jenny, to address this issue?

29  
30 MS. PELKOLA: I think, just try it  
31 anyway.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, we could -- the  
34 Council could write a letter to the Fish and Wildlife  
35 Protection, say that, you know, we're concerned about  
36 the amount of meat that's actually reaching destination  
37 because of the size of the boats. And they could confer  
38 with the Ellis check station as to the volume of weight  
39 on each boat. And that there's -- to highlight to the  
40 fact that there's that's like physically impossible to  
41 reach destination at the Yukon River bridge. They should  
42 ask them. Glenn should ask them. Where did you lodge?  
43 Where are you going to? And you're going to -- you have  
44 to call in and check in. That's what they really should  
45 do. When Glenn sees somebody with six moose on board and  
46 a boat that doesn't have capacity, it can only go  
47 downriver, barely, they should have a system to check  
48 that. It should highlight them, you know, like so we  
49 could write a letter to that effect. The Council would  
50 like to make a motion to do that. Would you like to do

1 that, Jenny?

2

3 MS. PELKOLA: I'll make a motion that we  
4 write a letter regarding our wanton waste and whatever  
5 else concerns.

6

7 MR. WALKER: Second.

8

9 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Correction. Let me  
10 get on the record here. Write a letter to the Alaska  
11 State Troopers, Fish and Wildlife Protection. What's  
12 Interior region? Well, anyways, troopers in Fairbanks  
13 that we're concerned about wanton waste below the checks  
14 point, and to delineate how large volumes of moose are  
15 going through the check point, and they need to have --  
16 be highlighted to be checked again once they reach their  
17 point of launch. They have to declare their point of  
18 launch. And maybe that's -- maybe they're going to tell  
19 us that we have to have a proposal for that. You know  
20 that they have to declare where their point of launch  
21 is, something like that. But anyways, that's the letter  
22 to that effect. Any further discussion, Robert?

23

24 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
25 recently last fall, a boat that got on hunting Unit 18  
26 from the bridge, 99.9% of the time to meat the sour by  
27 the time they get to Anvik. Because I go down and check  
28 them just out of curiosity, and I want to see who they  
29 are. And it is, how are you going to get back to the  
30 bridge with all that meat? It's already -- so there's  
31 got to be something else in writing other than how we're  
32 doing this, because your start of origin and your hunting  
33 area and then your return of origin where you started.  
34 It's basically -- it's just not feasible.

35

36 MR. KRIKSA: Now you're 600 miles away  
37 from the bridge.

38

39 MR. WALKER: Yeah. See? And this is where  
40 my question would be to add that in that letter, they  
41 would have to be some kind of stipulation that you cannot  
42 hunt in Unit 18 from Fairbanks unless you fly in. You  
43 know, people use boats because it's cheaper and you have  
44 to fly with the aircraft, It'll cost you more. So,  
45 there's a question here, I have that, how do you define  
46 that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: I don't know about  
49 that one. It would be good if there was some kind of a  
50 permitting process to hunt moose in the Innoko Refuge

1 that if they access the Innoko Refuge, if they have to  
2 check back in to Galena, if they launched from the Yukon  
3 River bridge, they check in at Galena so that your  
4 enforcement can see that they've actually are  
5 transporting meat up. There's got to be some way to  
6 capture this problem or to sort of exploring different  
7 ideas, sort of. But we need to highlight it to the  
8 troopers first and request a return from them. You know  
9 what they -- what their intentions are. We'd also like  
10 to highlight this to the enforcement for U.S. Fish and  
11 Wildlife. The letter can go to both. It's because it's  
12 affecting your refuges. It's affecting Innoko. It's  
13 affecting Koyukuk. It's affecting the Novi, Nowitna. And  
14 so this letter should go to both the Koyukuk Refuge, the  
15 Innoko and Kanuti. They're a complex, but it's not so  
16 much a big issue with Kanuti because it's different  
17 place. Go ahead, Robert.

18  
19 MR. WALKER: And this other version of  
20 this too also, you know, a lot of these people come out  
21 of Anchorage with super cubs and fly out to Bush Alaska.  
22 And you know that two people in the Super Cub with extra  
23 ten gallons of gas, they're not going to take any meat  
24 back because they can't. Their chances of crashing, get  
25 killed. Like some of the people that have been killed  
26 in the last few years trying to take off with meat with  
27 180s. And I just can't see how they could let them go  
28 into the upper part of the Andraefsky River and  
29 Atchuelinguk River and hunt moose with Super Cubs and  
30 not fighting it out. So, you know they're not bringing  
31 me out.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We can address this  
34 letter to the Fish and Wildlife Protection and troopers,  
35 and also to the refuges. Koyukuk, Nowtina.

36  
37 MR. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I  
38 would put that in the letter, too. How could they justify  
39 that? Hauling meat out with the Super Cub.

40  
41 MR. GERVAIS: Nissa.

42  
43 (Talking)

44  
45 MR. GERVAIS: Do you feel like it's --  
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Do you feel it's worthwhile to  
47 carbon copy Commissioner Lang since it's -- he's -- I  
48 guess he's ultimately responsible for the situation.

49  
50

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: We could CC Glen  
2 Stout because he's sort of running the Ellis check  
3 station. That would be, you know, Glenn. Who else do you  
4 think that this could go to, Nissa?

5  
6 MS. PILCHER: We do generally CC Ben  
7 Mulligan and Aaron Poetter on most Council  
8 Correspondence. So, Fish and Game does get a Council of  
9 most of the things you guys write.

10  
11 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.

12  
13 MS. PILCHER: And I -- actually, I'll  
14 bring it up later. Never mind.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: There could be  
17 other people on this list, but the main is troopers. And  
18 then Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko and Kanuti would be the  
19 other primary address than CC that the others, so.

20  
21 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair. Thank you, Mr.  
22 Chair. I just stepped out, and so I kind of missed it.  
23 So, this is a letter of intent to deter or what exactly  
24 is this? The nature of this letter?

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: The letter is to  
27 highlight the issue that there's boats that are too light  
28 of draft to be accessing the -- coming down from the --  
29 Yukon Bridge and the Nenana and then -- and with the  
30 intention to harvest multiple moose beyond the capacity  
31 of the boat or the aircraft, and trying to return without  
32 -- and then finding out they can't even haul that much  
33 meat, and then disposing of the meat and not actually  
34 being accounted for. We want them to be able to -- we  
35 would like them to check them at the Yukon River bridge,  
36 check them in Nenana to make sure that the meat is  
37 actually coming out. Because there's -- either that or  
38 they should -- when they're a field, it's start informing  
39 them that they are going to get tickets if they don't  
40 return with all the meat to the bridge. If they knew --  
41 if they thought they were going to be checked, they'd  
42 be really reluctant to show up with a -- because they're  
43 going to seize their antlers, which is a huge blow to  
44 their ego, and then they're going to take all their  
45 stuff also. Go ahead, Tommy.

