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YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

YUPIIT PICIRYARAIT CULTURAL CENTER  
Bethel, Alaska  
January 20, 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jacqueline Cleveland, Chair  
Henry Parks  
Norma Evan  
John Andrew  
Waler Morgan, Sr.  
Francis Prince, Jr.  
Phillip Peter, Sr.

Regional Council Coordinator, Brooke McDavid

Recorded and transcribed by:

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 1/20/2026)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Good morning and welcome to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting today, January 20th, at the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center in Bethel, Alaska. We have a bit of a late start. But before we actually get started, I wanted to have all of us have a moment of silence for everyone affected by Typhoon Halong, along with our two Council members who aren't able to attend today because they lost some family members. And so, let's take a moment of silence for them.

(Moment of silence)

Quyana. And next is Invocation. Henry Parks, can you please say an invocation?

MR. PARKS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll pray in Yup'ik. So, (In Native). In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (In Native).

INTERPRETER: Our Father in Heaven, first of all, we thank you. From our safe travels, from our home villages up -- to this time that you are with us. And right now, our loved ones back home, everybody and including every (distortion) this meeting (distortion) back home. And please be with us and give us wisdom and discernment and watch over us and keep us safe until we meet again. And at this time, because according to your will, you, our Heavenly Father, you have given us the time here to meet together towards the subsistence. And we ask you and implore you that you give us wisdom, understanding, and give it to us. And please give the leader strength and be with the leader. And please empower her as we meet and the problems that we may encounter. Please do not let us be cut in half or -- and because we are focused on trying to get the subsistence food for the people to the betterment of our society back home especially. And please give us all these things we ask of you. And please be with us. And please keep us safe until our travel to back home. And the people that are experiencing grief right now. And you know who they are, and we give them to you that you would be with

1 them and give them understanding and grace, and always  
2 be with us. In Jesus' precious name I pray. In the name  
3 of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Henry.  
6 (In Native). Next, we have Call to Order. So, I call the  
7 meeting to order at 8:28 am -- sorry, 9:28 am, and we  
8 do have quorum. Next is Roll Call, which will be done  
9 by the Coordinator since our Secretary is out this  
10 morning. Brooke.

11  
12 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
13 Council members, if you could just indicate you're here,  
14 make sure you press the button on your microphone. We'll  
15 start with member Henry Parks.

16  
17 MR. PARKS: Present.

18  
19 MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan, are you online?

20  
21 MS. EVAN: Present.

22  
23 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. John Andrew.

24  
25 MR. ANDREW: Present.

26  
27 MS. MCDAVID: Walter Morgan.

28  
29 MR. MORGAN: Here.

30  
31 MS. MCDAVID: Chair Jacqueline  
32 Cleveland.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Here.

35  
36 MS. MCDAVID: Francis Prince.

37  
38 MR. PRINCE: Present.

39  
40 MS. MCDAVID: Member Alissa Rodgers will  
41 be joining us this afternoon. Phillip Peter.

42  
43 MR. PETER: Here.

44  
45 MS. MCDAVID: And then member Tiffany  
46 Agayar will join us here in a little bit also. And then  
47 we are missing member Wassily Alexie, member Frederick  
48 Beans, and member Myron Naneng. They all three have had  
49 family emergencies and are not able to join, so  
50 they'll be excused. So, Madam Chair, we have seven members

1 present, so we have quorum. Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you,  
4 Brooke. Do you want to keep going on to Meeting  
5 Announcements since that's you as well? Thanks.

6

7 MS. MCDAVID: Sure. Thank you. I'd also  
8 like to welcome everyone to day one of the rescheduled  
9 Fall 2025 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional  
10 Advisory Council meeting. My name is Brooke McDavid, and  
11 I am the Council Coordinator and the Designated Federal  
12 Officer for this public meeting. This is a public  
13 meeting. It is being recorded and transcribed. It is a  
14 wildlife regulatory meeting for the Council. That means  
15 the main action items that they'll be focusing on are  
16 reviewing the federal wildlife proposals and making  
17 recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board on  
18 those proposals. When we go over the agenda here in just  
19 a little bit, I'll give a little more information about  
20 the other items on the agenda as well. This is a hybrid  
21 meeting. Thank you to everyone joining us both here in  
22 Bethel in the room. And for those online and on the  
23 telephone. We do just kindly ask that folks online or  
24 on the phone keep themselves muted unless you're  
25 speaking. You can press star six on your phone to mute  
26 yourself or use the mute button. For folks in the room,  
27 we just kindly ask that you sign in on the table by the  
28 door each morning. It helps us make sure we spell your  
29 name correctly and have a good record of who was in  
30 attendance.

31

32 Friendly reminder that we follow  
33 Robert's Rules of Order to the best of our ability during  
34 these meetings. So, that means that Chair Cleveland will  
35 be running the meeting, and if anyone wants to speak,  
36 please ask for her attention, and she'll call on you to  
37 speak. If you're online and you would like to speak  
38 throughout the meeting on Teams, you can use the raise  
39 hand feature or on the phone, you can press star five,  
40 and that will raise your hand for us to see that you  
41 would like to make a comment. If for some reason we  
42 don't see you, just politely say, Madam Chair and the  
43 Chair will call on you at the appropriate time.

44

45 We have two kinds of opportunities for  
46 public comment during this meeting. We have comments  
47 both on agenda items and then on non-agenda items. So,  
48 if there is an item on the agenda that you would like  
49 to comment on, such as one of the wildlife proposals or  
50 the Secretarial Review of the Federal Subsistence

1 Program or Chum Bycatch DEIS, we will take up comments  
2 on agenda items as they come up throughout the meeting.  
3 But we also have an opportunity each morning for comments  
4 on non-agenda items. Anything related to subsistence  
5 that's not on the agenda that you'd like to speak to the  
6 Council about. This morning, that opportunity will  
7 happen after Council members give their reports. But  
8 tomorrow and Thursday, it will be first thing in the  
9 morning after roll call.

10  
11 We have these green comment cards here  
12 in the room. If you'd like to comment either on a non-  
13 agenda item or an agenda item, just fill one of these  
14 out, you can pass that up to me and I'll make sure the  
15 Chair knows that you'd like to comment. If you're online  
16 again you can use the raise hand feature or press star  
17 five on your phone. We do kindly ask to try to limit  
18 your comments for 3 to 5 minutes. We have a lot of items  
19 to cover during this meeting. We love hearing from  
20 people, and we don't like to cut people off, but we  
21 might have a nice, friendly timer with a little beep at  
22 the end of five minutes for this meeting just to help  
23 keep us on track. We also accept written comments. So,  
24 if you have to leave and you're not able to be here to  
25 comment on something and you want to submit written  
26 comments, or you want to submit written comments in  
27 addition to giving oral comments, you can pass those to  
28 me. You can email those to me, or also you can email  
29 them to subsistence@ios.doi.gov.

30  
31 For folks online, the meeting materials  
32 can be found on the Federal Subsistence Management  
33 Program website. And that internet address is  
34 [www.doi.gov/subsistence](http://www.doi.gov/subsistence). And then under the Regions tab  
35 you can select Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Meeting  
36 Materials. For folks in the room today we do have our  
37 Interpreter Mr. Patrick Sampson joining us. He always  
38 does a wonderful job. There are headsets on the table  
39 over by the coffee. You turn them on and put them on  
40 channel 1, and then you can listen to the interpretation  
41 as needed. We apologize to folks online. We're not  
42 currently set up to have the interpretation streamed  
43 online. Just if you don't mind keeping them turned off  
44 when you're not using them, though, to help save the  
45 battery. We appreciate that.

46  
47 We also have our AV Tech John joining  
48 us today. He's helping record the meeting and with all  
49 our audio needs. The meeting will be transcribed by  
50 separate folks who aren't here with us today. So, please

1 say your name every time you speak even -- so if Jackie  
2 calls on you, just say, this is Phillip and then continue  
3 with your comments. Same thing for folks in the audience  
4 who might want to speak.

5  
6 All right. I'm almost done. I have a  
7 membership update for the Council. Well, actually, it's  
8 not much of an update. We don't -- we have not yet  
9 received the appointments for those of you who re-  
10 applied last year, and so that was Henry, Norma, John,  
11 and Walter. That's just because of delays in Washington.  
12 You know, there's been a lot going on with the shutdown  
13 and the government and everything. But not to worry,  
14 there is a clause in our Charter that allows you to  
15 continue to serve until you get notified about your  
16 appointment. And so, we're also hoping to hear soon about  
17 those and to hopefully fill the one vacant seat that we  
18 have on the Council.

19  
20 The very last thing I'll say is just a  
21 friendly reminder about conduct. We just ask everybody,  
22 be respectful during the meeting. No name calling. If  
23 things start winding down a side path, we might call  
24 point of order. It's not to be rude. It's just to get  
25 back on track. So, anyone is welcome to help out with  
26 that throughout the meeting. And with that, Madam Chair,  
27 I will turn it back to you. Quyana.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana. So,  
30 Brooke, moving on to number 5, which is the Welcome and  
31 Introductions. So, I'll say welcome again to the YKD  
32 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. And we'll  
33 go around the room first for introductions, and then  
34 we'll go online and introduce -- or Brooke will introduce  
35 -- help introduce the people online. So, we'll start I  
36 guess with me since I have the mic. I'm Jacqueline  
37 Cleveland from Quinhagak. My Yup'ik name is Nalikutaar.  
38 I've been on the RAC, I think this is my fifth year, and  
39 I'm the Chair of the RAC. So, next, Henry. Quyana.

40  
41 MR. PARKS: Quyana, Madam Chair. My name  
42 is Henry Parks. I'm from the Native Village of  
43 Nunapitchuk, and I've been in the Council for maybe 5  
44 or 6 years now, so that's who I am at this moment. Thank  
45 you.

46  
47 MR. PETER: (In Native). Phillip Peter,  
48 Akiachak. (In Native).

49  
50

1 INTERPRETER: I am Phillip Peter from  
2 Akiachak. My Yup'ik name is (In Native) and I have been  
3 on this Advisory Council for a while now. So, thank you.

4  
5 MR. MORGAN: Morning. My name is Walter  
6 Morgan. I represent Upper and Lower Kalskag. Learning  
7 process for me and I really like working with all these  
8 people from different areas. And it's great learning  
9 experience to be next to this guy, Phillip. So, thank  
10 you.

11  
12 MR. SAMPSON: Good morning. My name is  
13 Pat Sampson. I'm from Kipnuk, currently residing in  
14 Bethel. I've been the translator for this committee for,  
15 gosh, a number of years. Have a good day.

16  
17 MR. PLANK: Sorry. Tom Plank, Office of  
18 Subsistence Management.

19  
20 MR. KOLLER: Hey. Good morning. My name  
21 is Justin Koller. I'm the Regulation Specialist for the  
22 Office of Subsistence Management. You probably don't  
23 know me because it's my first time in Bethel. I've been  
24 with the Subsistence Program for about 14 years now, but  
25 most of the time was spent in Southeast Alaska working  
26 with the Southeast Subsistence Council. So, I'm happy  
27 to be here with you all. Thank you.

28  
29 MR. PRINCE: Good morning. I just want  
30 to thank you guys for coming here today, and my name is  
31 Francis Prince, Jr. I'm from Kotlik, Alaska. This is my  
32 second year serving on the RAC, and my Yup'ik name is  
33 (In Native).

34  
35 MR. ANDREW: (In Native).

36  
37 INTERPRETER: Good morning. My name is  
38 (indiscernible) from Kwethluk. From 1992 to 2000, that  
39 was my first time that I was a member of this Committee,  
40 and I was a Coordinator from 1992 to 2000. And every  
41 time that we met, we were always speaking -- meeting in  
42 Yup'ik. And -- the -- a lot of the members beforehand  
43 were all Native speakers, and they could not speak  
44 English so, we used to always meet in the Yup'ik  
45 language. And some of the Cup'ik people were here, and  
46 some Mekoryuk people were also here, and some of the  
47 villages from the upper mountain areas would come here.  
48 And I could not understand the Athabascan when we met.  
49 But from that time, I've been here for over 20 -- maybe  
50 I've been here for about 20 years. But they used to tell

1 me all the time that -- since I have been a young man,  
2 my parents were always bringing us out to the wilderness  
3 because our way of life was just getting the subsistence  
4 food for us, and we had no store-bought foods. And we  
5 started from the 1940s, and we were always out in the  
6 wilderness, and we never went to the villages at all at  
7 that time.

8  
9           And I think when I was five years old,  
10 we went down to the Village of Eek from the mountains,  
11 because we used to reside up in the mountains behind  
12 Eek. And from that time, we moved to this area using dog  
13 team. And we set up our home there at Straight Slough  
14 and we had a fish camp there at Straight Slough, and we  
15 built a mud house at the mouth of the Gweek River, and  
16 we spent the winter there. And about the time when I was  
17 seven years old, we moved to the Kwethluk area because  
18 I realized that they grew up in Kwethluk, but they were  
19 always residing out in the wilderness, so I wasn't sure  
20 where our home base was, but I used to think at that  
21 time that we were the only people on the earth because  
22 we never seen anybody else, that we were the only people  
23 on the face of the earth. And when I first time that I  
24 saw a white man was when I was four years old. I saw a  
25 schoolteacher, and he was the only white person there.  
26 And then there was a nurse also that -- who gave me some  
27 shots and the first time that I seen them, and they were  
28 telling us that they were here to help us, but they gave  
29 me a shot in the butt and that really hurt. And I have  
30 never forgotten that. After they said they were here to  
31 help us, they gave us painful shots.

32  
33           And so, at that time, the people used  
34 to say that our way of life, our language, that they  
35 used to implore us not to forget our way of life and not  
36 forget our language. And because that's the only thing  
37 that we always -- are unique to us. And we do not want  
38 that to go by the wayside, because now our children are  
39 growing up with different folkways that our ways. And  
40 so that's what I'm ending there, and I'll share more  
41 later. Thank you, Madam Chair.

42  
43           CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, John.  
44 And next we'll move on to the rest of the room. If you  
45 don't mind introducing yourselves, come up to the mic,  
46 please. And yeah, make sure you press the button and  
47 introduce yourselves. Thank you.

48  
49           MS. BOECK: Good morning. My name is  
50 Laurie Boeck. I'm the Deputy Refuge Manager at the Yukon

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1 Delta National Wildlife Refuge based here in Bethel.

2

3 MR. NICORI: Hi. My name is Emmett  
4 Nicori. (In Native). Kwethluk, (In Native) with my wife  
5 and four kids.

6

7 MR. TULIK: Good morning. (In Native).  
8 Chris Tulik, Supervisor/RIT, (indiscernible) Yukon Delta  
9 National Wildlife Refuge (In Native).

10

11 MS. VICENTE: Good morning, everyone.  
12 This is Terese Vicente with the Kuskokwim River Inter-  
13 Tribal Fish Commission.

14

15 MR. MURATI: Good morning. This is Erald  
16 Murati with the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish  
17 Commission.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you and  
20 welcome. And then, Brooke, you want to help me with the  
21 people online? Thank you.

22

23 MS. MCDAVID: Yeah. We'll start with our  
24 Council member online, Norma.

25

26 (No response)

27

28 And, Norma, we're just doing  
29 introductions.

30

31 (Simultaneous speech)

32

33 MS. EVAN: (Indiscernible). Hi. My name  
34 is Norma Evan from Marshall.

35

36 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Norma. And now  
37 we'll move on. If there are any tribal representatives  
38 or ANCSA Corporation representatives, if you would like  
39 to introduce yourself.

40

41 MS. HOOPER: Hi, Brooke and RAC. This is  
42 Jennifer Hooper with AVCP. I apologize, I'm not there  
43 in person. I should hope to be able to go back and forth.  
44 But trying to do several things right now. But good  
45 morning.

46

47 MS. MCDAVID: Good morning, Jennifer, and  
48 no worries. We know there's some overlapping things  
49 happening this week, so thanks for being here when  
50 you can. Any other -- or not other Are there any folks

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1 joining us from any NGOs that are on?

2

3 MS. SCHWALENBERG: Yes. Good morning. (In  
4 Native). My name is Patty Schwalenberg. My Ojibwe name  
5 is (In Native). I am here from the Alaska Migratory Bird  
6 Co-Management Council as the Executive Director and  
7 thank you for inviting me.

8

9 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you for joining us,  
10 Patty.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 Okay. We'll move on to agency folks.  
15 Anyone from OSM online?

16

17 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Brooke. Good  
18 morning, Madam Chair, Members of the Council, this is  
19 Kevin Foley, Fisheries Biologist with OSM calling in  
20 from Anchorage. And I just wanted to say how great it  
21 is to hear everyone's voice. And I'm sorry that I cannot  
22 be there in the room with you.

23

24 MS. MCDAVID: Any other OSM folks?

25

26 (No response)

27

28 All right, we'll move on. Alaska  
29 Department of Fish and Game.

30

31 (No response)

32

33 What about Fish and Wildlife Service?

34

35 MR. MOSES: Hey, everybody, this is Aaron  
36 Moses. I'm the Subsistence Coordinator for Yukon Delta.  
37 I will be over there -- here shortly. I'm doing some  
38 other stuff and training, so I'll be there this --  
39 earlier -- later this morning.

40

41 MR. ALEXIE: Okay. Good morning. This is  
42 Christian Alexie Jr., a Refuge Information Technician  
43 with the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Quyana.

44

45 MR. SHEPPARD: Good morning. This is  
46 Stanislaus Sheppard with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife as  
47 Refuge Information Technician. (In Native). My Eskimo  
48 name is (In Native) and I'm from Mountain Village and I  
49 live here in the Lower Yukon Mountain Village.

50

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1 MR. RANSBURY: Good morning. My name is  
2 Shane Ransbury. I work for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
3 out of Fairbanks. I'm a Fishery Assessment Biologist.

4  
5 MR. HERRON: Good morning, everyone. This  
6 is Keith Herron. I work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
7 Service. I'm the Assistant Fisheries Manager on the  
8 Yukon.

9  
10 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This is Jill  
11 Klein. I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator based  
12 in Anchorage, and listening in. Thank you.

13  
14 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you all. Anyone from  
15 BLM?

16  
17 (No response)

18  
19 What about Park Service?

20  
21 (No response)

22  
23 Forest Service?

24  
25 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Brooke. I'm  
26 sorry it took me a while to get to the button, but this  
27 is Greg Risdahl with the USDA Forest Service,  
28 Subsistence Program Leader and Interagency Staff  
29 Committee member. I always enjoy participating, whether  
30 it's online or in person, with you guys.

31  
32 MS. MCDAVID: Thanks for joining us. All  
33 right. Now if there's anyone that didn't get to introduce  
34 themselves yet or any other members of the public online,  
35 please introduce yourself now.

36  
37 (No response)

38  
39 Okay. I'm not hearing anyone. I think  
40 that covers it, Madam Chair.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thanks again,  
43 Brooke. So, this is Jackie again, and we're moving on  
44 to number 6, Review and Adopt the Agenda. And I believe  
45 Brooke wanted to review the agenda.

46  
47 MS. MCDAVID: Sure. I'll just give a  
48 quick overview of the agenda. Kind of a high-level  
49 outlook about how things might flow for the next couple  
50 days. So today, the first day of the meeting, we have a

1 couple items before we get into our action items. We'll  
2 hear from our Council members about things that have  
3 been happening in their communities and areas. We have  
4 a couple of awards to give out, and then we'll move into  
5 public comments on non-agenda items. And after that  
6 we'll get moving into the federal wildlife proposals.  
7 I'll give an overview of the procedures that we follow  
8 for each of the proposals when we get to that time. And  
9 then we have a number of proposals. We have one statewide  
10 proposal. There's 7 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region  
11 proposals. And then you have one crossover proposal with  
12 the Bristol Bay region, which you can decide if you want  
13 to take that one up or not when we get to it.

14  
15 Tomorrow morning we'll be covering the  
16 North Pacific Fishery Management Council Chum Bycatch  
17 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. And we'll have  
18 Terese giving us an overview of the alternatives being  
19 considered to deal with chum bycatch in that fishery.  
20 And then you guys will be able to make comments on which  
21 alternatives you support. So, if we're not done with the  
22 wildlife proposals today, which we probably won't be,  
23 we'll finish doing proposals tomorrow after we talk  
24 about the chum bycatch. And then on Thursday morning we  
25 have someone from the Secretary of Interior's Office who  
26 is going to be here with us to talk about the Secretarial  
27 Review of the Federal Subsistence Management Program.  
28 And there's a number of items they're going to be asking  
29 for feedback on from the Council. There's about seven  
30 different topics. And we'll help step you through each  
31 one so we can have a discussion as a Council when we get  
32 there. And you'll also be able to add any additional  
33 comments that you want the Secretaries to know about.  
34 Even if it's not one of the topics they're asking about.  
35 So, you can start thinking a little bit about anything  
36 you would like to elevate to the Secretaries.

37  
38 A couple other action items will be your  
39 annual report for this year. We will be identifying  
40 topics that you want to go to the Federal Subsistence  
41 Board. We'll also be looking at the Area M and statewide  
42 Board of Fish proposals. If you guys want to comment on  
43 any of those. and we'll be able to see what some of the  
44 other groups have commented, if you want to support  
45 similar proposals or if you want to make your own  
46 suggestions. And then we'll select our -- well,  
47 actually, we'll just be confirming the dates for your  
48 March and your October meeting, if you need to change  
49 any of those.

1                   That will wrap up our action items, and  
2 we'll have a report from OSM staff about the Fisheries  
3 Resource Monitoring Program and the Partners Program.  
4 And then they'll just be a couple miscellaneous business  
5 items. You'll notice we're not doing all the agency and  
6 organization reports at this meeting. It's just because  
7 we had to reschedule, and we'll be hearing those reports  
8 at the March meeting like we usually do. The Secretarial  
9 Review got added as an action item, and that might take  
10 up a lot of time. So unfortunately, we had to cut out  
11 the reports, but since we will be meeting again in March,  
12 that's an opportunity for anyone that wants to present  
13 to the Council at that meeting can do so at that time.  
14 So that's the overview of the agenda, Madam Chair. Thank  
15 you.

16  
17                   CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you. We'll  
18 move on to number 7, Review and Approve Previous Meeting  
19 Minutes. But before we do that, can we -- I'll entertain  
20 a motion to adopt the current agenda.

21  
22                   MR. PARKS: Madam Chair, Henry Parks,  
23 move to accept agenda.

24  
25                   CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Henry Parks made  
26 a motion. Is there a second?

27  
28                   MR. ANDREW: Second.

29  
30                   CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Second by John.  
31 All in favor of the motion, say aye.

32  
33                   IN UNISON: Aye.

34  
35                   CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: All opposed,  
36 same sign.

37  
38                   (No response)

39  
40                   Motion carried. Now we'll move on to  
41 number 7, Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes.  
42 And that will be in page 7 of the booklets. So, if you  
43 guys can just kind of review them instead of us reading  
44 all the pages, and when someone's ready, they can make  
45 a motion to approve. Quyana. So, page 7.

46  
47                   (Pause)

48  
49                   MR. PARKS: Madam Chair.

50

00014

1 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yeah, Henry  
2 Parks.

