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SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

BP ENERGY CENTER
Anchorage, Alaska
September 28, 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard G. Encelewski, Chair
Edward Holsten
Michael Opheim
Diane Selanoff
Dennis Zadra
Kirk Wilson
Angela Totemoff
Faye Ewan
Hope Roberts
Judith Caminer

Regional Council Coordinator, Nissa Pilcher

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 9/28/26)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. I'm gonna [sic] officially call the meeting to order. We're a half a day behind, so we'll get with it. We will keep pressing on. Anyway, well, hopefully it will be done by noon tomorrow or sooner. How about -- let's do a quorum, let's do a roll call. Angela or Nissa. Okay.

MS. PILCHER: Okay. This is Nissa Pilcher again for the record. So, Edward Holsten.

MR. HOLSTEN: Yes, present.

MS. PILCHER: Michael Opheim.

MR. OPHEIM: Here.

MS. PILCHER: Chair Encelewski.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Here.

MS. PILCHER: Diane Selanoff.

MS. SELANOFF: Here.

MS. PILCHER: Dennis Zadra.

MR. ZADRA: I'm here.

MS. PILCHER: Hello, Dennis. My tally marks got behind, hold on. Kirk Wilson.

MR. WILSON: Here.

MS. PILCHER: Angela.

(No response)

Oh, you are in the room. Hello, Angela.
And Faye Ewan.

MS. EWAN: Here.

MS. PILCHER: And then Andrew McLaughlin.

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MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Here.

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MS. PILCHER: Edward GreyBear. Edward is running a little behind. He ran into a travel hiccup, but he is en route. Hope Roberts.

7

8

MS. ROBERTS: Here.

9

10

MS. PILCHER: And then Heath Kocan.

11

12

(No response)

13

14

15

I was not expecting Heath, but I figured just in case. And then Judith (indiscernible). I always get.... Judy.

16

17

18

MS. CAMINER: I'm here, thank you.

19

20

21

MS. PILCHER: Thank you, everyone. So, with 11 seated members of 13 members, we have quorum. Thank you.

22

23

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25

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: All righty. Thank you, Nissa. Next thing, we got Meeting Announcement. So, we do have a quorum. So, Nissa, you could go ahead and do your announcement.

26

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29

(Pause)

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31

The mic sucks, so you got to speak right into them real good. Now you hear us. Thank you.

32

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MS. PILCHER: Well, hopefully I don't blow everybody's ears off. Okay. So, good afternoon, not morning, everyone. Again, this is the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. My name is Nissa Pilcher, and I am the Council Coordinator for this Council, as well as the Designated Federal Officer for this meeting. So, I've got a few housekeeping announcements I'd like to make before we get started. So, first off, for those in the meeting room, other than the Council members, if you could please sign in. I also have not done that yet, but I will fix that. The sign-in sheet is on that back table right by the door. The meeting materials are available, of course, also in room on (distortion) as well as virtually on the Federal Subsistence Management Program's website. Again, that is www.doi.gov/subsistence. And then under the Regions tab, select Southcentral and then scroll

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1 down to Meeting Materials.

2

3 So, again, those who are participating
4 virtually, if you could please make sure that you keep
5 your line muted when you're not speaking. So, of course,
6 if you're joining via Teams, there's the mute option.
7 If you're on the phone, you can use the mute button on
8 your smartphone or use star 6 that both mutes and unmutes
9 you. But please keep in mind, if there is a line that
10 is open and it's being disruptive, we will need to mute
11 it for you. And then that is all of my meeting
12 announcements at this time.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: All right,
15 thank you. I wanna [sic] welcome everyone, the
16 Southcentral RAC meeting here today. And we're gonna go
17 through and the Council members will introduce
18 themselves and we'll give our reports later. But we'll
19 introduce everyone and then we'll go around the room and
20 introduce everyone that's here. So, if we wanna start
21 out with you, Andy, that would be great.

22

23 MR. MCCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, Andy McLaughlin
24 from the Village of Chenega Bay.

25

26 MR. OPHEIM: Michael Opheim, Seldovia.

27

28 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I'm Greg
29 Encelewski, I'm from Ninilchik.

30

31 MS. CAMINER: Judy Caminer, Anchorage.

32

33 MS. ROBERTS: Hope Roberts, Anchorage,
34 Valdez.

35

36 MS. EWAN: (Indiscernible), Kluti-Kaah,
37 known as Copper Center.

38

39 MS. SELANOFF: Diane Selanoff, Valdez.

40

41 MS. TOTEMOFF: Angela Totemoff,
42 Tatitlek.

43

44 MR. WILSON: Kirk Wilson, Tolsona in the
45 Copper Basin.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. We
48 got 2 online. Ed.

49

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1 MR. HOLSTEN: Yes. Ed Holsten, Cooper
2 Landing, Kenai Peninsula.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Dennis.

5
6 MR. ZADRA: Yes, I am Dennis Zadra here
7 in Cordova.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
10 Dennis. Okay, that's everyone here. Ed is on his [sic]
11 road. So, he'll show up shortly. Those present in the
12 room, who wants to start?

13
14 MS. PILCHER: And we do need you guys to
15 all come up to the mic and speak.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We'll
18 make Todd move first. Thank you.

19
20 MR. ESKELIN: Todd Eskelin and Kenai
21 National Wildlife Refuge in Soldotna.

22
23 MS. BRUMMER: Christine Brummer, Tribal
24 Fish and Wildlife Coordinator with the Chugach Regional
25 Resources Commission.

26
27 MS. KOSBRUK: Deanna Kosbruk with Ahtna
28 Inter-Tribal Resource Commission.

29
30 MS. LINNELL: Karen Linnell, Executive
31 Director, Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission.

32
33 MS. COHEN: Amber Cohen, Cultural
34 Anthropologist, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
35 Preserve.

36
37 MR. MERIZON: Good afternoon. Rick
38 Merizon, Tribal Wildlife Biologist for Chugach Regional
39 Resource Commission.

40
41 MS. FLOREY: Victoria Florey, National
42 Park Service.

43
44 MS. KLEIN: Good afternoon. My name is
45 Jill Klein. I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
46 and I serve as the regional subsistence coordinator. I'm
47 based in Anchorage.

48
49 MR. VICKERS: Good afternoon. Brent
50 Vickers, BLM subsistence resource coordinator for the

1 statewide program. Thank you.

2

3 MS. STANDIFER: Hello, everybody. I'm
4 Brandy Standifer. I'm a tribal member with the Native
5 Village of Tyonek.

6

7 MS. KEATING: Hello, Jacquie Keating,
8 Division of Subsistence, ADF&G.

9

10 MR. GORZE: Hello. Dan Gorze. Ahtna
11 Inter-Tribal Resource Commission, fisheries biologist,
12 and Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. Thank
13 you.

14

15 MR. FOLEY: Good afternoon, everyone.
16 Kevin Foley, fisheries biologist, OSM, Southcentral
17 Region. Good to see you.

18

19 MS. WESSELS: Good afternoon, Council
20 members. Katya Wessels, Council Coordination Division
21 Supervisor. Nice to see you all.

22

23 MS. MORROW: Hi, good afternoon. This is
24 Kristen Morrow, anthropologist with OSM.

25

26 MR. LIND: Good afternoon. Good to see
27 everyone. Orville Lind, Native Liaison for OSM.

28

29 MR. UBELAKER: Hello, everybody. Brian
30 Ubelaker, wildlife biologist, OSM.

31

32 MR. RISDAHL: Good afternoon, Council.
33 Greg Risdahl, USDA Forest Service subsistence program
34 leader, NISC. Nice to see you all.

35

36 MR. KOLLER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,
37 members of the Council. My name is Justin Koller. I'm a
38 regulations specialist with the Office of Subsistence
39 Management.

40

41 MS. PILCHER: All right. This is Nissa
42 Pilcher again for the record. So, we're going to run
43 down and introduce those that are on the phones. So, I'm
44 going to call out agencies or other things then you can
45 introduce yourself at that time. If I do go too fast and
46 skip anyone, we'll get you in there at the end, all
47 right? So, if any members of the public are on the phone
48 with us, if you'd like to introduce yourself at this
49 time, thank you.

50

1 MR. SARAFIN: Good afternoon. This is
2 Dave Sarafin. I was mainly just touching in to say hello
3 to everyone. Missed getting to work with you guys. So,
4 I'm a Federal, I guess, or a local resident of Tazlina
5 and retired as the fisheries management biologist on the
6 Copper River for Wrangell-St. Elias. So, hello.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Hello, Dave.

9
10 MS. PILCHER: All right. Any other
11 members of the public?

12
13 (No response)

14
15 All right, how about any Native
16 governments or Native organizations online?

17
18 MS. STEPHAN: Michaelene Stephan here
19 with the Tyonek Native Corporation.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Hi, Michaelene.

22
23 MS. PILCHER: All right.....

24
25 (Simultaneous speech)

26
27 MS. STEPHAN: Hey, Greg.

28
29 MS. PILCHER: Welcome. How about any non-
30 government agencies that are participating?

31
32 (No response)

33
34 All right. How about anyone
35 participating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

36
37 MR. FOSTER: Good afternoon. I'm Jordan
38 Foster, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

39
40 MS. PILCHER: All right. Welcome Jordan.
41 All right, how about National Park Service?

42
43 (No response)

44
45 All right, how about Bureau of Land
46 Management?

47
48 (No response)

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1 U.S. Fish and, excuse me, yeah, U.S.
2 Forest Service.

3
4 MR. SANDERS: Hi, this is Andrew Sanders.
5 I'm on the phone here from Cordova. I'm the subsistence
6 program manager for the Chugach National Forest. And
7 sorry I'm not there in person with you guys today.

8
9 MS. PILCHER: All right, welcome Andrew.
10 How about anyone from BIA?

11
12 (No response)

13
14 I just realized that I did skip the
15 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. That should have
16 been at the top. Is there anyone on participating with
17 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game?

18
19 MR. POETTER: Yeah, good afternoon. This
20 is Aaron Poetter, the Federal subsistence liaison -- the
21 State Subsistence Liaison to the Federal Subsistence
22 Program. Good afternoon, all. I'll be listening today.
23 Thank you.

24
25 MS. PILCHER: All right. Thanks, Aaron.
26 All right. And then anyone from OSM?

27
28 (No response)

29
30 All right. So, anybody that I missed
31 that would like to introduce themselves, if they could
32 please do so. Thank you.

33
34 (No response)

35
36 (Pause)

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: All righty,
39 we're ready to move on then. We're gonna review and
40 adopt the agenda. Is there any changes from the agenda
41 in your book at this time it says?

42
43 MS. PILCHER: Yes, if you'd like me to
44 read over a couple agenda items that have been added, I
45 can do that at this time. So, of course, the updated
46 agendas are available both online as one hard copy in
47 the room. Council members, of course, have a green copy.
48 It does differ slightly than the one in your book. So,
49 outside of just generally shuffling of agenda items to
50 make it flow a little better. Under Action Items, 2027

1 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, I added an item
2 on soliciting public comment. It was supposed to be on
3 the agenda and somehow I did not add it. So, under Annual
4 Report Topics under Action Items, add Draft Board
5 Communication Policy Feedback. And then under -- I
6 actually created a new agenda item number 12 called
7 Regional Advisory Council Chairs' Workshop on the Salmon
8 Crisis Summary and Next Steps. That's that meeting we
9 participated in this summer, Chair Encelewski and I did,
10 and we were going to give an update about that.

11
12 MS. SELANOFF: Could you repeat the
13 number 12 again?
14

15 MS. PILCHER: Yes, Regional Advisory
16 Council Chairs' Workshop on Salmon Crisis. And its
17 Summary and Next Steps. And it is on the green agenda
18 that you've got, number 12. Under Reports, add a report
19 from CRRC, the Chugach Regional Resource Commission, as
20 well as the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission. Park
21 Service is going to give a brief update on the proposed
22 rule. You guys were -- you discussed that at your last
23 meeting, you wrote correspondence. They were going to
24 give an update on where that is. Forest Service was
25 going to give, well, I believe the Forest Service is
26 going to give information on the rescinding of the
27 Roadless Proposed Rule, which is information that I've
28 shared with you guys back and forth. And then a specific
29 update from the Glennallen Field Office. There also is
30 an update from BLM on D-1 land withdrawals. And a Denali
31 National Wildlife Refuge [sic] update. And those are all
32 of the new additions to the agenda from the one that was
33 in your book.
34

35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: All righty,
36 Council members, you could add all those additions and
37 if you got anything else, let us know now or move to
38 adopt it as amended.
39

40 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, could I just ask
41 Nissa to repeat that last one? Did you say Denali
42 something?
43

44 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, the report from the
45 Denali National Wildlife Refuge [sic]. I mixed up, that
46 is a park, Denali National Park. So yeah, an update from
47 Denali.
48

49 MS. TOTEMOFF: Move to approve the agenda
50 with these changes listed by Nissa.

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MR. OPHEIM: Second.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Michael
seconded. Okay. Discussion?

(No response)

Hearing none. All in favor, aye.

IN UNISON: AYE.

Any opposed?

(No response)

Okay, we'll follow the amend [sic]
agenda. Next, we got a review of previous minutes. We
got a fall and a winter. Fall is on page 7. We could
start with that.

(Pause)

Okay, we're now still on the minutes for
the fall of 2025. Is that right?

MS. PILCHER: Yes, so the -- if we
remember the timeline -- this is Nissa for the record.
So, we had a furlough last year. So, even though it was
fall of 2025, you guys met in early, well, late, like
early January of 2026. But we're still calling it fall
2025, because we like to be confusing. So, and then you
met, I believe, two months later for the winter of 2026.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: If that don't
confuse you, just let me know, but take a look at them.

(Pause)

MR. OPHEIM: I'll make motion to accept
the agendas from the previous meeting minutes.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I got a
motion to accept the meeting minutes. Is that the fall
and the winter?

MR. OPHEIM: Yes, sir.

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. You
2 too, Andy?

3
4 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Any
7 discussion?

8
9 (No response)

10
11 Hearing none. All in favor, aye.

12
13 IN UNISON: AYE.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

16
17 (No response)

18
19 Okay. They are passed. So, you now you
20 could correct your records. Okay. Now we're gonna do
21 Regional Subsistence Reports. We're gonna have the
22 Council members give their report and we'll just give a
23 brief report and then I'll do my report at the end.
24 Kirk, you wanna [sic] start over there? You wanna start
25 with your Council member report? Just what's going on
26 in your region, how you been, how you're feeling, what's
27 looking good, what's looking bad, whatever. Make it
28 brief. Make it long. Whatever you want.

29
30 MR. WILSON: Okay, the good news is I
31 know quite a few local people that got moose this year.
32 And I actually know quite a few of our local people that
33 are going into that area that we had closed off to the
34 others. And quite a few people are getting moose. I
35 mean, it's been pretty bleak up where we're at. And this
36 year's a little better than where we've been. The fish
37 in the Copper. I got fish twice this summer, and my
38 first batch of fish, I had a couple of those little
39 dinks that we've been talking about, but the fish were
40 pretty healthy. The second batch of fish I got this year
41 were really healthy fish, and I think most of them were
42 going to Crosswinds Lake. And, boy, somewhere around 2
43 or 3 pounds a piece, bigger than all the rest of the
44 fish. Really nice big reds. I was up at the hatchery
45 about 2 weeks ago and they said they were about at the
46 same level as it was last year. Which wasn't fantastic,
47 but it's better than where we've been. We're not falling
48 back anymore, it seems like. Overall, the area that we
49 voted on last year and the people that I've talked to
50 and I spent some time going up there and looking around

1 and seeing local people hunting looks very positive for
2 what we did.

3

4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Angela.

5

6 MS. TOTEMOFF: I'm just going to make
7 sure I'm close enough to the mic. Angela Totemoff,
8 Tatitlek. Representing the Tatitlek community
9 subsistence today. This season was very, very cold.
10 Very, very sparse in terms of gathering. Zero
11 salmonberries, which was incredibly alarming for the
12 community. Literally no salmonberries. Maybe 1 or 2
13 flowerets coming up, but that was pretty bad. So far,
14 the blueberry season is also not looking any better at
15 this point but that was just kind of a sign of how cold
16 it was. We would just get like bursts of cold. In terms
17 of fishing -- the fishing season so far the silver season
18 is okay but the reds, they're -- around the surrounding
19 area was really bad. And I know that we're probably
20 going to hear some about what's happening in Cordova
21 right now. But that was a very, very slow season in
22 terms of reds for their community. And of course, kings
23 are nowhere to be seen, of course.

24

25 I just wanted to make a couple of
26 announcements. AFN is -- oh, but just to wrap that up,
27 there is some confusion. Like there was -- it was, these
28 reports, there was some confusion on who they should
29 report these to. And so, I can provide some people that
30 could report some of these low numbers if they had any
31 concerns. But it would be nice if we could have just a
32 cheat sheet of who do we actually turn to. Is it within
33 our region? Would it be CRRC or AITRC, or who could be
34 the liaison of where do we report these numbers to? So,
35 that was one of the suggestions that we had from our
36 region. And then another quick announcement is AFN, or
37 the Alaska Federation of Natives, is doing a subsistence
38 tour across the state right now. And so, they're visiting
39 every region listening to their priorities, issues, and
40 concerns. I'm happy to announce that we'll be in Copper
41 Center on Thursday. And so, we'll be in their territory
42 hearing about what their priorities are. So, really
43 excited about that. It is wrapping up, they're going to
44 have a full report coming out on that statewide tour at
45 the AFN convention this year. Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: All right.
48 Thank you, Angela. Yeah, we need to follow up on the
49 reports, where they go. I think that's important. That's
50 a good point and we'll talk about it and so, put [sic]

1 somewhere. But we need to get it to everyone. Thank you.

2

3 MS. SELANOFF: Diane Selanoff, Valdez.

4 Didn't kind of make myself a lot of notes, so I'm just
5 going to kind of wing it from here. But I do want to say
6 that commercially, the fish this year was not good. I -
7 - even the hatchery with their take wasn't that great
8 in the beginning. And so, they shut down the commercial
9 fisheries in Valdez, which in our favor made an abundance
10 of pink salmon and silver salmon. So, we were able to
11 do our subsistence. But as Angela was saying, our berry
12 crop this year was nerve-wracking. When the berries
13 should have been ripe, we just had brown sticks in the
14 ground. It wasn't until like a month later that we were
15 finally able to get some salmonberries. They bloomed
16 extremely, extremely late. But it's not from a
17 subsistence perspective that we suffered terribly with
18 them closing down the commercial industry for fishing.
19 We were able to get a lot of the fish we needed and the
20 salmonberries were a little bit late. But in that way
21 it seems like when we don't have an abundance of one
22 thing, we're bartering people. Alaska is getting smaller
23 with cell phones. We just start making phone calls and
24 trading and getting the resources we need if ours are
25 lacking in some place. Usually, if something is lacking,
26 something else is in abundance. But it didn't -- I can't
27 think of what was the abundance this year, other than
28 the salmon that was made available because of the
29 commercial fishing closing down so early. And it's not
30 just that the fish naturally would have been minimal,
31 but it's like the bears, there didn't seem to be a lot
32 of them. And then I see that the geese have joined us
33 for the meeting today. They showed up last night. There's
34 been geese all over. But for us geese have been -- we
35 haven't seen much coming or going, and it just seems
36 like it's an odd year. So anyway, I don't mean to be
37 bleak, but it just seems like our resources are dwindling
38 faster. Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

41 Faye.

42

43 MS. EWAN: Good afternoon. Faye Ewan,
44 Native Village of Kluti-Kaah. My report that is some is
45 good, some is bad. I just got done doing our moose
46 hunting. We didn't get no moose. And I know 8 villages
47 didn't get no moose. Maybe the non-Natives got a lot of
48 moose, but we didn't. And this 10-day open season
49 confused a lot of people. There was poachers on State
50 land that got away with hunting moose. A bull moose was

1 turned in, nothing was done with it. And the 10-days
2 extra, you know, the beginning of the season, they wipe
3 out 100 moose in probably in 10 days in that community
4 hunt. And a lot of that meat that gets to us sometime
5 isn't very edible. And it's really sad because it's
6 overhunt. And mismanagement on the State land is really
7 affecting my people in the Ahtna region because that is
8 our staple and with our food, (indiscernible), the cost
9 to live up there is outrageous.