46  
47 MR. KRISKA: All right. I have one more  
48 thing. So, before you even move your moose horn out of  
49 their kill site, you can't move your moose horn until  
50 you have all the meat out of there. So, it doesn't mean

1 that you bring it out to the bank and throw it in the  
2 river and then bring your moose horn. So, with all that  
3 meat whatever moose it belongs to, I think Glenn could  
4 take a, you know, a record of that at 15 mile. And they  
5 should have that, I mean he have -- he knows the people  
6 that are here in Fairbanks. He can have those guys go  
7 out to the bridge and take that report there. They have  
8 this and I mean email right from his place to wherever  
9 they're at, right to the bridge. So, anyway, before you  
10 move your meat -- or moose horn, you got to move your  
11 meat.

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So Glenn could  
14 highlight the highly likely offenders. You know, this  
15 boat is way overloaded, has way too much on Board. So,  
16 I see that Darrell's got his hand up. You want to say a  
17 comment, Darrell?

18  
19 MR. VENT: Yeah. I just wanted to  
20 reiterate on what, you know, one of the guys were talking  
21 about is, you know, these airplanes, they do have you  
22 know, capacity to bring out transporters too. I think  
23 that's how some of them are getting up into the  
24 headwaters. You know, we're starting to see more rafts  
25 coming in. And those are where the big moves are, you  
26 know, up near the mountain. So, when you dropped them  
27 off there, they have a better chance of catching a good,  
28 you know, big moose. So coming back with that meat  
29 that's, you know, like you said, you know, they reported  
30 and it came back 5 or 6 days, and it wasn't very good  
31 shape, you know, where there's, you know, rained all  
32 that time or something, but you know, it's just something  
33 that consider too, is, you know, it's not only boats  
34 that's doing transport and it's airplanes that's doing  
35 the transporting too.

36  
37 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right, yeah. So, do  
38 you have any -- are you in favor of this letter? We're  
39 discussing -- you're just kind of -- you brought up the  
40 -- kind of this issue which got us rolling on this  
41 whole.....

42  
43 (Simultaneous speech)

44  
45 MR. VENT: I think I started the hornets  
46 nests there. Yeah, I started there, but yeah, I agree.  
47 I agree with you know what they're talking about there.  
48 It's it is an issue and it has been an issue. It's just  
49 that nobody's been -- they haven't been enforcing. But  
50 when it came to people, you know, coming in from the

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1 village, you know, they, you know, kind of, you know,  
2 more lenient on them instead of the hunters.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Right. Tommy.

5

6 MR. KRISKA: Okay. So once -- when you  
7 go through the check station, even me with my hunters  
8 that are, whoever I'm going through, they count every  
9 last chunk of meat. And even if you're -- you don't have  
10 the amount of meat that's supposed to be on the neck  
11 bone, the trooper made few of the locals, even though  
12 they shot it in the neck. They didn't have all the neck  
13 meat. And he made them go back up and get it. So, you  
14 know, the -- like Glenn, take that report and give it  
15 to them, or email it back to the bridge or whoever is  
16 going to be up if they ever do it. You know that the --  
17 you're -- if you didn't have -- he actually took their  
18 horn until they gave him -- went up, they had to get gas  
19 and go all the way back up to Three-Day Slough and get  
20 that piece. Yeah. So, he made locals do that. The trooper  
21 did. So, anyway if you don't have all your meat that  
22 you're supposedly went by 15 mile, you might as well  
23 hand over your horn and, you know, put that in there.  
24 Otherwise, you could lose your rack or whatever, I don't  
25 know.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Robert.

28

29 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair you know, Tom's  
30 right too because the wildlife troopers came and  
31 targeted our four villages, Anvik Village, Shageluk and  
32 Holy Cross. They -- we had a workshop and they said they  
33 told us moose antlers have to move out of the hunting  
34 place last. Otherwise, you're going to be in trouble. I  
35 mean, you know, a lot of times the guys don't even bring  
36 the antlers back. And it, you know -- and I told the  
37 wildlife troopers, I said, these guys are on here,  
38 they're not going to leave anything behind. Maybe  
39 they'll throw the moose horn -- antlers away. But I  
40 said, why are you targeting us? Because we're here where  
41 you could get us, and you know we're not going to get  
42 lawyers? We're not going to fight this? Is that something  
43 that really ought to think about? Because when you look  
44 at these guys that have Super Cub planes flying in and  
45 hunting and they get caught and the state's going to  
46 have to spend money on that. And with tribal people,  
47 they don't, you know, they know they're not going to get  
48 lawyers because they can't afford it. So, they kind of  
49 like target us for their quota. That's something that  
50 I'd like to see in that letter, too, because that's

1 singling out us because we're our -- you know, we're not  
2 rich people, you know.

3  
4 So, I really thought about this for a  
5 long time, you know, because these people are born in  
6 the village, live in the village, die, you know, and  
7 that's it. They never go nowhere. They never go out and  
8 have \$150,000 a year jobs. They don't. The minimum wage  
9 they ever make, probably in a year, is probably 12 to  
10 15,000. That's it. So, you know, that's something should  
11 be brought up Jack, I really think so. Because I think  
12 about time somebody speak for the tribal people. Because  
13 the tribal people are always to be the last to suffer.  
14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you, Robert.  
17 So, we have a motion on the floor, and we've discussed  
18 this letter pretty extensively on the record. Yes, you  
19 did. Is anybody going to call question?

20  
21 UNIDENTIFIED: Question.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Questions called  
24 those in favor of that letter to be transmitted to the  
25 Fish and Wildlife Protection/Alaska State Troopers and  
26 Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko Refuge signify by saying aye -  
27 - with the CC list, aye. Oh, go ahead, you got one.

28  
29 MR. WALKER: I would like to ask for a  
30 roll call vote on this one. So, it is a direct, not a  
31 regular call.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Nissa.

34  
35 MS. PILCHER: Kriska.

36  
37 MR. KRIKSA: Yes.

38  
39 MS. PILCHER: Walker.

40  
41 MR. WALKER: Yes.

42  
43 MS. PILCHER: Honea.

44  
45 (No audible response)

46  
47 MS. PILCHER: Gervais.

48  
49 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

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1 MS. PILCHER: Pelkola.

2

3 (No audible response)

4

5 MS. PILCHER: Vent.

6

7 MR. VENT: Vent?

8

9 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Darrell.