3  
4 (Simultaneous speech)

5  
6 MR. PARKS: I reviewed the agenda and I  
7 don't see any changes, so I shall move to accept the  
8 meeting minutes from March 4 of 2025.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Henry.  
11 Henry Parks made a motion to approve previous meeting  
12 minutes. Is there a second?

13  
14 MR. PETER: Second, Madam Chair. Phillip  
15 Peter.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Seconded by  
18 Phillip Peter. All in favor of the motion to accept  
19 meeting minutes, say aye.

20  
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: All opposed,  
24 same sign.

25  
26 (No response)

27  
28 Motion carries. Quyana. And we'll just  
29 keep moving to number 8, Regional Subsistence Reports.  
30 So, a Council Member Reports. We'll just go around the  
31 room again. (In Native). Okay. So, we'll start with John.  
32 We'll go counterclockwise. So, John Andrew will be  
33 first. We'll go around the room and then I'll do mine.  
34 Quyana.

35  
36 MR. ANDREW: Yeah. Quyana, Madam Chair.

37  
38 INTERPRETER: Madam Chair, I will be  
39 speaking in Yup'ik here. When I speak in my language, I  
40 think about my relatives and my village back home,  
41 because I do think about the people that understand  
42 Yup'ik. And last year, when we could not meet during the  
43 fall time. And -- through the last summer we started  
44 subsistence fishing for salmon back here. And a lot of  
45 people in my area that do not have a boat or motors they  
46 -- they're not able to partake in the summer salmon. But  
47 people who catch salmon, they do distribute to those  
48 that do not have the means to gather salmon. And during  
49 the winter subsistence time, we've been -- during that  
50 last fishing season there was a lot of red salmon that

1 were available. So those were distributed. And when the  
2 salmon came, those were distributed to the elders or the  
3 needy and in Akiachak they said that they were doing the  
4 same thing. And it was very happy that they are sharing  
5 their catch with those that are needy or unable to  
6 subsist. So, the member -- the infirmed elders and those  
7 that are not able to -- those are the ones that we are  
8 concerned about. And there are people that were, but  
9 some are not able to go out there and do fishing for  
10 salmon. And we also take care of the widows and the  
11 widowers. And during that time -- and lately, this  
12 summer, drying season has not been good. We've had a lot  
13 of rain, and so but even with that we do instead of  
14 drying them, a lot of people are jarring the salmon or  
15 they are putting them in the freezer. And last fall  
16 there were some silver salmon that came through, but it  
17 wasn't as like that they used to. But starting in  
18 November they were saying that by November they ran out  
19 of dry fish. And so, these dry fish used to last all  
20 through the wintertime. But lately we've been just  
21 running out of dry fish during November. And I've been  
22 asking people to share with those that do not have any  
23 dry fish to (indiscernible) them over the wintertime.

24  
25 And so, during the fall time, there was  
26 a high flood. And the water was really high when the  
27 river froze. And when it freezes with high water like  
28 that, it is not good for under ice netting. And so those  
29 that put their nets under the ice were saying that they  
30 were not catching anything at all, really. But some did  
31 say that they found or they caught silver salmon under  
32 the ice. And so, they were saying that the times are  
33 changing and it's really weird to catch summer salmon  
34 under the ice. And thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, John.  
37 Francis Prince, Jr.

38  
39 MR. PRINCE: Good morning. And my name  
40 is Francis Prince, Jr. I'm from Kotlik. This past fall  
41 time, after the Typhoon Halong that hit the West Coast  
42 in Alaska, I noticed that we had really low whitefish  
43 population in the Yukon area. And I usually set ice in  
44 it right after it freezes about a couple inches, and I  
45 usually average about ten whitefish a day right from the  
46 start, right to about November. But this past year was  
47 very poor due to the typhoon affecting our fish. All our  
48 fish were skinny, including our (In Native) and the  
49 sheefish. And this year I haven't caught a broad  
50 whitefish in my net, and they're slowly getting back up

1 into the population. They're starting to get fat again.  
2 Right now I'm starting to catch the pikes, and the pikes  
3 are pretty fat compared to the other fish.

4  
5 And moose hunting is doing pretty good.  
6 But I noticed that we're getting more and more outside  
7 hunters coming in just to hunt our moose for the antlers.  
8 And the most affected region is probably the Saint Marys  
9 and Mountain Village area and the Emmonak area as well.  
10 Those are the destinations where they used to go to hunt  
11 our moose, and I kind of like the proposal by Grant to  
12 limit the moose for outsiders. And I believe that's it  
13 for me. Thank you.

14  
15 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you,  
16 Francis. Good report by both of you, by the way. Next,  
17 we'll go to Walter.

18  
19 MR. MORGAN: Good morning. Walter Morgan.  
20 Fishing was pretty good up there. We noticed the kings  
21 were a little bigger or size. There was plenty of dogs  
22 late -- in the later run, we got more dogs. There was a  
23 lot of reds but we didn't fish as much. You know, we  
24 just get what we needed in both Aniak, Kalskag I know.  
25 And also, you know, this year was a bum year for  
26 blueberries. It was -- we had enough salmon just to make  
27 it, but the blue were real thin and also -- and the red  
28 and black were good. Also, I burbot fish, gets lush  
29 under the ice. There was plenty of lush this year, I  
30 notice. The whitefish were pretty good on the fall run.

31  
32 Lot of moose. We had moose all over our  
33 village. Big concern was, you know, the kids were walking  
34 and they'd bring dogs. And so, the moose would -- the  
35 dogs would bark at the moose and chase them. And, you  
36 know, we got into pretty scary situations where the kids  
37 could have got hurt. But we have problems with more and  
38 more moose coming into the village because of the wolves,  
39 I think. Wolves and bears, you know, they chase them and  
40 they seem to learn, you know, to stay close to the  
41 village that the wolves and bears wouldn't come in. But  
42 that's all I have. And also silvers. A few people went  
43 after silvers, and you know, got a few for jarring. So,  
44 we didn't really target silvers that much this year. And  
45 that's my report. Thanks.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you,  
48 Walter. Phillip, (In Native).

49  
50

1 MR. PETER: My name is Phillip Peter,  
2 Akiachak. (In Native).

3  
4 INTERPRETER: During the winter in 2025  
5 -- during the fall time -- in September or during the  
6 berry season, I was traveling quite frequently, and  
7 during that berry picking season, I did see a lot of  
8 moose and bear up in the Kisaralik River and the Little  
9 (In Native) River. And as Walter said, the blueberries  
10 weren't plentiful this year, but there was a lot of  
11 blackberries. And the other red berries, they weren't  
12 that plentiful this year either. But we did manage to  
13 pick enough cranberries. And during the springtime the  
14 birds came in numbers and there was quite a few waterfowl  
15 behind our village. And we did catch enough waterfowl.  
16 And for a change once at Akiachak and probably the  
17 villages upriver during the springtime, there wasn't  
18 flooding in our area this year, so. But -- even so, the  
19 -- during the smelt run in the -- we did catch quite a  
20 bit of smelts when they came up in the springtime. And  
21 those that were dipping, we did catch quite a bit of  
22 smelts. And after the smelts came, I myself -- and in  
23 remembrance of my uncle (In Native), in remembrance, I  
24 wanted to go try out into the eddies. And I went out on  
25 the river looking for the river eddies, and I went down  
26 the river from below Akiachak, looking for river eddies. And  
27 in the narrow part of the river on the Kuskokwim, I  
28 found a river eddy. It's a quite large eddy below  
29 Akiachak. And so, I put a six-inch gill net out, and it  
30 was May 24th. That was the day of my birthday. So, I put  
31 the net out. And that eddy was a good place to set the  
32 net. And so, I went out the next day to go check my net,  
33 and I caught seven king salmon. And they were quite  
34 large this year. And I have not caught that big salmon,  
35 king salmon lately, and they're about four feet. And  
36 they had quite developed teeth and stuff.

37  
38 And the whitefish were also large this  
39 year. And the whitefish were fatty and good. And the  
40 ones that we call the bottom of swimmers, the king  
41 salmon, that was the first time that I caught those  
42 bottom of swimmers, and when I finally caught those, I  
43 was thinking that the king salmon run will be large this  
44 year. The second pulse that came in up the river, I  
45 thought would be -- during that time I caught 41 king  
46 salmon in one week. I caught the bottom swimmers, and  
47 we -- my wife cut and dried the 20 king salmon, and we  
48 gave away the 21 king salmon to the people at Akiachak.  
49 And those king salmon were -- they had quite a bit of  
50 fat content on them. And I've never caught king salmon

1 with that much fat content. And those are the bottom  
2 swimmers that we call them. And when the season was open  
3 for subsistence gillnetting for the salmon -- for  
4 finally, there were not a lot of fish -- people fishing  
5 out during the summer opening. And so, I was happy that  
6 -- usually we used to fight for a place to set our nets  
7 because of all the people trying to catch fish. But this  
8 time, for a change, we had hardly any people going out  
9 there. So, we can pick or choose where we can set our  
10 net out. But the catch that we caught, the king salmon  
11 were quite large, and we were happy with that.

12  
13           And this -- chum salmon. They were --  
14 the chum salmon run was, I think was perfect. They  
15 weren't that much, but I think that the run was quite  
16 good for the chum salmon, but the red salmon run was  
17 pretty good. And we caught a lot of red salmon. And when  
18 they do their set for -- they had a setting opening. I  
19 went up above Akiak to put my net up there. And I did  
20 not find or see a lot of set nets. There was only two  
21 of us that were set netting up there during that opening.

22  
23           In addition to that, the moose at this  
24 time, right now, during the wintertime at Akiachak,  
25 there's quite a few moose in the village that are walking  
26 around in the village. And I go out and get wood for my  
27 wood stove from Tuluksak and from the tundra behind  
28 Tuluksak. There are wolves. There the wolves are coming.  
29 The moose are driving the -- I'm sorry. The wolves are  
30 driving the moose towards the population, to the  
31 villages, down lower from the upper mountains. And so,  
32 when starting from the Y. I went upriver from Bethel to  
33 Akiachak. I saw quite a few moose, a lot of them on the  
34 islands, when it was cold here. A lot of the moose were  
35 laying on the leeward side of the wind, and I have never  
36 seen moose before laying in the sun on the leeward side  
37 of the islands. And that's the first time that I've ever  
38 seen on the Kuskokwim that many moose. It's at present  
39 time, this is what I'm talking about. And the wolves are  
40 being seen over at the airport in my village. And there  
41 are a lot of wolves out there.

42  
43           And so with that, we -- as people living  
44 in the Kuskokwim River we need to be united as a group  
45 because these are getting higher in number and we really  
46 need to be steward of these games. And we thank you, the  
47 Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Game, that they are helping  
48 us bring up the numbers and what we used to talk about  
49 over the years, they have followed their commitment on  
50 making more game available for us, and I'm really

1 thankful for this happening. And if we keep working  
2 together and God will provide, and God has said that  
3 they will, that He has given us the opportunity to care  
4 and manage the fish and wildlife for man. And that is a  
5 God given right for us to manage wildlife and fish. And  
6 I'm really thankful for that.

7  
8 And I am thinking about, especially the  
9 generation coming up behind us. And with that our elders,  
10 forefathers used to say that when -- even if there are  
11 discussions or misgivings about subsistence, let us not  
12 get into that discussion of going against each other.  
13 And my uncle used to tell me that -- my uncle told me  
14 that during the meetings, during the big meetings, my  
15 uncle said -- and it is true what he said, if we are  
16 continually hunt, whatever we are hunting, whatever we  
17 hunt will increase in number. He said as an example.  
18 That as a measurement, an example, he said that the  
19 muskrat -- he gave an example of the muskrats because  
20 we do not hunt the muskrats anymore for fur. Their  
21 population has declined big time. Back in the day when  
22 we used to hunt them, there used to be a big, robust  
23 muskrat population. But the things that we eat. If we  
24 keep -- and told us that we should keep hunting what we  
25 hunt because that will provide a good population for  
26 them. And we need to follow these guidelines given to  
27 us by our forefathers. And this recommendation given to  
28 us. We need to come as one and follow all these  
29 regulations, and we'll be blessed. Thank you very much.

30  
31 (Talking)

32  
33 MR. PARKS: Quyana, Madame Chair. My name  
34 is Henry Parks, and I'll do my report in Yup'ik because  
35 we have a good translator over there. (Indiscernible).  
36 Good morning.

37  
38 MR. SAMPSON: Good morning. I paid him  
39 to say that.

40  
41 INTERPRETER: Okay. I'm going to speak  
42 in Yup'ik. Since the last meeting. I want to thank you.  
43 Thank the Father, God first. That he cared for us up  
44 until this time. And since April, during the spring  
45 waterfowl hunt, the waterfowl came in numbers, and a lot  
46 of the waterfowl came into our area to the tundra  
47 villages to raise their young and have eggs in nests.

48  
49 And as the season progressed, we put out  
50 our fish nets to catch whitefish, and we did catch a

1 lot, quite a bit of whitefish. And we were thankful for  
2 the robust harvest that we did and thank the Lord God  
3 that He gave us the opportunity and the harvest in high  
4 number. And I would like to thank the agencies here  
5 under the federal government and also under the state  
6 government that the agencies that opened the fishing  
7 opportunities for salmon and those are really helpful  
8 for us as people relying on subsistence.

9  
10 And subsistence is very important for  
11 us, and the food that came back to us, they were more  
12 abundant this fishing season than the year before. And  
13 so, before times, they -- we were just scratching hard  
14 to catch the number of salmon. But this year, they were  
15 plentiful and so the birds were also in number. And so,  
16 I want to thank the agencies, the opportunity for us to  
17 go fishing and also during the Sunday openings that they  
18 did not provide Sunday openings. And as a village, we  
19 do not want to fish during the Sundays, because that's  
20 a day of rest for us. And so there was no opportunity  
21 to fish on Sunday, and I was really thankful for that.  
22 And so, on the next summer I'm also looking forward to  
23 no Sunday openings, and we want to fish the Kuskokwim  
24 River if it's the Lord's will. That if they open us  
25 fishing opportunities to catch salmon, I will be really  
26 happy. And I look forward to fishing. And during the  
27 summertime when the season opens up.

28  
29 And also, the cloudberry were in  
30 number. The salmonberries were quite numerous this year,  
31 and I was really thankful that we got to harvest the  
32 berries for this year because that's a part of our food  
33 gathering. And so -- and we did catch -- we did pick  
34 quite a few berries and in the summertime in the tundra  
35 villages, because the tundra villages are different from  
36 the Kuskokwim River because we are situated between the  
37 lakes. And so during the lakes when we were fishing for  
38 white salmon, what we call the dry fish. And so, we did  
39 harvest quite a bit of white salmon or whitefish.

40  
41 And so this fall -- also in our  
42 villages, there's quite a bit of moose. Because our area  
43 is situated in the federal land area. And so, when the  
44 state lands close, our federal lands up from the village  
45 are still open. And so, it is open for people who are  
46 able to go hunting. And during the last fall, a lot of  
47 people that went up to go hunt for these moose, they did  
48 -- they saw people out on the tundra using four wheelers  
49 to go up toward the Yukon. And they were saying that  
50 outside hunters were coming up to their area and using

1 four wheelers, and they were driving the moose away from  
2 the hunting grounds. And they mentioned on Facebook that  
3 they did not like the use of four wheelers, ATVs by  
4 outside hunters coming. And I know that I really do not  
5 like the ATVs going in our areas. And a lot of hunters  
6 did not like this at all. And so, I did not like one bit  
7 the use of ATVs out on the refuge going hunting for  
8 moose. And so, they saw outside hunters using ATVs. And  
9 right now, and right then when I was told about these  
10 things, I called Fish and Game and the Fish and Game  
11 worker, Patrick Snow, he did tell me that right now  
12 under the federal management, and the planes and the  
13 choppers. He was going to ask them to go by plane and  
14 helicopter to see who was riding the ATVs. But that is  
15 not very good for us as people, because we do not use  
16 ATVs out here to hunt in the federal lands because we -  
17 - this is really messing up our subsistence. And  
18 subsistence is very important for us because we as Yup'ik  
19 people, as indigenous people under the federal lands  
20 that are hunting -- can it be open just for the tribal  
21 members to hunt the federal lands? Is that possible, or  
22 will that be too much of a hassle? Or will that be --  
23 but that comes from the outside countries utilizing ATVs  
24 to go hunt for them. And so, when the Yup'ik people  
25 first went out there and used ATVs, when they first came  
26 out, they issued citations to them. And so, we did not  
27 use ATVs. But now has the tables changed because they  
28 are using ATVs now and are they getting citations or  
29 not? But it's -- the subsistence is really important for  
30 us. And it's just -- and so, are they just turning a  
31 blind eye to these ATVs being utilized to hunt moose on  
32 the federal grounds? And the people that are observing  
33 the regulations and not using ATVs, they're just not  
34 fair to them. But if we could have federal managers keep  
35 an eye on this, because I'm not really trying to stir  
36 something up here. But if we could manage something like  
37 that, that is fair to everybody.

38  
39 And so closing with that during the fall  
40 -- moving to a different subject, there was a lot of --  
41 there was big wind that came into our area this fall,  
42 and I was really saddened to hear the two villages that  
43 were -- got the brunt of the Halong hurricane because  
44 the Kwigillingok and Kipnuk people, they lost their  
45 houses and I thank agencies and people and myself that  
46 I had the opportunity to help the people of Kipnuk and  
47 Kwigillingok. I gave them what subsistence foods that I  
48 got. And I'm not saying I'm good or anything like that,  
49 but I was really happy to give them what I had to cover  
50 what they lost. And so, in the fall time -- and I went

1 down below my house, I always put my gill net in front  
2 of my house. And after there is high water in the lakes,  
3 it's different from Kuskokwim area. When there's a high  
4 water, a lot of whitefish are pushed into the lakes. And  
5 after this water started receding, we caught a lot of  
6 whitefish. And so, when we used to put ice under -- when  
7 we used to put our nets under the ice, we did catch a  
8 lot of burbot and we caught a lot of pike. And so, I am  
9 thankful for those opportunities that I was able to  
10 partake in. And I thank the Fish and Wildlife and Fish  
11 and Game for giving us the opportunity to be able to  
12 practice our subsistence and Lord willing, we implore  
13 the agencies to open the fishing opportunities for us.  
14 And we all know that we as Yup'iks that we cannot really  
15 eat continually the Western foods that we buy from the  
16 stores because we did not grow up eating that. And that's  
17 my report. Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Henry.  
20 And then next, we'll go to Norma online. Norma you're  
21 on. Quyana.

22  
23 MS. EVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. This  
24 year we had an average year of moose hunting also, along  
25 with more big game hunters in our area flying in. We did  
26 see an increase in the bird populations. I've been seeing  
27 more ptarmigans. And we did have a -- seem like a lot  
28 of birds in the fall time. In the springtime we did get  
29 to harvest some salmon before the regulations started,  
30 and it was really good to taste the salmon. The berries  
31 were very average. We picked a lot of them. I was very  
32 thankful for the salmonberries because sometimes we get  
33 them and then the next year they wouldn't return. So,  
34 it's like we're very happy to get them back this year.  
35 Ice fishing, people are fishing right now for burbot.  
36 And then we did get eels in October. (Indiscernible)  
37 running very deep in the water. I guess it's good to see  
38 our species being healthy and -- I lost my report at  
39 home, so. I -- maybe I could finish it later, but that's  
40 mostly what we've been seeing in our region this year.

41  
42 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Norma. This is  
43 Brooke. Could we ask you about how salmon fishing was  
44 last summer for folks in Marshall?

45  
46 MS. EVAN: We were regulated, but we did  
47 -- we were able to get some salmon early before the  
48 regulations. We were able (distortion) dip net and then  
49 release salmon, but we were able to keep pink salmon and  
50 some other red salmon and coho. And I seen -- not a lot

1 of people were setting net there, but people were setting  
2 net there, for mainly whitefish. And there's also a lot  
3 of pike.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Norma.

6  
7 MS. EVAN: And I'm sorry I lost my  
8 report.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Sorry to  
11 interrupt, Norma, but did you have more?

12  
13 MS. EVAN: No. I lost my report, and I'm  
14 sorry, I lost my report.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Oh, no, that was  
17 good. Quyana. Always good to.....

18  
19 (Simultaneous speech)

20  
21 MS. EVAN: Quyana.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: .....hear from  
24 you. And I'll move on to the Chair's Report, which would  
25 be myself. So, this is Jackie again. So, this -- I'll  
26 start with maybe the things I did for the RAC. So, this  
27 summer, I attended the summer work session for Federal  
28 Subsistence Board in Anchorage in late July. And then  
29 last year we had a student here, I don't know if you  
30 remember her. Her name was Kate, and then she was here  
31 with her father. She contacted me and she was doing a  
32 school project. I donated some photos, and she ended up  
33 doing this project on our subsistence life here. I wish  
34 -- I thought I had to show you guys, but maybe I will  
35 if we have time later. And then recently, last week we  
36 met -- or I met with representatives from the Secretary's  
37 Office on the Secretarial Review, which we'll cover more  
38 on Thursday. Some of the other things that we're working  
39 on in Quinhagak with our Tribal Council and our  
40 Corporation, we're working to respond to BLM with a  
41 comment on the current RDIs, which includes some of our  
42 rivers here. So, in the current Federal Register there's  
43 -- there were five applications published for  
44 transferring submerged lands from BLM to the state. And  
45 yeah, at the moment we're in a 30-day comment period,  
46 and the deadline will be February 6th.

47  
48 So, some of those rivers, it looks like  
49 they're starting in the western region. And the rivers  
50 I wanted to mention, because they are within our region

1 are Goodnews River, Arolik River, Eek River, and  
2 Kweethluk River. So, if you want more information on  
3 that, I forwarded this RDI, which stands for Recordable  
4 Disclaimers of Interest to Brooke. And if you're  
5 interested, we can distribute it to the rest of the  
6 Council. And if your tribe or corporation would like to  
7 comment on a river that maybe affects you. The deadline  
8 is February 6th again.

9  
10 And then I'll just move on to Quinhagak  
11 proper. So, our tribe is partnering with Kuskokwim River  
12 Inter-Tribal -- or our community is, I should say, is  
13 partnering with Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish  
14 Commission for a pilot project involving a counting  
15 tower and drone combination for salmon escapement, and  
16 they've included the Kanektok River in some of their  
17 pilot study, which is -- we're very much looking forward  
18 to that. In the meantime, we did finish up our two-year  
19 NFWF Grant, which was sampling some ASL -- ASL sampling  
20 for subsistence salmon harvest. At the same time, our  
21 corporation has been doing escapement studies with the  
22 with drones on the Arolik River.

23  
24 As you know, we recently had a flood,  
25 but for Quinhagak, that was our second flood in one  
26 year. Last January, we had an ice buildup at our mouth  
27 -- the mouth of our river, which caused flooding in the  
28 village. And so that had been the worst and highest I've  
29 seen the water in my lifetime, and then Halong happened,  
30 and then it far surpassed the one in January, obviously.  
31 Quinhagak was mostly fine compared to those other  
32 villages, our neighbors across the bay. But of course,  
33 you know, we still had some damage, but just one family  
34 evacuated from our village. And as if that's not enough,  
35 just recently, last week, during the 55 below weather,  
36 Quinhagak had a three-and-a-half-day power outage, which  
37 caused a lot of water and sewer damage. And some of you  
38 might know that our pipes are above water because we're  
39 -- we live on melting permafrost at the moment.