10
11 And salmon. I dip net this year, I
12 didn't put a fish wheel in because I seen [sic] it was
13 overrun and overfished and it was mismanagement. And it
14 wasn't a good -- I didn't see the good results of the
15 Copper River people. It's getting worse and worse every
16 year. These managers that do these things here, they
17 open it up for personal use and they say that sports
18 fishermen affect it. I don't think it's really --
19 compared to the subsistence users, I think there's a lot
20 of people qualified for subsistence that come out of the
21 cities that where they can't come up to Copper River and
22 be federally qualified users. If they can come up to
23 Copper River, they wipe out Chitina before we even get
24 our salmon into Copper River. And the king salmon came
25 back about 2 and a half, 3 feet long. They're not even
26 full grown yet. I haven't seen a full 40-inch to 50-inch
27 king salmon in about 5 years. It's declining. Our Copper
28 River's getting wiped out and there's nobody managing
29 it. But you can go down to Chitina from June 1st till
30 September 30th, the people that still are fishing down
31 there are still taking what they can. And if there's no
32 management, nobody knows how many thousand fish come out
33 of Chitina.

34
35 I live in the Copper Center area, and I
36 know there's 2-3 fish wheel in my area, that -- they
37 didn't do good. I mean, they had to share this fish with
38 the people from Alaska, the people that did potlatches
39 and things like that. It really affects us, our way of
40 life. It's not just food in a freezer. It's how we feed
41 our people for our funerals, our memorials. Our way of
42 life is affected by no moose. What are we going to do
43 now? We've got to wait for roadkill? It's really sad
44 that I had to make this kind of complaint and the berries
45 were not good either. It's with the weather and the
46 climate change and the water, is all over. The people
47 were where you see the tundra, where the caribou run and
48 there is no caribou. I never see one caribou this year.
49 And that's really sad. It's that it's getting overrun
50 and overkill in the Unit 13 area. We need to put some

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1 kind of regulations with the State and -- to regulate
2 what's going to be -- in 10 years is going to be nothing
3 left. I see it already. Thank you.

4
5 (Pause)

6
7 MS. ROBERTS: It's kind of hard to follow
8 that.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Tough
11 one.

12
13 MS. ROBERTS: Hope Roberts, Anchorage.
14 It's kind of hard to live in the Southcentral area and
15 work for the Northwestern region. I work for the Alaska
16 Nannut Co-Management Council now. Marine mammals is a
17 passion of mine and I'm learning so much about polar
18 bears and the subsistence way of life up there. My
19 daughter is from there. But let's see. This summer, I
20 spent some time in the Kachemak Bay. Not a whole lot
21 because I was working and spending time in a different
22 region. But my partner has gone fishing quite a bit and
23 we haven't really targeted marine mammals there, but
24 even when we went, we didn't see very many sea otters.
25 I don't know if they're busy with clams somewhere, which
26 we -- I've seen on the internet that that might've been
27 where they were. But every time he'd put a line in the
28 water, he'd catch king salmon, but they weren't very
29 big. And he was able to safely put them back. He was
30 catching some lingcod, but they were not legal size in
31 the Kachemak Bay. Heard, like fishing charters and
32 Valdez. Some of our friends over there said that their
33 fishing was pretty good. Could have been better. I
34 noticed that the winning derby fish is still like a
35 hundred pounds lighter than they used to be when we
36 started fishing back in 2018. I don't know why, but
37 they're still smaller. The water is still warmer. I've
38 watched it get warmer, like by 2 degrees a year, I want
39 to say, since 2018. But I wasn't there this summer, so
40 I can't tell you all that for sure. I've seen people try
41 to pick berries up on Hilltop. And they said that the
42 blackberries were very tiny if they found them. Yeah,
43 that's it. I think that's what I got.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

46
47 MS. ROBERTS: Did you hear me okay?

48
49
50 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Judy.

1
2 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I
3 mentioned, I'm from Anchorage, but I had a couple amazing
4 wildlife experiences this summer, not necessarily
5 related to our subsistence management program. But I was
6 down at Anchor River just as that whale got stranded in
7 June. And that was quite an amazing experience of
8 eventually it got up onto the shore and people dragged
9 it on shore, but it was really quite a group effort.
10 Kenaitze Tribes send people over to help analyze. Of
11 course, the SeaLife Center as well as NOAA and others
12 were there, but what an amazing animal and such a shame
13 that it somehow died. I don't know what they eventually
14 decided was the cause. And then up here in the Chugach
15 Mountains in the State Park, hiking along and see a
16 wolverine come loping across the huge bowl that's up
17 there, and that was quite an experience as well. I think
18 there's maybe 25 at the most, 35 in the park, so that's
19 pretty good to see.

20
21 There's been a lot, lot of, a lot of
22 bear reports in Anchorage. Now, whether that's a lot of
23 social media and all of a sudden people are getting the
24 word out or whether the population has actually
25 increased, not clear. I haven't had a chance to call
26 Fish and Game and ask but they have been needing to
27 eliminate some of them because they've just become so
28 food accustomed that they're creating a lot of problems.
29 And berries I thought they were pretty plentiful here,
30 but quite late. Just blueberries. I've seen some
31 cranberries, some currants, but blueberries are pretty
32 bountiful. And everybody, not everybody, a lot of people
33 while picking can also spot bears eating as well, but
34 haven't heard of any interactions relating to that. And
35 that's about it for the report. I think we'll talk more
36 later about the results of the Federal Subsistence Board
37 meeting, and that goes to some of Kirk's and Faye's
38 comments on the caribou hunting too.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
41 Judy. Next, I'm going to go to you guys online. Dennis,
42 you want to give your report?

43
44 MR. ZADRA: Okay. Thank you very much.
45 I'll make this as brief as I can. Pretty much reiterate
46 the whole, the cold late spring. It was just a cold year
47 from the winter on. But we're seeing better
48 survivability on our brown bears and our black bears and
49 a lot more cubs. You know, I hunt these things and so
50 we're very aware and it's quite a few years where the

1 cub survival was not very good, but it's definitely
2 getting better. Our gillnet fishery was delayed by one
3 week by the Board of Fish action. And so, you know, we
4 -- it was devastating to us in a couple of ways. The
5 Memorial Day weekend is a really big weekend for these
6 Copper River salmon. The demand is high. When they opened
7 it up, it was on a Friday, which was the 22nd of May,
8 Memorial Day being the following Monday. And we caught
9 some fish and the demand was super high, but we could
10 not get those fish to the markets that wanted them in
11 time. So, we did not see the prices that we thought we
12 would. And then the season just continued to be
13 incredibly dismal. We -- the gillnet fleet actually
14 fished only 6 12-hour periods the entire sockeye season.
15 So, -- and the fish were big, that's one thing that was
16 a bright spot. We're back to seeing some good 7-, 8-,
17 even 9-pound reds. So, that was positive.

18
19 Our coho run came in stronger than
20 expected in all of that, with some more big fish. And
21 because most of the commercial fisheries across the
22 state did not produce well. The demand is really high
23 for wild salmon. And so, the prices were, you know,
24 upwards of three bucks a pound for cohos, which I have
25 never seen in all my career. Again, our berries were
26 late and they were relatively weak, but they did show
27 up and the bears seemed to do a little better on them.
28 We're having a few berry issues in Cordova, but not
29 like, you know, we've seen in the years where there were
30 no berries. And I'll just say that for September and
31 down here where we can get 90 inches of rainfall in the
32 month of September alone, it has been pretty mild. We've
33 had some storms, nothing terrible. Some rain, but we've
34 had a lot of sunshine. So, overall it's been a pretty
35 nice, mellow fall. And that's all I got.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good.
38 Thank you, Dennis. How about you, Ed? You want to go
39 next?

40
41 MR. HOLSTEN: Yes. This is Ed Holsten,
42 Cooper Landing. First, our -- first run of sockeye salmon
43 was very good. That usually appears mid-June into 1st
44 of July, big fish. Second run of sockeye coming up, the
45 Upper Kenai River was late. And by the time many of that
46 second run got up, they were in spawning colors. Cohos,
47 have arrived in the middle lower Kenai River. They're
48 just barely trickling up to the upper river in the Cooper
49 Landing area. I think populations are down. I know the
50 limit in the middle lower river is down to sport fishing,

1 2 fish per day.

2

3 Moose populations. It's -- I know
4 hunting season is going. Subsistence this year has a
5 late season. Which will probably be pretty good because
6 it's been such an unusual year as many people talked
7 about. Very cold spring even into August and things
8 warmed up a bit. They've stayed warm. I suspect most of
9 the moose are still up high. I doubt the rut has started
10 again. Both snowshoe and grouse populations still remain
11 low, but berry crops in our area, especially
12 blueberries, have been good this year. And in some areas,
13 salmonberries, where you can find them, have been pretty
14 good.

15

16 And one last thing, just for your
17 information, I know in our last fall wildlife RAC
18 meeting, there were a number of trapping setback
19 proposals submitted by the Cooper Landing Safe Trails
20 Committee. And most -- almost all these proposals were
21 opposed mainly because they would put restrictions on
22 Federal subsistence hunters over State. Anyway, these
23 same proposals were submitted to the Board of Game last
24 winter, early spring. And the Board of Game actually
25 approved a couple of these setbacks, which was really
26 good news for locals in Cooper Landing. And there's 2
27 areas, Quartz Creek, the old Sterling Highway, and areas
28 up Bean Creek. So, there's setbacks of 50 yards from
29 those trails and the old Sterling Highway. Anyway,
30 that's about it for me. I'm sorry I'm not there but have
31 a good afternoon.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.
34 Michael, you want to go?

35

36 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, I think mine's going
37 to follow along with a lot of other folks. Super cold
38 winter, froze out our salmonberries and I believe our
39 blueberries even. We haven't had much of any
40 blueberries, if any. I don't think I saw any blueberry
41 flowers this year. We saw a few salmonberries in spots.
42 There's not a lot of moose in the area in walking around
43 out in the woods, looking at tracks. Places where I
44 should be seeing all kinds of tracks for moose and moose
45 sign, not seeing much. Bears. Where I should be seeing
46 a lot of bear sign. There's not much, not even on the
47 roads. In town, in Seldovia, we have a few bears right
48 now, probably 4 or 5. But they're not finding much,
49 fortunately. So, that's been a good thing.

50

1 Doesn't seem like the salmon came back
2 like we usually would have for pinks and dogs in Seldovia
3 area. There was a small run. Seemed like the silver
4 seemed to be coming in late. The rains. We should be
5 just being drenched, soaked. The ground should be
6 saturated. Rivers should be running and we don't have
7 any of that. We've had rain but it's just not the rain
8 that we need to keep fish moving upstream into lakes and
9 spawning grounds. So, that's been a pretty tough one.
10 The spruce hen population has been down, and I haven't
11 seen it bounce back yet. It's still very few on the
12 roads, very few and little sign out in the woods walking
13 around. So, it's a, yeah, not super great the report
14 this year.

15
16 I did see a charter boat that's out of
17 Seldovia. Looked like he was doing good, picking up some
18 late season salmon, probably silvers. So, hopefully some
19 folks are getting some silvers in the freezers. And,
20 yeah, that seems like -- I haven't heard of too many
21 people harvesting bear. The goat population I think is
22 doing well, but I haven't heard of too many people
23 harvesting goats in the area either. I've had a nephew
24 go out I think 3 times and just hasn't been able to pull
25 the trigger. Been some bad weather and not so lucky
26 finding any. So, I think that's of what I got right now.
27 And Angela, you can send all the information to CRRC.
28 We'll take it and help you out in any way we can.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good,
31 thank you. Thank you, Michael. Andy.

32
33 MR. MCCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
34 Chair. You know, sad to say it seems like one of the
35 most alarming years for me to report on that I can
36 recall. Our salmon returns, I can concur with Council
37 member from Cordova, Dennis, pretty dismal on the return
38 there. Commercial fishermen were really hurting, that's
39 for sure. The humpies came in a month late or so and at
40 less than 20% of the average year, but that's the most
41 alarming thing. Typically, humpies are a big driving
42 force for our subsistence out there and the resources.
43 Very few kings. Absolutely no silvers, which is really
44 weird, cause usually, trollers in the summer get some,
45 and some incidental catch. Certainly, some were caught
46 by some seine boats but -- commercial fishermen, but
47 none were caught there in the harbor in Chenega, where
48 we usually have a bunch.

49
50

1 Our clam numbers continue to be low.
2 There's also now I think the otters have eaten themselves
3 out of house and home because very -- much less sea
4 otters than normal. One thing about the salmon that I
5 observed because I do hunt north up out of our
6 Southcentral region, but I stopped at the Gulkana quite
7 a bit. And over basically 35 years and probably lowest
8 numbers of reds I've seen up there, in that upper
9 stretch, you know, this is the spawners that are in
10 there. I've heard hearsay from close friends who were
11 involved in the dipnetting around Chitina that a lot of
12 the kings during closure were being kept. They could see
13 people dipnetting them and keeping them and running into
14 their vehicles. That's not a good thing. I can say that
15 the State closed the shrimp season early. They shortened
16 it before the season even opened, it was real short
17 season. That's a function of the overfishing of the
18 commercial fishery, in my opinion.

19
20 Our blueberry crop, like everybody else,
21 almost non-existent, maybe a couple handfuls here and
22 there, less than a percent of the normal blueberry crop.
23 The salmonberry crop came in quite late, but it was not
24 robust or anything, which typically 95% of the years
25 I've seen has all been a pretty decent, you know, crop.
26 (Indiscernible) level in particular was bad. Maybe a 10
27 percent salmonberry crop up at mid to higher elevations.
28 But there's difference in the seasons and timing and
29 perhaps that's a function of the pollination in the
30 spring. But it was a very wet, cold spring and the bugs
31 just didn't get a chance to do much pollination on those
32 berries blossoms, I believe.

33
34 The black bears at home are similar to
35 last year's numbers, maybe slight increase from last
36 year's numbers. But the skinniest ones I've ever seen,
37 like just skeletons. You can see their ribs. It's --
38 that's a function for sure of the streams being devoid
39 of salmon. Usually, some of the streams there, I could
40 count in a few hundred yard stretch of the streams,
41 several thousand, highest maybe 7 to 9 thousand in some
42 of those stretches and this year was about 200. So,
43 something to do with the humpies not in the streams. And
44 also saw no silver so far. Sometimes they come in late.
45 But typically we do even get some stray reds and some
46 stray dogs spawning in those streams. But the streams
47 absolutely had zero salmon in them. And it's the first
48 time I've ever seen that, on up to like August 1st, not
49 one salmon in the entire streams where there's typically
50 hundreds to thousands.

1
2 Anyhow, our fuel prices are pretty rough
3 out there. 9.70 a gallon. That's probably a function of
4 less boating. So, I don't know of anybody that's actually
5 gone over for goats, like what we have in the past. It's
6 a little too far, a little cost prohibitive for the
7 gamble of whether you're going to get a goat or not.
8 Seiners. Because of the fuel prices, about two-thirds
9 of the way through the season, the seiners just closed
10 up shop. They just went home. They'd used up all their
11 money on fuel and everything and had been catching so
12 few fish that they weren't able to pay for, you know,
13 and they're worried about paying their crews and
14 everything else. So, a bunch of the seiners, because of
15 the high fuel cost quit early. Some of the people, like
16 Dennis said, that did stick it out, I believe getting
17 into some silvers now, a little later, but it's not a
18 great silver return. Anyhow.

19
20 The halibut numbers. This is super
21 alarming. I guess I saw the heyday in my lifetime. It
22 used to be 24 hours, you could go get 150 pounds of
23 halibut, you know, subsistence for your winter supply.
24 Fill up the freezer. I went 4 times, got 2 little 15-20
25 pounders. Typically, it's much easier to acquire some
26 than that and a lot more than that. Something's going
27 on with the halibut. Anyhow. Yeah, the past 20 years,
28 it's been a decline. Rockfish seemed to be a pretty
29 common mainstay for subsistence people. In the region
30 there can generally rely on rockfish. Definitely the
31 lingcod numbers are going down. Of course, see a lot of
32 charter boats. Whittier and Valdez and Seward come to
33 our home waters there and some of the reefs that
34 typically have held really reliable lingcod resource,
35 you don't catch them like you used to. Maybe put in 3
36 times the amount of work to get the same amount of fish.
37 And the size is going down. We used to catch, honestly,
38 60 to 70 pound lingcod up near the State record size,
39 and they're getting small, like the biggest ones are
40 maybe 40. So, anyhow.

41
42 Our village in Chenega, I can say, is
43 relying primarily on commercial fish of reds, sockeyes
44 up in Main Bay. We're actually having to rely on hatchery
45 return fish. For our reds, the returns have been not
46 great. I can say I know of 0 deer being harvested this
47 year. I believe that the population -- there's a few
48 better than last year's numbers. I can say that I really
49 lucked out and got a moose this year. That was --
50 typically on an average year I see about 8 to 10 to have

1 to weed through those and find my bull. And this year I
2 just saw one cow and then I went the entire season
3 without seeing one moose the entire time. Saw a lot of
4 wolves. And then on the last day of season, the second
5 moose that I got to see was a legal bull and I got him.
6 So, you know, but it kind of creeps me out because what's
7 that bode for next year? You know, leaving any seed for
8 -- around, you know? I'd say the wolf numbers are
9 surprisingly high. Heard howling every night. No caribou
10 around, but a lot of wolves, which is kind of weird
11 because it used to be the other way. But I even saw a
12 wolf chasing a swan through a beaver pond. So, a lot of
13 wolves. Anyhow.

14
15 Another thing that I think is one of the
16 most important things to talk about, because we're
17 talking about Prince William Sound, and -- is the
18 significant habitat and ecosystem destruction that is
19 likely happening from trawling. You know, they closed
20 the trawl early back in January earlier because they --
21 this is the pollock trawl, they met the salmon bycatch
22 quota. All marine waters in Prince William Sound are
23 State jurisdiction and Federal qualified subsistence
24 users have no means to use Federal subsistence in our
25 marine waters there. That's a continued problem. And
26 anyhow. I'd like to just add that pollock in Prince
27 William Sound and in the Gulf of Alaska are at the center
28 of the food web. You can look at some NOAA's charts and
29 it shows them right there. There are significant
30 predators of the pollock are halibut, flounder, cod,
31 sablefish, salmon, sea lions. Significant prey of the
32 pollock are euphausiids, copepods, shrimp,
33 invertebrates, large and small zoo- and phytoplankton.
34 So, a factor that just doesn't need to be how much
35 biomass we're removing from the ecosystem when we allow
36 these pollock to be taken. Considerations need to be how
37 these are tied to the population dynamics of all the
38 other species that are intermingled with the pollock.
39 And yeah, that's what I have to say. Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
42 Andy, it was a good report. I'm going to go ahead and
43 give my report now. And I'm not going to be able to
44 shine any bright lights but I'll do the best I can here.
45 Tell you what I've been up to and what I see down our
46 area. Of course, I'm from the Peninsula down there, and
47 we'll start out with kings. There is no kings, so they're
48 shut down. We do buy a few kings from Southeastern for
49 the tribe and share them with the elders, and those are
50 what we make our smoke fish with, and (indiscernible).