10

11 MS. PILCHER: Darrell. Your vote.

12

13 MR. VENT: Oh, yes. Yes.

14

15 MS. PILCHER: Thanks. And Reakoff.

16

17 MR. VENT: You got me confused.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yes.

20

21 MS. PILCHER: Sorry. I was going  
22 officially. Okay, so with the unanimous vote the motion  
23 passes.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: All right. So, but  
26 are there any other Department of Fish and Game, Board  
27 of Game proposals for this Western Arctic and Eastern  
28 region, Arctic region. So, they -- I can't think of any  
29 myself. I think we've covered that. Maybe we should take  
30 a short break. Maybe like 15 minutes? Like five. Well,  
31 let's call it ten after four. So, we'll stand down.

32

33 (Off record)

34

35 (On record)

36

37 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, we're back on  
38 the record here. Crystal Leonetti is going to speak to  
39 us, and she has a PowerPoint, and Nissa is going to pull  
40 a shade or two.

41

42 MR. KRIKSA: Could you make it any  
43 bigger?

44

45 MS. LEONETTI: Nissa will work on that.  
46 But while she's doing that, I can introduce myself.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah. Go Oright  
49 ahead.

50

1 MS. LEONETTI: Okay. All right, well,  
2 waqaa. (In Native). My Yup'ik name is Ciisquq, given to  
3 me in the traditional way by my grandparents, the late  
4 Harry and Daisy Barnes from Dillingham, Alaska. And I  
5 grew up in Anchor Point with my mom and dad, Al and  
6 Grace Poindexter, and my dad's parents, Chuck and Beulah  
7 Poindexter who came up to Alaska to homestead. So, I'm  
8 just a farm girl from Anchor Point. And I went home into  
9 Dillingham in the summers to commercial fish in Queen  
10 Slough at a setnet site, my grandma's permit site. I  
11 came to this job about a year ago, December 2024, and  
12 previous to that, I was the Native Liaison for U.S. Fish  
13 and Wildlife Service for 14 years and prior to that  
14 worked for Natural Resource Conservation Service for 16  
15 years. The federal government got me right in high school  
16 when I was still a baby and brainwashed me real good.  
17 So, I've been a fed ever since. But I just grew up on a  
18 farm raising big cabbages, getting trampled by turkeys,  
19 and taming reindeer, so. And I sold their antlers for  
20 aphrodisiacs, which I told the adults very confidently  
21 when I was a child, but I had no idea what that meant,  
22 so.

23  
24 (Laughter)

25  
26 So now I do, and I'm embarrassed.

27  
28 (Laughter)

29  
30 So now I'm the Director of Office of  
31 Subsistence Management. And as you all know it recently  
32 moved the OSM out of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
33 and into the Office of the Secretary. So, this is a  
34 PowerPoint. And thank you, Mr. Honea, for asking to say  
35 a little bit about what OSM is. So, this is a PowerPoint  
36 that I give to all my new bosses who work in Washington,  
37 D.C., and many of whom have never been to Alaska or  
38 maybe came here on vacation once. So, I am not a  
39 political appointee. I'm just a career fed and -- but  
40 my boss, my direct supervisor, is a political appointee.  
41 So that means that every time the president changes, I  
42 will get a new boss, and I think this Council in  
43 particular experienced one of my first new bosses last  
44 fall when you met. And he stayed on for many hours late  
45 into the evening. And he was very proud that he learned  
46 from you how to track a caribou. He's a golfer. So, I  
47 think that meant a lot to him. But anyway, I'll just --  
48 I'll run through this PowerPoint real quick, and please  
49 stop me if you have any questions.

50

1                   The Office of Subsistence Management is  
2 here to administer, so we just help carry out Title VIII  
3 of ANILCA. And this is for land mammals and fish, and  
4 it has those five federal agencies that I think you all  
5 know. We answer in OSM to the Secretary of Interior and  
6 we also work with the Secretary of Agriculture because  
7 the Forest Service is one of those five federal agencies.  
8 Yep.

9  
10                   MR. WALKER: What's the one -- I'm  
11 looking at would be on my left side, bottom next to the  
12 Forest Service.

13  
14                   MS. LEONETTI: That's the BIA, Bureau of  
15 Indian Affairs.

16  
17                   MR. WALKER: Okay.

18  
19                   MS. LEONETTI Yep. And I tell them that  
20 subsistence isn't just about hunting and fishing. It's  
21 not just about food. It is a way of life that has existed  
22 for thousands of years and hundreds of generations in  
23 Alaska. Many rural Alaskans live off the land. And many  
24 of these rural Alaskans are Alaska Native people, like  
25 my grandparents and my ancestors, my cousins who utilize  
26 the land and the animals and the fish for food, clothing,  
27 shelter, craft, art, transportation for thousands of  
28 years. And in the last couple hundred years, non-Native  
29 people have joined us in that tradition, in that culture.  
30 So, any anybody who's rural, including Native and non-  
31 Native people are living a subsistence way of life, and  
32 these are the people that we administer that for. I tell  
33 them a little bit about that. ANILCA, when it passed in  
34 1980, for some people it felt like land was being stolen.  
35 But right before President Carter passed away, this is  
36 my friend Maya who was born and raised in Sisualik or  
37 Kotzebue learning from her grandma and her mom and her  
38 aunties how to harvest a beluga whale, a caribou, ducks,  
39 fish. That she went around and interviewed her elders  
40 right before she went to visit Mr. Carter. Because he -  
41 - she knew he was going to ask her, did he do the right  
42 thing signing ANILCA into law. And what she found out  
43 surprised her. Elders said they love ANILCA. They love  
44 Title VIII. They love the land that has been protected  
45 for their way of life. And he cried when she told him  
46 that.

47  
48                   Okay, so as you know, Title VIII of  
49 ANILCA establishes a priority for subsistence uses. It  
50 establishes your Regional Advisory Councils for local

1 residents to have a meaningful role in subsistence  
2 management, and that these Councils provide the public  
3 forum for discussing subsistence matters and make  
4 recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board on the  
5 taking of fish and wildlife for subsistence. Title VIII  
6 of ANILCA also assumed that the state would implement  
7 subsistence on federal lands, but because that didn't  
8 work out because of lawsuits and the constitution of the  
9 State of Alaska, the Secretaries have delegated  
10 authorities to the Federal Subsistence Board.

11  
12 The Federal Subsistence Management  
13 Program is a big umbrella under which the Regional  
14 Advisory Councils -- the Federal Subsistence Board and  
15 OSM and the five federal agencies carry out the mandate  
16 under ANILCA. The Secretaries of Interior and  
17 Agriculture established the program to carry out their  
18 responsibility under Title VIII. So, this program is  
19 administered by the Office of Subsistence Management,  
20 and I continue to drive home the point that public  
21 involvement is the cornerstone of the program.  
22 Jurisdiction is pretty big. It's about 222 million  
23 acres, about 60% of the state. Again, these are lands  
24 managed by the Department of Interior and agriculture  
25 and the waters within those lands.