40  
41 As far as our subsistence life in  
42 Quinhagak, I'll start with the bird season, which I wish  
43 I was more professional, like those guys over there  
44 (indiscernible) them. They can just talk birds so well.  
45 But we did meet our needs. But we do notice that they're  
46 routing is -- you know, the bird migration routing is a  
47 bit different, but we still met our needs with migratory  
48 birds this year. Our salmon harvest was, you know, we  
49 were very surprised like some of our members have  
50 mentioned that the kings were a lot bigger this year.

1 The same can be said for us in our bay and in the river.  
2 I also noticed there were more female to male ratio  
3 compared to years past where we'd only -- some years  
4 we'd just get, like, four females. Chums were, you know,  
5 a little better, but they're still not up to the numbers  
6 we used to have. We had a, you know, our silvers -- our  
7 needs were met with silvers as well. And of course, red  
8 surpassed the escapement goal, as expected.

9  
10 Let's see. And our moose hunting season.  
11 We're so grateful for that permanent extension, which  
12 is from September 1st to October 15th. It really helps.  
13 That extra two weeks really does help when the weather  
14 cooperates. We also had another opportunity this winter  
15 from a C&T, our group -- our RAC worked on last year to  
16 include Quinhagak and I think (In Native), Kwiguk, and  
17 Kipnuk). To Zone 2 is federal hunting -- winter hunting  
18 season, so we're grateful for that too. Locals did go  
19 and hunt in Zone 2 for that. So, thank you to everyone  
20 who worked on that C&T.

21  
22 Right now we are, you know, we're  
23 hunting rabbits, ptarmigan, catching trout. We still  
24 have a lot of pike mixed in with our trout population.  
25 They're not as big as the trout you get here on the  
26 Yukon or Eek River, but we still get a lot of them. Our  
27 berries were pretty much the same as what you all  
28 reported. We had plenty of salmonberries, which are  
29 cloudbberries, and blackberries, which are currants,  
30 sometimes at right, currant berries. But our blueberries  
31 were not that plentiful. Our red berries were not that  
32 plentiful. But for the first time our paurngaq which are  
33 lingonberries were the most plentiful ever. Like, I've  
34 never picked that much paurngaq in my life. And, no,  
35 those are the little raspberries. And they're hard to  
36 find because they're, like, in the grass, the hardest  
37 to find, but the best.

38  
39 And I wanted to end with an announcement  
40 for Central Bering Sea Advisory Council, since I'm Co-  
41 Chair for that Advisory Council. We rescheduled our  
42 meeting to February 19th and 20th next month. We were  
43 supposed to have it last week, but that's when we had,  
44 you know, our -- that disaster in Quinhagak with the  
45 power outage. Oh yeah, and we declared for a disaster  
46 with the State of Alaska, by the way, for the power  
47 outage and all the damage it caused. So, planes weren't  
48 really flying last week in that weather, so we  
49 rescheduled to 18th or -- sorry, 19th and 20th. I'll  
50 keep it there. Thank you for listening and welcome again.

1 And I'm going to call a ten-minute break. So back at  
2 11:00. Guyana.

3

4 (Off record)

5

6 (On record)

7

8 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Good morning.  
9 This is Jackie again, and we're back from recess at  
10 11:04. And next on the agenda is 9, Council Member  
11 Service Awards, and I believe Brooke will present those.  
12 Actually, Justin will present those.

13

14 MR. KOLLER: Thank you, Jackie. This is  
15 Justin Koller with the Office of Subsistence Management.  
16 The Federal Subsistence Board likes to recognize those  
17 Council members that have been here for a while and hit  
18 milestones. And we have two of those here today. And  
19 they're both five-year milestones, which are Henry Parks  
20 and Jackie Cleveland. And we'll present to you these  
21 certificates of appreciation. And it's really to thank  
22 you for your service on this Council. You know, to your  
23 communities, the region, and to the Federal Subsistence  
24 Program at large. We appreciate the knowledge you share  
25 and the time, commitment, and the other commitments that  
26 you make to this Council. So, thank you very much. And  
27 we'd like to have you come up and get a photo. Thank  
28 you.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you,  
31 Justin. Thank you for the award. Five years just flew  
32 by.

33

34 MR. PARKS: Guyana much. Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: We're moving on  
37 to number 10, Public and Tribal Comment on Non-agenda  
38 Items. Brooke.

39

40 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
41 Just a reminder, if anyone's online and would like to  
42 give a public comment, you can use raise hand feature  
43 on Teams or press star five on your phone. And this is  
44 for non-agenda items. In the room we have these green  
45 cards. We do have one green card from one of our Council  
46 members who wants to do a public testimony. Not as a  
47 Council member. And about Donlin. The False Pass. Yeah.

48

49 MR. ANDREW: Hi. My name is John W.  
50 Andrew from Kwethluk, representing the Organized Village

1 of Kwethluk on this one. Not too long ago when my  
2 Councilmen, they were talking about Donlin Creek. They  
3 were very, very concerned with the -- if it gets going,  
4 Kwethluk is one of the seven villages that have a  
5 litigation against Donlin. They don't want to see it  
6 become a reality, especially is it the latest news that  
7 they are going to make a long gas line from over from  
8 (In Native) side all the way to the Donlin Gold mining  
9 site and they weren't happy with it. And I believe our  
10 neighboring villages are Akiak and Akiachak and Tuluksak  
11 were saying the same thing. They're tribal members --  
12 they're Tribal Councils and they don't want to see it  
13 go forward with that. They were -- I think they were  
14 talking about seeing more EIS or something of that  
15 matter. I didn't -- they didn't give me a paper to go  
16 with, but it was one of their main subjects that they  
17 want us to watch out for. (In Native). Thank you, Madam  
18 Chair.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, John.  
21 Are there any more green cards from the room, Brooke?  
22 Okay, next, we'll go to public and tribal comments on  
23 non-agenda items online. Is there anyone who would like  
24 to speak?

25  
26 MS. MCDAVID: This is Brooke. Would  
27 anyone online like to give a comment to the Council  
28 about anything subsistence related that's not on the  
29 agenda?

30  
31 (No response)

32  
33 And just as a reminder, there'll also  
34 be an opportunity first thing tomorrow morning and  
35 Thursday morning to comment on non-agenda items. I'm not  
36 seeing any hands, Madam Chair.

37  
38 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you,  
39 Brooke. So that means we can move on to 11. Action --  
40 oh, okay. We do have someone requesting to speak online.  
41 Stanis?

42  
43 MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
44 I'll - I am not speaking on behalf of -- as an RIT. I'm  
45 going to be speaking on personal. Last year the Mid-  
46 Lower Yukon Advisory Committee.....

47  
48 (Simultaneous speech)

49  
50

1 MS. MCDAVID: Stan, could you please  
2 introduce yourself first for the record? Thank you.

3  
4 MR. SHEPPARD: Oh, sorry. Madam Chair,  
5 my name is Stanislaus Sheppard. I reside in Mountain  
6 Village on the Lower Yukon. I lived here all my life. A  
7 subsistence way of life. Last year the Mid-Lower Yukon  
8 Advisory Council came up with the proposal, which I was  
9 a part of, to add three non-salmon rivers below Mountain  
10 Village, and that proposal failed by 3 to -- 4 to 3 or  
11 3 to 4. It's very important that something like that  
12 come up again to help the subsistence users out here.  
13 As we all know, the four-inch get these small fish,  
14 whitefish and sheefish, and majority of them get a lot  
15 of pike. And us as Natives, we -- the only time -- I'm  
16 sure it's all over the Y-K Delta that only in the  
17 springtime the Northern Pike is mostly used, harvested  
18 and not harvested during the summer months. There was a  
19 proposal to open up (In Native), (In Native) River, and  
20 Hamilton, Five Finger Lake -- River, that leads up to  
21 Five Finger Lake, to open to six-inch, just so that they  
22 could get the bigger, more fat, fatter whitefish and  
23 sheefish, during the early breakup and (indiscernible)  
24 to June, and that's during when the restrictions kick  
25 in and fall time in September, August, September.

26  
27 I've seen it and I've used this method  
28 every time we go berry picking in August. Till the end  
29 of July, August. We -- my parents would let me put a  
30 five and a half- or six-inch in this small stream while  
31 we go berry picking. And when we come back, coming back  
32 home, we pull it out in hoping that it would catch  
33 whitefish or sheefish for the Eskimo ice cream, Akutaq.  
34 Not only that, to have different taste of salmon, but  
35 now since we're restricted on harvesting salmon, the  
36 Lower Yukon, I've noticed in the past seven years are  
37 depending on the whitefish and sheefish. That's why last  
38 year the Mid-Lower Yukon submitted the proposal and I  
39 was online attending that meeting and the Board of Fish.  
40 So, if that could be addressed again some way, somehow  
41 to help at least come up with something in that regard  
42 to open up six-inch in non-salmon streams below Mountain  
43 or, you know, it went all the way, all the way up to  
44 Yukon, to the border, all the side streams to open up.  
45 But that would be helpful. Thank you very much, Madam  
46 Chair.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana Stans.  
49 And there is a response online.

50

1 MS. MCDAVID: Hi, Stan, this is Brooke.  
2 I just wanted to make sure you were aware and others  
3 that even though that proposal did not pass in the Board  
4 of Fish to become permanent and part of regulations,  
5 that is still an in-season management option that the  
6 managers have to open those non-salmon streams to  
7 gillnets for those non salmon species. And Shane  
8 Ransbury with Fish and Wildlife is online, and he did  
9 mention that that is something that they're hoping to  
10 do again this coming season. And at our meeting in March  
11 at the RAC meeting, we'll hopefully be hearing some  
12 outlooks for the upcoming fishery season and some more  
13 reports at that time. So perhaps we can get an update  
14 about those plans at our next meeting, if that sounds  
15 okay. Quyana.

16  
17 MR. SHEPPARD: Through the Chair, thank  
18 you. Thank you very much, Brooke. You know, example:  
19 it's like when we go berry picking and they restrict us.  
20 We travel 30 or more miles downriver to go to the tundra.  
21 That's right at the edge of the Yukon north bank. They  
22 call that (In Native). If they put a restrictions, we're  
23 used to going with five-gallon buckets or three-gallon  
24 buckets. If they put it -- this is an example, on the  
25 salmon -- on whitefish and sheefish, the size, if they  
26 put a restriction on us to go berry picking, they're  
27 only allowing us two cups to go down and fill them and  
28 come back home instead of our usual 5 -- 5- or 6-gallon  
29 buckets. You know, that's the size of the whitefish we're  
30 getting, a cup instead of a bucket. Thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana (In  
33 Native), Stan. Brooke, is there another response? And  
34 thank you for bringing that up with the in-season  
35 management. I had remembered that as well. We -- when I  
36 was on the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission  
37 as in-season manager, we did work on salmon -- on non-  
38 spawning salmon river (In Native), which is off the Eek  
39 River and so they're allowed our -- that river is not  
40 included or that stream is not included in the federal  
41 regulations. Anyway, thanks for the reminder. We'll move  
42 on to action items now and starting with an overview of  
43 proposal closure review procedures by the Coordinator,  
44 Brooke.

45  
46 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
47 Council members, on the back of your name cards, there's  
48 the procedures that we follow for all of the proposals.  
49 And it's also found on page 17 of the meeting books, and  
50 it should be posted online as part of the agenda. The

1 presentation procedure for proposals and closer reviews.  
2 So, for each of the federal wildlife proposals that comes  
3 up today, we'll be going through each of these steps.  
4 And it's just to make sure that we get an opportunity  
5 to hear from anyone that would like to comment on the  
6 proposal before the Council moves into deliberation.

7  
8 So, we'll start out with a presentation  
9 of the analysis and that will be by our OSM staff. You'll  
10 be hearing from Tom quite a lot today and throughout the  
11 meeting. So, he'll present the proposal and then you'll  
12 get to ask some questions. But it's not time to do your  
13 discussion yet. So, if you have questions about anything  
14 he said, it can be -- you can clarify but not yet time  
15 to talk about how you feel about the proposal. Then  
16 we'll -- Tom will share if there's been any public  
17 comments that were received during the written open  
18 comment period, we'll have a report out if there was any  
19 comments during tribal or ANCSA consultations. And then  
20 if we have any comments from agencies or tribes present  
21 with us or Advisory Committee groups like the other RACs  
22 or Fish and Game ACs. And then if anyone has turned in  
23 any comments to me during the meeting. We often don't  
24 have a lot of those. So, it looks like a lot of steps,  
25 but we usually move through it pretty quick, and then  
26 we'll open it up to any public comments for here in the  
27 room or online if anyone wants to say anything. And  
28 after that it's time for a Council motion and we always  
29 make the motion in the positive. So even if it's a  
30 proposal you want to oppose to put the motion on the  
31 table, you say make a motion to support. So, we'll need  
32 a motion and a second for every proposal. And then that's  
33 the time for you guys to go around and talk about how  
34 you feel about the proposal. And that's really important  
35 to make sure we provide justification so that when your  
36 recommendation goes to the Federal Subsistence Board,  
37 they know why you support it or why you oppose it. So,  
38 on proposals we like to -- this Council always likes to  
39 do a roll call vote. That way in case people have  
40 different opinions, that's okay. Don't be shy to vote  
41 against what your other Council members might be  
42 supporting or opposing. All viewpoints are respected.

43  
44 And once the discussion has wrapped up,  
45 someone can call for the question and then we'll do the  
46 vote. And that will be the final action. So, I hope  
47 that's clear for everyone. I'll be helping the Chair go  
48 through these steps for the first couple until we get  
49 rolling and get the hang of it. So, thank you, Madam  
50 Chair.

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CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you for helping out. So, we have up Tom.

MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the Council. For the record, my name is Tom Plank, Wildlife Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management. And to start off with, I'm going to be presenting a summary of Wildlife Proposal WP26-01, and this is regarding delegation of authority letters statewide, and this can be found on page 23 of your books. This proposal is from the Office of Subsistence Management, and it seeks to move authority for managing federal hunts out of delegation of authority letters and into unit specific regulations. If adopted, the 61 delegation of authority letters currently in use across Alaska would be rescinded. An example of one of these delegation authority -- we'll get into on a later proposal that we'll discuss. But if you want to kind of take a look at one that's on page 47, I believe in your books.

So, delegation of authority letters were originally meant to provide management flexibility, but over time they've created inefficiencies. Any action taken under a delegation of authority letter counts as a special action, which triggers requirements for public hearings, tribal consultations, and Regional Advisory Council recommendations. These processes are important for unusual or emergency situations, but they add unnecessary burden when applied to routine in-season management actions like closing a hunt when a quota is met. As a result, federal managers and OSM staff spend significant time on procedural requirements for decisions that are already expected every year. High staff turnover also makes consistency difficult. And on top of that, OSM must maintain 61 delegation of authority letters, some of which overlap, conflict or contain outdated guidance.

So, by moving these authorities into regulations, in-season management actions would no longer trigger the special action process. Approximately four pages of boilerplate delegation of authority letter requirements would be replaced with one clear paragraph in regulations. Public transparency improves and since changes in delegation of authority would go through the standard regulatory proposal process, oversight becomes simpler with clear responsibilities and reduced administrative workload. And importantly, the Board

1 still retains authority over emergency closures and  
2 broader decisions, but in-season managers would still  
3 be able to act quickly within a parameter set by the  
4 Board. So, this proposal is not expected to affect  
5 wildlife populations or subsistence opportunity. It's  
6 primarily administrative, streamlining how recurring  
7 decisions are made. It increases efficiency, strengthens  
8 coordination with state and local users, and makes the  
9 process more transparent for the public. And one  
10 alternative to consider is replacing the phrase  
11 coordination "with in" regulation with "seeking input"  
12 and "considering feedback from". This clarifies that the  
13 expectations for in-season managers to communicate their  
14 actions and consider feedback without adding confusion  
15 that has developed around the word "coordinate".  
16

17 The preliminary conclusion is to adopt  
18 WP26-01, with modifications to replace coordination with  
19 the phrase "seeking input" and "considering feedback  
20 from" and to modify WP26-01a and WP26-01b with region  
21 specific regulations. Adopting these changes would  
22 (distortion) burden, resolve inconsistency, and improve  
23 efficiency while maintaining transparency and  
24 accountability in federal subsistence management. Thank  
25 you, Madam Chair, members of the Council. I'd be happy  
26 to answer any questions.  
27

28 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you, Tom.  
29 Are there any questions from Council members in here?  
30

31 (No response)  
32

33 Any questions online?  
34

35 (No response)  
36

37 MS. MCDAVID: Tom, do you think you could  
38 give just a real overview of the main thing that this  
39 proposal is trying to do? Just reiterate that. Thank  
40 you. So, everyone understands.  
41

42 MR. PLANK: Of course, through the Chair.  
43 So perfect example right now is that a Zone 2 winter  
44 moose hunt which the refuge has delegation of authority  
45 right now to issue the permits, to close it when the  
46 quota is made and stuff like that. And so, if you were  
47 looking in the regulation book, kind of like the slides  
48 I have going on behind the Chair here, you would go into  
49 regulation and you'll see an exclamation point next to  
50 the moose telling you that there's something you should

1 look up pertaining to that moose hunt. And then you flip  
2 to the very back of the book and you find the list of  
3 delegation of authority letters. And it doesn't have the  
4 full letter, but it kind of gives you an outline of  
5 what's in that delegation of authority letter. Whereas  
6 -- Brooke, go ahead and go to next slide. With the  
7 changes of this proposal in your regulation book, when  
8 you go to the Unit 18 moose, there will be a paragraph  
9 underneath that regulation that tells you exactly what  
10 that manager has to do for the delegation of authority.  
11 So, everything's just one page. You don't have to flip  
12 through the book or try to figure it out. You know who  
13 has the delegation of authority, who they have to  
14 coordinate or get input from, and what they are able to  
15 do under their authority from the Board. And so that's  
16 essentially what this is doing. It's not changing  
17 anything. It's just making it simpler and easier for you  
18 all to be able to find it when you're going through the  
19 regulation book, instead of flipping back and forth and  
20 trying to figure out what exclamation points mean and  
21 stuff like that, I hope that helps clarify a little bit.  
22 But again, I'm here for questions.

23  
24 MS. MCDAVID: If there's no more  
25 questions from Council members, we'll go ahead and move  
26 through the procedures. Were there any comments  
27 submitted during the open comment period?

28  
29 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair again, for  
30 the record, Tom Plank, OSM. We did receive one written  
31 comment during the open period, and that was from the  
32 Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission. They supported  
33 the overarching goal of expanding delegation of  
34 authority to local federal land managers for timely  
35 decision-making on wildlife special action requests, and  
36 delegating authority to in-region managers can help  
37 ensure more responsive management and quicker resolution  
38 of emergency or conservation related issues, and  
39 especially in resources where conditions change rapidly.  
40 However, AITRC did recommend that any delegation of  
41 authority must be paired with meaningful consultation  
42 protocols which basically include tribal consultation,  
43 transparency, accountability, consistency across units,  
44 and scope limitations. And that was all the written  
45 comments that we had. Thank you, Madam Chair.

46  
47 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. Next a report on  
48 tribal and ANCSA corporation consultations.

49  
50 (No comment)

1  
2                   And I don't see Orville Lind on who is  
3 the OSM Native Liaison, but to my knowledge, it was also  
4 -- Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission was the only  
5 entity that commented, and it was basically them  
6 relaying the comments that Tom just provided. So, we'll  
7 keep moving down the list to agency and tribal comments  
8 for today. Anyone from Alaska Department of Fish and  
9 Game?

10  
11                   (No comment)

12  
13                   Not seeing any, any federal agencies  
14 like to comment?

15  
16                   (No comment)

17  
18                   Any tribes or ANCSA corporations?

19  
20                   (No comment)

21  
22                   Okay. What about comments from the other  
23 Regional Advisory Councils?

24  
25                   MR. PLANK: Bear with me just a second.  
26 Through the Chair. Tom Plank, OSM. So, I guess I'll just  
27 go right down the line here or -- Brooke.

28  
29                   MS. MCDAVID: Oh, and Tom let's just do  
30 the comments on the statewide one. We don't -- they  
31 don't need to hear the individual region comments. I  
32 don't think, since this is the statewide one.

33  
34                   MR. PLANK: Will do. Thank you. So  
35 Southeast did take it up. The Council noted that appears  
36 to be a housekeeping action and streamlines the process.  
37 Having this information and regulations is clearer to  
38 the public and allows regulations to be changed, easier  
39 if necessary. And then Southcentral, they also supported  
40 it, but they supported it without the change from  
41 "consult with" to "seek an input and consider feedback",  
42 that one little change that we OSM recommended. So they  
43 supported it -- just straight support without that  
44 change. Kodiak and Aleutians met and the Council -- they  
45 also supported as modified by OSM. Council stated that  
46 the proposal would streamline the process, reduce  
47 unnecessary red tape, and make regulations clearer and  
48 more transparent by placing all relevant information  
49 directly in regulations rather than in delegation of  
50 authority letters. And they felt that this would make

1 it easier for the public to find and understand the  
2 rules, and noted that if concerns arise later, the  
3 regulations can always be amended. But there were --  
4 there were concerns that the change could reduce  
5 opportunities for public comments and tribal  
6 consultations, which they viewed as essential to the  
7 Federal Subsistence Management Program. And they  
8 emphasized that the importance of maintaining a strong  
9 public involvement and felt that any internal efficiency  
10 issues should be addressed within the program, rather  
11 than altering established public process.

12  
13 Bristol Bay met and they supported as  
14 modified by OSM. Western Interior supported by modified  
15 -- as modified by OSM. The Council stated adopting this  
16 proposal as modified would reduce burden for holding  
17 special actions for non-emergency and in-season  
18 management actions. Northwest Arctic RAC also supported  
19 as modified by OSM. Eastern Interior supported it as  
20 modified by OSM and North Slope also supported as  
21 modified by OSM. Council stated that the proposal would  
22 reduce the administrative burdens on federal land  
23 managers, and the Council shared that the changes would  
24 not have an impact on subsistence resources. Thank you,  
25 Madam Chair.

26  
27 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Tom. Any Fish  
28 and Game Advisory Committee comments?

29  
30 MR. MORGAN: I got a question on this --  
31 it seemed to give the local people more say so on these  
32 proposals before they're adopted there. I didn't  
33 understand that. I wanted you to clarify it. And so I  
34 can understand what this proposal does for us. Thank  
35 you. And this is Walter Morgan.

36  
37 MR. PLANK: Thank you, member Morgan.  
38 Through the Chair, Tom Plank, OSM. So, this proposal  
39 itself doesn't change the proposal process or any of  
40 that. All it does is move the delegation of authority  
41 away from a letter that sits in a file at OSM and puts  
42 it in a paragraph for you all to be able to see it  
43 easily. And if you still say example, you don't agree  
44 with this authority that the refuge has, you can still  
45 put in a proposal to have changes and everything just  
46 now it's easier for you to read it versus us trying to  
47 keep up with four pages of your standard document that  
48 has about 500 words, and you only read about 20 of those  
49 words. It kind of fixes that part of it.