1 This year, a guy brought me some -- he was a commercial
2 fisherman, I actually got some dogs. It's pretty
3 interesting. They were early in the year, really fat and
4 really nice ones. I smoked them up. It was kind of funny,
5 I ain't smoked dogs in 40 years, but anyway. Some people
6 liked them, some people didn't, but they were really
7 oily, very good, so I had to give a try. I'm going to
8 save the All-Councils Meeting for Chair meeting for the
9 end of my report to kind of wrap that up there, but we
10 did attend that for several days.

11
12 The setnets have been closed down on the
13 peninsula for at least 4 or 5 years now. The clams are
14 gone, we got that and we know that. The drifters had
15 kind of a poor year. We at the tribe had a disastrous
16 year for our fishery for the first time in many, many
17 years. We usually supply about 4,500 reds for their
18 community. Native, non-Native, it was for the community.
19 The reds came in real late. The dip netters got them 1,
20 2 days. There was about a 2-day spike in the Kenai River
21 and then it just crashed. And we fished all the way
22 through late and up and tried everything. So, we're kind
23 of sharing to make that -- make up that thing. So, the
24 tribal -- that was very sad. It was sad we were trying
25 to fix them up there.

26
27 Moose. Even though I got a potlatch
28 moose earlier for the tribe with my son. But the moose
29 in our area are actually doing fairly well. We do on the
30 Native land have a pretty intense predator control
31 program that we run ourselves, and I mentioned it before,
32 to keep the wolf population down and the bears. Because
33 as soon as they go up, then the moose are down really
34 bad. So that helps out. There's quite a few people who
35 got moose in the Ninilchik area. I'm going to tell you
36 a little bit about (indiscernible), it's Silver Salmon
37 Creek across the inlet. I don't want anyone to repeat
38 this, but silver salmon fishing there was very good, and
39 I had to fish with a rod and reel. I don't really know
40 how to do that, but I caught 6 silvers, huh? I think the
41 limit's 3 a day. That was 2 days, okay? But anyway, the
42 silvers were good on that side of the bay. They weren't
43 good on this side of the bay. But one of the reasons
44 being if you want to just do it anecdotally or TEK
45 knowledge. You know, they shut down some of the
46 commercials, silver fishing over there. They allowed
47 them to come up and they run gear, 150 fathoms, right
48 off the -- right there at Johnson River, right by Silver
49 Salmon River, right off the beach. But they cut down
50 the days they could actually fish now, and I think that's

1 helped improve the subsistence use there.

2

3 There are some other things, you know,
4 little things like spruce hens and stuff that were a
5 little low this year. But all in all, we're pretty happy
6 with -- the moose seem to be pretty well, although it's
7 hard to find legal bulls. But I will tell you a story.
8 A lot of people talk about the rut. Well, I have a
9 different opinion of that, because the rut did not move
10 and will not move, and it's going to take a lot more
11 climate change to move it, I think. Like clockwork on
12 September 10th, those bulls start rutting. You could
13 call them and they come in, so. I do have an award-
14 winning picture that I will not show you until I get it
15 blue-marked or publicized, but I got 2 bulls, big bulls
16 45- to 48-inch coming out and they're questioning a cow.
17 The cow's looking at them right, straight down and I
18 captured all 3 of them together. It's fabulous. But
19 anyway I didn't shoot no moose, but I sure got a lot of
20 good pictures.

21

22 Anyway, that said, now I want to just
23 kind of divert a little bit and tell you about the All-
24 Council meeting of the Chairs. That was a tremendous,
25 heartfelt, serious, intense meeting. There was a lot of
26 emotion. There's a lot of people. A lot of concerns. A
27 lot of them on the Federal Board. We got to interact
28 with the Federal Board. We did studies -- it's in your
29 reports here, what we had, and we'll talk about it later
30 in this meeting where we get to what it would look like
31 in a perfect world. But the truth of the matter is our
32 resources are in peril. They're really -- we're really
33 in a bad position all over the State. I don't care if
34 it's Federal, State, poaching, whatever. There's things
35 are gone. And what do we do about it? There are things
36 we can do about it. What does it look like in the future?
37 You know, some of the people say in our community, you
38 know, they never seen -- we teach preschool and a lot
39 of them have never seen a clam. They don't even know
40 what a clam is. But maybe they won't know what a clam
41 is. Maybe it won't affect them. Maybe they won't have
42 these kings. But times are changing, folks, really
43 serious. And we have to holistically look a little
44 different how we manage our fish and game throughout the
45 whole State because it's problems. I won't go into how
46 passionate that meeting was and how intense it was, but
47 it was a very, very good meeting. And there's a lot of
48 outcome from that. We'll talk more about that. But I
49 won't beleaguer that any longer. That's my report.

50

1 I wish it could be bubbly and I tried
2 to put in a good moose story in there or something. I
3 did smoke a little bit of fish this year because I got
4 a few reds and I smoked some kings that we bought from
5 Southeastern, so. If we're lucky, I'll bring them pack
6 in tomorrow. But anyway, that depends how far down the
7 meeting we are. Anyway. No, it's all good, but we do
8 have to figure a way to make things work here. Otherwise,
9 we will not have the resources we once were very happy
10 to have. Thank you.

11
12 MS. SELANOFF: I have a burning question
13 for Michael.

14
15 (Simultaneous speech)

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Had a burning
18 question regarding the reports.

19
20 MS. SELANOFF: Huh?

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: On the reports?
23 Go ahead.

24
25 MS. SELANOFF: Yes, yeah. I'm curious
26 about the transplant of deers and how they did. You
27 didn't mention that in your report. I didn't hear it,
28 but I'm super curious about how that went.

29
30 MR. OPHEIM: Right now, as far as I know,
31 there was 5 deer remaining. And the Fish and Game was
32 actively working on moving I think up to 19 more, 19 to
33 20 more deer from Sitkalidak, I believe, on south end
34 of Kodiak to the south end of the Peninsula. And they're
35 going to do a soft release much like they did previous
36 into the Pen there at Chatham and then be released out.
37 I think they were trying for more does this time over
38 bucks. So, hopefully, that -- hopefully we'll get some
39 breeding and get the -- get some deer growing. Cause
40 I've -- in my time with the Seldovia Village Tribe and
41 doing research, there's nothing says that that's not a
42 good area. It's all good area, so.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Next on
45 our agenda here, we got a Council Member Service Award.
46 Justin, are you going to lead that?

47
48 (No audible response)

49
50

1 Oh, he's got a stack. Okay, that sounds
2 good. Must have been some good things happening.

3
4 MR. KOLLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
5 members of the Council. My name is Justin Koller, once
6 again, Office of Subsistence Management. This is the
7 time that we recognize those Council members who have
8 volunteered to serve on this Council for an extended
9 period. Taking time away from their families,
10 communities, jobs, to travel and lend their expertise
11 to the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and most
12 importantly, represent the people of the region and the
13 communities that they live in. I have some 5-year awards,
14 10-year and some 15, 2 of each. And maybe just after the
15 first 2 5-years, we can get a photo at the back of the
16 room with the Council Coordinator and maybe the Council
17 Chair. And they'll do it again for the 10 and the 15.
18 And then maybe during a break, we can get a nice big
19 picture out in the hallway. So, for -- to start off with
20 the 5-years, we have Member Totemoff and Member Caminer.
21 Angela Totemoff.....

22
23 (Applause)

24
25 Member Totemoff was appointed during the
26 pandemic, which was not an easy time to join the Council.
27 New members appointed during that period did not get the
28 benefit of being in the same room with other members and
29 staff for the first few meetings, at least. Member
30 Totemoff nevertheless succeeded like she has in many
31 other aspects of her life as she splits her time between
32 this Council and numerous other corporations and boards.
33 Her breadth of experience makes Member Totemoff a highly
34 valued voice to the Council and the Federal Subsistence
35 Management Program. Thank you.

36
37 (Applause)

38
39 While Member Caminer is receiving her
40 5-year service award today, she has prior service that
41 needs to be reviewed and tallied to make sure she's
42 being fully recognized for all her time served.
43 Certainly seems like longer than five years. Yeah.
44 Member Caminer brings a unique perspective to the
45 Council due to her prior experience working at the
46 National Park Service and is always thorough about
47 having the Council fully flesh out the recommendations
48 and other discussions. She helps the Council understand
49 complex topics and how they could impact subsistence
50 users. During her tenure, Member Caminer has served much

1 of her time as the Council's Vice Chair, where she
2 assists in running the Council meetings and dutifully
3 represents the Council at Board meetings, of course, in
4 Chair Encelewski's absence. So, thank you.

5
6 (Applause)
7

8 MR. KOLLER: Okay. So, we'll move on to
9 the 10-year recognition. That's Member Selanoff and
10 Member Holsten. We would like to recognize you for 10-
11 years of service. Diane Selanoff is highly regarded in
12 the region. She brings years of experience, extensive
13 knowledge, and strong personal connections to the
14 Council. Throughout her life, she has taken on a variety
15 of roles, which continues to benefit the Council. She
16 remains actively involved in culture camps throughout
17 Prince William Sound, where she shares her subsistence
18 knowledge to teach and pass on the cultural traditions.
19 She was also recently honored as an Elder of the Year
20 by the Chugach Regional Resource Commission. And we are
21 honored to have her volunteer her time on this Council.

22
23 (Applause)
24

25 Member Holsten is an excellent
26 communicator who listens well and has a calm and kind
27 approach to working with others, making him a very highly
28 effective Council member. Member Holsten is recognized
29 for his multifaceted involvement with the Council and
30 his dedication to regional fish and game issues. He's
31 also served on the Cooper Landing Fish and Game Advisory
32 Committee for 2 decades. So, we applaud his dedication
33 to both management systems and the expertise he brings
34 to the Council.

35
36 (Applause)
37

38 Last 2 are 15-year recognition. The
39 first one's for Andrew McLaughlin. Member -- yep.

40
41 (Applause)
42

43 Member McLaughlin might carry the record
44 for being weathered out of his home and stuck in the
45 hotel room in Anchorage, yet he's still applied or
46 reapplied for the Council this fall. We are lucky he did
47 because he's a very active participant with the Council,
48 lending other unique perspective based on his knowledge
49 and forged connection with the place he chose to settle.
50 Member McLaughlin is a great asset to the Council and

1 one can never say he is afraid to speak up, seek
2 clarification or voicing a concern or an opinion. We
3 thank you.

4

5 (Applause)

6

7 Last but not least, of course, is Member
8 Opheim. He has been an exceptional Council member, one
9 who also wears a lot of hats, which greatly benefit the
10 Council. In addition to his service on this Council and
11 work with the Chugach Regional Resources Commission, he
12 also serves as the Chair of the Seldovia Fish and Game
13 Advisory Committee. We applaud his dedication to both
14 management systems and the expertise he brings to this
15 Council. Member Opheim is well respected by his fellow
16 Council members and he's in regular communication with
17 the Office of Subsistence Management staff on
18 subsistence issues and concerns throughout the region.
19 Thank you.

20

21 (Applause)

22

23 And, just on behalf of the Federal
24 Subsistence Management Program and the Office of
25 Subsistence Management, we just want to thank you for
26 your dedication to the program. And once again, you know,
27 your service to the people in the communities and the
28 people in the region. So, we appreciate you more than
29 you know. Thank you.

30

31 (Applause)

32

33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
34 Justin. Thank you. And congratulations to all of you.
35 Great service. Good, good Council members. Thank you.
36 Okay. Very good. We do have a thing I'll just say here
37 under number 10. It's the public comment notice. That
38 the public and tribal comments on non-agenda items that
39 are available every -- each morning. So, if you want to
40 bring up something each morning, put it in there, we'll
41 do that. And then do you want to -- is this for now?

42

43 (Pause)

44

45 Okay, I have one here for Brandy
46 Standifer. If you want to come up, please. Native Village
47 of Tyonek.

48

49 MS. STANDIFER: Good afternoon, Council
50 members. Thank you, Mr. Chair. If I would've known it

1 was -- it states public or tribal comment on non-agenda
2 items. I would have written a speech. Thank you very
3 much for keeping this transparent. It's comforting to
4 know that pretty informative group active in your
5 individual areas. I would -- after my -- I have 2
6 pertaining to your agenda, 2 comments. And then I'll
7 close off with our area. We are the only village on the
8 west side Cook Inlet. And just for the record, I am here
9 as a Tribal member of the Native Village of Tyonek,
10 representing myself and my fellow tribal members. Thank
11 you.

12
13 So, the first one was on your guys'
14 closures. Under 11, the Action Items, Developing
15 recommendations on Fisheries Proposals and Closure
16 Review. Our region was closed down for the majority of
17 the season when we know -- Mr. Chair stated that the
18 bulls go and rut always at that time. So, traditionally
19 we know when the fish are out there and that's when
20 we're busy putting away our subsistence. Our community,
21 I could confidently say we are about 99.9% subsistence
22 as our basic food intake. We were shut down for the
23 majority of May. When historically our fishing is open
24 the beginning of May, middle of May. The State of Alaska
25 Department of Fish and Game did not allow us to fish for
26 our smokehouses, for our families until May 30th. I can
27 tell you that our subsistence card that they give us,
28 it's full of 0s, or maybe 1, or on mine you will see 7.
29 That's 7 kings. I'm not sure what anybody else calls
30 them, but that's what I call them. In our community, we
31 have 12 to 17 family smokehouses. There was only 3
32 smoking this season. This year they took away a second
33 day. The year before they took away the first day. This
34 year they took away the second day. So, we are only
35 allowed 1 day a week. Not everybody's freezers are full.
36 And that's our primary food that's on our dinner plate.

37
38 We had to sit and watch our --
39 everybody's on Facebook. We had to sit and watch this
40 local, very local here in Anchorage. It's called the
41 Bait Shack. We had to watch, our elders had to watch
42 sport fishing, residential fishing. I don't know what
43 you call it while you're here in Anchorage. Holding our
44 food out for public display, bragging, so-and-so just
45 caught a 23-pound Ship Creek king. I'm too young to eat
46 that first fish. My parents are too young to eat that
47 first fish. Our first fish goes to the oldest people in
48 our village. When it's only one fish, that fish is
49 prepared in a way to -- all the elders get that. I would
50 be in trouble for touching the head or the eggs. So,

1 seeing that and knowing that, it really just kind of
2 hits home.

3
4 How good is our -- how strong is our
5 Federal regulation when it comes to closures? Going back
6 to why it was listed as number 1 out of my comments. How
7 can we allow for tourists to eat before our elders? To
8 eat before our children? 10 to 1 -- 100% of you are
9 sitting in your seats, not for yourself or for your
10 kids, but for your grandkids and their kids. Why? We
11 don't matter anymore. Since the day I had my daughter,
12 my dad's grandkids, they trump us. We are no longer
13 important, it's them. And then now we have
14 (indiscernible), grandparents, their grandkids are now
15 trumped by their kids' kids. We hold these seats to
16 influence the final decision. So, with that, I would
17 like for record for your Southcentral Subsistence
18 Regional Advisory Council to consider how do we
19 strengthen the influence on closures? How do we bring
20 it to places that are in dire need? If these -- for the
21 State of Alaska and their tourists, if it's kept -- and
22 their excuse, I hear it all the time. It's because
23 they're hatchery fish. How do we keep those fish from
24 leaving Alaska? To please consider sending them to the
25 most ones impact [sic]. The Yukon River, the Kuskokwim
26 River. I have elders on those rivers. Our kids go to
27 boarding schools. They have adopted brothers and sisters
28 up in that area. To hear their elders, their parents are
29 getting arrested. Our traditional way, we're to check
30 on them. We are to, how can we help?

31
32 So, my second comment, again, it goes -
33 - it came from your guys' agenda. Monitoring. I don't
34 believe it is effective. I don't believe you're -- the
35 State's, the Federal definition of monitoring our, not
36 only land, but our waterways. Now I found out by a
37 gentleman who sits in your audience, there's a
38 difference between salt water and fresh water. I say any
39 water is one water. Subsistence is one of our oldest
40 words. When I hear subsistence, it's culture and
41 tradition. In there, the unwritten, first we know when
42 you touch water, we're all connected. There should be
43 no difference on how these waterways are monitored. We
44 have -- there's -- have a little river that borders our
45 tribal land. Our river, which is like a strand of hair
46 on my head when you compare it to the State of Alaska
47 rivers. Our river has been shut down for over 30 years
48 for king salmon. And we don't mind. Why? We're not
49 greedy. And sure, yeah, maybe our one river shut down
50 is going to save and solve the whole Alaska's problem.

1 To where -- my point is for tourists to trump us, to
2 override us, to shove us under the rug, if I could say.
3 Keeping these rivers open that's on this road system is
4 reckless. And it's showing the State of Alaska, where
5 their heart is, where their drive is. Reckless with our
6 resource that depends on the people. I'm grateful this
7 is a 2-day meeting. Thank you all again for allowing me
8 this time to speak. I appreciate every single one of you
9 and the people you represent. Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
12 Brandy. We can't, you know, address some of these things,
13 but I just want to say a couple of words to you. I know
14 a lot of your people there from town, I come from
15 Ninilchik and our Tribal Council there. And of course
16 our rivers have been decimated over the years. The
17 problem with the system is that a lot of it is
18 controlled, even your area now by the State regulations
19 and under the State. So, we as a Council don't have a
20 whole lot of influence there. We do have a Federal net
21 that's on the Kenai, and that took us many, many years
22 of lawsuits and et cetera to get that for Ninilchik. But
23 the only other tribal waters that I know of is the
24 economic exclusion zone. And that is under NOAA, that's
25 under a whole different management system. So, there's
26 just so many management systems and so many things and
27 I agree it's wrong and it needs attention. And we're
28 going to work on it. So, I really appreciate you coming
29 and bringing this to light again. So, thank you.

30
31 Okay. Thank you. Karen, I know you want
32 to speak but let me just ask you now or later. We did
33 put it on the agenda. Do you want to speak to the -- to
34 your 17(d)(1) now? Okay. Okay. Do we need a break before
35 we go to Karen? You guys want.....

36
37 (Talking)

38
39 Hey, I've been waiting, not from you.
40 I'm talking about the Council. Sorry about that. Well,
41 come to think about it, we might. So yeah. You go ahead.
42 Take all the time you need.

43
44 MS. LINNELL: Yeah, yeah. I am part
45 Tlingit and might be a little bit long-winded, but I'll
46 try to respect your time. For the record, my name is
47 Karen Linnell. I'm the Executive Director of Ahtna
48 Inter-Tribal Resource Commission. This year, you know,
49 you heard from Faye about how the fishing was. While we
50 did see some of the larger kings, we also saw really

1 small jack kings. I mean, my trout was bigger than that,
2 and I can show you a picture of my trout I got ice
3 fishing. But this one is -- it was really small, just
4 you know, 12-15 inches. Is really unbelievable. I think
5 we got like 5 or 6 of them in a couple days. The other
6 thing in regards to berries and things like that. We had
7 [sic] dry, really dry summer. When we went for a bird
8 camp in middle of August under our Migratory Birds
9 Program where we take kids out on the land to learn to
10 harvest ducks and geese, we usually do a little berry
11 picking then too. And the tundra was crunching under our
12 feet, dust was flying, that's how dry it was. So, what
13 berries we did see were real tiny, green yet, and it
14 wasn't for a couple more weeks that we finally got a
15 little bit of a chill and some rain. But yeah, very few
16 and far between for blueberries. Cranberries don't seem
17 to be doing so -- so, they aren't as plentiful either.
18 There were some blackberries that aren't looking really
19 good, crowberries. So, yeah, that was the berry season.
20 We did have a couple of our young hunters at our bird
21 camp get some ducks and spruce hen, ptarmigan that we
22 were able to cook at camp. And now the young people are
23 teaching some of the older folks how they clean ducks
24 and stuff. And so, we were able to have that over the
25 fire -- cooked over the fire. It was fantastic.