26  
27 I tell a little bit about the Board and  
28 that the five Chairs, original Chairs were the five  
29 regional directors for those five federal agencies. And  
30 over the years public members have been added to the  
31 Board. So now there are six public members and one --  
32 or five federal members of the Federal Subsistence  
33 Board. And this is the Board that promulgates the  
34 regulations. They are the decision makers.

35  
36 MR. GERVAIS: Excuse me? You said six  
37 public and five managers?

38  
39 MS. LEONETTI: Yes. So, the Chair, Tony  
40 Christianson. The two public members, two additional  
41 public members were added in, I think it was 2012 or  
42 '13, Rhonda Pitka and Charlie Brower. And then three  
43 more public members were added in 2024, and they are  
44 tribally nominated. And so those are Frank Woods from  
45 Dillingham, Ray Oney from Alakanuk, and Ben Payenna from  
46 Nome. These are the subsistence regions, and I love to  
47 do this. If you look at this map and then you go back  
48 to this map and you put together Western Interior and  
49 Eastern Interior. It's about the same size as Texas.

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Texas. Okay, I'll  
2 use that.

3  
4 MS. LEONETTI: There are ten subsistence  
5 Regional Advisory Councils, and these Councils are --  
6 this is what I always say. The RACs are where the rubber  
7 meets the road. This is where the real work gets done.  
8 These are the people who hunt and fish and understand  
9 what is happening across the land, with the populations,  
10 and with what -- the trends in hunting and fishing. So,  
11 this -- if they go to any meeting, if they listen in on  
12 any meeting, I highly recommend going to a RAC meeting  
13 so, and then I tell them all the things you guys do  
14 which are listed there, but you know what you do,  
15 including these meetings right now that we're in. And  
16 then I tell them that this cycle -- this regulatory  
17 cycle is a constant deadline driven cycle that goes every  
18 year, year after year, and every other year is fish, and  
19 every other year is wildlife. And if we get behind, it  
20 gets real weird. And so, our goal is to never get behind,  
21 including on the publication of Federal Register, Final  
22 Rules and Proposed Rules. And they play a big role in  
23 making sure those get published.

24  
25 I tell them about our funding programs.  
26 So, you just heard about the Fisheries Resource  
27 Monitoring Program and the Partners Program, and that  
28 these are critical to getting data so that the Regional  
29 Advisory Councils can put that into consideration when  
30 you're recommending proposals to the Board. And then  
31 OSM, as the administrative arm, we provide the in-depth  
32 analyses on every proposed regulatory change. We  
33 organize and facilitate 20 to 30 public meetings  
34 annually. We coordinate with the state, the tribes, the  
35 public throughout the process, and we fund projects that  
36 address fisheries research -- resource research  
37 priorities and strengthen Alaska Native and rural  
38 involvement. Each region has a team. So, you get to know  
39 your folks and understand and have open communication  
40 with your wildlife biologist, your fisheries biologist,  
41 your council coordinator, and your anthropologist.

42  
43 In July of 2024, OSM moved out of Fish  
44 and Wildlife Service and into Office of the Secretary.  
45 We have experienced some advantages as a result of that  
46 and -- but we are still attuning there are some things  
47 that we're still trying to figure out, like financial  
48 assistance processes and IT stuff. But for the most part,  
49 things have become a lot more efficient. We do miss our  
50 friends at Fish and Wildlife Service, though. Yeah.

1  
2  
3  
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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Question real quick. You just said -- I just missed the first part of your sentence there. We moved into what? I mean.....

MS. LEONETTI: Thank you. Through the Chair.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead.

MS. LEONETTI: Mr. Honea, we moved out of the Fish and Wildlife Service, so OSM used to structurally sit in the in the Fish and Wildlife Service and answer to the regional director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Now we are completely removed from that agency. We're now located directly in the Office of the Secretary.

MR. HONEA: Oh. So, did that -- has there been change in your approach and to the RACs or to the Councils or village councils or anything like that? Has anything changed because I, you know, this is kind of a big, big move. I mean, for you to have to resign here and become OSM director, but so is there anything changed in relationship to the handling of tribal affairs or whatever?

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Crystal.

MS. LEONETTI: Thank you. Through the Chair. No. The Fish and Wildlife Service, all those five federal agencies still have the federal trust responsibility to consult with tribes and ANCSA corporations. So that has not changed. OSM because we're located in the Office of the Secretary. We still have that responsibility as well. And technically, because OSM is not a decision maker, the Federal Subsistence Board is the decision maker, government to government consultation between tribes and the Federal Subsistence Management Program is with the Board, so that -- nothing has changed in that regard. Yeah. Good question.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What so what drove the process on why OSM got taken out of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? Was there was there a

1 problem, or you just got a memo one day and that's what  
2 happened?

3

4 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Crystal.

5

6 MS. LEONETTI: Yeah. Thank you, I think  
7 and well, Jack, you can probably answer this as well as  
8 I can. The Secretary of Interior, conducted some  
9 listening sessions and tribal consultations in 2019  
10 through 22-ish, and in 2022, they made a recommendation  
11 to move OSM out of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Based  
12 on those consultations, what they were hearing was that  
13 there was a perception that one agency had more influence  
14 than the other four agencies, and I don't know, do you  
15 want to add anything to that?

16

17 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Basically, Glenn -  
18 - Kevin Whitworth that was on our Council, he says that  
19 they -- he was involved in those discussions, and it was  
20 sort of a tribal consensus that it would be better not  
21 to be inside of the agency, any one of the agencies on  
22 the federal board and move the OSM out exterior to the  
23 Department of Interior, so they're not tied to the Park  
24 Service or anybody else. They're sort of autonomous in  
25 the Department of Interior, right in the Secretary's  
26 office in Washington.

27

28 MR. GERVAIS: And then that -- the  
29 Secretary's Office is just a catchall office of various  
30 groups, like the other the other departments in the  
31 Interior, in the Secretary's Office, have not -- may  
32 have nothing to do with subsistence or fish and game  
33 resources?

34

35 MS. LEONETTI: Through the Chair. Yeah,  
36 we're -- most of the other offices are very  
37 administrative in nature. We're way more public facing,  
38 way more resource oriented. And so, I think instead of  
39 being like the red headed stepchild, we're more like the  
40 favorite baby. So, we get facetime with our assistant  
41 secretary as needed, which is good. Yeah.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,  
44 Tommy.

45

46 MR. KRISKA: Thank you. So, this -- is  
47 this better for that, Title VIII ANILCA? And how do you  
48 feel about the switch here? The change?