50

1 MR. MORGAN: Thank you for that. It's  
2 simplified so we can read it. Don't have to keep turning  
3 pages. Thank you.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you, both  
6 of you. And there's another question from Brooke here.

7  
8 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. Tom, could you  
9 clarify if there's a change into the requirement to have  
10 a public hearing or not? I think maybe that was what  
11 Walter was getting at in some regard.

12  
13 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, Tom Plank,  
14 OSM. So, on emergency actions and special action  
15 requests that we get through, we still have to have  
16 normal public hearing and go through that same process.  
17 But for example like when the YK Delta Refuge closes  
18 that Zone 2 moose season, because we've hit the point,  
19 if they actually had to hold a public process, you had  
20 to hold a public meeting and everything else, they  
21 wouldn't be able to close it until they had all that.  
22 Where right now they're able to close it so y'all get  
23 maximum amount -- if somebody online can answer that  
24 better than me, that'd be great. But basically it doesn't  
25 really change what they do. It just makes it where they  
26 can quickly act to move changes on the ground faster.  
27 But when it comes to special actions and things like  
28 that, we still have the same public process that we  
29 always have. That will not affect that. Does that help?

30  
31 MR. MORGAN: Well, you know, you talk  
32 about Zone 2. That's Unit 18, right? Yeah. You know,  
33 we're right on the borderline. And my hunting area pretty  
34 much goes, you know, 15-20 miles down within a 20-mile  
35 radius of Kalskag, if I'm running, you know, hunting.  
36 So, I run into, you know, Unit 18 regulations, Unit 21,  
37 Unit 19A. And Unit 18 I know, you know, in our area, we  
38 have a lot of moose and I, you know, closing -- they  
39 close this lower part all the time. And before we even  
40 get a moose in Unit 18, I heard people in our village  
41 complain, you know. Geez, you know, we have lots of  
42 moose. We know we do. And, you know, no upriver -- no  
43 down river, no upriver hunt that area because we use  
44 four wheelers or we walk out, you know. They say they  
45 always get their quota, and they close it all the time.  
46 And it's in our hunting area. And we always -- a lot of  
47 people are concerned. And the village, you know, we  
48 should extend it in our area. But I don't know if that  
49 could be possible. I run into that all the time, every  
50 year. So, I don't know how to, you know, go about if we

1 have to put a special action request for that, or how  
2 do we go through the process into keeping our area open  
3 within that Unit 18.

4  
5 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Go ahead,  
6 Spencer.

7  
8 MR. REARDEN: There we go. Spencer  
9 Rearden, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife  
10 Refuge. I thought I would just step in here to try to  
11 help understand the different regulations. Obviously,  
12 this is just an example for the statewide proposal that  
13 Tom is talking to. But to address your question, Zone 2  
14 is federal only, and we always keep that open. We've  
15 never closed it before October 15th because we never met  
16 our quota. So, this example here on the Board is talking  
17 about moose, and I'm thinking we're going to get into  
18 some of those -- that moose proposal later. To better  
19 answer, you're probably thinking about Zone 1, the state  
20 managed area in which they do close much earlier than  
21 us, usually in the first 7-10 days. But for us, we've  
22 been open September 1st through October 15th and have  
23 not met our bull-only quota in the fall. And you'll see  
24 why. We have proposals to try to increase harvest  
25 opportunities, so hopefully that helps.

26  
27 MR. MORGAN: Thank you.

28  
29 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Spencer.  
30 And there's a follow up by Brooke here. Brooke.

31  
32 MS. MCDAVID: Yes. Thank you, Spencer.  
33 And Walter, since that is a state area you're speaking  
34 about, there is going to be a call for Board of Game  
35 proposals that's coming out quickly. If it's not out  
36 already, I think those are going to be due at the  
37 beginning of May. So maybe that's something your local  
38 AC could get together and talk about. If you want to  
39 extend that season on state land, you would need to put  
40 in a Board of Game proposal. Thank you. Yeah. May 1, I  
41 believe is the deadline.

42  
43 MR. MORGAN: All right. Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Walter.  
46 And, Tom, do you have any more to add?

47  
48 MR. PETER: Madam Chair.

49  
50

1                   CHAIRPERSON    CLEVELAND:    Oh,    yeah.  
2   Phillip.

3  
4                   MR. PETER: About the special action. We  
5 always ask for opening for fishing, also for hunting  
6 moose. Those two big, important big games. And I'll make  
7 a short comment on this issue because it's really  
8 important. When the state of -- Department of Fish and  
9 Wildlife controlling the hunt for fish and game, hunting  
10 moose and bears. A long time ago, before the state became  
11 a state, long time ago, it was territory and controlled  
12 by the federal government. We are -- used to see a  
13 regulation. They used to open Kuskokwim, Unit 18, all  
14 Unit 18 from August 20th and closes on September 30th.  
15 Fishing in Kuskokwim has no regulation. No regulation  
16 for subsistence fishing in the river. Anybody want to  
17 go fish, in summer they go fishing. It's really confusion  
18 these days because of low salmon, all salmon, low. And  
19 it changes, every time we want to go fishing we write a  
20 letter for a request to fish, because of a low salmon.

21  
22                   And also -- and moose hunting. Moose  
23 hunting it give -- I'm going to talk about the -- we  
24 fish only four periods in summer. Special action -- using  
25 that special action, four periods. And hunting season  
26 comes in controlled by the opener. Ten days and we didn't  
27 even finish the coat for moose hunting. 10-day hunt,  
28 they finish it right away. Including the other, they  
29 open up the Zone 2 from -- extended to October. We don't  
30 hunt in October for moose hunting for bulls because of  
31 the smell of the meat. If you don't cut the penis, if  
32 you shoot it and kill the moose in few seconds, the  
33 moose will get stink on the meat. Couldn't consume it,  
34 just kill. That is why these regulations need to be  
35 fixed. Need to be fixed. Just like we used to do on  
36 moose hunting. Moose hunting in Kuskokwim are really  
37 increasing, especially the cows. That the moose over 3-  
38 or 4,000 moose in the Kuskokwim from the  
39 (indiscernible), all the way to the mouth of the Johnson  
40 River. (In Native). I always get afraid of starvation  
41 for the moose because the population is really high in  
42 the Kuskokwim. We couldn't even hunt them, even though  
43 this year opened, nobody hunt in my area because of the  
44 cold, cold weather.

45  
46                   Only couple of days ago, before I go  
47 hunting, before I go get wood. Right across from the  
48 Tuluksak, which I usually get wood, dry wood for my  
49 woodstove for my home. 45-minute ride from my home to  
50 that area couple of days ago. Only one snowmachine when

1 it's really cold. One snow machine got moose. He hunted  
2 from my place all the way to past the (In Native), that  
3 area. He got only one cow. The only person I see. We use  
4 -- not the gas and the gas price in my hometown right  
5 now is \$8.69 a gallon. It's too much. On this note, an  
6 alternative consider coordination with consultation.  
7 That's what we always do in the meeting. To ask for  
8 special action. What about if the state and the federal  
9 government refuses? What happened? My question, what  
10 will happen? Either two. Because we're seeking right  
11 now. That's what you -- that's what we're seeking, input.  
12 We need to speak to the people. Meetings, explain this  
13 situation. And uncertainty right now occurring. Because  
14 like another one, I'm going to read this paragraph, while  
15 federal regulations regarding special actions in 5-  
16 19(b)(1)(i) speculate, prior to implementing a temporary  
17 special action, the Board will consult with the State  
18 of Alaska and the Chair of Regional Councils of the  
19 affected region. Could you explain it to this -- to us  
20 on this one? That's my question. Thank you, Madam  
21 Chairman.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Qu yana, Phillip.  
24 Tom, do you -- would you be able to answer that question?  
25

26 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair. Thank you,  
27 Madam Chair. Thank you, member Peter. Tom Plank, OSM.  
28 Brooke, would you go to slide three, please? So, what  
29 you're reading off is one of the subsections that's in  
30 the delegation of authority. And so, the way -- if you  
31 see on the slide up here, and the reason I'm using this  
32 as an example is because it's already in your book,  
33 because we're going to be talking more about this later  
34 on with another proposal. So, I'm referencing it because  
35 you have it in your book and you can turn and look at  
36 it. But so overall, this proposal is just about  
37 delegation of authority. It's not about a certain area  
38 or a certain item. I'm just using this as an example  
39 because it's in your hands. And so, to fall back to that  
40 example like what you're reading, that delegation of  
41 authority, if you notice in that paragraph, the refuge  
42 still has to coordinate with those same entities. They  
43 still have to call and check in with them and like they  
44 normally do anyhow. And that's not going to change. They  
45 still have to reach out to everybody. The difference is  
46 now it's plainly written for you to be able to see who  
47 they're reaching out to instead of being buried in that  
48 four-page letter.

49  
50

1                   And that's what we're -- this is what  
2 we're trying to do with this proposals. We're trying to  
3 put it in where you can get to it easy. We're not going  
4 to change who they have to coordinate. We're not changing  
5 who they have to call and talk to beforehand. What  
6 they've been doing. They still have to do that. The only  
7 difference is now you as a user can see, instead of it  
8 just saying they have a delegation of authority letter,  
9 and that's all it was in the book. Now you can see that  
10 they need to contact these people. Like the Chair, she  
11 gets contacted when they have to -- when they're closing  
12 the season or changing something because she is on the  
13 list. The Chair is on the list of people they have to  
14 contact. And so just to make it clear, that doesn't  
15 change, they still have to get with the people, they  
16 still have to get with the other stakeholders to make  
17 sure, like they've always done. That will not change in  
18 this. This is just simplifying it for the users. Does  
19 that help answer your question?

20

21                   MR. PETER: Thank you, sir.

22

23                   MS. MCDAVID: This is Brooke, and  
24 Phillip, I just want to say this is not about the special  
25 action. For special actions, they will still do a public  
26 hearing and the consultations like we usually do. This  
27 one, it's for like, the regular things that happen every  
28 year that the manager decides. Thank you.

29

30                   CHAIRPERSON           CLEVELAND:        Quyana,  
31 everyone. We're moving on to the public testimony  
32 portion. And, Brooke, do you know if there's anyone in  
33 line for testimony?

34

35                   MS. MCDAVID: Oh, this is Brooke. I don't  
36 see anyone with their hands up. If anyone would like to  
37 comment on the statewide proposal 26-01, you could do  
38 so now.

39

40                   (No response)

41

42                   Not seeing any, Madam Chair. And before  
43 the Council moves to make a motion, I do want to remind  
44 you that there is a suggested OSM modification to just  
45 adjust some of the language so you could decide if you  
46 want to support it with the OSM modification, like most  
47 of the other Councils did. That would be one motion to  
48 consider. Thank you.

49

50

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1 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you,  
2 Brooke. Is there a motion to either support, support  
3 with modification, take no action, take no action and  
4 defer to home region or defer to a future meeting by the  
5 Council?

6  
7 (Pause)

8  
9 MS. MCDAVID: Please, use your  
10 microphone.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: (In Native).  
13 support with OSM modification. (In Native).

14  
15 MR. PARKS: Madam Chair.

16  
17 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Henry.

18  
19 MR. PARKS: (In Native). I shall move to  
20 accept and adopt this WP26-01.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Henry.  
23 Henry made a motion to support the proposal.

24  
25 MS. MCDAVID: Henry, just to clarify.  
26 This is Brooke. Do you want to have the OSM modification  
27 or no?

28  
29 MR. PARKS: Thank you, Brooke. Yes,  
30 ma'am.

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Okay. So, Henry  
33 Parks made a motion to support this proposal with the  
34 OSM modification. Is there a second?

35  
36 MR. PETER: Madam Chair, second the  
37 motion. Phillip Peter.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana. Phillip  
40 Peter seconds. Discussion. No one online? Okay, I'm  
41 hearing and seeing.....

42  
43 MS. MCDAVID: We do need some  
44 justification. So, if you guys want to say a few words  
45 about why you support.

46  
47 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: This is Jackie.  
48 Well, I'll just add that, you know, to the users, our  
49 regulations are already so confusing when we follow  
50 state and federal regulations. And then there's all

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1 those, like, surface, subsurface, you know, and then  
2 who's land? And it just gets confusing, and even in the  
3 regulation booklets, it's a lot. So, I support this with  
4 the OSM modification because in the end, it does make  
5 it easier for the user to understand and having all the  
6 information in one place. Quyana. And if I may add, and  
7 also having the input and feedback that OSM is  
8 suggesting. Quyana.

9  
10 Mr. Andrew: Madam Chair.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: John.

13  
14 Mr. Andrew: I have a question over here.  
15 My name is John Andrew from Kwethluk. In their original  
16 description, why does the OSM -- in the original language  
17 said that -- it says, somewhere it says to rescind the  
18 delegation of authority letters? That's the part I never  
19 -- I have the question in my mind because there are  
20 local managers -- I know our people that goes out hunting  
21 and do subsistence out there. I rather have -- still  
22 have them monitoring their federal area. I mean, our  
23 land because it's their job to monitor them. I don't  
24 like the part that says rescind. Thank you, ma'am.

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, John.  
27 Tom, do you want to respond?

28  
29 MR. PLANK: Thank you, member  
30 (indiscernible). Thank you, Madam Chair. Tom Plank, OSM.  
31 So, the reason why it says rescind is currently they're  
32 here in delegation of authority letters, which sits  
33 basically in a file. And because of the way things work,  
34 in order to move it from here to here, we have to rescind  
35 this and then add it here. It's -- I can't think of a -  
36 - I'm not real good with an analogy on that. But that's  
37 -- essentially all it's doing is we're not getting rid  
38 of them. We're just moving them over here. But in order  
39 to do that, we have to rescind this, so it's not  
40 duplicated. And I'll let Brooke help add on to that.

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you, Tom.

43  
44 (Simultaneous speech)

45  
46 MR. ANDREW: Thanks for the  
47 clarification.

48  
49 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. So, John, this  
50 is Brooke. I just want to make sure it's clear we're not

1 taking any authority away from the local manager. Like,  
2 for example, Spencer, as the Refuge Manager, will still  
3 be able to make these decisions in consultation with the  
4 other agencies and the Chair. It's just changing where  
5 you find that if it's in hidden away, or if now it will  
6 be in the regulation book, so you can see it easier if  
7 that makes sense. Thank you.

8  
9 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Any more  
10 discussion?

11  
12 (No response)

13  
14 (In Native). Okay. If none, I thought  
15 that I was going -- next would be a question.

16  
17 MR. ANDREW: Question.

18  
19 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Question's been  
20 called by John. Do we do a vote? Do you want to go  
21 around? So, roll call, Brooke?

22  
23 MS. MCDAVID: Okay, we will do a roll  
24 call vote. This is Brooke. We'll start with John Andrew.

25  
26 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

27  
28 MS. MCDAVID: Oh, and let me repeat the  
29 motion just so everybody clear [sic]. So, the motion is  
30 to support WP26-01, statewide proposal with the OSM  
31 modification. And I heard John Andrew say yes. Is Norma  
32 online?

33  
34 (No response)

35  
36 Norma, do you support or oppose the  
37 proposal?

38  
39 MS. EVAN: I support.

40  
41 MS. MCDAVID: Henry Parks.

42  
43 MR. PARKS: Sorry. Yes, I support.

44  
45 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Henry. Phillip  
46 Peter.

47  
48 MR. PETER: Yes.

49  
50 MS. MCDAVID: Francis Prince.

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MR. PRINCE: Yes.

MS. MCDAVID: Walter Morgan.

MR. MORGAN: Yes.

MS. MCDAVID: Jacqueline Cleveland.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes.

MS. MCDAVID: Motion passes, 7-0.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Qu yana. And that wraps up WP26-01. So, I wanted to ask if we should go ahead and work on WP26-01e or go to lunch and come back and work on it. (In Native). Okay. There's been a suggestion we take our lunch now and pick up WP26-01e after lunch. Okay. Knowing that people will go out for lunch, let's make it 1:30 to start again. Yeah. Okay, so we'll be back at 1:30. Qu yana.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Good afternoon. We're calling the meeting back to order. This is Jackie -- Jacqueline Cleveland and it's 1:46. On the agenda, we're under number 11, Action Items. And under that, there's -- we're still under the state, the same statewide proposal, i. And then down there, in the bullet point WP26-01e, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region Specific Information and that will be covered by Tom Plank. Tom.

MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the Council. Again for record, Tom Plank, Wildlife Biologist, OSM. So, I want to take your attention to page 34 in your books and those of us that are following online, it's going to be the 11bi, which is the YKD RAC addendum. And the reason why I'm taking this here is because this is the delegation of authorities that will be put into regulation for you and how they would look. And so, this is your opportunity to take it in -- the bold print is what's being added to the regulation. So, you can -- this gives you a chance to look it over. And if this looks fine, then you just support it as is. But if you want to make changes, this is your opportunity to make changes, recommend changes to it. Is still part of that 26-01 that we just got done

1 with, this is just the effect it changes to it. And I'd  
2 be happy to answer any questions if y'all need it.

3

4 MR. MORGAN: Walter Morgan. I was  
5 wondering if the population in that caribou herd build  
6 up or went down or do you know? I don't know if you're  
7 the right person to ask, but do you know anything about  
8 the population? The reason I ask, everybody's asking me,  
9 when are we going to open up, you know, and I know the  
10 population went too far down, so they closed it. But you  
11 know, where it's gone from there? If you can answer it,  
12 I don't know if I'm asking the right person. Thank you.

13

14 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Member Morgan, for  
15 that question. Through the Chair, Tom Plank, OSM.  
16 Unfortunately, I do not have that answer now because  
17 again, this proposal is just about moving the  
18 regulations and the delegation of authority. So, I did  
19 not -- we didn't reach out for, get populations for each  
20 of these because this is statewide. For the -- looks  
21 like with the caribou, the Togiak National Wildlife  
22 Refuge manager coordinates with ADF&G on them. So, you  
23 might want to reach out to him for any questions on it.  
24 And Brooke, looks like she's going to add to it.

25

26 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, through the  
27 Chair. Walter, since we're not doing the agency updates  
28 at this meeting, we'll get a report at the March meeting,  
29 hopefully from Togiak and ADF&G about an update on  
30 Mulchatna Caribou, if that sounds all right. Sorry we  
31 don't have an answer right now for you, but I think it's  
32 probably still going to be closed for a little bit longer  
33 from what I've heard but maybe starting to do a little  
34 bit better. Thank you.

35

36 MR. MORGAN: Thanks.

37

38 MS. MCDAVID: So, what you guys -- this  
39 is Brooke -- looking at on page 34 and 35, this is just  
40 the format of what it's going to look like in the  
41 regulation book, the -- what you just voted on. So, for  
42 Unit 18 caribou, the Togiak Refuge Manager will have to  
43 call Jackie, the Chair of the RAC, talk to Fish and  
44 Game, talk to the Yukon Delta Refuge, in order to make  
45 those decisions. So, they'll be doing that consultation,  
46 and that this is just an example of what it will look  
47 like in the books. So, if you guys have any more  
48 questions or anything about that. There's only three  
49 delegation of authority for your area, one for caribou,  
50 that's with the Togiak Refuge and two for moose. So 1,

1 Spencer, the Refuge Manager here, and then moose on  
2 Togiak side. They do the consultations to make those in-  
3 season management decisions.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you. So,  
6 the actual content is just an example to show us a format  
7 of how they want to change it. And the only change is,  
8 what we see in the bold has been added to the regulation  
9 book, so that we don't have to look up in the back  
10 section, on the same unit or same proposal or same  
11 section, it's all together. Am I correct, Tom?

12

13 MR. PLANK: Yes, ma'am, you are.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: And can I ask  
16 what the difference is between this one and the one we  
17 just went through?

18

19 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, Tom Plank,  
20 OSM. So, the one we just went through is basically, you  
21 support it making these changes. And so, because this  
22 is a statewide proposal, we have it broken down to many  
23 different levels. In your region for example, you don't  
24 really need to do anything because there's no real  
25 changes to yours, this is just showing you what it looks  
26 like. Now we have other areas where it actually made  
27 significant changes so we had to put it in here so they  
28 could vote on it separately. So, this is just one of  
29 those -- this gives you a chance to take a look at it  
30 and see how it is. And if you want to make changes, this  
31 is where we'd make that change. But if you don't see  
32 anything glaring at you, then it's just part of what we  
33 just voted on.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you. This  
36 is our chance to make recommendations or edits, if any.  
37 And I'm -- to my understanding, we are not voting on  
38 this. We're just kind of reviewing and giving  
39 recommendations -- recommendations or edits. Qu yana.

40

41 (No comment)

42

43 (In Native) Okay. Everyone seems to be  
44 in agreement with the format. So, we could move on,  
45 thanks. Next up is the regional proposals, wildlife  
46 proposals. And the first one up after regional proposals  
47 is W2 -- WP26-41/42, Unit 18 caribou/moose, eliminate  
48 take from boat moving under power. And that's on page  
49 41.

50

1 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madam Chair,  
2 members of the Council. For the record, Tom Plank, OSM.  
3 And as the Chair pointed out, I'll be presenting a  
4 summary of wildlife proposals WP26-41 and WP26-42 and  
5 those are on page 41 of your books. So, Wildlife Proposal  
6 WP26-41 was submitted by the Yukon Delta National  
7 Wildlife Refuge requests eliminating the unit-specific  
8 provisions allowing the take of caribou from a boat  
9 moving under power in Unit 18. And Wildlife Proposal  
10 WP26-42, also submitted by the Refuge, requested same  
11 but for moose.

12  
13 So, the proponent states that these  
14 regulations are not applicable due to many animals being  
15 harvested on navigable waterways, which fall under state  
16 jurisdiction. While not explicit in their submitted  
17 proposal, the proponent has also expressed concerns  
18 about the enforcement issues that have arisen due to the  
19 conflicting federal and state regulations regarding this  
20 issue. In Unit 18, allowing harvest of caribou from a  
21 boat moving under power was adopted in 2000 and  
22 harvesting a moose from a boat moving under power in  
23 portions of Unit 18 was added in 2010. And then in 2012,  
24 the portion of Unit 18 in which you can take a moose  
25 from a moving boat under power expanded to also include  
26 a Unit 18 remainder hunt area.

27  
28 If these proposals are adopted, the take  
29 of caribou and moose from a boat moving under power  
30 would be prohibited in Unit 18, reducing subsistence  
31 opportunity. No significant effects on wildlife  
32 populations are anticipated. Adopting these proposals  
33 would decrease regulatory complexity for federally  
34 qualified subsistence users hunting moose or caribou  
35 from a motor driven boat in navigable waterways within  
36 Unit 18. However, state and federal regulations  
37 concerning the take of wildlife from a boat will remain  
38 misaligned statewide to some extent. State regulations  
39 require a boat's motor to be completely shut off, while  
40 federal regulations only require progress from the  
41 boat's motor to have ceased, allowing motors to remain  
42 running.