26
27 Moose hunting. I spent 9 days out in the
28 woods waiting on my husband's work schedule, but it was
29 still fairly early September. We were out there and were
30 getting surrounded by folks from out of region. Some
31 with their very first time and thank goodness we got a
32 mud hole the first mile of the trail. They got stuck in
33 that mud hole. And we escorted my nephew and his son out
34 because they were having mechanical issues, they were
35 in the camp the week before us. And so, we escorted them
36 back out to make sure they made it okay. And those guys
37 were still stuck from our way in the day before and they
38 decided that they were never coming there again. Which
39 was kind of nice to hear but we had folks camping at our
40 lookout. We don't camp at our lookout. We camp down
41 below and we go up in the morning and sit there and
42 look. And yeah, they moved in there and stayed almost
43 the entire week we were out, 9 days we were out. So,
44 that really shrunk down our area to hunt. We did see a
45 couple cows at a lake that we have an elder friend who
46 usually camps in there and he told us he wasn't coming
47 this year. So, we went to look. We saw a couple cows
48 there and later a small fork bull. And we did some --
49 that was early morning, they went to go lay down. So,
50 we went back there in the afternoon and we're going to

1 call them in and see if we can get them to come closer.
2 Cause [sic] they were about a half a mile away, maybe
3 more. And they were grunting and calling and my husband
4 was doing cow calls and we were listening for the grunts
5 and we didn't. It was pretty quiet. We're like, man, we
6 waited for a while and called again. And then about 20
7 minutes later, we heard what we thought was a grunt. And
8 started to look in the trail, cause we backed into the
9 woods off the trail so we can look at this lake. And
10 there's a little clearing off to the right. And so, we
11 can see the whole spectrum there. And so, off to the
12 left, we heard this grunt. We started to look. And a
13 grizz got about 25 feet from us. And that's why we
14 weren't hearing anything from the cow moose. So, that
15 kind of -- it was just my husband and I out there. So,
16 we kind of moved out of that area and started looking
17 around. We didn't see any fresh tracks really. It's been
18 -- it was really slim pickings. About 6 groups in the
19 first 3 days left the area we were in, and they're from
20 Valdez, Mat Valley, and Anchorage, leaving empty-handed.
21 But other folks that have been hunting in the area that
22 we're at were spread out by, I don't know, 15 miles in
23 different directions, you know. We give each other
24 space. And we're seeing that the folks that are moving
25 into the area don't leave any space for animals to get
26 through and just respect for other people's areas. But
27 a childhood friend and -- at his camp across the range,
28 the hills from us. He was finally on a moose. He said
29 it's really slim pickings. He only saw a few cows as
30 well. And he said he finally spotted a legal moose and
31 he was on it. And the new guys that took over his lookout
32 shot it out from under him. And so, that's the kind of
33 thing that we're seeing. Anyway, we left camp empty-
34 handed. I only know about 3 moose taken in that area of
35 our region. And usually there's more.

36
37 They started intensive management in
38 that area to try to help improve things. But we, you
39 know, we're just not seeing the animals. The -- any
40 bulls for the State community harvest system --
41 community subsistence harvest permits with the Ahtna
42 region Units 11, 12 -- or 11, 13, and portions of 12.
43 The -- any bull quota is usually 100, and this year it
44 was set to 65. That's telling you that there's a big
45 decline in animals. And as Faye was saying, some of
46 those areas were shut down. While we were out there, we
47 would get out up on top of a lookout and we're able to
48 make a phone call to make sure -- check and see if the
49 animals are still open. And the sub-region -- sub-unit
50 that we hunt in was down to 1. And so, we were like,

1 well, you know, and we're not seeing, we saw that just
2 that little forked bull and it just wasn't gonna come
3 back where that bear was. So, we moved on and left, and
4 husband and I cleaned up camp and left. So, pretty slim.
5 And we started looking in other areas, but we kept
6 running into vehicles and things like that. People at
7 every pullout and whatnot. So, on the 19th -- my dad's
8 91 years old, and we decided that he'd been cooped up
9 at home while we were out in the woods. So, we decided
10 to take him for a ride, take him back to his cabin, let
11 him spend some time at Chistochina. And we went up to
12 Mentasta and visited up there. And on the way home, we
13 got lucky and found a little bull at the airport. On the
14 way home, about 7 miles from the house. On the highway.
15 And I was able to back my trailer right up to it. I
16 never had a hunt like that where I could bring it home
17 so easily. Thankfully, you know, we were blessed and we
18 were able to -- my dad was out with us and it's what he
19 wanted. And we were able to hear stories and share along
20 the ride to Mentasta, which is about 90-95 miles from
21 my house, you know. We heard stories all the way up of
22 where he used to hunt and where he used to go, his
23 brother, and where they had their trap lines and things
24 like that. And just spending good quality time with him
25 and how things have changed.

26
27 We -- my husband and I were out there
28 and we got on this trail and got off the dwarf birch are
29 now 7-8, feet tall. They used to be 2 feet tall. It's
30 making it more difficult to see. They're choking out
31 some of the willows. I think that could have an impact.
32 Definitely need to see some controlled burns in our area
33 to help with the berry production and with the moose.
34 As for caribou, the Copper Basin Advisory Committee met
35 just about a week ago now, and the State was talking
36 about introducing a may-be-announced caribou hunt. And
37 wanting to get it on the record now. So, that they can
38 do the -- because there would be a Tier II draw hunt and
39 you'd have to apply in November. So, they were hoping
40 to get local support for it and then they'd put it
41 forward to the Board of Game to approve that. The caribou
42 population is around 17,000 animals, maybe 17 and a half,
43 but their management objective is 35- to 40,000 animals.
44 They shut down the Nelchina caribou hunt when it got
45 down to 17,000 animals 5 years ago. If you recall, we
46 had come to you folks and to the State Board of Game
47 looking for a 5-year moratorium so that it would be on
48 cycle. Well, that 5 years comes up in January and so,
49 they'll be doing a new call for proposals then. Which I
50 hope -- I am assuming that they're going to try to put

1 something forward and on the record for a Tier II hunt
2 for a caribou. They're saying that they're at like 42
3 bulls per 100 cows. Which gives a surplus of 2 bulls per
4 hundred. And therefore, they think that they can take
5 350 animals or whatever. They were planning on 185 being
6 a Federal hunt and then that they would have 150 Tier
7 II. But throughout discussion and listening to a couple
8 former area biologists who happened to live in the area,
9 that were attending the meeting, they also agreed that
10 this is too soon. And the local AC voted it down. So,
11 that doesn't prohibit the department from trying to move
12 it forward. But they want to put it on the books before
13 the Feds do, is what they're looking at. And I want to
14 tell you that Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission and
15 my elders and the people I've been talking to, Tribal
16 and non-Tribal throughout Copper Basin, are against
17 opening up a caribou hunt at this time. We need to see
18 the population grow a little more.

19
20 I didn't realize that you guys had
21 changed the agenda regarding 17(d)(1), but I do want to
22 mention that last year we were able to get an extension
23 on our moose season and closure to non-federally
24 qualified users for the BLM lands in Unit 13. Under
25 17(d)(1), if they lift those withdrawals, the State of
26 Alaska has rejected applications for selections, but
27 they have top-filed on top of those 17(d)(1) withdrawal
28 lands. And if the 17(d)(1) withdrawals are removed,
29 those automatically become State-selected lands as their
30 top one and two selections, which will eliminate almost
31 all of our Federal hunting in Unit 13. There's PLO 5150,
32 which is that pipeline corridor. And it's a, what? 1
33 mile, 2 mile corridor for portions of the pipeline? And
34 they've already given the PLO 5150 north of the Yukon
35 River to the State of Alaska. And we can see that writing
36 on the wall that that'll happen for anything south of
37 the Yukon River. Which again, with that, with (d)(1) and
38 the PLO 5150, we will have no Unit 13 Federal hunts.
39 What's going on is the State is managing selected lands.
40 They do not have title to it. They are managing it for
41 wildlife. That's for Unit 13 is over 2 million acres,
42 closer to 2 and a half million acres that could be under
43 Federal management.

44
45 I was looking through ANILCA trying to
46 find where it says that the State can manage lands that
47 they don't own. That they do not have title or conveyance
48 or interim conveyance too, and I couldn't find it. And
49 I just heard yesterday? Friday. That it was under the
50 definitions, but it's still not owned by them. Right

1 now, there's no incentive for the State to finalize their
2 selections and they're managing lands and the resources
3 on it without ownership. You couldn't do that. We
4 couldn't do that. So, it's very concerning. So, I would
5 like for this RAC to write a letter. Under the last
6 administration and under Secretary Haaland, there was a
7 Final Environmental Impact Statement made regarding
8 7(d)(1) and, that they do a new and request a new 810
9 analysis. Because there's going to definitely be an
10 impact to subsistence uses if they remove the 17(d)(1)
11 withdrawal status for those lands in Copper River Basin.
12 So, thank you.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Karen, I got a
15 question for you on that. The 17(d)(1) lands that they
16 were part of the selection and overselection. And are
17 they wanting to remove them because they say all the
18 other selections are satisfied now? Is that the case?
19 Because I know a lot of the corporations and the Native
20 lands have been settled. I know the State hasn't.

21
22 MS. LINNELL: The State has not, and they
23 have no deadline. They -- I've asked when the director
24 of BLM came out to Copper Basin about 3-4 years ago,
25 asked why don't they have a deadline? All the ANCSA
26 corporations had a deadline, a hard deadline to finalize
27 our prioritization. The State keeps fluctuating and
28 altering them. Might be minute changes, but they keep
29 changing them. And with the rejected selections, they
30 still remain top-filed. And if those withdrawals are
31 rescinded, then it becomes State-selected. So, greatly
32 have an impact to Copper River Basin and all of 8 of our
33 Tribes.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
36 Kirk.

37
38 MR. WILSON: Yeah, Karen, do you have any
39 idea how much of that land that the State has in
40 selection already in Unit 13?

41
42 MS. LINNELL: So, if they finalized their
43 selections, we'd get probably over 2 million acres of
44 Federal lands to hunt. Right now, we're at 5% of Unit
45 13. That'll get us probably over 15% to 20% to make it
46 Federal lands and rural priority.

47
48 MR. WILSON: So, they already have a lot
49 of selected land that's never been conveyed. I mean, a
50 lot of it.

1
2 MS. LINNELL: Yes. Across the state --
3 with 17(d)(1), it's like 28 million acres across the
4 state. The State of Alaska has over 20 million acres in
5 overselections. They're at, from my understanding, 96%
6 to 97% of their entitlement. So, they've only got 3
7 million acres left. Where's it going to be? And Copper
8 Basin, because of highway access and everything else,
9 it has become one of their top priorities. Now that
10 they're trying to expand the road system and get that
11 Ambler Road built and things like that, there may be a
12 shift, but I'm not certain. And it's when and if, that
13 road gets built, right? Of course, they're saying it's
14 a private road, but that's what they said about the
15 pipeline too. And if you talk to some of the folks,
16 that's what they used to say. Yeah, that was a private
17 road, but they spend 1 Federal dollar, it becomes public
18 access. So, you know, there'll be subsidies. A little
19 bit of money going through with DOT or Federal Highways,
20 so.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
23 Karen. Very important issues, thank you. Okay.
24

25 MS. LINNELL: Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We're going to
28 take a break. Indian time or German time? German time
29 is real short. Let's take 10 minutes, okay?

30
31 (Off record)

32
33 (On record)

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We're
36 ready to go to action item number 11, Develop
37 recommendations Fisheries Proposals and Closure Reviews.
38 Kevin and you got Victoria, you got a whole bunch of
39 people here. Some biologists, and Tristen. And we
40 welcome all of you to come up and make the presentation.
41 Thank you.

42
43 MR. FOLEY: Mr. Chair, members of the
44 Council, good afternoon. My name is Kevin Foley and I'm
45 a fisheries biologist within OSM. And I'm joined in a
46 room with my colleague, Kristen Morrow, OSM
47 anthropologist. And we will present to you OSM's draft
48 staff analysis for Fisheries Proposal FP27-07,
49 identified as Copper River Tributary Confluence Dipnet
50 Exclusionary Zones. Which I believe begins on tab 3,

1 page 1 of your meeting books. And I'd like to share some
2 information with you before we get into the analysis,
3 as I'd like you to have some options in mind before
4 hearing the complete analysis to best help inform the
5 Council's action. As written, this proposal requests to
6 close areas to federally qualified subsistence users
7 only. Because it is the intent of this Council to submit
8 a parallel proposal to the Alaska Board of Fisheries
9 during the '27-'28 Prince William Sound call for
10 proposals, with the hope being the Board of Fisheries
11 will take positive action on that parallel proposal. The
12 problem with this, as you know, is timing. The current
13 Federal Subsistence Board fishery cycle ends before the
14 Board of Fisheries will take up the parallel proposal.
15 Because we don't know how the Board of Fisheries will
16 vote on the proposal, the most feasible, attractive
17 option is to recommend to the Federal Subsistence Board
18 to defer action on this proposal until the Wildlife
19 Regulatory Meeting in 2028. At that time, the Alaska
20 Board of Fisheries would have met in December of '27 and
21 have made a decision on the parallel proposal. This
22 Council can then take up the deferred proposal at your
23 2028 winter meeting and make a recommendation based on
24 what action the Board of Fisheries has taken with your
25 proposal. Alternatively, at this meeting, you could
26 choose to take action and recommend support with
27 modification, with the modification being to close the
28 100-, 500-yard area to federally and non-federally
29 qualified subsistence users, preempting the need for
30 Board of Fisheries action. Given that, would the Council
31 like to hear the proposal analysis at this point?

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Council
34 members, we got -- would you like to hear the proposal
35 at this point? Yes. I see some people shaking their
36 heads, so please.

37
38 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Fisheries Proposal FP27-07, requests that the Federal
40 Subsistence Board prohibit the use of dip nets for
41 federally qualified subsistence users within 100 yards
42 above and 500-yards below any salmon-bearing river or
43 stream tributary confluence within the Upper Copper
44 River main stem. The proposal was submitted by this
45 Council. Council members have raised concerns that
46 dipnetting at tributary mouths targets salmon that are
47 staging or resting before continuing upriver. This
48 creates opportunity for concentrated easy harvest that
49 could disproportionately affect individual tributary
50 stocks, even while system-wide escapement goals are

1 being met. Further, the Council indicates that although
2 returns in some tributaries are unknown or relatively
3 small. The genetic diversity represented by these unique
4 populations may be important for resilience and their
5 capacity to adapt to changing environments. Finally, the
6 Council has made it known it intends to submit an
7 identical proposal to the Alaska Board of Fisheries and
8 asks that if Federal Proposal FP27-07 passes, then the
9 Federal Subsistence Board defer implementation of the
10 regulation until after the Alaska Board of Fisheries
11 acts on the same State side version.
12

13 Area affected. The area affected
14 includes areas within the main stem Copper River that
15 are 100 yards above and 500-yards below salmon-bearing
16 rivers or stream tributary confluences occurring in the
17 Upper Copper River district, including Chitina and
18 Glennallen Subdistricts. The Upper Copper River District
19 is from the mouth of the Slana River downstream to an
20 east-west line crossing the Copper River approximately
21 200 yards upstream of Haley Creek as designated by Alaska
22 Department of Fish and Game regulatory markers. This
23 includes the Federal public waters of the main stem
24 Copper River within and adjacent to Wrangell-St. Elias
25 National Park and Preserve. Both Federal and State
26 fisheries occur within the Upper Copper River. However,
27 if adopted, this proposal would only -- would apply only
28 to federally qualified subsistence users fishing under
29 Federal subsistence permits.
30

31 A biological snapshot. Stream
32 confluences do function as staging and resting areas,
33 but they are also mixed stock areas and are not
34 exclusively compromised [sic] of fish bound for that one
35 tributary. Currently, there are no Copper River
36 tributary-specific escapement goals. Copper River
37 chinook and sockeye salmon are managed under system-wide
38 goals. Numerous tributaries to the Copper River main
39 stem have been identified as salmon spawning areas, too
40 many to monitor individually. Ahtna traditional
41 ecological knowledge and recent genetic work documenting
42 12 plus genetically distinct sockeye salmon populations
43 both indicate that tributary-level stock diversity is
44 real and biologically meaningful. Oral testimony
45 provided by Ahtna elder Katie John has also documented
46 the loss of distinct salmon stocks described as,
47 "missing fish", within her lifetime. This testimony
48 points to the possibility of tributary-specific
49 population declines, but there is limited data available
50 regarding current populations in specific tributaries.

1 Salmon run return information at the tributary-level
2 remains very limited across the Copper River drainage
3 overall. One notable exception is the Tanada Creek Weir,
4 operated by Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission,
5 which monitors adult salmon escapement into Tanada Lake,
6 and helps evaluate subsistence harvest opportunity in
7 this uppermost portion of the drainage. Despite this
8 project's contribution to understanding stock status in
9 that specific system, no Federal or State agency has
10 documented a tributary-specific harvest crisis.

11
12 Current monitoring elsewhere in the
13 drainage is designed around system-wide escapement goals
14 rather than population-level assessment at the tributary
15 scale, meaning agency data neither confirms nor rules
16 out the population-level changes described in
17 traditional knowledge. The Alaska Department of Fish and
18 Game have established system-wide sustainable escapement
19 goals that have largely been met with chinook in 7 of
20 the last 10 years, and sockeye salmon goals have been
21 met every year 2014 to 2023, suggesting there is no
22 documented system-wide conservation crisis. Although
23 this could be weighed against the Alaska Board of
24 Fisheries 2024 positive action on Proposal 51 in amended
25 form, a targeted early season conservation measure for
26 Copper River chinook salmon in response to repeated
27 escapement shortfalls and subsistence concerns.

28
29 A harvest trend worth noting. Fish
30 wheels still dominate Federal subsistence harvests at
31 approximately 74% to 79% over 5- and 10-year averages.
32 But the dip net share has been rising from 10% in 2015
33 to approximately 31% in 2025, partly due to fish wheel
34 damage and access issues from erosion and high water
35 during peak fishing times. OSM has considered 2 other
36 alternative versions of this proposal. The first
37 alternative considered was to prohibit the use of dip
38 nets by non-federally qualified subsistence users within
39 the 500-yard, 100-yard areas, around salmon-bearing
40 rivers or stream tributaries within the Upper Copper
41 River. This would avoid conflict with Alaska Board of
42 Fisheries regulatory cycle timing, but maintain the same
43 difficulties identified with enforcement. A second
44 alternative considered is to restrict all users,
45 federally and non-Federal qualified, from using dip nets
46 within the 500-yard below, 100-yard above exclusionary
47 zone. This alternative could more fully address stock
48 diversity concerns and remove the need for a parallel
49 Alaska Board of Fisheries proposal but carries the same
50 enforcement challenges.