49

50

1 MS. LEONETTI: Well, you know,  
2 bureaucracy is really funny, because if you have been  
3 in it for a long time, that's all you know. What I know  
4 is that coming out of Fish and Wildlife Service, we had  
5 a very long chain of approvals to get through before  
6 things would get signed off on by the Secretary. And in  
7 the Office of the Secretary under PMB, Policy,  
8 Management and Budget, we have my boss, who's a Deputy  
9 Assistant Secretary, and then her boss, who is the  
10 Assistant Secretary, which is two steps instead of like  
11 15 steps. So, and these are people who love to hear  
12 about what's happening on the ground. They tend to be  
13 people who are passionate about making sure that you all  
14 can continue a good subsistence way of life. So, I've  
15 felt pretty good. Yes.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate  
18 that explanation. Oh, Robert.

19  
20 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. How  
21 does the Commerce Department fit into this organization?  
22 Since it has taken over like North Pacific Fisheries and  
23 kind of like have a different goal from the BIA,  
24 Department of Interior, BLM, Forest Service. They have  
25 a different -- why would this fit into here? It's a  
26 federal organization. So that would be my question.

27  
28 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
29 That's a great question, Robert. So, I put on the screen  
30 the org chart for Department of Interior. I don't have  
31 an org chart for Department of Agriculture or Department  
32 of Commerce, but those are entirely different cabinets  
33 under the administrative branch. So, we have a tie like  
34 a dotted line to U.S. Department of Agriculture, because  
35 of the Forest Service and ANILCA requirement to include  
36 the Forest Service lands with the BLM lands and the Fish  
37 and Wildlife Service lands and the Park Service lands.  
38 And so, Department of Commerce is not mentioned in ANILCA  
39 Title VIII. So that's -- there is no official link to  
40 the Department of Commerce. I know that the -- in the  
41 past, Secretaries have talked to each other, and I don't  
42 know what the current status of the Secretaries'  
43 communication between Interior and Commerce would be  
44 currently.

45  
46 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

49  
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1 MR. WALKER: You know, I -- this is the  
2 second time that I've had a chance to really discuss  
3 these issues with the North Pacific Fishery. And I asked  
4 hard questions to them because we don't really deal with  
5 them a lot, our tribal people until this last fisheries,  
6 two, maybe three fisheries meetings that we have with  
7 them. And I asked them, why are they so hard on tribal  
8 people? I said, I'm not chewing you out now, I'm just  
9 going to say this. But I said, why are you denying a lot  
10 of fisheries for us? Why are you denying our way of  
11 life? I said, and you look more at let's say, other  
12 dominating fisheries that have come [sic] to life in the  
13 last 15 years. Why are you pushing them? You should be  
14 helping the tribal people. Because -- I'll make a point.  
15 But I think this is not. This is not right. And I asked  
16 a real hard question to them, to the Chairman, Chair  
17 Lady. And I said, how much dark money is your  
18 organization taking from outside special interest  
19 groups? One person sat up like this. And two other people  
20 went like, how does he know or do I know? I said it was  
21 on the 6:00 news on NBC. They brought that to Alaska.

22  
23 After I was talking, and just before I  
24 got done, a guy by the name of John Moller jumped on me.  
25 Oh, he really tore me up. He just -- Tom was there, and  
26 he just, like, acted like I was some kind of a Native  
27 criminal or something. And Tom got up and questioned  
28 too. And after the meeting was over, we were in the  
29 dining room, John Moller attacked us. He just told us  
30 right to our faces. What do you guys think you're doing?  
31 He gone and came in and you shoved our table. So, this  
32 was -- and I told him, I said, what happens in the  
33 meeting should stay in the meeting. I said, we shouldn't  
34 be bringing it out. And this guy, he did the same thing  
35 to Tom too. So, we felt like we were being bullied as  
36 Natives. He is a Native too from the Aleutian chain. But  
37 that's just a question that how do we -- you know, we're  
38 still thinking about working with OSM and working with  
39 Western Interior on filing an ombudsman against him.  
40 Could we do that?

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Crystal.

43  
44 MS. LEONETTI: I don't know the answer  
45 to that question. I'm sorry that happened to you and I'm  
46 going to -- I'll find an answer.

47  
48 MR. WALKER: Okay.

49  
50 MS. LEONETTI: Yeah.

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2

MR. WALKER: In all years, Mr. Chair. All the years that we've been on the Board here. We never, ever were ever attacked like that. Never in the 20 years that we've been here. All the other agencies, you know, were very reluctant and spoke like, you know, honorable people, which we are. And we respect each other's position, you know. So just it just blew us away completely. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you, Robert. Sorry that happened. You know, Ron Sam said we don't take this stuff home. We're professionals. Go ahead, Crystal.

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MS. LEONETTI: All right, so a couple other things. The Executive Order 14153 was mentioned earlier today, and subsistence is also in that executive order. The one titled Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential and just a couple of the bolded words that are in that section on subsistence says that hunting and fishing and the statutory priority of subsistence management required by ANILCA to conduct meaningful consultation with the State Fish and Wildlife management agencies. So even before this executive order was in place I knew that one of my goals in listening to the awesome OSM staff that we currently have was that we were going to work on the relationship with the state. And so, we have been doing that. We held a two-day workshop last summer. We have an action plan in place. We are missing right now a state liaison on our org chart. But staff are all really committed to working on that relationship, both as a result of this executive order, but just as a result of practicality as well. You all mentioned the Secretarial Review of the program that is ongoing. The comment period has been extended. And by the way, Lisa is going to give the more detailed OSM report later. She'll include some stuff about that. And this is the current OSM org chart. We have several vacancies and we're figuring out creative ways to fill those. But currently there is a hiring freeze in a pretty lengthy process to be able to fill vacancies. And that's where we are in the Department of Interior. And we used to be way down there under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We are located in the Policy and Environmental Management Division under the Policy, Management and Budget Assistant Secretary. And that's about -- hey that, Robert that's in Anvik, that's me cutting some whitefish, I think. No, that's a chum. That's a chum. Qu yana means. Thank you. (In Native).

1  
2 MR. WALKER: Well, that's another  
3 language.

4  
5 MS. LEONETTI: I know. That's why I just  
6 said thank you in your language. Right? (In Native).  
7 Isn't that it?

8  
9 (Talking)

10  
11 MS. LEONETTI: Oh, okay.

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, where -- did  
14 you say you're missing your state liaison has been moved  
15 somewhere? Mulligan or...?

16  
17 MS. LEONETTI: Oh. George Pappas.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: George. Oh, that  
20 Liaison.

21  
22 MS. LEONETTI: Yes.

23  
24 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay.

25  
26 MS. LEONETTI: Sorry. Yes.

27  
28 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. And you can't  
29 hire?

30  
31 MS. LEONETTI: No.