43  
44 The OSM's preliminary conclusion is to  
45 support both proposals, WP26-41 and 26-42. While  
46 adopting these proposals decrease subsistence  
47 opportunities, these existing provisions increase the  
48 risk of citations for federally qualified subsistence  
49 users and have a high risk of confusing federally  
50 qualified subsistence users who may not understand that

1 compliance with the federal regulations may nonetheless  
2 subject them to state law enforcement actions. Thank  
3 you, Madam Chair, members of Council. I'd be happy to  
4 help any questions.

5  
6 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you, Tom.  
7 So, I'm looking at the map, and so, is it part of Unit  
8 18 that they're asking for this for? And if so, is it  
9 the lined part or the not lined part? Thanks.

10  
11 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Tom  
12 Plank, OSM. So, the map that you see there, the  
13 (indiscernible) section is for the area within Unit 18  
14 where you can -- this regulation involves moose. For  
15 caribou then, it's the entire unit. So, that's why this  
16 map's up there to show you that moose is a little  
17 different from caribou, that it's not the entire unit.  
18 It's only, currently it's only allowed in those areas.  
19 And basically 18 remainder.

20  
21 MR. MORGAN: Well, Walter Morgan, I was  
22 wondering if it applies to everybody or just the local  
23 people. I mean, anybody with a tag or, you know, I was  
24 wondering, I didn't see, they didn't say who it applies  
25 to. All people? Thank you.

26  
27 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Member Morgan.  
28 Through the Chair, Tom Plank, OSM. So, with federal  
29 regulations, and this will be the same with all these  
30 proposals that we'll deal with, we're only talking about  
31 folks that are hunting under federal regulations. So,  
32 it wouldn't be anything to do with the state, these are  
33 only for federal.

34  
35 MS. MCDAVID: This is Brooke. So, I think  
36 there's still questions about -- so, right now you're  
37 not allowed under state regulations to take with a moving  
38 -- while the boat is moving. Is that correct? But on the  
39 fed side you can and they're trying to make -- align  
40 that.

41  
42 MR. PLANK: Thank you for the  
43 clarification. Through the Chair, Tom Plank, OSM. So,  
44 currently, state regulations require that a boat's motor  
45 to be completely shut off. And that's -- and it's -  
46 still -- there's still be some misalignments there  
47 because federal regulation only requires that the boat's  
48 progress has ceased and the motor can still run so,  
49 there's still some misalignments there. But -- does that  
50 answer that question?

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CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Henry.

MR. PARKS: Madam Chair, quyana, thank you. I would support this proposal here because, you know, in some cases, who knows, some accidents do occur sometimes. When you're hunting you can accidentally shoot, if you're a driver and you -- if you have a front man over there as your shooter, yeah, it can happen, accidents do happen. So, I would support this proposal here. Thank you.

MR. MORGAN: Madam Chair, I'm Walter Morgan. I wouldn't support it because.....

MS. MCDAVID: Hey, guys, sorry. This is Brooke. We're getting out of order.

MR. MORGAN: Can I say something about this proposal, though? It don't [sic] make sense to turn off the motor, because in my -- in Unit 18, some places have current and you got to have the motor on. What's the whole purpose of a motor running? I mean, they come in with airplanes and fly and look at their moose and shoot it within 24 hours. And they're putting these proposals on these local people that have a hard time getting gas and supplies and just to go out there. And now they got these regulations on how to kill. You know, it's hard, it's enough hardship for a person to go out there and get a moose and have all these motor-stopped, motor-running. I mean, why don't they make it with airplanes, too? You can't shoot for 48 hours or something. You know, I don't think it's fair on the local people, thank you. That's just my opinion on these proposals, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana. Tom.

MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Tom Plank, OSM. So, thank you for that question and actually, I just want to clarify on this one. This one, what they're asking is -- it's Unit 18-specific regulations that state that you can shoot a moose or caribou while the boat's under power. And really, what this is trying to stop, trying to help with is, in some areas, you know, when you're on your boat, you don't know exactly -- you know, there's not a marker that says, hey, this is federal regulations, this is state regulations. And so currently, you know, you'll go up a waterway and you'll pass several of those different changes as you

1 go up that waterway. And so currently, the way it is,  
2 you could be on area that is under state regulations and  
3 you think you're on federal and so, you shoot a moose  
4 or a caribou under power, but then you're under state  
5 regulations and you may get a citation for it. And that's  
6 a concern that, you know, we don't want you all to get  
7 cited. So, this is kind of a -- this proposal is  
8 basically just to take where you can't do that anymore,  
9 just so there's not that option of -- we're trying to  
10 reduce the chances of you getting citations, basically  
11 what this is. So, it's not, you know -- I hope that  
12 helps clarify a little bit what the purpose of this  
13 proposal is. And it's strictly just been geared at trying  
14 to find a way to reduce chances of y'all getting  
15 citations from the state when you're -- you think you're  
16 doing federal regulations, but you're not. And we don't  
17 want to see y'all get cited so, that's -- and that's why  
18 the Refuge brought it up because there's been some  
19 concerns. And so, that's why you're seeing it now.

20  
21 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Okay, thank you  
22 Tom. It's -- I think it's more clear now. It would be  
23 confusing to be going in and out of different regulations  
24 without knowing it, especially when there's no markers  
25 when you're out there. I mean, I've always wanted more  
26 alignment within state and federal regulations. I kind  
27 of -- but I'm wondering, was there -- before the Refuge  
28 decided to put this proposal out, I'm wondering, did the  
29 state ever consider changing their part to match the  
30 federal part? I guess there's no state people here,  
31 though. In the end, yeah, I am all about aligning the  
32 regulations for less confusion for the user in the end.  
33 So, we're going to go through the steps and -- if the  
34 presentation is finished? Yeah? Okay. We'll move on to  
35 public comments received during the open comment period.

36  
37 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madam Chair, Tom  
38 Plank, OSM. There were no comments received during the  
39 open period.

40  
41 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Okay, thanks.  
42 And then what about tribal and ANCSA corporation  
43 consultation reports?

44  
45 MS. MCDAVID: This is Brooke, there were  
46 no comments, to my knowledge.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Okay, thanks,  
49 Brooke. And then next, agency and tribal comments,  
50 starting with ADF&G.

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(No comment)

Anyone online with ADF&G?

(No comment)

Hearing none. Federal agencies.

(No comment)

Tribes and ANCSA Corporations.

(No comment)

And we'll move on to advisory group comments. Were there are other comments from other RACs?

MR. PLANK: Through Chair, Tom Plank, OSM. The Western Interior did take up this proposal and they supported it. There were some members that did not support it, but overall, the RAC did support it.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: And then, any Fish and Game Advisory Committees online are present who can speak for that?

(No response)

And if not, what about Subsistence Resource Commissions?

(No response)

Hearing none. Other written public comments. Brooke.

MS. MCDAVID: There are none received.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you. And then public testimony. Pat.

MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Pat Sampson. I would implore to not accept this proposal for two reasons. As a moose hunter, boat driver, etcetera, when I am driving a boat, and I have more than two people on board, I designate a shooter from that boat. So, if I'm taking young people, then I designate one person to sit up front as a shooter. Or I might put two people up there, but the rest of the people in the boat are not

1 allowed to touch the gun while we're under power. And  
2 so, that eliminates safety concerns about the second or  
3 third row people shooting accidentally the people in  
4 front of them. But when we stopped the boat, motor, then  
5 everybody picks up their gun, and the safety measure  
6 goes up and so, I keep telling them, you know, about the  
7 safety issues. So, for that matter, I would oppose this  
8 because I designate 1 or 2 people to shoot from a moving  
9 vehicle.

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The second one that -- the second concern or the second reason I would not support this is, from my own experience. Me and this one guy, we were out hunting and we were going through (indiscernible) Slough. And we came around the bend and there was a moose on the right side so, I stopped the motor and he pointed at the moose and he wouldn't shoot and I saw him going, shaking. And turns out he didn't unlock his gun. So, while the moose was standing there and he was not shooting so, I picked up my gun and I aimed at the moose and I was squeezing my trigger and waiting for the recoil to happen. And during my concentration of that moose though, the boat had stopped, but the current and the wind started drifting the front of the boat toward the moose. And now I was waiting for the recoil in the boat. The wind moved the boat, and his head was in view, and that gave me a big shock. That shot through my -- a shock through my system that I thought was a recoil of the gun. I still could, I think about that, I still know how that feeling of shock, because the shock, because I thought I shot him. And when I opened my eyes, he was still standing in front of me. And, quickly that turned into anger, and I went over and pushed him into the boat and lifted up my gun to shoot at the moose, but the moose was gone. But without that motor, if I had kept that motor pointed upriver under power, we would have still been broadside at that moose, and I would have got him without scaring the living heck out of me or -- there was a, like, probably a millisecond chance from a fatal accident that we would have had suffered on that hunt.

And there are some rivers that I've hunted. One of my favorite hunting rivers was the (In Native) River. And if anybody ever went up the (In Native) River, it's like water rapids. And there's no way that I'm going to stop my boat and drift to the side of the river because if you drift to the side of the river, the water is going to fill up your boat and overturn it. And there's no way that I'm stopping a

1 motor in that (In Native) River to -- but, and then  
2 there are other headwaters, Tuluksak, Kweethluk, (In  
3 Native), the areas that I've hunted that I'd rather  
4 suffer me a citation than suffer an accident like that.  
5 So, for those two reasons, safety reasons, I would  
6 implore the Committee to reject this proposal because I  
7 think it does save lives and it's -- it -- anyway, I'm  
8 still feeling that shock and scared that I felt when I  
9 thought I shot that guy in the back of the head, so.  
10 Thank you, Madam Chair.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Qu yana, Pat. And  
13 you know, you do bring up a good point and I know I've  
14 said I'm all about alignment, which I am overall, but I  
15 also come from a river that can be swift and high current  
16 and shallow. So, there's many reasons when we slow down  
17 or have to stop for a little bit that we still either  
18 try to stay on step to avoid hitting bottom or go towards  
19 the deep part. And everything happens so fast when you're  
20 in a narrow, swift river. I guess, I can't imagine,  
21 especially since my electric start has issues, I can't  
22 even imagine doing that right now but it's a good point,  
23 I'm glad you pointed that out, Pat. And -- but we do  
24 have a green sheet here from John Andrew from Kwethluk,  
25 Alaska. And he has a comment. (In Native).

26  
27 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, my name is John  
28 Andrew, representing the Organized Village of Kwethluk  
29 and myself. From my experience, I've been up a lot of  
30 the nearby rivers, I've been up the Eek River so many  
31 times, but I'm more familiar with my river, Kwethluk. I  
32 can go up all the way up to beyond the -- to the  
33 headwaters if the waters high. On Zone 1 side, it's  
34 doable, you can stop but Zone 2 sides were the current's  
35 stronger, up in the foothills and higher, it's dangerous  
36 to shut your motor off because there are sweepers on the  
37 rivers, too, and some of those (indiscernible) are  
38 sharp, and especially on the Kwethluk River. Over the  
39 years, I've heard of stories of people losing their  
40 lives, their boats, their catches when the boats got  
41 capsized. I, myself, almost got swamped twice with a  
42 boatload of moose and bear, but we always managed to get  
43 out somehow. If we get hit by a sweeper, you can lose  
44 the boat, if you're facing, if you're going downriver,  
45 hit a sweeper, if you don't go over it, it'll push you  
46 backwards, the whole boat will sink in seconds. You lose  
47 everything, possibly the lives of your hunting partners  
48 (indiscernible). Happened before on my river so many  
49 times, and about 3 or 4 times in my lifetime too, where  
50 people had got swamped, getting swept by the sweepers

1 and all. Their boat got punctured from the bottom by  
2 rocks or trees, punching their boat, and they get swamped  
3 and they lose all their gear and stuff.

4  
5 And the same thing with the even up in  
6 our -- I've been up (In Native), Kisaralik. Kisaralik  
7 is very swift, the headwaters. And the same thing with  
8 -- I head about Tuluksak, it's water is slow, but it's  
9 stronger near the foot, those little foothills. I got  
10 swamped there, but on a little sandbar. Gravel actually,  
11 was a gravel bar. After I had to unload the moose and  
12 moose -- moose and the bear. I was overloaded with a  
13 little 18 (indiscernible) land boat. I had a hunting  
14 partner. We had to offload it and pull up our motor and  
15 take it apart to dry it out before it get going again.  
16 Reloaded it again and drift it down. Then, same thing  
17 almost happened to me up in Aniak River, too. I was  
18 kinda [sic] going -- I went up that river, it was really  
19 high. My driver lost some (In Native), first name. I  
20 know it (In Native). I think (indiscernible). He was my  
21 driver and we have -- we got swamped there with no load.  
22 We got hit by -- coming out of the creek and a little  
23 motor lost power, we got swept into the sweeper and we  
24 got swamped, but we managed to get to the beach. Just  
25 wandering -- that's one of the -- those are the few  
26 reasons why I don't like this proposal. It's dangerous  
27 to start. It might work on along the Kuskokwim where  
28 there's hardly any current. For that, I'm opposed to,  
29 in my opinion, and my Council up there said they did not  
30 like this proposal. Quyana, Madam Chair.

31  
32 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, John.  
33 Tom.

34  
35 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Tom  
36 Plank, OSM. I just wanted to kind of clarify one thing  
37 that -- I'm glad I was happy to hear what y'all said,  
38 because we had a lot of these conversations as well, on  
39 this. The problem that we run into with this proposal  
40 is navigable water is under state regulations. And  
41 essentially, even if you're following this federal  
42 regulation and you're on navigable waters, it's illegal.  
43 So, this action, even though it's in the federal  
44 regulations, is illegal, in navigable waters. And so,  
45 that was the main reason for this, is because we don't  
46 want to say, hey, you should do something that's illegal  
47 in our regulations because that's -- we can't, we don't  
48 want to do that. That'll get you all cited. So, that's  
49 -- I know it's really confusing and I'm hoping I'm  
50 explaining a little better than that but, as of right

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1 now, the way that regulation stands, if you do that on  
2 navigable waters, you'll get cited by the state because  
3 it's illegal.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: So, Tom, can you  
6 specify to -- when you say that?

7

8 MR. PLANK: So, the federal regulation  
9 allows you to shoot a moose or a caribou while under  
10 power. That's actually illegal on navigable waterways.  
11 And so, that's where this is a weird problem. So like,  
12 if you're in an area that's not navigable, then it's not  
13 a problem. But if you're, you know, in an area where  
14 you're taking swells and stuff like that, I mean, I  
15 don't know if that was navigable waterways or not. I  
16 don't know the waters as well as y'all do. But, as of  
17 right now, the way it's written, it is legal under  
18 federal regulations and, but if you're on state or  
19 navigable waters, they can cite you for it. And that's  
20 what we're trying to stop from happening. So, I mean,  
21 yeah, the safety concerns and all that, those are  
22 conversations we had as well, but bottom line, that's  
23 what this proposal is about, is whether or not we're  
24 authorizing something that's illegal under navigable  
25 water state regulations.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you, Tom  
28 and Pat.

29

30 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Pat  
31 Sampson. Navigable -- let me throw a wrench here.  
32 Navigable state waters. So, in our area, when the U.S.  
33 Fish and Wildlife announces that their salmon openings  
34 and the state says there's no openings. So, U.S. Fish  
35 and Wildlife is not legal, and we can go out fishing and  
36 we can be cited by the state, is that what you're saying?  
37 Akin to, where do we draw the line about, oh, their  
38 talking about salmon, they're talking about moose  
39 hunting here. I mean, the navigable waters, who stayed,  
40 who sued, who's saying that they have -- well, let me  
41 backtrack that. Every time Fish and Wildlife announces  
42 that we can go commercial fishing in this Kuskokwim River  
43 right here, is that illegal?

44

45 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, Tom Plank,  
46 OSM. I would actually ask the Refuge to, you know, maybe  
47 help with that part, because that's a fishing regulation  
48 thing. And honestly, I don't have the expertise in how  
49 that works. What this is just pertaining to is operation  
50 of your motor vehicle and, I mean, the boat and shooting

1 from it and so that's -- yeah, I honestly can't answer  
2 that question, I would have to ask somebody that has a  
3 lot more knowledge on that.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you, Tom.  
6 Justin, do you have something to add?

7

8 MR. KOLLER: Yeah, thank you, Madam  
9 Chair. Justin Koller, Office of Subsistence Management.  
10 I guess the simple way to say this is fishing is a  
11 completely different thing as far as jurisdiction is  
12 concerned. We're strictly talking about hunting and most  
13 well all, if it's a navigable waterway, federal  
14 regulations do not apply, state -- only state  
15 regulations apply. And so, as Tom said, we're trying to  
16 keep people out of trouble but, again the fishing aspect  
17 of this is like a completely different story as far as  
18 jurisdictions concerned.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Qu yana. Pat,  
21 you wanna [sic]...?

22

23 MR. SAMPSON: I'm sorry, Mister -- Madam  
24 Chair. Pat Sampson. If it's the same water, I fail to  
25 understand how it's a completely different beast, with  
26 completely different regulations, I mean, it's the same  
27 water. Thank you, Mr. Chair, I'll hold my peace after  
28 that.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Qu yana, Pat. So,  
31 I'm just going to throw out, like, as an example, I  
32 think I'll use our river, Kanektok River. Kanektok is  
33 navigable, but it's also within Togiak National Wildlife  
34 Refuge lands. So, in that case, if we're on a net --  
35 that navigable river but in the Refuge, we would have  
36 to stop the motor to shoot, if we wanted to shoot from  
37 the boat, yes? Because you said, even if we're in federal  
38 lands, but in navigable water, to leave your motor  
39 running would still be illegal. And that's -- I just  
40 wanted to throw an example out there, to see if I'm  
41 understanding it right using our river.

42

43 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Tom  
44 Plank, OSM. That's the kicker in it. I can't say whether  
45 that particular stretch of water would fall into that  
46 or not. It'd be great if we had an LE person here who  
47 could explain it better, or a state trooper who can  
48 explain it better. And so, that's part of the reason why  
49 this proposal is in front of us, because there are so  
50 many different variables. I mean, if you did get -- if

1 it turned out you couldn't do it in that area and you  
2 got cited and the federal regulation said you could, we  
3 you know, you can see where that causes an issue. And  
4 that's what this is really about, is if we take it off,  
5 then it's not an issue across the board. But if it stays  
6 in where it's at, there's so many different things that  
7 can happen. And without having a LE person or a state  
8 trooper, that can explain exactly the differences,  
9 because they're the ones that are out there that would  
10 make those decisions, I can't really say whether that's  
11 yes or no, because honestly, I don't know.

12  
13 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you for  
14 your explanation anyway. So, I guess based on what I've  
15 learned so far, I still think that it would be much  
16 simpler if the state were to change their regs to match  
17 the federal regs. And the regulation cycle is coming up  
18 and -- would it be an option maybe for us to put in a  
19 proposal to -- for them to change their regulation to  
20 match the federal? Is another option if we were in  
21 opposition as a whole. Thanks. Henry.

22  
23 MR. PARKS: Madam Chair. Tom, can I? I'm  
24 getting confused here. Anyways, can you -- we're talking  
25 about the federal issue here on our agenda. Can you  
26 point out exactly where the federal lands are? Thank  
27 you.

28  
29 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, Tom Plank,  
30 OSM. That part's easy. The federal managed lands like,  
31 on the map, are all color coded. Where this is an issue  
32 is the waterways. And so, with the waterways, changes  
33 from, you know, from waterway to waterway, whether  
34 that's under federal jurisdiction or I mean, I honestly,  
35 I couldn't tell you by looking at a map or pointing to  
36 it. And then when you're on the ground, you also can't  
37 tell where that boundary line is and where it stops  
38 either. So yeah, that's the problem.

39  
40 (Pasue)

41  
42 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Any other  
43 discussion? You could turn on your mic if you want to,  
44 Walter.

45  
46 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, what do we do from  
47 now? We support it or? I mean, we don't have that option  
48 now, right? We're just discusting [sic] it and we adopt  
49 it, and later on we can discuss and change or what's our  
50 option now? I'm, that's all I'm asking. Thanks.

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CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Okay, sorry. We're under public testimony, which is right before the Council motion so, we haven't taken it up for it, but we're -- I guess we're under public testimony still. So, but it's okay, it's fine to move on if anybody wants to make a motion to either support, take no action, defer or not support, are the options.

MR. PARKS: Okay. Madam Chair, this is Henry. I have a question. Can we table this proposal? Make a motion, through a motion and table it for more?

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Brooke.

MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Henry. Could you let me know, when you say you want to table it, do you mean until later in the meeting? Or do you mean because you want to get some more information before you take a vote on it?

MR. PARKS: Yeah, thank you, Brooke. The reason why I want a table is to get more information from our other RACs, too. So that way, on our next upcoming RAC meeting, we can bring it up again to our agenda and we can make decision on our upcoming next meeting. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Henry. So, yeah, his motion (In Native), recommendation for now?

MR. PARKS: Yeah, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: (In Native). Brooke, clarify the motion, please.

MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Henry. I just want to help you out with the motion. If this -- if your intent, you want to take this up at the March meeting, the motion would be to defer the proposal to the next meeting. Thank you.

MR. PARKS: Quyana, Brooke. Madam Chair, so I'll make a motion to defer this proposal WP26-41 for March meeting.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana. So, Henry Parks moved to defer this proposal to the March meeting. Is there a second?

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MR. PRINCE: I second.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Seconded by Francis.

MS. MCDAVID: So, we really try to follow Robert's Rules of Orders, to be clear. You could modify -- you could ask the second to take away their second and you could clarify that you meant -41/-42 and then.....

MR. PARKS: Madam Chair. So, on my motion, I will include proposal WP26-42 to defer it to our March meeting.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Okay, a motion's been added. Oh, well, there was some additions to Henry's motion to also add a number. So, it's WP26-41 and -42. He made a motion to defer this to the March meeting. And so, can we get another second?

MR. PRINCE: Madam Chair, this is Francis, and I second it.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you, Francis. Discussion. So, the reason why we're deferring this is to gather more information before deciding on it at our March meeting. Is there any other discussion?

MR. PETER: Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yeah, Phillip.

MR. PETER: We always get confused. Both state and federal government in the state government always confuse citations. Wrong place at the wrong time, shooting the moose. Because all of our residents in my community, will always asked a question for me, but I don't know what the federal and state land and waterways. And including the corporations' lands where there is three entities who owns the land. That's the confusing. One time, when we had the motion, one Elder, a long time ago mentioned this one. When he mentioned this one, quite the statement, the federal government and the corporation put the big signs. This is the property of state. This is the property of federal. And this is the property of a corporation. They want to see that there's there -- but nobody follow up.