1
2 Effects of the proposal. The most
3 obvious effect of the proposal will be that federally
4 qualified subsistence users are prohibited from using
5 dip nets within 500-yards below and 100-yards above any
6 salmon-bearing river or stream tributary within the
7 Copper River District. As a result, some salmon that
8 might otherwise have been harvested by a federally
9 qualified subsistence user with a dip net in these areas
10 might instead reach the spawning grounds. However,
11 quantifying this effect is not possible at present since
12 Federal permit reporting requirements do not capture
13 specific harvest locations. Additionally, because
14 dipnetting is a small share of the Federal harvest,
15 direct conservation benefit would likely be minor.
16 Federally qualified subsistence users could bypass the
17 restriction by participating in State subsistence or
18 personal-use fisheries. The proposal would create a
19 regulatory mismatch risk. If adopted by the Federal
20 Subsistence Board before the Alaska Board of Fisheries
21 acts, Federal regulation becomes more restrictive than
22 State regulation.

23
24 OSM preliminary conclusion. The OSM
25 preliminary conclusion is to oppose Proposal FP27-07.
26 Key justification points include: most of the Federal
27 harvest, approximately 75%, is by fish wheel. So, the
28 proposal's direct conservation reach is limited. While
29 there is both TEK and genetic evidence for stock
30 diversity, current management focuses on system-wide
31 escapement goals rather than tributary-specific
32 population protection. As such, immediate action may be
33 unnecessary. The proposal would create Federal dip net
34 rules more restrictive than State regulations in the
35 same waters as users could still dip net there under
36 State permits. The request for the proposal to include
37 a built-in contingency to defer implementation until the
38 Alaska Board of Fisheries has taken positive action on
39 a similar proposal is not something the Federal
40 Subsistence Board has the authority to do once a rule
41 is adopted. If the Federal Subsistence Board is to
42 support the underlying goal of this proposal, OSM
43 suggests the cleaner path is to defer the Board's
44 decision on this proposal until the '28-2030 Federal
45 Wildlife Cycle, after the '27-'28 Board of Fisheries
46 cycle in which this proposal would arise on the State
47 side. Rather than adopt now with an unworkable deferred
48 implementation condition. However, OSM recognizes this
49 puts the Southcentral Council in the same regulatory
50 deadlock it faced prior to submitting this proposal,

1 wherein neither the Federal Subsistence Board nor the
2 Alaska Board of Fisheries is positioned to act first,
3 leaving the underlying conservation goal unresolved
4 regardless of the path chosen. Mr. Chair, members of the
5 Council, this concludes my presentation as proposal
6 [sic]. And I'll do my best to answer your questions.
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
10 Kevin. Yeah, that was good. Okay, questions for Kevin.
11 Go ahead, Faye.

12
13 MS. EWAN: Are these going to be the
14 tributaries all the way from Cordova, all the way to
15 Batzulnetas to enter the Copper Lake? Or just the big
16 main tributaries? Like the Gulkana, Tazlina and Tonsina
17 River. There's a lot of tributaries in the Copper River
18 where the people fish. What I see is that the tourist
19 guides and the fishing guides take them out there to the
20 river and they go to the mouth of Gulkana. They go to -
21 - all the way up Gulkana River. They take out fish even
22 though it's closed season. They don't, you know, to me,
23 the State of Alaska does not regulate their fishing. But
24 bounties, they do. They call them a stranger in our
25 ranger. That's the park ranger. We call them stranger
26 in our ranger because that's what they are. We've never
27 seen this National Park people in the last 25 years they
28 showed up.

29
30 And a lot of that land that the State
31 of talking about, it used to be where our hunting and
32 fishing and trapping grounds were. Now it turned into
33 State land and now we got all these strangers that's
34 living among our people. We can't even hunt and go out
35 of Copper Center where we used to walk behind the
36 Klutina. You can't even go back there. There's people
37 living everywhere. During crouching or hunting and
38 fishing ground. And if they open -- when they do this
39 to regulate the 500-yards, I don't mind that. Let the
40 fish go by. But the guiding system needs to be regulated.
41 They need to have a law where they have to be in
42 compliance. If you go look on Chitina fish dipnetting
43 (indiscernible) and you'll see somebody showed off with
44 all their king salmon when that was closed down July
45 1st. And after that you'll see they said oh, that was
46 before June 1st -- June 30th closure. I said, I don't
47 think so because the fish doesn't shine. When it's fresh
48 out of the water it shines. And when it starts -- and
49 the life start losing [sic] and the meat start turning
50 that's when the skin starts showing different colors.

1 And we look at Chitina -- you look at groves in Klutina.
2 I mean, all those people are dipnetting that are guiding.
3 They're going down to our Copper River right where I
4 used to fish. And they float down and they have their
5 net in the river like this all the way down. Until they
6 get to Klutina Bridge, and then they say, oh, we got our
7 daily catch. But when you see 80 king salmon sitting on
8 the ground, that does not show me that there is
9 regulations or monitoring or anything the State of
10 Alaska is doing. And if the Federal okay it, then it's
11 going to be more encroachment. But if Federal
12 subsistence users don't get to go to these different
13 places and get to use that as a qualified user from a
14 Copper River region. You can move there and put a mailbox
15 there because there's no street address. There's no
16 regulation. The State of Alaska will not regulate that.
17 Look at the management right now. There's no management
18 at all. If there was, our fish would have been coming
19 home like they're supposed to. To me, this proposal here
20 is like opening door and closing some doors for some
21 people. The State of Alaska need to follow the Federal
22 regulation because I understand that Federal judiciary
23 trust responsibility of people is over the State of
24 Alaska. And the State of Alaska has not been complying
25 with their own law, but they come after us indigenous
26 people for our -- what way we want to feed our people.
27 I know, a State trooper and I had conflicts almost 3
28 times this summer over fishing.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You don't
31 want to get 4 times.

32
33 MS. EWAN: That's my opinion on that.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, that's
36 good, Faye, but we're going to keep to the proposal.
37 We've got a couple paths to choose here. But go ahead,
38 Judy, you wanted to ask a question?

39
40 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,
41 Kevin, just help me with the timing. When is the Board
42 of Fisheries going to meet and when would that regulation
43 be in effect when they meet? I don't know the system
44 well enough there.

45
46 MS. PILCHER: So, the call for proposals
47 for this area is going to be this coming cycle. So, a
48 proposal would be due in approximately April 10th of
49 2027 to then be taken up at the Prince William Sound
50 Board of Fish meeting, which generally happens in

1 December. So, we'd be looking at December 2027, which
2 would then take action that -- so, the summer of 2028.

3
4 MS. CAMINER: Excuse me. It would take
5 effect by the summer of 2028. That's what you're just
6 saying?

7
8 MS. PILCHER: Yes.

9
10 MR. FOLEY: Through the Chair, Councilman
11 Caminer.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.
14 Michael's got a question, but I'll go ahead, Kevin.

15
16 MR. FOLEY: The other part of that would
17 be the Federal Subsistence Board would be able to then
18 meet in that -- in the spring of '28 to be able to take
19 action on what happened. Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Michael,
22 you had a question?

23
24 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. Just curious if it's
25 not deferred till it matches up with the Board of Fish,
26 as mine was -- the enforcement side of it, of putting
27 out markers and people in compliance, out of compliance,
28 State and Federal side. That seems like that would kind
29 of get muddy or would it? I'm not completely sure if it
30 was passed and we didn't wait for the State to pass
31 their version. So, I was just curious about that.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: And that might
34 create some enforcement issues, but yeah. Okay. Council,
35 anyone online there? Dennis or Ed?

36
37 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, this is Ed.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead,
40 Ed.

41
42 MR. HOLSTEN: Ed, just a quick question
43 to Kirk. Do we know the State is actually going to deal
44 with this issue in 2028, or is it just kind of a rumor
45 floating around?

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Nissa thinks
48 she got answered to the rumor.

49
50

1 MS. PILCHER: Well, it would be a rumor
2 unless the Council or another entity took action and
3 submitted a proposal. So, if -- yeah, there would need
4 to be an action -- this Council would need to take action
5 to submit a proposal to the Board of Fisheries.

6
7 MR. HOLSTEN: All right. Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.
10 Go ahead, Andy.

11
12 MR. MCCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
13 Chair. So, I'm trying to wrap my head around this. If
14 you've got a federally qualified subsistence user that
15 can dip net at the mouth of these tributaries, and
16 they're wearing their Federal hat, okay, then we suggest
17 it becomes prohibited to do that as a Federal. They can
18 just take that Federal hat off and say, oh, I'm wearing
19 my State hat today and still be doing the same dang
20 thing with, and this is kind of a moot point?

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's correct.

23
24 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, me, can I chime in?

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yep, Dennis,
27 you go ahead.

28
29 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, I -- if we were to pass
30 this on the Federal level and the State doesn't pass it
31 on the State level, then it's only the federally
32 qualified subsistence users that would be restricted by
33 this. I think it's imperative to push this as hard as
34 we can on the State level and get that passed. And I
35 deal with the Board of Fish quite a bit, and I think
36 it's going to be a challenge to get this across from
37 this Board unless we get some kind of a change in the
38 Board with a new governor. But anyway, for us to do this
39 now, and if we were to pass this, it's only going to
40 restrict the Federal users and do nothing to the State
41 users.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
44 Dennis. I concur. Kirk, I think he was next.

45
46 MR. WILSON: I just got one thing to say,
47 and we're going to let the State tell us what to do,
48 right?

49
50 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Angela.

1
2 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,
3 yeah, I understand the idea that, yeah, if we're
4 restricting our Federal users and not the State users,
5 I can see how that appears to be unfair. But I feel like
6 we as a Board need to set an example of what conservation
7 actually means. And so, if that means putting our head
8 out there first and chopping our left arm off to save
9 the rest, I think it's an example that we have to
10 consider or just change our perspective on it and take
11 the lead on what conservation actually means. So, if we
12 keep playing, no, you go first, no, you go first, no,
13 you go first, then nothing actually happens. So, that's
14 my initial thoughts on that.

15
16 (Applause)

17
18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, I would
19 agree there. But regardless, we could make it more
20 restrictive for the Feds.

21
22 MR. WILSON: So, if we pass it and it
23 goes through and they don't pass it, I mean, it's no big
24 deal. It is just no big deal. The people can still go.
25 If they were Federal people, they can go get a State
26 permit and go. But we're setting an example for the
27 State of Alaska here. And I mean, if we're going to wait
28 for them to do something every time, what are we doing
29 here?

30
31 MS. SELANOFF: My concern is if we take
32 away the Federal qualified users and it becomes State
33 managed, we'll have lost control. But I also agree that
34 we should be working on this together, the State and the
35 Federal -- the Fed side to limit these. So, I'm just a
36 little bit concerned about just the State having
37 control.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Anyone else
40 down there besides Kirk?

41
42 MR. WILSON: One more little thing I'd
43 like to say. And the fact is we don't know what's going
44 on in those -- a lot of our little streams in the in the
45 Copper Basin. And the fact about this proposal and what's
46 going on there, and some of the Native people in my
47 community will agree with me, we want to try to save
48 that last fish in that one last little creek up there
49 at the head of the river.

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: And we know is
2 the goal.

3
4 MR. WILSON: That's it.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
7 Kevin. We're going to go on to Tribal and ANCSA
8 corporations consultation on this matter. Orville.

9
10 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Board
11 members. During the consultation held on August 18, we
12 did have two representatives from Ahtna and said they
13 were aware of the two proposals before them. They had
14 submitted comments for Proposal 27-07. They also
15 improvised the importance of the evidence gathering and
16 the transparency of the regulatory process. We also had
17 one Tribal member from the village -- a Native Village
18 of Chickaloon, who joined us in person during that
19 consultation. And he was there to learn about the
20 process. And he did also show up for the corporation
21 consultation that afternoon. And that's all I have for
22 you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
25 Orville.

26
27 (Pause)

28
29 Okay, we're going to go down to Agency
30 and Tribal Comments, and we'll start with ADF&G. Is there
31 anyone online or someone here?

32
33 (No response)

34
35 Okay, Federal agencies.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 Any Tribes or ANCSA corporations want
40 to speak to it? Karen.

41
42 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
43 the record, my name is Karen Linnell. I'm the executive
44 director of Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission, who
45 has eight federally recognized Tribes as members of our
46 organization, seven of whom fish the Copper River from
47 the headwaters down to Chitina. From Katie John's camp
48 all the way to Chitina. And with our family ties with
49 Cantwell and the trading that happens and things like
50 that, they have a direct tie to Chitina and Gulkana

1 Village. So, all eight of my Tribes fish the Copper
2 River. You know, I appreciate Ms. Totemoff's comments
3 in -- we need to put the resource first and quit worrying
4 about what the other person is doing. We -- you've
5 already heard, we've got low returns. We've got low
6 returns. They didn't meet chinook escapement. He's
7 saying that they're not counting the salmon in the
8 tributaries. It's only one -- and that's the problem
9 with the management system is that they're only counting
10 what comes in at Miles Lake sonar. They're not looking
11 at what's making it to the spawning grounds. And for us,
12 as centuries long use of the Copper River, it's important
13 that we get the salmon to the spawning grounds. When
14 you're fishing them at those tributaries, and yes, not
15 all of them might be going up the Klutina or the Tazlina
16 or whatever that's on the roadside, right? In Tonsina.
17 It is going up the river towards the headwaters, towards
18 other things.

19
20 We asked our friends in Cordova to delay
21 the commercial fishery by a couple weeks. We got a week
22 delay and it's helping. You know, we still need to do
23 our part upriver, and that includes the dipnetting and
24 the personal use fishery. I can guarantee you there will
25 be a sister proposal to this that -- going to the State.
26 We've tried it before and they said the same thing.
27 "Well, we don't know what the Feds are gonna do. Why are
28 we gonna restrict before the Feds do?" We need to be the
29 adults in the room and say, "This is what's right for
30 the salmon." We need to take and be the ones to make
31 that decision. And it's a hard decision. And it's always
32 on the subsistence users to put the stock first. Whether
33 it be fish or wildlife, we always have that concern
34 first because we need to make sure that it's there for
35 generations to come. And so, we're asking you to be the
36 ones to step up first and pass this proposal so that we
37 can go to the State and say, "Yeah, we heard. You know,
38 we're done with this bickering back and forth about who's
39 going to act first." Because our cycles don't sync up
40 at the same time. We meet on fisheries every two years
41 under the Federal system, under the State, it's every
42 three years. So, they're never really going to line up.
43 And so, we need to act, and we need to act now, because
44 I don't want to be like the Yukon River and not be able
45 to fish at all.

46
47 And that's our concern. When we look at
48 our neighbors and our -- and things -- we can talk to
49 each other. You know, we can talk to each other and try
50 to do this, but we need to -- we can't talk to all the

1 personal use fishermen that come through the State from
2 all over the place. And we've met and talked with Chitina
3 Dipnetters Association and things like that. We're
4 trying to work with them. We're looking for common
5 ground. This is something I think that you folks can
6 approve and move forward so that we have salmon for
7 generations and generations to come. You know, this
8 fight is nothing new. You go back to late 1800s, early
9 1900s, we were fighting to protect our salmon. And we're
10 still fighting to protect our salmon. And this is
11 something that we want to put forward. And thankful for
12 Kirk and the RAC in putting this proposal on the table.
13 It's important and we need to act first. So, thank you.
14

15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
16 Karen. Okay. Other RACs, other Regional Advisory
17 Councils? None?
18

19 MS. PILCHER: None at this time.
20

21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.
22 Subsistence Resource Commission.
23

24 MS. PILCHER: None at this time.
25

26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You have
27 written public comments.
28

29 MS. PILCHER: Other than the ones
30 provided in your supplemental materials at the back of
31 the analysis, no additional comments were received after
32 the open comment period.
33

34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there
35 any public testimony that want to testify to this?
36

37 MS. PILCHER: Dave Sarafin online would
38 like to speak to it.
39

40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Dave Sarafin
41 online, you could be the public now. Go ahead.
42

43 MR. SARAFIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah,
44 I'd like -- I think there's a little misunderstanding,
45 perhaps not completely spelled out in the OSM analysis.
46 But one key thing to consider here is that this
47 restriction is not in place on fish wheels. And fish
48 wheels can and do operate within this proposed
49 exclusionary zone. So, is -- perhaps, something to
50 consider if that wanted to be added to all gear types

1 or just to dip nets. And then, we get into all the
2 demographics of -- there are some people who just don't
3 have access to the lands or access to fish wheels that
4 rely on dip nets for harvest. I also -- I no longer have
5 access to the database to pull out the data. But I
6 question the analysis where it references that 75% of
7 the users get their harvest by fish wheel. When I -- it
8 appears, they're using the data of number of fish
9 harvested. So, it's something to consider. There are a
10 lot of fish wheels that harvest a high number of fish.
11 And there's a lot of -- you know, there's also users on
12 fish wheel that get very few. There's times, you know,
13 I've used one, gotten two fish or something. But same,
14 you know, it's hard to get out of the database the number
15 of households that actually get their fish from a harvest
16 method of fish wheel or dip net. So, it's -- it would
17 kind of discriminate between some individuals that way,
18 so something to consider there.

19
20 And also, under the alternatives, I'm
21 not sure -- I just was more familiar when the delegated
22 authority limits were that -- under that, the
23 superintendent of the park was able to totally close
24 State, but not specify closures to specific gear types,
25 but perhaps the Federal Board could do that. And then
26 they'd have to decide if they're going to close to rod
27 and reel under the State as well, which might be
28 targeting the mouths and tributaries. So, just hoping
29 to spell out some of those details for you to consider
30 on this issue. And that's everything I have, unless you
31 have any questions.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No, thanks,
34 Dave. That's important information. I believe it helps
35 add to the discussion. So, thank you. Any other public
36 testimony?

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 Hearing none. We'll open it up for a
41 Council motion to put it on the table for discussion.

42
43 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, this is Angela.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Mm-hmm.

46
47 MS. TOTEMOFF: I move to approve proposal
48 FP27-07.

49
50

00051

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Is there a
2 second?

3
4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I second.....

5
6 (Simultaneous speech)

7
8 MR. OPHEIM: I'll second.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by
11 Michael. Discussion? All in favor of entertaining it,
12 aye.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. It's on
17 the table and let's go ahead and talk about it. A little
18 more Council's discussion, your deliberation. You could
19 see a robust discussion and justification for the
20 record. And then -- go ahead, Nissa.

21
22 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa Pilcher, for
23 the record. I was just clarifying. They were just --
24 they weren't voting on the motion. They were just --
25 yeah. So, we're still in the discussion part of it.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We'll do the
28 final restate and final motion is number 9.

29
30 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

33
34 MS. CAMINER: Thank you. Do we know --
35 sorry, how many percentage of fish? Do we have any
36 estimate of how many fish are taken from these
37 tributaries or from these areas close to the
38 tributaries? I'm sure that's a very challenging
39 question, and we have hardly any answers.

40
41 MR. FOLEY: Through the Chair,
42 Councilwoman Caminer. The answer is no. Federal
43 reporting requirements do not ask for a specific
44 location where a harvest was made other than the overall
45 area. So, we're not able to say whether or not a fish
46 came from a certain tributary area, mouth, or wherever,
47 and then be able to put that in relation to the overall
48 number of fish harvested.

49
50

1 MS. CAMINER: I guess another question
2 is, do we have a sense of how many operators are bringing
3 people to these tributaries?

4
5 MR. FOLEY: Through the Chair. Councilman
6 Caminer, not to my knowledge.

7
8 MS. SELANOFF: I have a question. So, -
9 07 says, prohibit the use of dip nets for federally
10 qualified subsistence users. Does that -- so, that does
11 not include fish wheels? Okay. So, my next question is
12 to the Ahtna people, do you have many fish wheels or
13 dipnetters in that area, like tributaries? No? Okay.
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Andy.