32  
33 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Oh. Well, that  
34 leaves a huge gap at the Board of Game, Board of Fish  
35 meetings.

36  
37 MS. LEONETTI: Right. So, we have  
38 multiple staff filling in at the Board of Fish, Board  
39 of game meetings as we can. And it would be good to have  
40 someone consistent there. Yeah.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Yeah. Don.

43  
44 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 Crystal, I have a question here. I mean, with the  
46 impending taking off supposedly and I don't know if we  
47 could fight it or not, but because it's a decision coming  
48 down from Washington. Okay, but you mentioned the three  
49 new members, the rural members or something. Okay. I,  
50 you know, because Rhonda's been on there for some time

1 and I forgot who the other one is but -- so are we --  
2 how do you think that's going to play out? I mean, they  
3 want to remove those three that were recently put on  
4 there, is -- do you think -- is that because the  
5 composite of the Board is, you know, they -- I guess  
6 help me here. I guess the -- coming down from Washington,  
7 they want to take the three seats off of their  
8 subsistence. Is that it?

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You can answer the  
11 question. I can fill in.

12  
13 MS. LEONETTI: Okay. Thank you. Yeah,  
14 they haven't made any decisions about doing anything,  
15 but the composition of the Federal Subsistence Board is  
16 part of that program review. So, I think they are curious  
17 about what people think about the current composition  
18 of the Board.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, when we wrote  
21 our letter, you know, at our last meeting, that letter  
22 was finalized. And Lisa's going to kind of go over that  
23 a little bit. But we drove the strong point that the  
24 statute says there shall be an administrative structure  
25 that gives a meaningful role to rural Alaskans and fish  
26 and wildlife management, or that's in Title VIII, 815.  
27 And so, we drove that point and that Eastern Interior  
28 was with us. We're joint with them. So, we're making the  
29 same comment on that. They had some addendum to that.  
30 But there's no telling -- we've made -- there was a lot  
31 of organizations, Ahtna and some other organizations  
32 making some really strong points about maintaining that  
33 Federal Subsistence Board with that meaningful role,  
34 because five regional heads that were recently  
35 appointed, BLM doesn't even have a subsistence person  
36 on their staff. So, they don't -- they're at a real loss  
37 as to making rulings on fish and wildlife management  
38 proposals. We need those public members, and we had --  
39 the three additional members, remember when we had that  
40 big joint meeting down in Anchorage at the Denali? We  
41 talked about having the three additional members and  
42 having them regional. So, it's not all in one region.  
43 That's why it's kind of broken up like that. That's a  
44 real positive thing. So that's yeah, there's no telling  
45 what the Department of Interior's going to do with this.  
46 We don't know.

47  
48 MR. HONEA: Okay. Just.....

49  
50 (Simultaneous speech)

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: There's no proposal yet.

MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair. Just one last comment. I just specifically asked, you know, whether those three seats that were just appointed is -- we don't know. Maybe they want to exclude those. Take those off. But the two seats that were on there already, were already, you know, they've been on there for a few years. So, I'm just, you know, wondering how it's going to play out. I was just wondering -- well, up at Sierra Club, whoever it is that's doing, doing this is you know, whether we had any you know, with AFN or somebody to fight against that. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, I'll speak to that, Don. It's not Sierra Club, it's Safari Club International, the biggest sport hunting organization in the world. And they requested that eliminating all public members and only having the agency heads as the Federal Subsistence Board and the state with deference. So basically, the four Board -- the five Board Members would have deference. They would -- basically, if the state said something, they would have to go along with it. That's not a vote. That's like a dominating dictatorship. So that's not going to work out because the statute says that there has to be a meaningful role by rural residents in fish and wildlife management. So, the Department of Interior is going to have a real hard time trying to get away from that statute, because AFN or somebody's going to sue them right back into court. And the longer we talk, all this stuff is transcribing, the more ammunition we have to maintain a meaningful role in fish and wildlife management with the current Board process that we have. So, you had a comment there, Robert?

MR. WALKER: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. You know, we did put a resolution into the North Pacific Fisheries, and it was 2017 from Tanana Chiefs or Yukon River Intertribal Fish Commission, and they rejected it for having a Board member from either Tanana Chiefs, Kawerak, ABCP or one of the other organizations. And I had our Yukon River Intertribal Fish Commission manager read the resolution to them while we were there, and asked them if they would take that as or would we have to submit a new resolution? And they rejected that too. So, they wouldn't let us put somebody from our, you know, tribal organizations on their Board. So, I was

1 kind of like really taken aback by that, too. That's  
2 when I got a little bit nasty with them. Sorry, I  
3 apologize that. But anyway, I got George Pappas' card.  
4 Do you have a card of his? Did you want to take a picture  
5 of it? Okay. You can do that. Thank you.

6

7

(Talking)

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9

10 Well, yes, I -- we've known George for  
11 years, you know, and he has worked with us. So, you  
12 know, and we are really glad that he has taken this  
13 position with the state. You know, this really impressed  
14 me and all the guys that worked -- that were down there.  
15 So, thank you.

15

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: You had a comment,  
Tommy?

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MR. KRISKA: No.

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. Did you have  
a comment there, Tim?

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MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
I had a couple. I want you to be brief on this answer  
because it could be a long topic, but, Crystal, do these  
emergency orders mean anything? I've -- since they  
started coming out 13 months ago, I've heard various  
commentators say, well, we don't know if this is legal  
or how it stands or if Congress has to approve them. So  
how -- from your point of view or perspective, what --  
how valid are these emergency orders? You know, and  
especially this 14153.

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MS. LEONETTI: Well, I can tell you, they  
get worked into our strategic plans. They get worked  
into our performance elements as individual employees.  
So, I don't know the legal answer because I'm not a  
lawyer, but they get taken very seriously.