1 MR. PETER: Yeah, yeah, we're first  
2 anyway. Yeah, we're first. But those hunters in the  
3 homes, they cut -- those homesteaders. And when I talk  
4 with the white guy in Fairbanks, he got pissed. Why? Why  
5 me? Not the film, me, myself, he pointed. Why are you  
6 not in the film? Your first Alaskan Eskimos. Not those  
7 guys. You should have been in the film. Where, I laugh  
8 at him. No, we don't -- us Eskimos don't do like that.  
9 And first Alaskans, they hunt for survival. And I was --  
10 -- sometimes I was wondering, probably they don't have  
11 any regulation. They hunt for only survival. Teaching  
12 us. My great grandson always watched those -- watched  
13 that movie, the film. Every Tuesday he turned on the TV  
14 and watch it. And I watched and I explained it to him,  
15 when I tell you, go hunt, you hunt. I give you an order  
16 to hunt for our food. Not -- this one is different. It's  
17 not our custom and tradition. It's not our custom and  
18 tradition. When I teach you, you learn, watch your  
19 grandfather. He'll teach you the truth. I could teach  
20 you regulations, state and the federal government.  
21 Regulations. So, let's -- in March, we need to action,  
22 this one, and proceed to put signs. Just signs. The land  
23 and the water, navigable water. So, that's my comment.  
24 Thank you, Madam Chairman, thank you very much for paying  
25 attention. All of us, we need communication.  
26 Communication. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

27  
28 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Phillip.  
29 Yeah, so we'll pick this back up in March, if we get  
30 through this motion. So, can I entertain question? Or  
31 are we -- or do you still need to discuss?

32  
33 (No comment)

34  
35 If we're done discussing, (In Native).

36  
37 MR. PARKS: Madam Chair, question.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Henry.  
40 Question has been called so, all in favor of this motion,  
41 which is to defer to our future March meeting, say aye.

42  
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44  
45 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: All opposed,  
46 same sign.

47  
48 (No response)

49  
50

1 Motion carried. Quyana. Next we're going  
2 to move on to the regional proposals. And if you go to  
3 page 41 in the book. -- oh sorry, sorry, I'm one behind.  
4 So, if you go to page 51, in the book it's on Unit 18  
5 moose, established fall antlerless hunt and delegate  
6 authority, extend winter season in Kuskokwim hunt area.  
7 So, page 51. And who is going to present the analysis?  
8 Tom? Thank you. Tom, you have the floor.

9  
10 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madam Chair,  
11 members of the Council. Again, for record Tom Plank,  
12 OSM. And I am presenting the Summary of Analysis for  
13 Wildlife Proposals WP26-43 and WP26-44. And as the Chair  
14 mentioned, that's on page 51 of your books. So, Wildlife  
15 Proposal WP26-43 was submitted by the Yukon Delta  
16 National Wildlife Refuge and request establishing a may-  
17 be-announced antlerless moose hunt from September 1st  
18 to October 15th, with a harvest limit of up to one  
19 antlerless moose by a federal registration permit in the  
20 Kuskokwim Zone 2 moose hunt area in Unit 18. And  
21 delegated authority to determine the permit allocation  
22 system, set season dates and permit conditions to manage  
23 the hunt in response to current population metrics. And  
24 then Wildlife Proposal WP26-44, which was also submitted  
25 by the Refuge, request to extend the closing date of the  
26 Kuskokwim Zone 2 winter moose hunt in Unit 18 to March  
27 31st.

28  
29 Proponent states that the Lower  
30 Kuskokwim River moose population within Zone 2 has  
31 continued to increase in numbers, to a point that  
32 limiting cow harvest may be warranted in anticipation  
33 of reaching carrying capacity. Proponents states that  
34 extending the season will allow hunters the flexibility  
35 to adjust for winters that have little or no snow until  
36 late winter, and for the last three winters, lack of  
37 snow prevented many hunters from being able to travel,  
38 which resulted in few moose being harvested during the  
39 winter hunt. Proponent confirms that the number of  
40 permits has been, and likely will continue to be limited  
41 in order to stay within a sustainable harvest levels.  
42 Therefore, the proponent does not believe an extension  
43 of the season would result in overharvest.

44  
45 Following the five-year moratorium,  
46 regulations have slowly become more liberalized in the  
47 Zone 2 Kuskokwim moose hunt. The closure has been in  
48 place since 2014 and currently the Yukon Delta National  
49 Wildlife Refuge Manager has delegation of authority from  
50 the Board to administer the fall hunt and to announce

1 the winter season for the Zone 2 Kuskokwim. During the  
2 1990s, moose densities in the Kuskokwim River drainage  
3 were low and hunting pressure limited growth of  
4 population. From 2004-2008, moratorium was effective in  
5 establishing a harvestable population, and since then  
6 the moose population has continued to grow. The winter  
7 2024 moose population within Zone 2 was estimated to be  
8 about 1700 moose, which exceeds the state population  
9 objectives. Bull-cow ratios are high. Calf-cow ratios  
10 are still indicating a growing moose population, and  
11 Zone 2 consists of tributaries to the Kuskokwim River  
12 that requires specialized boats to access, as well as  
13 longer travel times and more fuel. The unmet quota in  
14 Zone 2 is likely a function of difficulties in access,  
15 rather than a lack of need for moose meat. A winter  
16 season has been announced for the last three seasons.

17  
18 If proposal WP26-43 is adopted, the  
19 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Manager would be  
20 delegated authority to open a may-be-announced  
21 antlerless moose hunt between September 1st and October  
22 15th in the Kuskokwim hunt area of Unit 18. This would  
23 provide additional harvest opportunities for federally  
24 qualified subsistence users and could increase total  
25 moose harvests in the area. No negative impacts to the  
26 moose populations are expected, as this hunt would be  
27 closely managed through harvest quotas, season dates and  
28 permit numbers. Rather limited antlerless moose harvest  
29 may be -- may benefit subsistence users and the Zone 2  
30 moose population in the long run, by maintaining the  
31 population within a sustainable level and helping to  
32 prevent over browsing of habitat. Adoption of this  
33 proposal would also increase alignment between state and  
34 federal regulations by establishing fall antlerless  
35 hunts from September 1st to October 15th. However, the  
36 state hunt is by state drawing permit in target Zone 1,  
37 while the federal hunt would be either federal  
38 registration or federal drawing permit in target Zone  
39 2.

40  
41 If WP26-44 is adopted, the closing date  
42 of the may-be-announced winter hunt would be extended  
43 to March 31st. This extension increases subsistence  
44 opportunity and would further provide for flexibility,  
45 hunt -- flexible hunt management and ability to adapt  
46 to weather conditions, change in moose population  
47 trends, hunter behaviors, and their ability to identify  
48 bulls without antlers, and then no negative impacts to  
49 the moose populations are expected, as this hunt would  
50 be closely managed through harvest quotas and permit

1 numbers. The OSM's preliminary conclusion is to support  
2 proposals WP26-43 and WP26-44, with modifications to  
3 clarify the regulatory language. These proposals  
4 increase subsistence opportunity and there are no  
5 conservation concerns, as is Zone 2 moose population is  
6 closely managed through harvest quotas and permit  
7 numbers. Extending the season for the winter may-be-  
8 announced season, establishing an antlerless fall hunt  
9 and delegation -- delegating authority for its in-season  
10 management allows for flexible, adaptable hunt  
11 management that optimizes subsistence harvest  
12 opportunities and conservation. These proposals allow  
13 for additional harvest opportunities by federally  
14 qualified subsistence users in conjunction with the new  
15 state antlerless fall hunt, and increases flexibility  
16 and opportunity for to may-be-announced winter season  
17 in Zone 2. Thank you, Madam Chair, members of Council.  
18 Be happy to answer any questions.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you, Tom.  
21 Does anyone have any questions for Tom?

22  
23 (No response)

24  
25 Then I'll ask mine. This is Jackie. I  
26 think I'm getting confused with this, or I know you just  
27 explained it to me, but are we voting on two at once?  
28 Or is this or like saying we support one or the other?  
29 Sorry. Tom.

30  
31 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, Tom Plank,  
32 OSM. It's a great question. So, essentially it's going  
33 to be up to y'all. Y'all can vote yes for both. You can  
34 vote no for both. You can vote yes for one. No for the  
35 other. So, ultimately, in the end, it depends on what  
36 you as a Council decides to do. But this is not an either  
37 or. This is both, none, one, two. So, you got options.

38  
39 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you. Good  
40 answer.

41  
42 MR. MORGAN: I got a question, this is  
43 Walter Morgan, I -- through the Chair. If we vote for  
44 both of them and only one is accepted, then we use the  
45 one that passed? It's -- thank you.

46  
47 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, Tom Plank,  
48 OSM. Another good question. So, ultimately, right now,  
49 you're making a RAC recommendation, which the Board will  
50 take into consideration when they make their final

1 decision on it. And it's -- the reason these two are  
2 together is simply because I didn't want to write two  
3 identical proposals that had all the same information  
4 except for the top and the bottom, and so I just combined  
5 them together so I could write less because I got  
6 horrible handwriting. So, does that help answer that a  
7 little bit?

8  
9 MR. MORGAN: Because one extends all the  
10 way to March 31st, and the other one ends when it's a  
11 little shorter, right? So, yeah, I'd like the longer  
12 one.

13  
14 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, Tom Plank,  
15 OSM. So, WP26-43, that one is just about that winter  
16 hunt moose. And WP26-42 is about adding an antlerless  
17 moose to your fall hunt. So -- -44, I'm sorry, yeah, -  
18 44. So, that's, it's not that one makes it longer than  
19 the other, they're just two different hunts on the same  
20 population.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: If it is easier  
23 to vote on it one at a time, we can, but we can also  
24 vote for them together when it comes to it. Any other  
25 questions?

26  
27 (No response)

28  
29 If not, can we go to public comments received during the  
30 open comment period? There were none. Tribal and ANCSA  
31 Corporation consultation reports?

32  
33 (No comment)

34  
35 None. Were there any agency and tribal  
36 comments for ADF&G?

37  
38 (No comment)

39  
40 None. And then what about from federal  
41 agencies?

42  
43 (No comment)

44  
45 None. Tribes and ANCSA corporations.

46  
47 (No comment)

48  
49 Not that we see or hear. And moving on  
50 to advisory group comments. Other RACs. Tom.

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MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madam Chair, Tom Plank, OSM. No other RACs have taken these up.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Okay, thank you. Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

(No comment)

Subsistence Resource Commissions.

(No comment)

Hearing none will go to other written public comments. Are there any, Brooke?

MS. MCDAVID: No.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Which there are none. And then we'll go to public testimony. Is there anyone online who would like to testify on this proposal?

(No comment)

Hearing none. We'll go to -- we could move on to our Council motion to either support, support with modification, take no action, take no action and defer to home region or defer to a future meeting or not support. So, a lot of options. So, I'll entertain a motion if anyone wants to make one.

MR. PETER: Madam Chair, I got question. I'm confused.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yeah.

MR. PETER: Look like I understand, all Unit 18 should be open, just like Yukon River. The one in this booklet, I see a Zone 1 and Zone 2. Is it Zone 1 controlled by the State Department of Fish and Game? The other, Zone 2 controlled by the federal government. Fed Department of Fish and Wildlife. And I wonder why they divided that system into two units. We're in all Unit 18. Not divided into units. Like when, long, long time ago, we hunt, those old people hunt all unit, all Unit 18, not this kind of regulation. Once they open it to moose hunting, they go to whatever they want to go. Right now, we're in a situation that moose populations really increase in all Unit 18. And all we need is to regulate -- put regulations. How many permits we're

1 going to issue to the federal and also the state? Right  
2 now, how many issues, how many? Who controls the winter  
3 hunt, right -- the one, that is, we're using right now?  
4 Is it the federal government? Yeah. Federal department  
5 of fish and -- department of wildlife. And I don't see  
6 any hunters going up to Zone 2 from my village. And I  
7 don't see any hunters in Unit 18. Long time ago, when  
8 the moose were low in the Kuskokwim, I always got permit  
9 from the state of Alaska to go to hunt in the Yukon. And  
10 it's good regulation, the one that Yukon control --  
11 controlling that area. And Zone 1 and 2, those  
12 populations up on Kisaralok, (In Native) and Kwethluk  
13 and Tuluksak, and their moose population increase. Some  
14 bulls are going -- coming down to the Kuskokwim to breed.  
15 That's why moose population increase. And I always get  
16 afraid of starving, or killed by the wolves.

17  
18 We need to -- we need some kind of  
19 regulation just like Yukon. Not choosing -- 100, we're  
20 issuing 100 permits, 100 too low. We're issuing 200.  
21 Just Yukon. They don't -- I don't know how many permits  
22 they issue. Maybe more than 100, over 100 from the other  
23 villages in Kuskokwim. Anybody want to go hunt? Hunt in  
24 that unit when it's open. Just only get permit. Just  
25 only get permit to hunt either Yukon or the Kuskokwim.  
26 And nobody wanted to go hunt Zone 2. Nobody. Except only  
27 few. Those people could afford it to go. It's up to us  
28 individually.

29  
30 And the one I heard the discovery area,  
31 above Kalskag. My nephew got permit from the state, when  
32 the Zone 1 is closed, he could hunt in discovery area  
33 because he got a state permit to hunt, fall hunt. When  
34 this area closed, he could hunt to discovery area. He's  
35 my nephew, he's the one that owns that permit. Not all  
36 of it, but in my village people, only one was selected  
37 by drawing. And we followed that regulation even though  
38 we want to go up. Left behind, stay home, do nothing.  
39 We followed those regulations. We need to work. We need  
40 to eliminate the Zone 2, because it's a confusing system.  
41 Yukon got no Zone 1 and 2, nothing. Only the Kuskokwim.  
42 And also, discovery permit. Random drawing permit is no  
43 good. Once it open, it's open. Just only get permit from  
44 the federal or state government. Not like opening --  
45 state is opening, they're talking now, right now, we're  
46 talking right now. State is open, yeah. We're going to  
47 have ten-day hunt, yeah. In winter we're going to hunt,  
48 ten-day hunt and antlerless moose, federal Department  
49 of Fish and Wildlife property, land. We need one

1 structure, one structure to control and make a  
2 regulation, working together.

3  
4 It's been a -- going, we're going back  
5 and forth, back and forth, choosing. It's confusing us.  
6 Us people. I wonder why they -- sometimes I wonder why  
7 they put Zone 2 in there to confuse us. Once Kuskokwim  
8 opening, they gave us ten days, and all of a sudden they  
9 reached that quota before ten days, it closes,  
10 sometimes. And the rest of the permit holders, the ones  
11 they don't catch moose, stop, when they reach that quota.  
12 Nobody, only few people go to the Zone 2. Who could  
13 afford it, a gas money to go up there. Thank you, Madam  
14 Chairman for listening to me on my comments, because  
15 it's really confusing issue in this area. Kuskokwim not  
16 on the Yukon, only on the Kuskokwim. Serving both  
17 entities, state and the federal government. The issues  
18 I was come to gave us doubt. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

19  
20 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Qu yana, Phillip.  
21 I just wanted to take a crack at guessing, maybe not  
22 guessing, but between Zone 1 and 2. Zone 1, from how I  
23 understand it, has always had more moose. And Zone 2 has  
24 always had less moose. And now Zone 2 is -- the  
25 population is growing and now they're going -- it's  
26 growing enough to where we may get one antlerless hunt  
27 there by registration between September 1st to October  
28 15th and may-be-announced. And then since -- yeah,  
29 another, because the population is growing, they're also  
30 wanting to extend the December 1 to January 31, to  
31 December 1 to March 31. (In Native). Henry.

32  
33 MR. PARKS: Madam Chair, (In Native).

34  
35 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yeah.

36  
37 INTERPRETER: Madame Chair, we -- sure  
38 but let me try to explain this. I'm going to explain  
39 zone 1 here. Look, this whole area is Unit 18. So, they  
40 made two zones here because, overall, they wanted to  
41 increase the moose population. And so, if Zone 2 does  
42 not have enough population, they will close that and  
43 they will keep someone open. And so there are two zones  
44 here on this map because it giving us the opportunity  
45 to be able to hunt for moose in Zone 1 or 2 but in the  
46 event that there is not enough. And so, Unit 18 is a  
47 large area. Yes, Unit 18 is big, but hang on, hang on,  
48 listen to me, listen to me. (Indiscernible). We're  
49 talking about the zone here, and it's.....

50

1 (Distortion)

2

3

MR. PETER: (In Native).

4

5 INTERPRETER: Okay, turn on your  
6 microphone if you're going to talk. Okay. All right.  
7 Translate for me here. This -- there was no zone before.  
8 But even though, even though that we did not have a zone  
9 in place there was a lot of moose in this area. We do  
10 not go up to the Zone 1 area to go hunting. There were  
11 quite a limited number of people that came from upriver  
12 to down this area to go hunting, but because our  
13 ancestral lands, we did not go into other people's  
14 village zones because during that zone -- those were,  
15 we did not impede into their hunting areas. And with  
16 that, we did not go hunting down into other village  
17 hunting areas because we respected other villages'  
18 hunting areas and so, we did not impede on them. And  
19 that even -- there is no Zone 1 or 2 designations, we  
20 used to go hunting in other people's villages area after  
21 we got permission from those villages to hunt their  
22 hunting areas, because we do have our own regulations  
23 that we follow, just like the new ways are. And we did  
24 these regulations through oral communications. And these  
25 oral communications that we had that was good for us.  
26 We did -- it sustained what our need -- needed for, and  
27 that's all I wanted to say. Thank you.

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Okay, we don't need to be. I'm sorry.  
We do not need to be trying to one up the other, we need  
-- we don't need competition with each other. And  
especially in this area. We are just heading into a  
different system because we're losing our respect for  
other people's hunting areas. So, we are just getting  
bound by rules and regulations because these regulations  
and rules we never followed them before. At least we had  
our own. So, this is a new regulation because we are  
following blindly all these regulations, especially the  
moose. There are -- the most populations increasing up  
in the Yukon and my village at Akiachak, when they go  
to Zone 2 to go hunting, there are -- there's only a  
handful of people from Akiachak that travel up to Zone  
2 to go hunting, just like I said -- mentioned earlier.

These rules and regulations, if we could  
just get together as one person and get to an  
understanding, and if there would be no  
misunderstandings if we got together collectively to  
figure these things out. But as it is now, to become a  
point of contention, that's what we need to watch out

1 for, because I'm always wary of that if we start having  
2 contentions between each other, because once you start  
3 a contention, it's really hard to stop that. And so, if  
4 we keep changing our ways and folk ways in more ways  
5 then, that's good, just going to lead to confusion. And  
6 when does that stop? And so, our ancestors operated  
7 through a collective agreement because they knew that  
8 once they start contending each other, then it will  
9 be.....

10

11 (Simultaneous speech)

12

13 MR. PETER: (In Native). Quyana, Madam  
14 Chairman.

15

16 INTERPRETER: .....(indiscernible). So,  
17 thank you, Madam Chairman.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, (In  
20 Native), Phillip. So, we're -- if there aren't any more  
21 public testimonies, are there any in this room?

22

23 (No response)

24

25 Anyone online?

26

27 (No response)

28

29 No? Okay. So, we can move on to our  
30 Council motion to maybe take up the proposal so we can  
31 go through the motions. Is there a motion to support  
32 this proposal -- or support these proposals?

33

34 MR. ANDREW: Madam Chair. (In Native),  
35 Wildlife Proposal 43/44.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, John.  
38 John Andrew just moved to support Wildlife Proposals w  
39 -- 26-43 and -44. Is there a second? Wait, one more  
40 clarification before the second. Brooke.

41

42 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
43 Member Andrew, do you want to support with the OSM  
44 modification?

45

46 MR. ANDREW: Yes, ma'am.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Okay, so John  
49 Andrew moved to support WP26-43/44 with OSM's  
50 modification. Is there a second?

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MR. PARKS: I second, Madam Chair. Henry.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Henry. Henry Parks seconds. And now it's up for discussion, if any left. Oh, yeah, please.

MS. MCDAVID: All right, so I put up on the screen, just a reminder, this is what you're voting on, since we had a lot of discussion. WP26-43 requests establishing may-be-announced antlerless moose hunt from September 1 through October 15, with a harvest limit up to one antlerless moose by federal registration permit in Kuskokwim Zone 2. And it would delegate the authority to the Refuge Manager to determine about the permits. WP26-44 requests to extend the closing date of the Kuskokwim Zone 2 winter moose hunt to March 31st. So that's what you will be voting on. And now we could go to discussion.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you, Brooke. Is there any discussion in the room first?

(No response)

And what about online?

(No response)

Okay. Hearing none. Does anyone want to call a question? Oh, sorry, one more clarification.

MS. MCDAVID: Sorry, guys, we do have to have some justification before you vote. So, maybe you guys could talk about this first one. Do you support or oppose establishing the antlerless moose hunt September 1 through 15 -- October 15th, may-be-announced? Do you guys support or oppose that? And let's have a little discussion. Yes or no? And how come?

(No comment)

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: If no one goes, I think I'll just kind of repeat what I said before. So, the -- I mean, obviously it's growing if we're even being encouraged to hunt the area, to the point where we can even have an antlerless hunt, which is so rare in our area and I'm from kind of that area, we're not so close, but we're included in the hunt. And also, the population is well enough to extend that same Zone 2

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1 hunt to a later date to March 31st from January 31st.  
2 So, I support both since the population can also support  
3 the hunt. Anybody else?

4

5 MR. ANDREW: Madam Chair.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yeah, John.

8

9 MR. ANDREW: John Andrew from Kwethluk.  
10 I believe the state, last fall had an antlerless season  
11 in our area, but we weren't notified, only a few people  
12 did know about it in my village. That was one young guy  
13 had a -- was lucky enough to draw, and he went out with  
14 a group of hunters. When he caught one, he didn't want  
15 to share it. And I'd rather see the antlerless hunt in  
16 the winter, not in the fall time where it's open to  
17 everybody. Because in September that -- I asked them,  
18 how come you do that? He said he was the only one that  
19 drew an antlerless permit, and he won't -- didn't want  
20 to share it only to his family. But in this case, I  
21 rather see the antlerless hunt in the sometime like in  
22 March or February or March. Thank you, Madam Chair.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Qu yana. And it  
25 looks like the description includes those months that  
26 John just mentioned.

27

28 MR. MORGAN: Got a question, Madam Chair.  
29 Walter Morgan. If we adopt 43, then 44 is just an  
30 extension. No. So, what do we do? We just vote on 44  
31 instead of 43? I mean, how do we do this?

32

33 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Tom, since.....

34

35 MR. PLANK: Through Chair, Tom Plank,  
36 OSM. No, these are two different hunts. 43 is for the  
37 fall hunt. And so, what that's doing is adding an element  
38 of antlerless to that hunt. 44 is about the winter hunt  
39 and all that's doing is adding an extra couple months  
40 to that winter hunt. So, there are two separate deals.  
41 They're just together because they're the same area, but  
42 they're two separate hunts. So, like I said, it's not  
43 an either or, you can take both. You get Reese's and  
44 KitKat same time.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Spencer, did you  
47 want to say something? Qu yana.