17
18 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
19 Chair. I'd be very interested to hear from Karen Linnell
20 about the -- this -- the Ahtna people's opinion on if
21 fish wheels were also included in this restricted zone
22 that is being applied in this proposal to just the dip
23 netting.

24
25 MS. LINNELL: Thank you. We understand
26 where the fish are going and we don't have a whole lot
27 of fish wheels on the river close to the tributaries on
28 the downriver side. On the upriver side, there might be
29 a few, but not on downriver side. Also -- of those
30 tributaries. And to get to Ms. Caminer's question.
31 There's no data because the State doesn't collect it and
32 neither do the Feds. We are seeing an increase in
33 transporters and use of boats and dipnetting from boats
34 in those areas. And that's why it's a concern. The
35 Klutina River provides 33-54% of the sockeye return. And
36 when there's no sport fishing on the Klutina River
37 because there's no fish, no king fishing, they'll go on
38 the Copper River with a permit. And then we've seen a
39 marked increase in dipnetting under Federal regulations
40 as well, trying to go below the bridge, which is the
41 Chitina Subdistrict. And then you see it, you know, above
42 the -- and they go there before the personal use fishery
43 starts. And that's a marked increase as well. Targeting
44 the salmon when they're in the eddies down there, after
45 they come through the canyon when we have high water.
46 There's a lot of that happening. And then they'll drift.
47 They'll put their net in the water, and they'll drift
48 downstream and then pull their net, go back upstream and
49 drift it again. That's trawling to me, right? A net
50 under motion. And tried to say that at the Board of

1 Fish, and they're saying it's not, so. But based on
2 their definitions, it is.

3
4 And so, we've been attacking this at
5 every angle that we can. Working with Cordova fishermen.
6 Working with the Chitina Dipnetters Association. We
7 tried to look at proposals in regards to the types of
8 net that they use to reduce some of the mortality. We
9 put in proposals to eliminate monofilament dip nets and
10 didn't get anywhere with that because of the expense.
11 But I tell you what, with the Board of Fish, the expense
12 to the personal use fisher -- dip net fishermen is, you
13 know, a few dollars, but they sure have no problem
14 changing net size for the folks on the Yukon River. And
15 make them change the mesh size that they have to use
16 without any consideration about the money that they use.
17 So, it -- you know, they pick and choose the types of
18 arguments that they make. And what we're trying to say
19 is that this is a problem. We're seeing it. And there
20 are people getting close to fish wheels. Faye's last
21 fish wheels she had in the water, she had to have her
22 son camp out there every night instead of her going
23 across the highway to her camp in the morning and late
24 at night because people would come in the boats and try
25 to take from their boxes. So, we're seeing more of that
26 too, and we hear of that quite often. And you can't get
27 a game cam because your fish wheel's moving all the
28 time. So, how do you get a game cam to capture somebody
29 stealing fish from your fish wheel in a boat? We're
30 trying to prohibit dipnetting from boats. And we had an
31 upriver guy from another river say that, "Well, we fish
32 with nets on the river." But that's not -- it's not a
33 dip net. And his river and my river are two different
34 rivers, the Yukon and the Copper River.

35
36 So, the other thing that we talked about
37 -- and I think we put in a proposal to make it illegal
38 to use commercial operations to get subsistence foods
39 in -- with the Board of Fish. So, this is not something
40 new that we haven't tried. We're trying every avenue we
41 can to protect the salmon. And again, you know, getting
42 back to -- is it -- are we doing something that's going
43 to restrict the Federal qualified users? Yes. But it's
44 important enough that we have to start somewhere. And
45 we can't stress that enough. The dipnetting from boats
46 is really new. At one point, the Board of Game -- Board
47 of Fish, they tried to say that it's been going on for
48 25-30 years and generations, but they had no data. And,
49 you know, my in-laws, my daughter's family comes from
50 Chitina. And it's like -- we had to get them on the

1 record. Is that the official stance of the department?
2 And they had to get a supervisor to say, "We have no
3 data to support that." So, we're trying. They're --
4 they've implemented this now. It's been going on at least
5 10 years. We've been fighting the dipnetting from boats.
6 We're trying to get it to be quick before it's
7 generational, because it's a problem. And so, it's not
8 people standing on the bank. It's people on the boat
9 targeting those eddies. And if you want to say dipnetting
10 from boats on that and make that change, that could be
11 acceptable because walking down and dip netting is
12 different than targeting them in those eddies with your
13 boat. Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I could go for
16 that. Andy.

17
18 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
19 Chair. So, would you be in support of adding fish wheels
20 to this dip net aspect?

21
22 MS. LINNELL: It's 500 yards below and
23 100 yards above? I think so. Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Go ahead,
26 Kirk.

27
28 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I just got a little
29 bit about to say what Karen -- one of the reasons that
30 this proposal came about is because I've sat down there
31 on the bank of the river, at the mouth of the river, and
32 watched these commercial operators come up and they
33 start right where the clear water comes out the river
34 and they go right down that bank. And as soon as they
35 get about 500 yards below, they come right back up and
36 start right in the mouth of the river again. We --
37 everybody thinks it's somebody standing out there on the
38 bank with a fish net. That's part of it. But this is
39 what I'm talking about right now. It's what we're really
40 talking about here. They're taking a lot of fish out of
41 there, and these are commercial operations doing this.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
44 Okay. Any other comments? Let's get.....

45
46 (Simultaneous speech)

47
48 UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah, thank you. And these
49 commercial operations are taking the Federal subsistence
50 users, correct?

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MR. WILSON: I'm not sure if it's State or Federal. All I have seen is what I told you, and I certainly don't know what kind of people they got their boat, but it needs to stop completely. And I mean, we need to take a stand.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.....

(Simultaneous speech)

MR. ZADRA: May I ask a question?

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We need to keep moving here. Go ahead, Faye.

MS. EWAN: I was born and raised in Copper River. We have a long history of fighting for our fishing and our rights to land. The State of Alaska -- the fishing management in Copper River has been totally a disaster. And when the Feds came on in the 80s, that helped our Tribe in a long ways to help us to regulate a lot of things that was mismanagement. And we see the abuse of the people that come to Copper River and rape our land. It's not right. We could never go into Kenai or anywhere in Fairbanks way and do that to their people. But these people that come here -- there's 30-fish limit. Is that per day or per year? It doesn't say under regulation. It just says 30 fish per household. And after that, additional 15 more. I can bring 20 people with me and leave out of there with 3,000 fish and come back tomorrow and get another 3,000 fish. There's no regulation. But as a subsistence user, we got to write down what we get every day. And that's how we turn our permit in.

I didn't use a fish wheel this year because I [sic] seen the overuse and the abuse that was happening in Copper River. I dipped net this year. That's how I got my salmon. But I didn't go to tributaries and go where people are sitting there. Klutina River is two miles away from my house, and you used to see that river, pure red, going up the Copper River. Now, you barely see any fish, any king salmon jumping in that river. That is so sad to see our land get treated like that. And if they're non-qualified users, how do they get in there to fish? Who checks these guiding license and who uses their permits? What kind of report is there? I asked for that data from the Department of Fish and Game in Glennallen three years ago. I still not have received a

1 letter or note yet. But that kind of information would
2 really help us to know what is out there and how good
3 it is. And do they any -- do any PFAS testing on those
4 waters? The State of Alaska says that's obligation,
5 should be telling us what's out there. Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I got
8 Dennis online, I believe. Go ahead, Dennis.

9

10 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, my question is this
11 500-yard and 100-yard, does that encompass the entire
12 river bank to bank? I guess that's my question.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We'll get
15 you an answer. Go ahead, Kevin.

16

17 MR. FOLEY: Through the Chair, the
18 proposal did not specify, and that is an enforcement
19 concern, whether or not this is 500 below from bank to
20 bank or measured in some other way. I know that there's
21 been some discussion about potential in an arc in some
22 fashion. I don't know what that would look like. Thank
23 you.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
26 you.

27

28 MR. ZADRA: Yeah. In the commercial
29 fishery, we have these closures around anadromous
30 streams and that's typically what it is. It's a 500-yard
31 arc around the mouth of the stream. This could be a
32 little different, but if it doesn't encompass that and
33 it seems like the guys from the boats are still going
34 to have access to these areas unless something is
35 specific about how far out into the river this closure
36 applies.

37

38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Who else
39 would like to talk before we take action on this?

40

41 MR. WILSON: Yeah, to that. Most of these
42 fish that are being harvested in this area that we're
43 talking about is going to be right between where that
44 line of the fresh water and the muddy water is. And if
45 you go out in that river, a hundred yards, you're not
46 going to be fishing in those fish. That's not where
47 they're holding out there. They're holding right at the
48 edge of that fresh water where it comes out, and they'll
49 stay there and clean out their gills and then they'll
50 head on -- well, they may head up to the Gulkana. You

1 don't know where they're going, but that's.....

2

3 (Simultaneous speech)

4

5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You got one
6 thing right. You don't know where they're going. That's
7 for damn sure. But anyway, yeah, I just want to make a
8 couple comments. You know, I've been on here quite a
9 while, for many years. And the one thing that I've always
10 -- you know, I remember Ralph Lohse when he chaired
11 stuff, but I have a real hard time of making things more
12 restrictive for the Federal user. In this case, is it
13 really gonna matter? I don't know, because you say the
14 State -- you would have the right under your State permit
15 to do it anyway. So yes, we do need to step up and take
16 action, and we can't let our resource be depleted, but
17 is it really gonna be effective? Is there a better way
18 to do this? The better way I see is to restrict the
19 boats. Because if there is one or two subsistence users
20 that have to use the banks to get their fish, they should
21 be allowed to do it. And that's what this whole thing
22 was about. So, it's a real conundrum in some ways, but
23 we need to take the broad picture of including all the
24 subsistence users too. So, that's my comments. I'm not
25 sure how I'll vote, but let's go ahead.

26

27 MS. PILCHER: Can you speak in your mic?

28

29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yep. I'm
30 speaking to my mic. They made the motion. Judy made the
31 second. Thank you for reminding me. My mic was off.
32 Okay. We've got a motion and second and a discussion.
33 Not necessarily, but we always do. Judy's going to read
34 it one more time or someone's going to read it.

35

36 MS. PILCHER: I think Ed's got something
37 to say too. And it looks like Angela might have something
38 to say.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Ed.

41

42 MR. HOLSTEN: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 This is Ed Holsten, Cooper Landing. You know, I've really
44 got -- this is really a quandary for me, but.....

45

46 (Simultaneous speech)

47

48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Me too. It's
49 crazy.

50

1 MR. HOLSTEN: Right now, I'm thinking,
2 based a lot on Karen's comments and other Board members
3 about conservation -- potential conservation issues.
4 Like, and I'm not aware, these permits, Federal and maybe
5 even State permits for dip netting on these or near
6 these tributaries, is it designated on the permit where
7 they are fishing, where they got their fish from? For
8 example, in Cooper Landing, we can go up the falls and
9 dip net. But we have to designate, "Yes, we fished in
10 this one spot." And how many fish we took. Now, I'm not
11 aware on the other permits, if that's necessary to put
12 down on the permits. It might help to find out how many
13 fish are taken near a tributary as it goes into the
14 Copper that may affect that run up that tributary. Thank
15 you, Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's a good
18 point. If you don't know how many are taken -- okay,
19 Angela.

20
21 MS. TOTEMOFF: Just offering a friendly
22 amendment to read, prohibit the use of dip nets --
23 dipnetting from a boat for federally qualified
24 subsistence users.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, her
27 amendment.

28
29 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Andy second it.
32 Okay. Discussion on the motion as amended continues. Is
33 anyone else...? Andy.

34
35 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
36 Chair. You know, our job is, you know, to address
37 conservation concern issues, you know, here, the way we
38 vote and voting to support this exemplifies, you know,
39 that we care about the resource and that we want this
40 resource to exist into perpetuity for future
41 generations. We don't want the Copper River to become
42 like what's happening in the Yukon. You know, AITRC
43 tribes all support this. I believe it actually should
44 also not just include boats, but it should also include
45 fish wheels and be amended for that too. And perhaps
46 should be amended to include both banks of the river or
47 some definition of this 500-yard arc from the mouth.
48 Seems like those would be some prudent measures as well.

49
50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Are you making
2 a motion to make those additions or not?

3
4 MR. WILSON: Can I just say before --
5 usually, on the Copper, most of all, it's not 500 yards
6 -- it's wide. I mean, the river is not that wide
7 anywhere.

8
9 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa, for the
10 record. It'd be cleanest if we voted on this motion and
11 then may -- if you wanted to change it again, did another
12 motion. So, if we already have one amendment to the
13 original motion.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's correct.
16 Okay. We got one amendment to the motion and that was
17 for the votes. Okay. We'll go ahead and vote on that if
18 we get enough discussion.

19
20 MS. PILCHER: And to clarify, this is a
21 -- the motion was to add additional language to the
22 proposal. So, by voting, yay, you're voting to add an
23 amendment to the current proposal. We haven't got to the
24 point where we're voting the proposal up or down yet.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we're
27 voting on the amendment. All in favor of the amendment,
28 aye.

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

33
34 (No response)

35
36 Carries. That's the votes. Okay, now do
37 you want to make another amendment to it?

38
39 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
40 Chair. I would make a motion to have another additional
41 amendment, which includes fish wheels as well in this
42 exact same yardage that's already defined in the draft
43 proposal there. And 500 yards -- it seems we have to
44 also include some type of definition to make the
45 conservation officers that are trying to enforce this.
46 So, some type of definition about an arc from the mouth
47 would have to be certainly worded users within 500 yards
48 below and 100 yards above any salmon-bearing river or
49 stream tributary confluence, including an arc within
50 that confluence on the Upper Copper River mainstream.

00060

1
2 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. There's a
3 second. Michael.

4
5 MR. OPHEIM: Second.
6

7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. And
8 you're going to clarify the language on the arc. Okay.
9 All those in favor of the second amendment signify saying
10 aye.

11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.
13

14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?
15

16 (No response)
17

18 Okay. Now we're back to the original
19 motion. And, as amended twice, the original motion with
20 the two amendments that are approved. Okay. All in favor,
21 aye.

22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.
24

25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Opposed?
26

27 (No response)
28

29 Carries.
30

31 MS. PILCHER: It's almost like you
32 planned that because the next proposal was a time certain
33 for 4 and it's exactly 4 o'clock.

34
35 (Talking)
36

37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Sure. Thank
38 you, Kevin. Okay. Well, I would like, you know, for the
39 record is to have some type of way that put on their
40 permit where they got those fish. So, you'd have some
41 data gathering anyway. Thank you. Both State and
42 Federal. Yeah. Kristen. Time-certain Kristen. Okay.
43 Okay, you're up.

44
45 MS. MORROW: Okay, good afternoon, Mr.
46 Chair and Council members. For the record, my name is
47 Kristen Morrow. I'm an anthropologist with OSM. Today
48 I'll be presenting a summary of the analysis for proposal
49 FP27-06. This analysis can be found in your supplemental
50 materials in Tab 2. This proposal was submitted by the

1 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource
2 Commission and request that the Board recognize the
3 customary and traditional use of salmon in the Chitina
4 Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District by
5 residents who live along the McCarthy Road to Dan Creek
6 and Kennecott. The proponent states that while the Board
7 has recognized the customary and traditional use of
8 salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict for residents of
9 Chitina and McCarthy, the status of those living along
10 the McCarthy Road to Dan Creek and Kennecott is unclear.
11 The proponent requests that the Board clarify the
12 situation by formally recognizing the customary and
13 traditional use of salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict by
14 residents of McCarthy Road in regulation. According to
15 the proponent, these residents have long fished in the
16 Chitina Subdistrict as these waters are close to where
17 they live.

18
19 Some important regulatory history to be
20 mindful of as you're considering this proposal. Both
21 Chitina and McCarthy have had a customary and
22 traditional use determination for the Chitina
23 Subdistrict for around 25 years. When that determination
24 was initially made, the analysis for those communities
25 did not specify specific boundaries for the communities
26 of McCarthy or Chitina. So, while the McCarthy Road
27 itself is not specifically named in the determination,
28 Board transcripts from when the Board initially made
29 this decision make it clear that the Board intended for
30 residents of McCarthy Road to be included in this
31 determination. So, reviewing the transcripts, there are
32 quotes showing Board members stating that they intend
33 for residents of -- living in between two of the named
34 communities to be included in this determination.
35 However, the Board did not explicitly discuss whether
36 residents living in adjacent areas to McCarthy like
37 Kennecott, Dan Creek, or May Creek were included.

38
39 Some additional sort of regulatory
40 context to be aware of, McCarthy Road already has a
41 customary and traditional use determination for salmon
42 in the Glennallen Subdistrict, as do all residents of
43 the Prince William Sound area and the remainder of the
44 Prince William Sound area. McCarthy Road is also named
45 in customary traditional use determination for sheep in
46 Unit 11. In terms of some background for these particular
47 areas, we're considering McCarthy Road, Kennecott, and
48 Dan Creek, and May Creek to help clarify where those
49 areas exist. You can look at that map on page 12 of the
50 analysis.

1
2 So, first for McCarthy Road, portions
3 of McCarthy Road are within the Chitina and McCarthy
4 Census Designated Place or CDP. The determination itself
5 doesn't say McCarthy CDP or Chitina CDP, it just says
6 McCarthy and Chitina. But in practice, field managers
7 often use those CDP boundaries to decide who lives in
8 that community. So, in this case, if CDP boundaries are
9 used in determining who has a C&T determination,
10 residents living on those portions of the road within
11 those CDP boundaries would already be considered to have
12 C&T. There is about 41 miles of road that are outside
13 of the CDP of McCarthy and Chitina. And that starts at
14 around mile 15 and ends at around mile 56. And this
15 includes the communities of Strelna, Chokosna, sorry if
16 I'm mispronouncing that, and Long Lake.

17
18 The second area, Kennecott, is located
19 north of McCarthy. The proponent states that Kennecott
20 is outside of the McCarthy CDP, but available data
21 indicate that Kennecott is actually located within the
22 CDP. So again, if CDPs are used as the boundary of the
23 community, Kennecott would already be considered to have
24 a customary and traditional use determination. And
25 finally, Dan Creek and May Creek are both located south
26 and east of McCarthy. A large portion of the road to Dan
27 Creek, also known as Nizina Road, is within the CDP
28 boundaries, but a portion of the road and the communities
29 themselves are just outside of the CDP boundary.

30
31 In terms of community histories for
32 these areas, it's very similar to the history of Chitina
33 and McCarthy itself. The Copper River Basin, including
34 the Chitina Valley and McCarthy Road area, is the
35 traditional homeland of the Ahtna people. Beginning in
36 the 1900s, copper and gold brought many settlers to this
37 area. However, after the Kennecott mines closed in 1938,
38 all of these new residents left. Beginning in the 1950s,
39 the area was resettled by new homesteaders attracted by
40 a subsistence lifestyle. There's continuity today
41 between the residents that live there now and these
42 settlers that moved there in the 1950s. McCarthy Road
43 was originally a railroad, which was converted to a road
44 in the 1960s. And a bridge across the Copper River was
45 reestablished in 1971, which increased access to the
46 area. As of 2025, the McCarthy CDP had a population of
47 125 and Chitina had a population of 97. There are no
48 reliable population estimates for those communities
49 outside of the CDP. However, a road development survey
50 in 2024 estimated that there were around 13 permanent

1 households along the McCarthy Road. And unfortunately,
2 there's no recent population data estimates for the Dan
3 Creek, May Creek, or Kennecott areas.