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MR. GERVAIS: Okay. How can we as council  
members or the WIRAC itself -- this next topic is  
regarding interaction with Secretary of Commerce. So  
biggest subsistence issue we have is lack of chinook  
salmon, lack of chum salmon and people associated with  
NOAA or North Pacific Council like in particular Diana  
Stram. She's a scientist with NOAA out of Juneau, I  
think is her office. She says even when they were doing  
the initial information presentation to the North  
Pacific Council for amendment 51 on the -- that's the

1 initial king salmon in bycatch resolution, she said we  
2 don't take into account the number of salmon in the  
3 river, and it keeps coming back to this point where U.S.  
4 Fish and Wildlife Service says we don't have any control  
5 over the fish out in the exclusive economic zone. And  
6 then Department of Commerce, NOAA, North Pacific  
7 Management Council says we don't have any jurisdiction  
8 over the salmon when they're inside three miles and in  
9 the rivers. Well, everybody's like those -- so those two  
10 point of views are all working off of bureaucratic  
11 structure. But the reality is we're trying to maintain  
12 a fish, salmon population. The system needs to  
13 accommodate the transitory lifestyle of the salmon  
14 swimming between the two jurisdictions during its  
15 lifestyle. And so, NOAA has these -- are you familiar  
16 with these ten national standards that NOAA has? Okay.  
17 I'm not going to get into it right now, but it's kind  
18 of like a mission statement on things that they have to  
19 take into account on all their policy decisions. And one  
20 of them is about sustainability, one about communities,  
21 and 3 or 4 -- and ones about bycatch itself. So, there's  
22 four of these ten national standards that are -- they're  
23 in gross violation in my opinion, the North Pacific  
24 Management Council, the way they're administering the  
25 salmon bycatch. But you're saying if this Council is  
26 based on ANILCA, then this Council really doesn't have  
27 any jurisdiction with Department of Commerce. But I'm  
28 saying their actions or management style is violating  
29 national standards, is taking away rural Alaskans  
30 ability to rely on a really, you know. I think of, in  
31 general, like on the Yukon River, probably the Kuskokwim  
32 River, there's three pillars of subsistence is king  
33 salmon, chum salmon, and moose. And so, we got two of  
34 those three pillars are off the table on a lot of given  
35 years. So, what's going on with the present bureaucratic  
36 structure is it's not sustainable. Our populations are  
37 getting worse. Our aquatic escapement is unacceptable.  
38 So, what can we do to fix it? What can WIRAC do as  
39 Advisory Council to make something happen? Or obviously  
40 all our communities and our residents are all seriously,  
41 adversely affected on their lifestyle, on their  
42 nutrition, on their occupation. Our subsistence economy  
43 is basically -- over half of it is taken away from us.  
44 So, what can happen with OSM that meets the spirit of  
45 ANILCA on sustainable fisheries and subsistence  
46 opportunity?

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Go ahead.

1 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you. I would say  
2 right now is your most opportunist time to let your  
3 voice be heard through the program review. And I don't  
4 remember what all is in your letter about the program  
5 review, but there is the number eight category, other.  
6 So be very clear in, in that part what you're looking  
7 for and why. This is when you are going to have the ear  
8 of the Secretary's Office.

9  
10 MR. GERVAIS: Well, can something such  
11 as a memorandum of understanding be undertaken  
12 specifically with Department of Commerce, Secretary of  
13 Commerce saying, hey, this salmon are in decline. The  
14 present bureaucratic structure is not working. We need  
15 to collaborate between -- the Secretary of Interior,  
16 Secretary of Commerce, we need to do better because we're  
17 on a path to extinction.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, if I could  
20 speak, we can -- we wrote a letter, but we could add on  
21 an addendum to it and the -- under category eight that  
22 the Secretary of Interior, Department of Interior's  
23 office seek to collaborate with the Department of  
24 Commerce on meeting the national standards of their own  
25 guidelines, which -- for the communities which are in  
26 our region. And so, we could add that on. And so, we  
27 could write up an addition to that because we're still  
28 open for taking comments. We found out when there -- oh,  
29 that's March 30th. March 30th. So, we got a little time  
30 yet to add on another paragraph at the end of our letter.

31  
32 MR. GERVAIS: What is -- what's March  
33 30th?

34  
35 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That's the end of  
36 the comment on the program review. Crystal saying this  
37 is our end road to try and get something out there on  
38 the program review and the program -- OSM needs to have  
39 the ability to speak to the Secretary of Interior's  
40 office on a -- for the -- from the -- for the subsistence  
41 board process. That's saying that we -- were at the end  
42 of our jurisdiction. We need to have a memorandum of  
43 understanding with this -- with the Secretary of  
44 Commerce and the Secretary of Interior, Agriculture and  
45 the Secretary of State, because we're talking about  
46 going into Canada with Secretary of State going into --  
47 these fish salmon swim over there. That's the Secretary  
48 of State. So, we need to have a four-prong ability of  
49 the Interior Department, this program to address  
50 subsistence that branches out and speaks to other

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1 portions of the cabinet. Let's refer to them as the  
2 cabinet. So, we could add that on if you would like.

3

4 MR. GERVAIS: I've got Commerce,  
5 Interior, State. What was the fourth one?

6

7 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Secretary of  
8 Interior, Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of  
9 Agriculture and Secretary of State. Because the state  
10 deals with trans boundary stuff into Canada across the  
11 border.

12

13 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. And that a second  
14 item on the Secretary of State is all this -- the  
15 excessive hatchery release.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: No, no, that's the  
18 international agreement for allowing.....

19

20 MR. GERVAIS: TransCanada.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: TransCanada  
23 escapement goal of 71,000 chinook. That's where that's  
24 coming from. That's a -- that was but there was the  
25 provisions are originally from the Secretary of State  
26 as far as these transboundary fisheries.

27

28 MR. GERVAIS: Well, a second a secondary  
29 issue with Secretary of State should be this hatchery  
30 release for Russia, China, Korea, Japan and Canada.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: That's a  
33 discussion issue also. So, they need a memorandum of  
34 understanding. The cabinets that deal with these natural  
35 resources need to have the ability to speak to a specific  
36 issue of critical concern by -- like these statutory  
37 councils and the people that have these priority uses.  
38 So, we could add that that we feel that the Secretary  
39 of Interior's part of the program is that OSM and the  
40 Federal Subsistence Board can, through the Councils, can  
41 highlight an issue that's beyond our capabilities so  
42 that they have to work between the Secretaries. And see  
43 if they -- I think they should, but you don't know what  
44 they're going to do. But we can add that on. So, Nissa.

45

46 MS. PILCHER: Actually, as a  
47 clarification, the current letter that you guys wrote,  
48 A is a joint letter. So, it would have to have Eastern  
49 Interior sign on, but B it's also finalized. So, we  
50 can.....

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CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Moment. EIRAC added a whole bunch of stuff on there at their end of their meeting onto the same letter. So, it can be clarified. It could be attached to that same letter. This is what EIRAC did and this is what WIRAC did also, besides the joint -- with just joint. That's the way I look at that one.

MS. PILCHER: Potentially, yes. The direction that I was given coming into the meeting cycle was, if anybody wanted to change anything in the letters that are already done, it would need to be a new letter, which is not a big deal.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. We can do that. We'll just add it as a comment from this meeting. Yeah, we can do it that way. If that's the direction we can -- we'll go that way. But it would be a request for a memorandum of understanding between the cabinets and on the process of the program, the Councils, the routes leading up to the truck, to the Federal Subsistence Board that moves into the leaves, the Secretary of Interior, Agriculture and Commerce primary and also have the ability to speak to the Secretary of State because there's inter-country issues with this salmon on the high seas problem. So, would you like to make a motion to that effect?