48

49 MR. REARDON: Yeah, Spencer Reardon,  
50 Refuge Manager Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

1 Just to give you a little more information as to our  
2 thoughts behind why we proposed these two proposals  
3 before you. So, as you all know, the population has been  
4 increasing, and we view it as pretty healthy. And Aaron  
5 and I had many discussions about the biology with  
6 different entities, and our goal is to maximize  
7 subsistence opportunity where we can. We don't want to  
8 see this going over carrying capacity if we can, because  
9 then it's a missed opportunity to fill freezers. So,  
10 we're trying to get ahead of it, we don't want to watch  
11 it collapse and then react. We kind of want to get ahead  
12 of it. So, we don't know what that carrying capacity is  
13 exactly. We're studying it. We're working with the  
14 state, they're helping us with some cooperative efforts  
15 to look at the browse rate removals, looking at the  
16 number of willows, and you guys notice it around your  
17 villages. You see those willow islands, they're starting  
18 to be really browsed. We're watching that kind of  
19 activity up on the Zone 2 area. So, we have not been  
20 able to fulfill our quota in the fall. That hunt goes  
21 from September 1 to October 15th. We've been getting, I  
22 don't know, 80-90, somewhere in that nature. And we set  
23 that quota at 110. Our current regulations allow us to  
24 have a winter hunt, but because of these crazy winters  
25 we have, and especially in the last two years, people  
26 haven't been able to get up to the Kuskokwim Mountains  
27 in the Zone 2 area to really, really hunt. And so, our  
28 harvest is low. And we said we need to ask for an  
29 extension, we need to extend that to the end of March,  
30 especially since we're already limiting the number of  
31 tags. We've been issuing 100 -- up to 150 tags. In fact,  
32 we didn't issue them all this year. I think, Aaron, I  
33 don't know if we issued 80 or 90 yet. So, we didn't  
34 issue them all. So, we're trying to give more opportunity  
35 where we can. So, we did a count and it was explained  
36 in your proposal analysis where, I think, the number was  
37 around 1700 moose. And that was like a minimum count.  
38 The state helped us a lot with that. In fact, they did  
39 majority of the work, they helped a lot, trying to  
40 understand what was going on. So, that number was much  
41 higher than it was before, and Aaron and I looked at  
42 each other and said, we should increase opportunity  
43 where we can. And that includes cow harvest. We know  
44 Zone 2 is a difficult area to get to, because you got  
45 to have jet boats or be willing to go through a few  
46 propellers. I know people from Kwethluk are going up  
47 there quite often, and in the fall time, if you're going  
48 to invest into going up there for a moose, we want to  
49 help ensure that they come back with a moose. If they  
50 only see cows, well, if they get one of these permits,

1 this may be announced season, it would increase their  
2 chances of success. So, they would be able to shoot  
3 either a bull, if they got a bull permit, which we're  
4 not -- which we're issuing through the state. The state's  
5 doing it, sorry. And then you would get this cow permit  
6 so it would increase your chances of coming home with  
7 some meat in the fall.

8  
9 In the wintertime, we can't restrict it  
10 to either sex because they start losing their antlers,  
11 and we don't want to put it on the hunters to determine  
12 that so, what we do is, we take the information from the  
13 fall, how many were harvested and what, you know, right  
14 now it's only bulls but in the future it may include  
15 cows. And then we would determine how many can we afford  
16 to hunt in the winter, based off of what was hunted in  
17 the fall. So, that's why we came up with these two  
18 proposals, trying to maximize subsistence use and give  
19 people more of a chance to hunt moose that are becoming  
20 more and more abundant. I'm not so worried about  
21 overshooting a population right now. In fact, we don't  
22 want to be reactive, we want to be proactive about  
23 managing moose where we can. I remind people that on the  
24 Kuskokwim, it's far different than the Yukon. We have,  
25 I don't know, three times less more moose and probably  
26 three times more people or something like that, right?  
27 Bethel is a big town, Kwethluk is pretty big so, there's  
28 a lot of demand for meat on this Kuskokwim. I know a lot  
29 of people go to the Yukon to get moose in the wintertime  
30 because, once the snow conditions are good, it's a good  
31 resource. We want to offer that here too, where we can.  
32 We're trying to get ahead of it. I think we have the  
33 harvest abilities here because we have more demand on  
34 this Kuskokwim. But I also know that going to the Yukon  
35 is fairly easy these days. It's easy terrain to navigate  
36 with today's snow machines, it can be pretty fast, it  
37 can make it a day hunt. So, that's our thinking behind  
38 it. We're just trying to maximize subsistence  
39 opportunities with your help and trying to get people  
40 more meat, more opportunities for the Kuskokwim region  
41 in particular.

42  
43 MR. MORGAN: Walter.....

44  
45 CHAIERPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana.

46  
47 MR. MORGAN: Madam Chair.

48  
49 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yeah, Walter.

50

1 MR. MORGAN: So, it's better to support  
2 both of these proposals in order to get an opportunity  
3 to get a moose. Because of the population. And, on the  
4 Zone 2, it's harder to get to and we got to wait for  
5 snow and stuff like that, I mean, it snows hardly any  
6 this year. I've been out in the tundra, out in those  
7 mountains, it's rough, you know, but I see snow in the  
8 forecast so, this -- it would work good for, you know,  
9 end of March. Then you'd have enough snow. Yeah, thank  
10 you.

11  
12 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you,  
13 Walter. Thank you, Spencer. We're still in the  
14 discussion part of this motion. But I think we have a  
15 better understanding of both the proposals. It is in the  
16 end, for more opportunity for our people and our  
17 freezers, more subsistence opportunity for us. If  
18 there's not any more discussion, does anyone want to  
19 call question?

20  
21 MR. PETER: Madam Chair, question.

22  
23 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Phillip.  
24 The question was called by Phillip. Do we roll call  
25 or...? Okay, we're going to roll call vote in Brooke  
26 will go around the room.

27  
28 MS. MCDAVID: Okay. We'll start with  
29 Henry Parks.

30  
31 MR. PARKS: Yes.

32  
33 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip Peter.

34  
35 MR. PETER: Yes.

36  
37 MS. MCDAVID: Francis Prince.

38  
39 MR. PRINCE: Yes.

40  
41 MS. MCDAVID: Walter Morgan.

42  
43 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

44  
45 MS. MCDAVID: John Andrew.

46  
47 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

48  
49 MS. MCDAVID: Norma, are you online?

50

1 MS. EVAN: Yes, I am.

2

3 MS. MCDAVID: Do you support the proposal  
4 or oppose?

5

6 MS. EVAN: Yes, I do.

7

8 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Norma. And then  
9 was Alissa able to join us online yet?

10

11 (No response)

12

13 Doesn't sound like it. So, we'll go then  
14 last to Chair Cleveland.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes.

17

18 MS. MCDAVID: Motion passes, 7-0.

19

20 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you,  
21 Brooke and everyone again. We'll move on to the next  
22 proposal WP26-44. And that is on page 79. Oh, wait.  
23 Sorry, it's WP26-45. And that's on page 79. Unit 18  
24 moose, extend cow season to open July 16, in Lower Yukon  
25 hunt area. The presentation and analysis will be done  
26 by Tom Plank.

27

28 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madam Chair,  
29 members of the Council. For the record Tom Plank,  
30 Wildlife Biologist, OSM and I will be presenting Summary  
31 of Analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP26-45. And as the  
32 Chair stated, that's on page 79 of your books. Wildlife  
33 Proposal WP26-45 was submitted by this Council, and a  
34 request to allow cow moose without calves to be taken  
35 in Unit 18 remainder, from July 16th to the 31st. The  
36 proponent states that salmon fishing on the Yukon River  
37 has been restricted for a number of years and has created  
38 severe food security issues, and at the same time that  
39 the salmon have declined, moose numbers in Unit 18  
40 remainder have increased and are approaching levels that  
41 pose concerns for habitat degradation. The proponent  
42 concludes that, with the current abundance of moose,  
43 additional harvests can be supported without  
44 conservation concerns in Unit 18 remainder, and this  
45 proposal would create additional opportunities for  
46 federally qualified subsistence users.

47

48 In response to the rapid growth of the  
49 Lower Yukon moose populations, both state and federal  
50 regulations have progressively become more liberal since

1 2005. The Yukon River moose population currently  
2 occupies most of the available riparian habitat at a  
3 moderate to high density, and has high calf production  
4 and yearling recruitment, and the population is growing.  
5 While the region really can only support a low to very  
6 low density moose population. Population and composition  
7 surveys are conducted in five survey areas in Unit 18.  
8 Three to five survey areas are located within the Unit  
9 18 remainder hunt area. The most recent survey was done  
10 in February-March of 2021. The Lowest Yukon was  
11 estimated a population of a little over 12,000, with a  
12 density of 6.89 moose per square mile. The (In Natvie)  
13 and Andrefsky Units were conducted together as an  
14 estimated population of around 4800 and 6900,  
15 respectively, and the combined density of the two survey  
16 units at 3.68 moose per square mile. ADF&G's harvest  
17 records for the general moose hunt in Unit 18, only  
18 includes Unit 18 remainder, as moose harvest and other  
19 hunt areas of Unit 18 are by registration permit.

20  
21 Over the past ten years, the largest  
22 portion of the harvest has been Alaska residents, and  
23 while the number of hunters has stayed relatively  
24 the same in the past ten years, the success rate for those  
25 hunters has increased. If this proposal is adopted,  
26 users could harvest cow moose without calves in Unit 18  
27 remainder, from July 16th to the 31st, increasing  
28 subsistence opportunity. No conservation concerns exist,  
29 as the Unit 18 remainder moose population is high  
30 density, continues to grow and is believed to exceed  
31 habitat carrying capacity. In addition, the expanded  
32 harvest season would increase opportunity for federally  
33 qualified subsistence users and might promote further  
34 sharing of moose throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim region,  
35 increase in food security, especially during a time of  
36 low salmon returns and caribou populations. This  
37 proposal would increase regulatory complexity by  
38 misaligning state and federal regulations. Users would  
39 need to differentiate land status during the late July  
40 season, and could not harvest moose from the Yukon River,  
41 which is a state managed navigable waterway.

42  
43 The OSM's preliminary conclusions  
44 support proposal WP26-45, with modification to also  
45 allow the harvest of bulls from July 16 to 31. The moose  
46 population in Unit 18 remainder hunt area is showing  
47 signs of nutritional stress and is believed to exceed  
48 habitat carrying capacity, allowing cow moose without  
49 calves to be taken in Unit 18 remainder from July 16 to  
50 31st, may help limit growth of the moose population and

1 will provide additional subsistence opportunities for  
2 federally qualified subsistence users contributing to  
3 food security. Also allowing the harvest of bulls during  
4 the July, late July further increases subsistence  
5 opportunity, and there is no biological reason to  
6 restrict bulls harvest during that time. Thank you,  
7 Madam Chair, members of Council. Be happy to answer any  
8 questions.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you, Tom.  
11 I think we're going to read through this for a bit,  
12 thanks. Tom, can you say one more time what the  
13 modification recommend, or the OSM conclusion was with  
14 their modification? What was the modification part  
15 again?

16  
17 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madam Chair,  
18 through the Chair, Tom Plank, OSM. So, basically just  
19 also allows the harvest of bulls instead of just calves  
20 without -- I mean cows without calves.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Me, again.  
23 Jackie, again. So, the original proposal states that the  
24 bulls and cows accompanied by calves may not be taken  
25 from July 16 to July 31, and then OSM's modification is  
26 to also allow harvest of bulls without calves?

27  
28 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Tom  
29 Plank, OSM. If you scroll down the proposal, I believe  
30 it's going to be page 92 in your book, you'll see the,  
31 OSM's preliminary conclusion. And basically, it would  
32 draft up the regulations, it'll say instead of bulls and  
33 cows accompanied by calves may not be taken, it'll say  
34 cows accompanied by calves may not be taken from July  
35 16 to 31st, and antler bulls may be harvested from  
36 October 1st to November 30th. And you'll see the date  
37 there changes, where instead of August 1st, it'll start  
38 July 16th.

39  
40 MS. MCDAVID: I think we still have --  
41 sorry, this is Brooke, some confusion about the OSM  
42 modification so, is the -- so, the Council proposed  
43 extending the cow season. But OSM is saying there's also  
44 enough bulls that we could -- no? Yes, okay. So, there's  
45 also enough bulls, you could also extend cow season and  
46 bull season. Does that make sense? Is that more clear?  
47 So, instead of -- you guys said we want to extend cow  
48 season and they're saying well you can extend cow or  
49 bull with.....

50

1 MR. ANDREW: Madam Chair, I think if we  
2 could simply say to also include the bulls in summertime,  
3 they're really good in summertime. Especially at the  
4 start of the berry season that are really fat because  
5 there's old people that used to tell us they're fattest  
6 in the August, in early part of August to middle part  
7 of August. And some of them don't rut until the middle  
8 of September. Thank you.

9  
10 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, John. Is  
11 it okay if I call on you, Francis, since you're from the  
12 Yukon?

13  
14 MR. PRINCE: Madam Chair, this is  
15 Francis. And, yeah I would support this proposal to add  
16 the bulls, because we have so many moose in the Yukon  
17 and practically, almost every island you go to on the  
18 Yukon, if you were to travel on the Yukon, you'd see all  
19 our willows are eaten up, and it's starting to endanger  
20 our willows and habitat for the moose and other animals.

21  
22 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana. Brooke.

23  
24 MS. MCDAVID: That's really good  
25 discussion guys. So, we'll go through the process and  
26 then you guys can either just say, remember those  
27 comments that I said? And we'll make sure we include  
28 them, because that's really good information that you  
29 could share with the Board. Are there any, maybe.....

30  
31 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Tom has  
32 something to add first.

33  
34 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madam Chair, Tom  
35 Plank, OSM. I apologize, I kind of jumbled my words  
36 there when I answered your question earlier. So yes, the  
37 original proposal was just for cows and the part where  
38 it says bulls and cows accompanied by calves, that's  
39 just to protect the calves. But yes, originally it was  
40 just cows and now it's bulls and cows because population  
41 can handle it with no concerns.

42  
43 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Okay. I was  
44 getting confused because there was a proposal and then  
45 the modification, which I kind of wish it was all in one  
46 page. When there is a modification, it would help us to  
47 read it in one, for the future. If we all understand  
48 this and are done discussing this proposal, is there --  
49 oh, is there a public comments received during the open  
50 comment period?

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MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, Tom Plank, OSM. There were no written comments submitted during the open period.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you. And then tribal and ANCSA Corporation consultation reports?

MS. MCDAVID: There are no comments during consultation.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Okay. What about agency and tribal comments? First ADF&G.

(No comment)

No one. Federal agencies.

(No comment)

Hearing none. Tribes and ANCSA corporations.

(No comment)

Hearing none. Advisory group, comments, starting with other RACs. Tom.

MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Tom Plank, OSM. No other RACs have taken this up.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you. Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

(No comment).

Subsistence Resource Commissions.

(No comment)

And other written public comments?

MS. MCDAVID: This is Brooke. There are none.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: And then what about for public testimony today in this room? We'll start with this room.

(No comment)

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Seeing none. Anyone online?

(No comment)

No. So, that brings us to our own Council motion. Is there a motion to support WP26-45 with the OSM modification?

MR. PRINCE: This is Francis. I call for motion.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you, Francis. Francis motions to support WP26-45. Is there a second?

MR. ANDREW: Second.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana. Second by John. And we're now at discussion. Brooke.

MS. MCDAVID: This is Brooke. I just wanted to clarify for the record that was supporting with the OSM modification to also extend for bulls.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Stan. Stanislaw online. You have the floor.

MR. SHEPPARD: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. Sorry, I was a little slow to press the hand raising to do comment on the antlerless moose, July 16 to 31.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Oh, yeah, go ahead.

MR. SHEPPARD: Can you still hear me? Yes, my question for Tom. Thank you, Madam, through the Chair. Now, we all have to go and get hunting license and moose harvest ticket. And now the moose harvest ticket, it states September 1st to September 30th. Now, would the dates on the harvest ticket change? That would bring it from out here in, on the Lower Yukon, Unit 18. Moose hunting is allowed from August 1st to September 30th. And then for residents, if they weren't lucky enough to get a bull or any moose during that time period, August to September, the moose hunt is continued October, November and December. That's one of the questions I had. Thank you very much.

1 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Go ahead, Tom,  
2 whenever you're ready.

3  
4 MR. PLANK: I hate to ask. Through the  
5 Chair, Tom Plank, OSM. Could you repeat your question?  
6 I didn't quite catch what it was you're asking there.

7  
8 MR. SHEPPARD: Thank you, through the  
9 Chair. Tom, all the times I got moose harvest ticket,  
10 it was from September 30th -- September 1st through 30th.  
11 And when I get one for the winter hunt, I see it December  
12 1st to December 31st. Is there, can be any change on the  
13 dates on the harvest tickets that issued out here? Thank  
14 you.

15  
16 MR. PLANK: Okay. Tom Plank, OSM. I think  
17 I'm catching what you're asking there. And you still  
18 need the state harvest ticket, but if you're hunting  
19 that are under federal regulations, you're using the  
20 federal season dates. So, the dates that are on that  
21 ticket are for when you're hunting under state  
22 regulations. So, it's the same ticket but the difference  
23 is whether you're on federal or on state. Does that  
24 answer your question?

25  
26 MR. SHEPPARD: Through the Chair, yes,  
27 Tom. The confusion is going to be if enforcement is  
28 flying around and they see somebody subsistence moose  
29 hunting out in it, it might bring up a issue right there.  
30 Unless the enforcement knows the regulations for like,  
31 for instance, the Lower Yukon, Unit 18 remainder, the  
32 Lower Yukon. Because I've seen -- I myself seen  
33 enforcement fly around and 8 -- about 15 years ago, my  
34 cousin from Anchorage, that's originally from here, came  
35 out to do a winter hunt, and he got cited, arms taken.  
36 At the time, we didn't mention federal or state harvest,  
37 that was on us, but he got cited for that, so you know.  
38 Thank you, Tom.

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Stans.  
41 Is there any other discussion?

42  
43 (No response)

44  
45 And before we move on to calling a  
46 question, we will have to discuss it a little bit, from  
47 my understanding. But as we heard from Francis, from the  
48 Yukon, there is so much moose on the Yukon and or in  
49 that area, and maybe not enough food to go around. So,  
50 hearing from the Yukon and them supporting it, like, I

1 myself would recommend to support it.

2

3 MR. PARKS: Madam Chair.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yeah, Henry.

6

7 MR. PARKS: Thank you. A portion of Unit  
8 18 -- Tom, I'm looking at the map right now, portion of  
9 Unit 18, which is located, the mark, according to the  
10 mark here, the line from Nunapitchuk from my village,  
11 each -- the west side, right. So, what about Johnson  
12 River? I don't -- will it be affected? If we accept this  
13 proposal here, adopt or -- okay, I'm kind of confused  
14 right here, that's why I ask a question. Portion of the  
15 Unit 18, is that the west side from my village  
16 Nunapitchuk. So, if we accept this, will the Johnson  
17 River be affected?

18

19 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, Tom Plank,  
20 OSM. So, I'm not sure exactly where the Johnson River  
21 is, but basically these regulations will be on the  
22 federal land. So, if you're on federal land, then you  
23 can follow the federal regulations. They do not apply  
24 to state managed lands. So, it really depends on where  
25 you're hunting. If you're on state lands, you have to  
26 follow the state regulations. Our -- these regulations  
27 that we're talking about is [sic] only when you're on  
28 federal lands.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thanks, Tom.  
31 And, Henry, just by looking at this big map right here,  
32 it looks like most of it is -- the most of the Johnson  
33 is on federal land, but there's a little tiny section,  
34 weirdly, that's not kind of in the middle of it. In the  
35 beginning of it. But most of it will be in federal lands.

36

37 (Pause)

38

39 MS. MCDAVID: This is Brooke, for folks  
40 online, we're just looking at some maps in the room so,  
41 that's why there's quiet.

42

43 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: For us, if we  
44 don't have any further discussion, I just want to say  
45 again, this is another proposal to give us more  
46 subsistence opportunity, which, I mean, I would  
47 appreciate if I was from the Yukon, too. So, and I think  
48 we've discussed it enough. So, does anyone want to call  
49 for question?

50

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1 MR. PARKS: Madam Chair. Question.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Henry  
4 Parks called question. Do we roll call? Yes, okay. We're  
5 going to do a roll call vote, and Brooke will go around  
6 the room. Thanks.

7

8 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madam Chair. And  
9 I'll just repeat the motion for the record. So, the  
10 motion is to support Wildlife Proposal 26-45, that  
11 request to allow cow moose without calves to be taken  
12 in the Lower Yukon region from July 16th through the  
13 31st. And also supporting the OSM modification to also  
14 extend for bulls. So, that's what you'll be voting on.  
15 We'll start with John Andrew.

16

17 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

18

19 MS. MCDAVID: Norma.

20

21 (No response)

22

23 If you can hear me, Norma, this is  
24 Brooke. We're voting on the proposal to extend the cow  
25 and bull moose season on the lower Yukon. If you support  
26 or oppose.

27

28 (No response)

29

30 Okay, we'll try to come back to Norma.  
31 Henry.

32

33 MR. PARKS: Yes.

34

35 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip.

36

37 MR. PETER: Yes.

38

39 MS. MCDAVID: Francis.

40

41 MR. PRINCE: Yes.

42

43 MS. MCDAVID: Walter.

44

45 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

46

47 MS. MCDAVID: And, Norma, are you able  
48 to hear me now?

49

50 MS. EVAN: I'm here.

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MS. MCDAVID: Hi, Norma, thank you. We're voting on proposal WP26-45 to extend the cow and bull moose season on the Lower Yukon. And we are asking for your vote, if you support.

MS. EVAN: I support.

MS. MCDAVID: Thank you. And last, Chair Cleveland.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes.

MS. MCDAVID: Motion passes 7-0.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you everyone. Would you guys want to take a little break? Or do you want to keep going? Does anyone need to use the restroom or anything?

(No response)

(In Native). Okay. In that case, we'll move on to WP26-46, Unit 18 ptarmigan, to increase harvest limit to 25 per day, 50 in possession. And it starts on page 93. Tom, you can start whenever, thanks.

MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madam Chair, members of Council, again for the record, Tom Plank, Wildlife Biologist, OSM. And I am presenting a summary of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP26-46 starting on page 93 in your books. Wildlife Proposal WP26-46 request to increase the harvest limit for ptarmigan and Unit 18 from 15 per day with 30 in possession, to 25 per day with 50 in possession. And this is submitted by the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. And the proponent states that the Alaska Board of Game increased the harvest limit for ptarmigan and Unit 18 during their last regulatory cycle, and this proposal would align state and federal harvest limits. Regulations do not differentiate between willow ptarmigan and rock ptarmigan harvest. In 2018, the Board decreased the harvest limit in Unit 18, and then in 2020, the Board of Game followed suit, aligning state and federal harvest limits to 15 per day and 30 in possession. In 2024, the Board of Game increased the ptarmigan harvest limit to 25 per day and 50 in possession.

Ptarmigan abundance may fluctuate along with the snowshoe hare populations, as predators use

1 alternative food sources when hare abundance is low.  
2 Ptarmigan experience a complete population cycle over  
3 approximately a ten-year period, similar to snowshoe  
4 hares. Willow Ptarmigan are the primary ptarmigan  
5 species occurring in Unit 18. There are no current  
6 population surveys being conducted for the willow  
7 ptarmigan in Unit 18, although numbers throughout  
8 Southwestern Alaska appear to be rebounding according  
9 to field staff reports. In May 2022, ADF&G staff observed  
10 abundant willow ptarmigan along the Yukon-Kuskokwim  
11 Delta, suggestion [sic] abundance is rebounding from the  
12 previous 5 to 7 year low. Rock ptarmigan are the second  
13 most abundant ptarmigan species in Alaska and can be  
14 found throughout the state. While no recent surveys of  
15 rock ptarmigan have been conducted in Unit 18,  
16 populations throughout Southwestern Alaska appear to be  
17 rebounding, with several locations throughout the Yukon-  
18 Kuskokwim Delta observing more ptarmigan than in recent  
19 years past. Current harvest estimates for ptarmigan in  
20 Unit 18 are limited. Harvest is estimated from household  
21 surveys, which have high levels of variation. The most  
22 recent published data was in 2015.