4
5 In terms of the criteria that we
6 consider for a customary and traditional use
7 determination, looking back at past subsistence studies
8 that were conducted throughout the 1980s, and then one
9 more recently in 2012, provide some insight to these
10 communities. Notably, several of these studies have
11 combined portions of these areas in with McCarthy. So,
12 Kennecott, in particular, has often been included with
13 McCarthy in these studies. In some cases, Dan Creek and
14 May Creek are considered separately, and other cases
15 they're considered as part of McCarthy. And then
16 depending on the study, portions of McCarthy Road have
17 been included as part of McCarthy or as part of Chitina.
18 With this -- in terms of the analysis, it makes it a
19 little challenging to analyze the subsistence practices
20 of those areas specifically, since they're often grouped
21 with the other communities. But what it does do is
22 underscore the sort of continuity and relationships
23 between these different areas.

24
25 The OSM analysis finds that the areas
26 in the proposal do meet the eight factors for salmon in
27 the Chitina Subdistrict, similar to the McCarthy and
28 Chitina communities themselves. In the data that's
29 available, sockeye salmon were of particular importance
30 to residents of these areas, and the Chitina Subdistrict
31 was a preferred harvest area. Additionally, residents
32 of the proposal area outside of McCarthy and Chitina
33 CDPs have been issued Federal subsistence permits for
34 the Chitina Subdistrict since they've been available in
35 2002. Nearly 400 permits have been issued since that
36 time, about half of which were fished, resulting in a
37 total of around 4,000 salmon harvested. So, if the Board
38 were to adopt this proposal, becoming federally
39 qualified would mean that fishers could transition from
40 a State personal use limit of 25 salmon for the head of
41 household plus 10 salmon for each additional household
42 member to a Federal subsistence permit, which has a
43 higher harvest limit of 30 salmon for a single person
44 with an option to request permits for up to 200
45 additional salmon or 60 salmon for a household of two.
46 Additionally, while those fishing under State
47 regulations in the Chitina Subdistricts may only keep
48 one chinook salmon, federally qualified users may keep
49 up to five chinook salmon caught by dip net and five
50 caught by rod and reel. Notably, many residents of the

1 proposal area are already fishing under Federal
2 regulations in the Chitina Subdistrict, and if the Board
3 does not adopt this proposal, they would see a
4 significant reduction in their subsistence opportunity.

5
6 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
7 support this proposal with modification to clarify that
8 this determination not only includes residents along the
9 road to Dan Creek and Kennecott, but also to include the
10 residents of May Creek, Dan Creek, and Kennecott.
11 Notably, this conclusion recognizes that this would be
12 a clarification of the existing customary and
13 traditional use determination rather than establishing
14 a new determination. The available information indicates
15 that the Board's deliberations related to the McCarthy
16 determination in 2002 meant to include the residents
17 living along McCarthy Road. And available research
18 indicates that there is sufficient continuity between
19 McCarthy, Kennecott, and Dan Creek to consider them as
20 one cohesive community for the purposes of this C&T
21 determination. The history of subsistence practices of
22 residents in these areas are indistinguishable from
23 those of residents living in McCarthy and Chitina. And
24 portions of the roads in these areas are already within
25 the CDP itself. So based on this information, it seems
26 there's ample evidence to warrant clarifying this C&T
27 determination, particularly as those residents indicate
28 -- sorry, the available data indicates that residents
29 have historically fished more in the Chitina Subdistrict
30 than in the Glennallen Subdistrict. Thank you very much,
31 Mr. Chair. And I will happily answer any questions.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
34 Kristen. Questions for Kristen? Kirk.

35
36 MR. WILSON: So, can those people we're
37 talking about out there individually qualify without
38 being in a community? Can they come to the -- and
39 qualify?

40
41 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Wilson. For
42 the record, this is Kristen Morrow. The individual C&T
43 determinations that you're talking about are often done
44 through the Park Service. So, there -- those would be
45 sort of in National Park Service regulations. It is
46 possible. In this case, it does not seem like the most
47 practical approach given that the communities as a whole
48 demonstrate sufficient evidence for customary and
49 traditional use of salmon in this area and the
50 Board Policy and Practices to make these determinations

1 inclusive where possible to recognize those uses.

2

3 MR. WILSON: So, basically you want to
4 take on all the communities and I'm just -- we had a
5 meeting not long ago about my community and we rejected
6 it. And the reason that we did reject it is because
7 about 80% of the people that live in my community
8 couldn't qualify personally. So, they tried to get the
9 people that did qualify, let everybody qualify. And that
10 kind of sounds what's going on here.

11

12 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Wilson.
13 Again, Kristen Morrow, for the record. So, if this
14 proposal was not adopted and folks wanted to pursue that
15 individual determination, it would -- those decisions
16 are made on a case-by-case basis. But the available
17 evidence does indicate that the Board intended for
18 McCarthy Road specifically to be included in this
19 determination. And the available research really does
20 demonstrate coherence between McCarthy, Kennecott, Dan
21 Creek, May Creek as one cohesive community area. So, I
22 will leave it at that. Thank you.

23

24 MS. PILCHER: And as a reminder, when
25 those individual C&Ts do get submitted to the Park
26 Service, they then come to the Councils. So, it would
27 also add to the Council's workload because they would
28 need to review the eight-page application and vote to -
29 - the Park Service up or down. So, just to let you know,
30 it would definitely increase your workload as well.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

33

34 MS. EWAN: My question is, how did they
35 determine customary and traditional use when it's a
36 tourist site? And I know I live in Copper River. My
37 family lives in Chitina, and they live in the Wrangell
38 Mountains, which some of it is a borough from Yakutat
39 and Cordova. How do they qualify for Federal subsistence
40 users when a lot of them don't even live there year-
41 round? Maybe about 20 people. You look on the Alaska map
42 and the shows they have on Kennecott and Wrangell
43 Mountains area. There's people that come there in
44 seasonal and then there's people that live there year-
45 round, which is probably maybe 20 people per household.
46 How do they get customary and traditional use? When --
47 who are you covering for? Is that just for the people
48 that live here year-round or is this for the people that
49 come home the summertime?

50

1 MS. MORROW: Thank you for that question.
2 For the record, Kristen Morrow. So, in order to be a
3 federally qualified user, to have that use recognized,
4 you have to be a permanent resident. So, these permits
5 -- Federal permits that would be available would only
6 be available to permanent residents. So, if it's around
7 20 households, those would be the only households
8 eligible. Folks that live there seasonally would not be
9 eligible.

10
11 MS. EWAN: And what is their customary
12 traditional use?

13
14 MS. MORROW: Thank you. For the record,
15 Kristen Morrow. These determinations are examining
16 patterns of use of the resource. So, we look at where
17 they harvest salmon, how much salmon they harvest,
18 cultural evidence of transmission of knowledge, so
19 teaching harvest practices. The methods that they use
20 to harvest salmon. So, we look at all of the data that's
21 available on a community basis to understand what the
22 harvest practices are and whether that fits the pattern
23 of customary and traditional uses.

24
25 MS. EWAN: Mr. Chair, Faye. And on top
26 of that, I think Kennecott is trying to be an
27 unincorporated city and they're trying to get their
28 status as a -- public law. And I just like Palmer Federal
29 subsistence use to me. Is that I think we need to do
30 more research before we pass this proposal. Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
33 Other questions for Kristen? Angela, go ahead.

34
35 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Angela, for the record. Can you tell me over the span
37 of time that you collect that data? Like -- so, if you
38 have -- if you could provide more detail on that.

39
40 MS. MORROW: Thank you. For the record,
41 Kristen Morrow. For this particular proposal, we are
42 referring to some historical data, really historical
43 accounts. So, not necessarily quantified data when
44 you're talking about people were resettling in the
45 1950s. You talk about periods before then, where there
46 are sort of the boom of mining, and then people moved
47 out. So, in terms of broad settlement patterns, we look
48 at historical accounts to understand when people were
49 moving in and out of the region. In terms of that harvest
50 data itself, we look at household subsistence surveys

1 data. There are three or four studies from the 1980s and
2 one from 2012 that give us a picture of those sort of
3 household harvest practices. How many of the households
4 are using salmon? How many are sharing salmon with other
5 households? Things like that. And then we have the permit
6 data from the Federal harvest database. So, folks who
7 live in these areas who have been receiving Federal
8 permits since 2002 up through 2025. So that would be
9 around 23 years of recent data looking at harvest
10 practices for folks who do receive those permits.

11
12 MS. TOTEMOFF: And so, somebody doing
13 that sort of activity since 2002 that's considered
14 traditional and customary?

15
16 MS. MORROW: Thank you for that question.
17 No, not necessarily. It is one piece of the puzzle.
18 Understanding current uses and how that may have changed
19 from past uses is part of this process that we go
20 through. And as always, there is not a completely perfect
21 record. So, we are using the available data that we
22 have, which includes recent harvest data, past harvest
23 data, historical accounts, public testimony, and all of
24 that goes into informing these decisions.

25
26 MS. TOTEMOFF: And just one last
27 clarifying question. And the data that you're using then
28 goes back to the 80s.

29
30 MS. MORROW: Thank you for that question.
31 In terms of quantifiable harvest data, so when you're
32 just counting how many fish are people taking, what
33 percentage of households are harvesting fish, that data
34 we have several studies from the 1980s and one from
35 2012. But in terms of broader historical data, the
36 analysis really considers the historical context of
37 these communities and how they were established going
38 back to the early 1900s.

39
40 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you.

41
42 MR. WILSON: Okay. To qualify for C&T,
43 don't you have to have three generations that have used
44 from that resource?

45
46 MS. MORROW: Thank you, Mr. Wilson. For
47 the record, Kristen Morrow. We don't require a set number
48 of generations in the Federal Program. The way these
49 determinations are made, there are eight factors that
50 we consider, but it is not a checklist where you have

1 to check off every box. This sort of intergenerational
2 transmission of knowledge, teaching across and through
3 generations is part of the puzzle, but it is not the
4 only piece, and you don't have to tick every single box
5 necessarily in order for the Board to recognize that
6 pattern of use.

7

8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Andy.

9

10 MR. MCCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
11 Chair. So, the way I read these supplemental materials
12 here, I think the three generations thing might have
13 applied to State Tier II type things or something, but
14 I think that's not a Federal thing. And reading this
15 thing here, determining customary and traditional use,
16 a community or area's C&T. So, this is about a community
17 thing and not individuals.

18

19 MS. TOTEMOFF: Hey, we got a question.
20 Did you say 20 people live there year-round?

21

22 MS. MORROW: Thank you for that question.
23 I was referring to the information, Council member --
24 I'm sorry, I can't see your last name. Ewan. Thank you.
25 Was providing -- we don't have precise population
26 estimates for Kennecott on its own, Dan Creek on its
27 own, or the McCarthy Road on its own, because those
28 areas are partially grouped in with the CDP itself. And
29 we get a population estimate for the CDP and they don't
30 break it down by portions of that CDP. And for Dan Creek
31 and May Creek that are outside of the CDP, they aren't
32 recently censused. So, we don't have great estimates.
33 Based on the available data that we do have, the number
34 of households that were surveyed in past subsistence
35 studies, we are probably talking about under, between
36 all areas, McCarthy Road and the other, you know, a few
37 dozen households, probably. But this is, you know, we
38 don't have, you know, for sure census data on that.

39

40 MS. EWAN: You know, those guys up there
41 in McCarthy can get State of Alaska hunting and fishing
42 permits. Why do they want to be federally qualified
43 users?

44

45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead. Who's
46 next? You are.

47

48 MS. ROBERTS: Do you have an elementary
49 school there? How many kids are there?

50

1 MS. MORROW: Thank you for that question,
2 member Roberts. I do not know that information off the
3 top of my head. I could look it up though.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You got a hot
6 seat.....

7
8 (Simultaneous speech)

9
10 MS. COHEN: I do. For the record, Amber
11 Cohen, cultural anthropologist at Wrangell-St. Elias
12 National Park and Preserve. So, there is no school in
13 the McCarthy, Kennecott, McCarthy Road, Chitina area.
14 The closest school is up in Kenny Lake is where the kids
15 go to. A lot of kids that are in that area for like
16 McCarthy, the McCarthy Road are homeschooled, mostly.
17 So, there's no actual structure for any schools there.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No schools.

20
21 MS. COHEN: But there are kids that do
22 live along the McCarthy Road.....

23
24 (Simultaneous speech)

25
26 MS. ROBERTS: You said like.....

27
28 MS. COHEN: There are kids that do live
29 there. And I just wanted to also answer the question
30 about, you know, why do they want to become federally
31 qualified users and maybe just clarify that in many ways
32 in other hunts and other fishing, they are federally
33 qualified users. These are rural folks that live along
34 the McCarthy Road. And what we're doing here is just
35 clarifying in regulation. Because the question that we
36 got -- and I'll kind of talk about this later with the
37 SRC comment, how far does Chitina CDP go? How far does
38 McCarthy CDP go? These are folks at the Park in
39 practicality have been issuing Federal subsistence
40 permits since 2002. And in this way, they have been seen
41 as federally qualified users. But it was pointed out
42 that there's a space between the Chitina CDP and the
43 McCarthy CDP. And what we want to do is just clarify in
44 regulation that those folks along the road and in that
45 kind of extended area that still -- within a little bit
46 of the McCarthy CDP, still counts. And hopefully, that
47 clarifies the -- you know, the point of why the SRC put
48 in this proposal.

49
50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
2 Amber. It was good.

3
4 MR. WILSON: One thing about McCarthy is
5 there was shootout up there not too long ago. I mean,
6 it's been not in recent history, but there was only
7 three people left when they got done there. So, pretty
8 much McCarthy from that time to now is all newcomers.

9
10 (Talking)

11
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: 90 day winters.
13 Okay. Other questions, comments?

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 No, I got to go through the whole nine
18 yards.

19
20 (Talking)

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Kristen,
23 thank you. I'm going to go ahead and move on to Tribal
24 and ANCSA corporations consultation report. Orville.

25
26 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Orville
27 Lind, Native liaison for OSM. And during the
28 consultation session, again, same as the earlier
29 proposal on Federal Fisheries Proposal 27-06, there were
30 no questions on that proposal, but they did --
31 representatives from Ahtna did represent that he -- were
32 aware of that proposal and stated that the comments were
33 submitted. That's all I have.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
36 Orville. Thank you. Okay. Tribal and ANCSA corporations
37 consultation report.

38
39 MS. KOSBRUK: This is Deanna Kosbruk with
40 Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission. Ahtna Inter-
41 Tribal Resource Commission's Fish and Wildlife Council
42 had submitted proposals -- or had submitted comments,
43 public comments. And one of our comments and concerns
44 were that, you know, we are granting customary and
45 traditional use to a location. And as you've heard
46 throughout this whole discussion that there's only
47 seasonal residents and that's very easy to claim
48 residency out there. There's -- you know, you don't have
49 to prove much of being a resident out there. You could
50 just open up a mailbox or electric bill, voting -- your

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1 voting card, et cetera. And these individuals on the
2 McCarthy Road do qualify and can apply for individual
3 C&T through NPS. So, they do have options. And -- yes.
4 Any questions?

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Questions for
7 anyone?

8
9 MS. KOSBRUK: Oh, and I would just like
10 to add, you know, Kirk did mention back in the last
11 cycle how Tolsona had a proposal for wanting C&T
12 recognition and it's the same conversation here. So,
13 thank you.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you
16 much. Okay. Karen, come on up.

17
18 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
19 trying to expand her experience.....

20
21 (Simultaneous speech)

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You're doing
24 good.

25
26 MS. LINNELL: Yeah. For the record, Karen
27 Linnell, Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission. One of
28 the issues that we've been finding is that communities
29 are expanding. There's a lot of interest in McCarthy
30 area. There's a lot of folks buying property out there
31 that in -- and in between that -- these areas didn't
32 have C&T, like this. The individuals that are living
33 there, we have no problem with them getting individual
34 C&T and it goes through their family right, they keep
35 it with their family. I've been talking about getting
36 individual C&T for Chisana caribou because my dad nor I
37 live in Chistochina anymore. He had to come and live
38 with me. And in that way, I still have the ability to
39 hunt caribou if there's an opening, if, right? These
40 guys, you know, and then, later on, it'll be my
41 grandchildren through my family, through our history,
42 through my dad's history hunting caribou in Chisana. The
43 same thing happens here. We can give individual or family
44 C&T. It has been done. Kathryn Martin moved out of
45 Mentasta. And for her to get to be able to fish at
46 Batzulnetas, she's got individual C&T so that she can
47 go back to her grandma Katie's fish camp. That's what
48 can be done here, rather than giving that long expanse
49 of road that doesn't currently have the C&T, while they
50 may have been issuing permits, those individuals in

1 2022, or 20 -- 2002. It's not quite a generation yet,
2 right? And stuff. So, we want to keep it -- you know,
3 keep while providing the -- for a rural priority, do it
4 in a way that isn't harmful. And the other thing is if
5 they're able to fish upstream of the bridge, right now
6 wanting to fish below the bridge, and this is happening
7 quite a bit with staff and others is they're trying to
8 get that customary and traditional use below the bridge
9 because they can target those eddies. The ones that we've
10 been talking about, the ones that the personal use
11 fishery uses and targets, that's what they want. They
12 want to be able to start down there before the personal
13 use fishery folks come. And it's -- you know, they can
14 fish above the bridge. They can fish upstream of the
15 bridge there. And fill their subsistence needs there.
16 It's targeting those eddies in that -- right out of that
17 canyon is what they're looking for. And in that early
18 run that May 15 to June 1 run, June 7, or 10, if they
19 delay the personal use fishery, those fish are the ones
20 that go to Batzulnetas. Those are the ones that come to
21 my fish camp in Chistochina, because I'm at the upper
22 river. So, it does make a difference to me, personally.
23 And so, I just wanted to raise that as well. Thank you,
24 Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
27 Karen. Before she leaves, anyone? Okay.

28
29 (Pause)

30
31 Okay, we got -- is there Agency and
32 Tribal comments? ADF&G? Nissa, no? I can just ask you
33 to -- is there anyone online here?

34
35 MS. PILCHER: I don't believe we have any
36 comments from ADF&G at this time.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank
39 you, sorry for the interruption. Okay. Federal agencies.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 How about Tribes and ANCSA corporations?
44 We got some of that already. Okay, advisory group
45 comments. Is there any other RACs' comments? No?

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 How about the Fish and Game Advisory
50 Councils?

1

2

(No comments)

3

4

Nope. Subsistence Resource Commission.

5

Amber.

6

7

MS. COHEN: Again, for the record, this is Amber Cohen, Cultural Anthropologist at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Unfortunately, the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission does not have a formal comment on their proposal because they have not yet met. Their meeting will be next weekend, on October 9th and 10th, but I didn't want the Council to think that they did not care or consider this proposal. They just hadn't had the chance yet to actually meet and discuss it. And I was wondering if it was of the Council's interest, I can talk a little bit about the background of how this came together from our last SRC meeting and maybe answer some questions there as the SRC coordinator. But if that's not of interest, I can also.....

22

23

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Want to -- want the background? Sure, sure.

25

26

27

MS. COHEN: All right. Okay, great. Again, through the Chair.....

28

29

(Simultaneous speech)

30

31

32

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: (Indiscernible) getting into my dinner engagement.