MR. GERVAIS: So, moved.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Do we have a second? Robert's a second. Discussion.

MR. KRISKA: Question.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Questions called those in favor of submitting that additional comment to the program review on memorandum of understanding of the secretaries to the administration, signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Is Darell still there?

MR. VENT: Aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay, good. So, any  
2 further comments from Crystal or questions? Oh, wait a  
3 minute. Wait, she's got one more.

4  
5 MS. LEONETTI: I just wanted to add a  
6 little bit to your law enforcement discussion earlier  
7 and one of the gaps I noticed coming into OSM was lack  
8 of law enforcement involvement in the process. So, I met  
9 with the leads of each agency law enforcement a couple  
10 weeks ago, several of us met with them. And they're very  
11 interested in being a part of the process. So, Fish and  
12 Wildlife Service, BLM, Park service, BIA now has an  
13 agent. But their focus is a little bit different. And  
14 Forest Service, all were interested in, you know,  
15 attending RAC meetings as they can sometimes they can't.  
16 But I told them that you all are very interested in  
17 having conversations with them about the stuff you were  
18 just talking about. So, and I think, you know, their  
19 practical experience on the ground could also add to the  
20 conversation. So, I just wanted to let you know.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Thank you.

23  
24 MS. LEONETTI: You're welcome.

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: And. Oh, Tim.

27  
28 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,  
29 Crystal, when I was doing some research on Ambler Road,  
30 I watched some videos and some statements by Doug Burgum,  
31 Secretary of Interior, and he's talking about how it's  
32 important to develop this Ambler Mining District,  
33 because we need the copper and the silver for AI data  
34 centers and solar panels and electric cars and whatnot.  
35 And so, he's a prior to Secretary of Interior's the  
36 Governor of North Dakota. So, he's familiar -- he's --  
37 his business before his governor is his software  
38 developer, had a software company, and then he became  
39 Governor of North Dakota and they're highly resource  
40 extraction state. But what I noticed in -- I watched  
41 probably 12 minutes of him over three different videos.  
42 He's had a total lack of understanding about the effect  
43 of industrial development on the natural ecosystem. And  
44 so, what I'm pointing out here is you have Secretary of  
45 Interior -- he doesn't seem to understand that salmon -  
46 - salmon and people, salmon and development, salmon and  
47 industrial mining. It's not a good mix. Salmon just like  
48 really clean toxic free habitat is what they need. And  
49 so, in your -- throughout the course of your work, I  
50 would like you to kind of get that message going up

1 through the pipeline that the -- why Alaska has the  
2 salmon is because we have so much undeveloped habitat,  
3 is really what drives salmon production. And so, we need  
4 pristine, you know, watersheds, rivers and lakes. And  
5 we need the salmon not to be molested out in the  
6 exclusive economic zone by the industrial trawl sector  
7 and to also -- to a degree, to also with the commercial  
8 salmon fishing sector, such as I engage in myself.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: So, we have that  
11 issue in our annual report before the Federal Assistance  
12 Board. The Federal Board is actually -- brings forward  
13 these issues that are -- Crystals is just the conduit.  
14 She's just the messenger. She doesn't -- she can't say,  
15 you should do this or that. The Federal Subsistence Board  
16 has to step up to the plate as those agency heads and  
17 the Board and say, we need to do across a secretarial  
18 memorandum of understanding and things to address the  
19 salmon issue. OSM is just our facilitator there. They're  
20 our staff, so to speak. And so, we can't -- but you  
21 know, if you're around the water cooler talking about  
22 salmon, you have a lot of experience with those. She can  
23 be a -- and she's the baby now at the at the Department  
24 of Interior so she can convey that, you know, not  
25 officially but you know, it's kind of good for -- it's  
26 actually really good for Crystal to be, you know, have  
27 that ability to enter that realm. But it's the Federal  
28 Subsistence Board. We speak to the Board. The Board has  
29 to speak to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior.  
30 They need to be able to speak freely about the need for  
31 this. You know, these -- not, you know, Secretary of  
32 Commerce or your Council is not meeting its national  
33 standards. This is what we got -- we should -- we need  
34 to really look at this. Maybe they don't even care. Not  
35 even looking at it. They are not aware. So, it has to  
36 be -- but that's through the Federal Subsistence Board  
37 process.

38  
39 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. Like the comment I  
40 was trying to get in with Diana Stram is she's projecting  
41 or making statements like it's not her job. It's not  
42 NOAA's job to get salmon into the rivers. But to me,  
43 that's perverse point of view. They're like, they're  
44 cherry picking saying, oh, it's it's not our  
45 jurisdiction, so we don't need to worry about it.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: There's this  
48 Pacific Salmon Commission or council also. So, they --  
49 I'm not sure who they're under. And so, you know, there's  
50 -- they always want to pass the buck, but the problem

1 is the salmon are going away, so. But we're going to  
2 write this letter. I think that memorandum of  
3 understanding between the Secretaries would be a pretty  
4 important issue to -- so that they -- all of the  
5 information is fed into one round table where -- what  
6 are we going to do? You know, like are we going to --  
7 do we have to have -- they have the ability to submit  
8 legislation to change the Magnuson-Stevens Act or stuff  
9 like that, stuff we cannot do. No one can do. But the  
10 Secretaries can advise the President. This -- because  
11 that's what the administration, they're supposed to  
12 administer this kind of stuff. That's what they can do.  
13 They can request tweaking. So that's what this letter  
14 may accomplish hopefully.

15

16 So, I think we had a great discussion  
17 with Crystal. And so, we're kind of down to a little  
18 after five. We should recess till tomorrow morning. And  
19 so, pick up where we left off. And Nissa got a comment.

20

21 MS. PILCHER: I would like to say that  
22 the next thing that you guys are going to discuss was  
23 the review and approve your FY 2025 annual report, which  
24 is in the binder starting on page 49. It's several pages.  
25 So, if you guys could take a look at that it might speed  
26 the conversation up tomorrow if there's something that  
27 you want to change. I did want to note -- yeah. Page 49.  
28 There is a section in there on funding enforcement and  
29 also check stations that we did spend quite a bit of  
30 time talking about today. So, if you do want any changes  
31 to that topic please take a look at it. And just as a  
32 reminder, we can't add topics, but we can certainly edit  
33 the stuff that's in there or change it to your liking.  
34 So yeah, just take a look at that if you get a chance  
35 tonight. Thanks.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON REAKOFF: Okay. I'll mark my  
38 book here. So, we're recessing for tonight and we'll  
39 come back to -- on record at 9 am.

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41 (Off record)

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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 128 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 24th day of February;

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 12th day of march 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rafael Morel  
Chief Project Manager