23  
24 This proposal would provide additional  
25 opportunities for federally qualified subsistence users  
26 to harvest ptarmigan in Unit 18 under federal  
27 regulations, as anyone may already harvest 25 ptarmigan  
28 per day with 50 in possession on federal public lands  
29 in Unit 18 under state regulations. No impact to the  
30 ptarmigan population are expected from this proposal,  
31 and additionally, ptarmigan abundance is likely more  
32 affected by weather and snow cover than by harvest. There  
33 are currently no conservation concerns for ptarmigan in  
34 Unit 18. The OSM's preliminary conclusion is to support  
35 WP2646. And thank you, Madam Chair, members of Council.  
36 I'd be happy to answer any questions.

37  
38 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you, Tom.  
39 Are there any public comments received during the open  
40 comment period?

41  
42 MR. PLANK: Tom Plank, OSM. No ma'am.  
43 There were no written public comments received during  
44 the open period.

45  
46 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thanks again,  
47 Tom. What about for Tribal and ANCSA Corporation  
48 consultation reports?

49  
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1 MR. PLANK: Tom Plank, OSM. There were  
2 none submitted during those meetings as well.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: And then agency  
5 and tribal comments.

6  
7 (No comment)

8  
9 ADF&G.

10  
11 (No comment)

12  
13 Federal agencies.

14  
15 (No comment)

16  
17 Tribes and ANCSA Corporations.

18  
19 (No comment)

20  
21 Advisory group comments, other RACs.

22  
23 MR. PLANK: Tom Plank, OSM, no other RACs  
24 have taken this proposal up.

25  
26 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you. Fish  
27 and Game Advisory Committees.

28  
29 (No comment)

30  
31 Subsistence Resource Commissions.

32  
33 (No comment)

34  
35 And then other written public comments.

36  
37 MS. MCDAVID: This is Brooke. There were  
38 none.

39  
40 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thanks. And what  
41 about for public testimony? Starting from -- in the room  
42 here.

43  
44 (No comment)

45  
46 Hearing and seeing none. What about  
47 online?

48  
49 (No comment)

50

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1                   Okay. So, we'll move on to our Council  
2 motion. Is there a motion to.....

3  
4                   (Simultaneous speech)

5  
6                   MR. ANDREW: Madam Chair. (In Native).

7  
8                   CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, John.  
9 There's a motion from John Andrew to support WP26-46.  
10 Is there a second?

11  
12                   MR. PRINCE: Francis Prince. Second.

13  
14                   CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thanks, Francis.  
15 Francis, been seconded. And now we're into discussion.

16  
17                   MR. PARKS: Madam Chair.

18  
19                   CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Go ahead, Henry.

20  
21                   MR. PARKS: Quyana, thank you. I do  
22 support this WP26-46, because in the past years, the  
23 ptarmigans were declining back in my area, in tundra  
24 villages area. But now, after those past years, they're  
25 increasing again, which is pretty good. And I would  
26 really happy if the Board here and the Council members  
27 approve this proposal here, because we do like ptarmigan  
28 soup and dried ptarmigan meat, you know, so I do support  
29 this. Quyana.

30  
31                   CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Henry.  
32 Is there anyone else?

33  
34                   (No response)

35  
36                   I also agree with Henry. So, a few years  
37 ago, I thought our ptarmigan population was going to go  
38 down and eventually get even lower, but instead, I think,  
39 starting from last winter or the winter before, we  
40 started seeing an increase and now, this summer, there's  
41 even more or, sorry, this winter there's even more. And  
42 even when I take my flights to Dillingham for my RIT  
43 job, like we're always seeing tons of ptarmigan between  
44 -- in that route so, happy to see more and more. And I'm  
45 glad to know that, you know, this proposal would, if it  
46 passed, would support the numbers and still be safe and  
47 give us more subsistence opportunity.

48  
49                   MR. MORGAN: Madam Chair, it's Walter.  
50 You know what the increase in numbers is the moose. When

1 they break them, browse on the on the willows, they  
2 sprout, they get more sprouts. So, the ptarmigan have  
3 more to eat. So that's one good thing about moose. They,  
4 when they break the branches, they grow up more. Then  
5 the ptarmigan land on them and eat them, eat the buds,  
6 you know. Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you for  
9 that. Another thing I wanted to note is that it would  
10 align -- or so this proposal, if passed, would also  
11 align with the, you know, state-fed regs. So, less  
12 confusion in the end for the user. (In Native). Okay.  
13 (In Native).

14  
15 MR. PETER: Madam Chairman. This  
16 ptarmigan sure increasing (indiscernible) tundra. I went  
17 to ptarmigan hunting on the first snow, fresh snow and  
18 (indiscernible), I see quite a few ptarmigans. Back in,  
19 we called that Big Lake. And I see quite a few  
20 ptarmigans, but they fly off right away. But I didn't  
21 catch anyway because they fly too early before I shoot  
22 them. So, I told my great, great grandson after this  
23 meeting done, we'll try and catch. Hopefully, we'll  
24 catch. I bought him a 0.410, will try to try him out.  
25 Shoot a couple of them with his 0.410, single 0.410. And  
26 he was really excited, but he liked to go with me  
27 whenever I go hunting, and these ptarmigans are  
28 plentiful. The tundra but in summer -- but in spring  
29 they increased lots. Last year was lots of ptarmigans.  
30 But I catch them less than 25. I don't -- mostly my  
31 average is about 20 for drying ptarmigan so, some.

32  
33 Good thing we have ptarmigans. They're  
34 really good with the seal oil to eat. I really like  
35 them. Hopefully till increase. A long time ago, on the  
36 main stem of the Kuskokwim, those willows all white in  
37 the spring. They're eating willows, lots of them. But  
38 my uncle used to tell me these ptarmigans, some years  
39 they are plentiful and some years not. That's what he  
40 mentioned to me. Even moose, even the -- even in the  
41 ocean, those seals. And I believe. Some years are  
42 plentiful and some years, even though there are some,  
43 they're few. But we're patient. He told me to be patient  
44 and wait for them. They go increase and decrease and  
45 increase and decrease. I hope it will be there, in our  
46 community area, in Kuskokwim area, Unit 18. Quyana.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Phillip.  
49 Any more discussion?

50

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1 (No response)

2

3 Can I entertain a question then?

4

5 MR. MORGAN: Question. Walter.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Walter.

8 Roll call vote. And Brooke will do that, thank you.

9

10 MS. MCDAVID: All right, the motion on  
11 the floor is to support WP26-46, to increase the harvest  
12 limit for ptarmigan and Unit 18 to 30 in possession and,  
13 no, sorry. Unit 18, from 15 ptarmigan and -- 15 ptarmigan  
14 per day, 30 in possession up to 25 ptarmigan per day,  
15 50 in possession. And we'll do a roll call. We'll start  
16 with Walter Morgan.

17

18 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

19

20 MS. MCDAVID: Francis Prince.

21

22 MR. PRINCE: Yes.

23

24 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip Peter.

25

26 MR. PETER: Yes.

27

28 MS. MCDAVID: Henry Parks.

29

30 MR. PARKS: Yes.

31

32 MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan.

33

34 MS. EVAN: Yes.

35

36 MS. MCDAVID: John Andrew.

37

38 MR. ANDREW: Yes.

39

40 MS. MCDAVID: Chair Cleveland.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes.

43

44 MS. MCDAVID: Motion passes, 7-0.

45

46 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you  
47 everyone. Next on the agenda we're going to have to skip  
48 6, which is WP26-47 about beavers in Unit 18. That one  
49 will need a presentation prior to discussing that and  
50 so, that could be tomorrow or the next day, but we're

1 tabling that one. And moving on to seven: WP26 to 48,  
2 Unit 18 wolf, increase hunting harvest limit to 15  
3 wolves. And that's on page 113. And Tom, whenever you're  
4 ready, thank you.

5  
6 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Madam Chair,  
7 members of the Council. Again Tom Plank, Wildlife  
8 Biologist, OSM and I will be presenting the summary of  
9 analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP26-48, starting on page  
10 113 in your books. Wildlife Proposal WP26-48 was  
11 submitted by this Council and it proposes to increase  
12 the hunt and harvest limit for wolves in Unit 18 from  
13 10 to 15. The proponents stated that this would provide  
14 additional opportunity for federally qualified  
15 subsistence users, and there are no conservation  
16 concerns for wolves in Unit 18. In 2011, the Board of  
17 Game increased the state harvest limit to 10, and the  
18 Federal Subsistence Board followed this in 2012,  
19 aligning the state and federal regulations. The Board  
20 of Game, at its January 2024 meeting, adopt a proposal  
21 lengthening the wolf trapping season in Unit 18 to end  
22 April 30th.

23  
24 Wolves are widely distributed in Unit  
25 18. From 2010 to 2015, wolves population was estimated  
26 at 200 to 300 wolves in 20 to 35 packs. Wolf numbers  
27 have increased with moose populations and natural  
28 factors regulate populations more than harvest. Reported  
29 annual harvest ranged from 6 to 88 wolves from 2002 to  
30 2023. Recent five-year average was 26 wolves per year,  
31 which was down from the previous five-year average of  
32 46. Shooting accounts for about 57% of the harvest, and  
33 household surveys show very low participation.

34  
35 (Distortion) considered was to extend  
36 the federal wolf trapping season in Unit 18 to close  
37 April 30th, to align with the estate trapping season.  
38 However, this alternative is outside the scope of this  
39 proposal. If adopted, the federal hunting harvest limit  
40 for wolves in Unit 18 will increase to 15 wolves,  
41 increasing subsistence opportunity, and users may  
42 already harvest an unlimited number of wolves by firearm  
43 under a trapping license from November 10th to April  
44 30th, under state regulations, including all federal  
45 public lands in Unit 18. So, the functional effect of  
46 this proposal is allowing users to harvest an additional  
47 five wolves from August 10th to November 9th.

48  
49 Impacts of this proposal on the Unit 18  
50 wolf population is uncertain, as there is limited

1 information available. And while less than 50% of  
2 harvest is thought to be reported through the sealing  
3 process, household harvest surveys suggest relatively  
4 few households attempt to harvest wolves. Access to  
5 harvesting areas is dependent on snow cover from snow  
6 machines access and varies annually. Few users likely  
7 harvest 10 wolves by firearms each year, between August  
8 10th and November 9th. The hides of all harvested wolves  
9 must be salvaged, and the condition of the wolf hides  
10 during the late summer and early fall may not be prime.  
11 Therefore, harvest is likely to be more opportunistic.  
12 An expected low harvest pressure and resilience of wolf  
13 populations and their ability to withstand high  
14 mortality rates suggests that this proposal would have  
15 minimal impacts on Unit 18 wolf population, and  
16 conservation concerns are unlikely. The OSM's  
17 preliminary conclusions support proposal WP26-48. And  
18 thank you, Madam Chair, members of Council. I'd be happy  
19 to answer any questions.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you, Tom.  
22 Are there any questions from in the room here?

23

24 MR. MORGAN: Madam Chair, got a question.  
25 If you're trapping, it's 15 wolves. But if you're just  
26 shooting, it's, what? Ten a day used to be or, I forgot  
27 how that works. If you're on a snow machine and out  
28 chasing them, you can purchase ten a day. How -- I get  
29 confused with all these, because there's trapping  
30 regulations, you get 15, and if you're on snow machine,  
31 it's different. So, would you straighten me out? Because  
32 I'm going to come down here and hunt.

33

34 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, Tom Plank,  
35 OSM. So, under federal regulations, trapping there is  
36 no limit of wolves. And you can trap from November 10th  
37 to March 31st. And then, currently, the hunting  
38 regulations, which is from August 10th to April 30th,  
39 is ten wolves. As in on the snow machine, I don't have  
40 an answer on that one. Yeah, I'm not up on that one so  
41 -- yeah, does that help? I'm not sure is -- so, I guess,  
42 yeah, I guess I need some more clarification on that.

43

44 MR. MORGAN: I was still -- somebody to  
45 -- this is Walter -- to answer that, because we came  
46 down this other side of Akiak, Akikchuk on the tundra  
47 and, you know, they got 10 and they quit because we  
48 didn't know, you know, what the limit was if you're on  
49 a snow machine and that was in March, last year. And we  
50 were all confused, you know, if we got more than, you

1 know, we'd get in trouble, so. We don't know the  
2 regulations, because I get confused when I read it  
3 because there's trapping and hunting regulation. Thank  
4 you.

5

6

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you.

7

8 MR. PLANK: Through the Chair, Tom Plank,  
9 OSM. I'm not sure how to answer that, because the snow  
10 machine is how you're getting there so, I'm not sure  
11 that there's a specific rule on that. I know if you're  
12 trapping, you got a trapping line out so, that's one  
13 thing. If you're hunting, you don't have traps on you,  
14 so. That would be the way my brain simplifies it, but  
15 I'm not sure if I'm correct on, if that's -- yeah, the  
16 snow machine things kind of throwing me off so, I'm  
17 sorry I'm much help but if anybody's online it can be,  
18 that can answer or -- that'd be great, but I don't know.

19

20 MS. MCDAVID: This is Brooke. Yeah, we're  
21 -- questions about snow machine for wolves, using snow  
22 machine.

23

24 MR. BOECK: Okay, through the Chair. This  
25 is Laurie Boeck. So, if you are out with a trapping  
26 license and -- you can use firearms as a method of  
27 trapping, and so, you would be, your limit would be no  
28 limit, if you're using your trapping license, as long  
29 as you're within that season, which you said you were,  
30 you were in March. So, just for the record, shooting is  
31 a method of trapping. It doesn't have to just be traps.

32

33 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, that answers my  
34 question because I'm Elder so, I got a, you know, hunting  
35 license so, I automatically have a trapping license,  
36 also. Yeah, thank you.

37

38

MR. PARKS: Madam Chair.

39

40

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Henry

41

42

43 MR. PARKS: I have a question. What about  
44 -- okay, for instance, if I go out by my snowmachine and  
45 if I happen to see a wolf, can, is it legal for me to  
46 chase the wolf with my snowmachine and shoot it and kill  
47 it?

47

48

49 MR. BOECK: Yeah, okay, through the  
50 Chair, this is Laurie Boeck. You can position yourself,  
you can't chase the wolf, though.

1

2 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Laurie, can I  
3 also ask something in case you can answer? So, I get a  
4 lot of, you know, questions at home, where we have a lot  
5 of wolves. And if they can just shoot them and with the  
6 license, without a license. But it's kind of hard to  
7 say, I'm like, well, if it's coming to our village and  
8 we're protecting ourselves, then, of course, you know,  
9 or if you have to protect yourself, of course you don't  
10 need a license to do that, if you don't happen to have  
11 one. But correct me if I'm wrong.

12

13 MR. BOECK: Yeah, so, through the Chair,  
14 Laurie Boeck, again. So, if they were to take it because  
15 they felt that they were threatened by life or property,  
16 that is considered a defense of life or property. That's  
17 through the State of Alaska. So, there are harvest  
18 requirements for them to do that, they would have to  
19 contact the troopers and then turn the hide in and fill  
20 out some paperwork. But you wouldn't need a license in  
21 that case, you would just have to fill out the additional  
22 paperwork.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you.

25

26 MR. PARKS: Madam Chair.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Henry.

29

30 MR. PARKS: Is there a state, on the  
31 state side, agencies here? Okay, thank you. I would  
32 really recommend that other state agencies should be  
33 attending this very important meeting that we're, you  
34 know, having. So, I strongly recommend -- hopefully down  
35 the road, down the line if we happen to meet again, I  
36 want, you know, the state authorities, including the  
37 federal side, to be in our meeting. Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quiana, Henry.  
40 There's so much going on this week. Statewide and region  
41 wide. And usually, we do have more people, more  
42 participants. And when we do our reports, ADF&G  
43 definitely is here to do theirs, too. My report (In  
44 Native). Are there any more questions for Tom?

45

46 (No response)

47

48 Okay, hearing none. Tom, were there  
49 public comments received during this open comment  
50 period?

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MR. PLANK: Tom Plank, OSM. There are no comments submitted during the open period.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Okay and as far as tribal and ANCSA Corporation consultation reports?

(No comment)

No. Agency and tribal comments

(No comment)

ADF&G.

(No comment)

We -- they're not on. Federal agencies.

(No comment)

Tribes and ANCSA Corporations.

(No comment)

And then advisory groups, other RACs.

MR. PLANK: Through Chair Tom Plank, OSM. No other RACs have taken this up.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thanks. Moving on to Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

(No comment)

Subsistence Resource Commissions.

(No comment)

Other written public comments.

(No comment)

Okay. And we're at public testimony. Is there anyone in the room who would like to testify on this proposal?

(No response)

Seeing none. Is there anyone online?

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(No response)

Hearing none. We'll go to Council Motion number 9. Is there a motion to support WP26-48, which is to increase the hunting harvest limits for wolves in Unit 18 from 10 to 15?

MR. PARKS: Madam Chair. (In Native). Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, John. John moves to support WP26-48. Is there a second?

MR. PETER: Phillip Peter. Second the motion.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Phillip Peter seconds the motion. And now we're at discussion.

(Pause)

Phillip (In Native).

MR. PETER: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: (In Native). Oh, okay. Does anyone have anything to add or say on this proposal? We will need to discuss it a little, at least, before moving on to voting.

MR. PARKS: Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yeah, Henry.

MR. PARKS: Henry, for the record. I support this proposal here because the wolves are increasing in our area, including our own here in Kuskokwim area. So, I strongly agree -- I mean, support this. And also, it would really help to kill more wolves through trapping because, in the meantime, down the road, if it's God's will, it can affect big games like killing big games or moose. So, that's my comment.

CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Quyana, Henry. I agree. I know in our area we're always dealing with wolves around Quinhagak and around Eek. And I hear all kinds of stories from the rest of the region and how much they seem to be increasing. Another reason I wanted to say is, again, it aligns the state and federal

1 regulations better and, you know. The current one has  
2 November 10 to March 31, and the state's one is, you  
3 know, to April 30. And now, if this all passes, all the  
4 dates would be, you know, like August 10 to April 30,  
5 aligning with the state's dates for the hunting portion  
6 and just increasing it. The increase from 10 to 15  
7 wolves.

8  
9 MR. MORGAN: Madam Chair, can I say  
10 something on this? I'll tell you a story. We were called  
11 from Aniak, from Chuathbaluk to go up and hunt wolves  
12 because they were killing dogs. And we stayed in the  
13 houses, and we waited for them with our 0.223s, we all  
14 had AR 0.223s and shotguns. And they would go up to a  
15 dog, tied or not, I mean, these are good sized dogs,  
16 they're two feet off the ground and they got collars on  
17 chain. Okay, we'd hear them hollering and we'd run out  
18 the door. And the minute we got out the door, they were  
19 already gone. They had -- they tear that dog in five  
20 pieces and ran with it, and all was left on the ground  
21 was a collar and chain, and they ate the whole thing.  
22 They ate -- they didn't eat just the meat. They ate hair  
23 and all. And we tracked them for a week, we didn't get  
24 one of them. There was 19 wolves in Chuathbaluk. And  
25 they're killing dogs right off the chain, pulling them  
26 out of their houses. As fast as we can go out the door,  
27 they already tear it apart and run with it. So, you  
28 know, they can get real danger. I mean, if it was a  
29 person, they would've killed him right there, you know.  
30 So, it's a concern, something to think about when you  
31 have wolves in your village. When they're hungry,  
32 they'll eat.

33  
34 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you,  
35 Walter. Good point. They are in -- usually in packs.  
36 Which is concerning, yes. Any other discussion?

37  
38 (No response)

39  
40 Well, I wanted to kind of take back what  
41 I said before.....

42  
43 (Simultaneous speech)

44  
45 MS. EVAN: Madam Chair, I'd like to make  
46 a comment.

47  
48 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes, please.  
49 Norma.

1 MS. EVAN: Last week, going to work, I  
2 seen a wolf. I thought -- it was taller than my dog. It  
3 was so tall, I thought it was a human so, I stopped  
4 because, you know, kids are walking to school early. And  
5 it was a wolf, a big black wolf, slender, tall, double  
6 the height of my dog, my biggest dog. In 2009, we almost  
7 had to cancel Halloween because we had a pack of rabid  
8 wolves in our community, and they stayed about two weeks.  
9 I guess they caught a couple of them, and after that  
10 they left our community, but it is scary when you do  
11 have kids walking to school and I know their population  
12 is growing and that's my comment. Thank you, Madam Chair.  
13

14 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you Norma,  
15 good to hear from you. I wanted to -- earlier I said  
16 something about the aligning of dates and -- forget that  
17 part, forget I said that. I was looking at something  
18 wrong. And thought I was talking about aligning dates,  
19 when it wasn't really about that, thanks. No other  
20 discussion?  
21

22 (No response)

23  
24 Then, would be ready for someone to call  
25 question, then.  
26

27 MR. MORGAN: Question. Walter.  
28

29 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thank you,  
30 Walter. We'll do a roll call vote with Brooke.  
31

32 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Madam Chair. The  
33 motion on the floor is to support WP26-48 to increase  
34 the hunting harvest limit for wolves in Unit 18 from 10  
35 to 15. John Andrew.  
36

37 MR. ANDREW: Yes.  
38

39 MS. MCDAVID: Norma Evan.  
40

41 MS. EVAN: Yes.  
42

43 MS. MCDAVID: Henry Parks.  
44

45 MR. PARKS: Yes.  
46

47 MS. MCDAVID: Phillip Peter.  
48

49 MR. PETER: Yes.  
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1 MS. MCDAVID: Francis Prince.

2

3 MR. PRINCE: Yes.

4

5 MS. MCDAVID: Walter Morgan.

6

7 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

8

9 MS. MCDAVID: Chair Cleveland.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Yes.

12

13 MS. MCDAVID: Motion passes, 7-0.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Thanks again  
16 everybody. It is 4:48. I'm wondering if you guys want a  
17 recess till tomorrow, or do you -- or should we try  
18 to.....

19

20 (Simultaneous speech)

21

22 UNIDENTIFIED: (In Native)

23

24 CHAIRPERSON CLEVELAND: Oh, quyana. (In  
25 Native). Okay, we're in recess until tomorrow, I'll pick  
26 back up with W -- oh, yeah. Okay so tomorrow morning at  
27 9 am, North Pacific Fishery Management Council Chum  
28 Salmon Bycatch. We'll hear from Kuskokwim River Inter-  
29 Tribal Fish Commission and TCC. 9 am. Yeah. So, yep, see  
30 you tomorrow and thanks again for the first Y-K RAC  
31 meeting day, one of three days. Quyana. Bye.

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33 (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 99 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the YUKON KUSKOKWIN DELTA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 20th day of January 2026;

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 6th day of February 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rafael Morel  
Chief Project Manager - Transcriptions