33

34

35

36

37

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42

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49

50

MS. COHEN: I'll try my best. Again, this is Amber Cohen. So, at our last SRC meeting, which was in February, we had a member of the public, Dave Sarafin, who I think is still on the phone. And one of the things that he brought up was this idea that there's a little bit of a missing C&T that did really should exist. Because, as mentioned by OSM, the Board had seen that McCarthy Road being part of McCarthy and should have been in that C&T back in 2002. So, this was brought to the SRC's attention, that there was an issue with clarity and simplicity. And if you have ever met our SRC Chair, one of the things that Sue Entsminger very much supports is clarity and simplicity, particularly for federally qualified subsistence users. So, they put in this proposal in order to make it clear in the regulation what the Board was intending back in 2002. And continued the already in establish practice for permitting that

1 has been ongoing from the Park Service side. Yeah, I
2 just wanted to point that out there. And then Kaleb
3 Rowland, who is a member from McCarthy, had added in to
4 also include Dan Creek and Kennecott. And as mentioned
5 by OSM, parts of Kennecott and parts of that area are
6 also included already within the McCarthy CDP. So, I
7 just wanted to emphasize that clarity part. And we see
8 this in other C&Ts where it says, like, along the Tok
9 Cutoff or along the Nabesna Road to kind of cover folks
10 that might not be in a specific community but are at
11 least within that area that are related to say, Slana
12 or Nabesna in that case. So, just wanted to give a little
13 bit of background on where this proposal came from.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Questions for
16 Amber?

17
18 (No response)

19
20 Thank you. Okay. Comments, Nissa. Was
21 there any?

22
23 MS. PILCHER: Other than what is found
24 in your Meeting Materials at the end of the analysis,
25 there were none received after the comment deadline.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Public
28 testimony, anyone?

29
30 MS. PILCHER: And I would like to remind
31 folks online again, that if you would like to speak, if
32 you are online, you can press star six to mute and unmute
33 yourself. Star five also raises your hand. So, if there's
34 anyone online outside of those in the room that would
35 like to testify, that is how you do so. So, star five
36 to raise your hand and then star six to mute and unmute.
37 Thank you.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. That
42 said, welcome, Edward. Glad you made it. We're on the
43 26, as you've sure picked up on, I'm sure. Okay, I'm
44 ready for a Council motion to put this up at the table,
45 so we can start talking about it.

46
47 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, this is Angela.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yes, Angela.

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1 MS. TOTEMOFF: I move to oppose FP27-06.

2

3 (Talking)

4

5 MS. TOTEMOFF: I move to approve FP27-

6 06.

7

8 MR. WILSON: I second.....

9

10 (Simultaneous speech)

11

12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Just moved to
13 put it on the table, but that's fine. That's fine. That's
14 fine. Yeah. Yeah, we have to be positive. We -- they
15 don't let us put the negative, but you can just move to
16 put it on the table, and we'll do something with it.

17

18 MS. TOTEMOFF: I move to put it on the
19 table.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good. Very
22 good. Okay. Second?

23

24 MR. WILSON: Second.

25

26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by
27 Kirk. Thank you. All in favor that -- putting it on the
28 table for discussion, aye.

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No. No, no, no,
33 no. I'm just approving the motion. You can't just make
34 a motion and not approve it. Okay. Any opposed?

35

36 (No response)

37

38 Now it's on the table. Let's go ahead
39 and discuss it. Okay. It's a little confusing, but I'll
40 give you some clarity here. What we have on our
41 presentation for proposals is a checklist. And under
42 that, you get a Council motion, and we put it on the
43 table to discuss that motion. And then we discuss it,
44 number eight, and we justify it. And then we reinstate
45 final motion, and then the Council votes on it. And Judy
46 always tries to get me to reinstate it. Sometimes I skip
47 that, but that's the formula. So anyway, we are in the
48 discussion of the proposal. So, we have a motion, we
49 have it approved, and we could support it. We could
50 support with modifications. We could take no action. We

1 could take no action to defer to the home region. And
2 we could defer to a future meeting. That's what we could
3 do. It's a lot of options, but we don't have to do that.
4 Any discussion?

5
6 MS. ROBERTS: I got a little.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Hope.

9
10 MS. ROBERTS: My biggest concern is no
11 answer on how many children are there. There's no school,
12 things like that. And just in case I was confused on
13 customary and traditional, that does include generations
14 of use in Alaska or wild resources and stuff. Not even
15 knowing how many children are there, it's pretty
16 worrisome because this is what the resources -- this is
17 what we're doing. It's for our kids and grandchildren,
18 things like that. And so, not trying to be negative, I
19 think it would be a no action for me. Is that -- yeah.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I'll tell
22 you a little story just so I won't get sideways, because
23 then I'll have to center myself. But anyway, one of the
24 things that we've always asked for C&T people -- and
25 Amber, you might think about this -- is, you know, if
26 someone wants C&T, they should come forward with it.
27 They should be at these meetings, and they should justify
28 that. I mean, if it was back in the day when we got C&T
29 for -- you know, back in my home area. I won't go into
30 it, but it took about 10 years, I believe. And I'm not
31 saying that lightly, but a lot of public support,
32 documentations, coming to the Board meetings, presenting
33 our case, so on and so forth. So, it's a thing that we
34 have to be cautious about and make sure we get enough
35 information on it before we make a final decision.
36 Anyway, I said enough. Judy, you wanna go ahead and make
37 comment? Go ahead, Judy, go ahead.

38
39 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I'm gonna oppose the
40 motion because those people have every opportunity to
41 qualify individually. And I just don't believe you take
42 a 40-mile stretch of road and anybody that moves in
43 there in the next few years, they qualify. I just don't
44 agree with it.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good. Any
47 other comments? Judy, and then Angela. Go ahead.

48
49 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah,
50 going back maybe a generation, thinking of 2001, the

1 Chair of this Council at the time lived along the
2 McCarthy Road and had quite a bunch of kids. And so, he
3 was the one that clarified when we first developed the
4 C&T for the -- I'll just call it that area, that region,
5 that it would include locations on the road. And that
6 certainly was the intent at the time. And then, I don't
7 know the specifics of how many people have been given
8 permits because they live there or how many people are
9 fishing salmon now, assuming they have C&T. But
10 personally, I just don't think this adds a lot of people
11 to how many people would be fishing salmon.
12

13 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
14 C&T designation for me is really important. Considering
15 the history and what our people have had to do to prove
16 our own C&T designation, having been Indigenous
17 communities living here for 5,000 years, to go through
18 that same process. I think it's something that we still
19 have to -- today in 2026, take very, very seriously and
20 go through that same rigorous process. I also know and
21 understand that there's a motivation behind this to
22 maybe simplify things, but this designation is not
23 simple. It's a very complex issue that we shouldn't be
24 trying to rush to simplify some of those permitting
25 processes. I also believe, just in general though, like
26 we have to be very, very careful with these designations
27 moving forward. So, for those reasons and the reasons
28 that everybody else listed, I will be opposing this
29 motion.
30

31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
32 Anyone else like to comment? Go ahead, Faye.
33

34 MS. EWAN: To me, my opinion on this
35 proposal here, I won't pass it because I think that
36 there should be more legal determination and
37 qualification for people that live off the road because
38 McCarthy is State land. Most of the people that got land
39 there is through the Federal land and not a private
40 lander that was there for whatever reason. They got
41 titled to the land. At the same time, those people sold
42 all that land out that was the original people. And now
43 there's all these people from all over the country. I
44 mean, we got a lot of guiding services. And it's really
45 sad. And it's coming out of McCarthy. And that's how I
46 know they don't stay there long. Because after fishing
47 season, they're hit to Seattle. So, I won't pass this.
48 Thank you.
49
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
2 Anyone else have a comment on it before we take a vote?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 Okay, if not, if someone wants to make
7 a motion to -- motion on the table? No, I'm done with
8 on the table. I'm ready for a motion to vote on it.

9
10 (Talking)

11
12 UNIDENTIFIED: Question.

13
14 (Talking)

15
16 MS. PILCHER: We've got a motion on the
17 table from Angela, from Kirk to -- well, the motion was
18 to support the proposal. Yep. Yep. And now we take a
19 vote on that motion now that we had discussion.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. All in
22 favor, aye.

23
24 MR. ZADRA: Aye.

25
26 MR. OPHEIM: Aye.

27
28 MS. PILCHER: Oh. Just a clarification
29 on.....

30
31 (Simultaneous speech)

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: If you vote aye,
34 you're passing it.

35
36 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, a vote in the
37 affirmative is a vote to support FP27-06.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. So, let's
40 regroup on that. Thanks for the clarification. All in
41 favor of 26 that would approve this proposal, say aye.

42
43 MR. OPHEIM: Aye still.

44
45 MR. ZADRA: Aye.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Two.

48
49 MR. ZADRA: Dennis says aye.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Dennis says aye
2 and Andy says aye -- or Michael says aye. All opposed,
3 same sign.

4
5 (Simultaneous speech)

6
7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: The opposition
10 has it. It doesn't pass. Excuse me. Okay. Kevin, I see
11 you're coming back up here. You must think you're up
12 next, huh? Fisheries Resource Monitoring. Go ahead.

13
14 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, members
15 of the Council. Once again, good afternoon. My name is
16 Kevin Foley and I'm a fish biologist with the Office of
17 Subsistence Management. And I'm joined at the table by
18 Kristen Morrow, OSM anthropologist. Before we dive into
19 the 2028 Priority Information Needs discussion, if it
20 pleases the Council, I would like to lead off with an
21 overview, a refresher, and an update of OSM's Fisheries
22 Resource Monitoring Program. And this is background
23 information for why developing Priority Information
24 Needs is critical, and there are no materials for this
25 update.

26
27 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring
28 Program, or FRMP, is a direct response to Title VIII of
29 ANILCA, which established a subsistence priority for
30 rural Alaskans on Federal public lands and directed the
31 Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to research
32 fish and wildlife resources supporting that priority.
33 Section 812 of ANILCA specifically requires these
34 agencies to study subsistence uses and to seek out,
35 consult with, and incorporate the specialized knowledge
36 of rural residents who depend on these resources. The
37 FRMP fulfills this mandate by funding research and
38 monitoring projects that generate the scientific and
39 traditional knowledge needed to manage subsistence
40 fisheries responsibly, while also increasing meaningful
41 engagement with federally recognized Tribes and Alaska
42 Native organizations.

43
44 As a core piece of the Federal
45 Subsistence Management Program, the FRMP works alongside
46 the Federal Subsistence Board, OSM, and the Regional
47 Advisory Councils to carry out ANILCA's broader goals.
48 Rather than operating as a standalone research effort,
49 the program is embedded in a larger structure that
50 oversees subsistence hunting and fishing regulations on

1 Federal lands, feeding data and findings directly into
2 that decision-making process. This interagency,
3 interdisciplinary approach ensures that funded research
4 has practical value for managers, reflects local and
5 traditional ecological knowledge, and strengthens
6 partnerships among Federal agencies, the State, tribes,
7 and rural communities.

8
9 Every two years, the FRMP produces a
10 Monitoring Plan, the final approved list of projects
11 that will receive funding for that cycle. Development
12 of the Monitoring Plan begins with Priority Information
13 Needs, which are research questions identified by the
14 Regional Advisory Councils with input from subject
15 matter specialists and local subsistence users. These
16 priorities guide which investigation plans are
17 submitted, ensuring that proposed research directly
18 addresses the information gaps managers and communities
19 have flagged as most urgent. Submitted proposals are
20 then scored by the Technical Review Committee, commented
21 on by the Councils, and ultimately reviewed by the
22 Federal Subsistence Board whose approval finalizes the
23 Monitoring Plan and authorizes funding for the selected
24 projects.

25
26 So, shortly after your winter meeting
27 last March, the 2026 Monitoring Plan was finalized. The
28 plan was disappointing for many. Actual 2026 funding
29 fell far short of hopes at about \$5.3 million instead
30 of the \$9 million originally announced. When put into
31 perspective for the Southcentral Region, there were a
32 total of three Southcentral Region proposals competing
33 for funding, totaling over \$2.2 million in requests.
34 Allocations permitted only selection of one Southcentral
35 Region project, and that was Project 26-504, In-river
36 abundance of Copper River Chinook salmon carried out by
37 the Native Village of Eyak. Concluding the FRMP overview
38 and background, I'm pleased to share that all the
39 projects selected for funding have received that funding
40 and are moving forward with their investigation plans,
41 the exception being the Selawik Pike Project, which is
42 anticipated to begin fieldwork in 2027. Before we move
43 on to the 2028 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
44 Priority Information Needs for the Southcentral Alaska
45 region, are there any questions from the Council on
46 anything I've mentioned so far?

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Questions?

49
50 (No response)

1

2

You're good to go.

3

4

MR. FOLEY: Thank you. OSM has started our 2028 FRMP process with plans to announce the '28 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the monitoring program this winter. The first step in this process is for the Regional Advisory Councils to identify the Priority Information Needs for their respective regions. Once more, these are research needs or gaps in information needed to manage Federal subsistence fisheries. These Priority Information Needs provide the framework for soliciting, evaluating, and selecting projects for funding through the Monitoring Program. Through the FRMP, three primary types of projects are requested. Harvest monitoring, traditional ecological knowledge, and stock status and trends. Harvest monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge projects provide information directly from subsistence users, including descriptions of fishing effort and harvest and use patterns. Stock status and trend projects address fish abundance, migration, and behavior in specific fisheries. Research priorities that fall outside of that scope of the Monitoring Program are not considered or not funded, and they include projects focused on habitat protection, mitigation, restoration, and enhancement, hatchery propagation, restoration enhancement, and supplementation, and contaminant assessment, evaluation, and monitoring. These kinds of projects are most appropriately addressed by the local land management or regulatory agencies. In addition, projects for which the primary objective is education or outreach, such as science camps, technician training, or intern programs are not eligible for funding under the Monitoring Program.

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Council members Totemoff, Wilson, and GreyBear worked with OSM staff to exchange information and discuss Priority Information Needs for the Southcentral Region. The resulting list of draft PINs is on page 17 of Tab four of your supplemental materials. And this list includes five new PINs identified as well as six PINs that have been carried forward from the 2026 FRMP. So, Mr. Chair, before we move to the public comment agenda item, how would the Council like to handle the draft PIN list? Should I read them aloud or would the Council prefer to review them independently? And then, once we hear from the public, this Council can work through to add, remove, modify PINs before taking action and finalizing the Southcentral Region PINs.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: How about
3 reading through them? Let's go ahead and let them hear
4 them. Sure. Kevin.

5
6 (Pause)

7
8 Okay, Kevin, go ahead.

9
10 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,
11 reading through the list of Priority Information Needs
12 identified by the group and in no particular order. PIN
13 number one. Estimate run size, strength, and
14 distribution of adult wild chinook and sockeye salmon
15 in small headwater tributaries and clearwater streams
16 of main tributaries to the Copper River drainage,
17 including the Klutina, Tonsina, and Gulkana watersheds
18 using methods such as eDNA sampling, juvenile
19 outmigration counts, and other emerging technologies.
20 Investigators should consult with local subsistence
21 users and draw on their knowledge of historic and current
22 use of these smaller streams in designing and carrying
23 out research. PIN number two. Collect baseline
24 information on salmon stock status, productivity, and
25 run timing for stocks in Prince William Sound, with
26 particular attention to smaller, non-hatchery associated
27 stocks that have not been comprehensively studied to
28 date. Investigators should consult with local
29 subsistence users and Tribal partners in designing and
30 carrying out research and should be sensitive to the
31 cultural and historical context of traditional use areas
32 when identifying study sites.

33
34 Next. Document traditional ecological
35 knowledge and Indigenous knowledge held by the Ahtna and
36 Eyak Region regarding changes in salmon abundance,
37 distribution, run timing, size, harvest opportunity, and
38 environmental conditions affecting subsistence salmon
39 fisheries. Investigators should use key respondent
40 interviews, ethnographic fieldwork, and other
41 qualitative methods developed in partnership with tribal
42 entities with particular attention to building trust and
43 data sharing agreements that respect community concerns
44 about data ownership and sensitive locations. Next.
45 Document subsistence salmon harvest levels relative to
46 household and community subsistence needs in the
47 Southcentral Region, including identification of unmet
48 needs and factors limiting the ability of families to
49 meet subsistence needs. For example, reduced access to
50 other subsistence resources such as moose and caribou.

1 Investigators should use household surveys, harvest
2 calendars, and other harvest monitoring methods and may
3 incorporate traditional ecological knowledge in
4 designing and carrying out research in partnership with
5 local communities. Next. Investigate factors
6 contributing to the increasing occurrence of small,
7 sexually mature chinook salmon, also known as jacks, in
8 the Copper River drainage, including whether this
9 reflects changes in age of maturity, growth rates, or
10 marine survival conditions. Investigators should consult
11 with local subsistence users and draw on their knowledge
12 of historic and recent changes in chinook salmon size
13 and age composition in designing and carrying out
14 research.

15
16 Now this next set of PINs were PINs that
17 were carried forward from the 2026 regulatory cycle and
18 decided to be kept in for '28 or at least put on the
19 list. Understand food web dynamics and factors affecting
20 early marine survival rates of Southcentral origin wild
21 chinook and coho salmon stocks, including variables such
22 as primary food resources and prey availability,
23 competition with hatchery-produced salmon, and prey
24 buffering during periods of high or low abundance. Next.
25 Estimate measures of abundance and/or run timing,
26 spawning site fidelity, fecundity, age, sex, and length
27 composition for chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon in the
28 Southcentral Region. Next. Identify and understand
29 sources of in-river mortality, for example, predation
30 on adult chinook and sockeye salmon as they migrate
31 upstream within the Southcentral drainage. Expanded to
32 include other mortality factors, such as physiological
33 stress and injury in river drainages. Next. Collect and
34 improve baseline and long-term information of juvenile
35 chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon outmigration,
36 including abundance and/or timing condition and
37 mortality across the unique subwatersheds of the
38 Southcentral Region.

39
40 (Pause)

41
42 Continuing down the list of Priority
43 Information Needs identified. Collect and improve
44 baseline and long-term information of juvenile chinook,
45 coho, and sockeye salmon outmigration, including
46 abundance and/or timing condition and mortality across
47 the unique sub-watersheds of the Southcentral Region.
48 Next. Understand effects of environmental and/or climate
49 change on stock-specific migration timing and abundance
50 of juveniles, for example, egg development or fry

1 survivability, and adult salmon, as well as the
2 implications for harvest management in the Southcentral
3 Region. And lastly, estimate chinook, coho, and sockeye
4 salmon escapements into the Copper River and other
5 Southcentral drainages and Delta systems with a high
6 degree of certainty. For example, projects utilizing
7 weir, sonar, and/or mark-recapture methods, and new
8 emerging technologies. Mr. Chair, members of the
9 Council, that's all I have for the draft PINs. Thank you
10 very much.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
13 Okay.

14
15 (Pause)

16
17 Okay. I have -- I'm just holding it up
18 here, but public comment on research gaps and
19 subsistence management information needs. Is that where
20 I'm at?

21
22 (Pause)

23
24 You turned my mic off, Dan. Go ahead.

25
26 MR. GORZE: Hi, everyone. My name is Dan
27 Gorze. I'm a fisheries biologist with the Ahtna Inter-
28 Tribal Resource Commission and funded through the
29 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. I'd like to
30 address a PIN that's retained. It's number 11 on the
31 list. It's carried forward, number 6. I think it's really
32 important for tributary-specific escapement estimate in
33 the Copper River. And therefore, I think we should
34 include wording to say, into tributaries of the Copper
35 River instead of just Copper River drainages. Or -- I
36 mean, sorry, drainages including the Copper River.

37
38 First, I work on projects including the
39 Tanada Creek Salmon Weir, the Klutina River Sonar
40 Project back in 2022 and 2023, which was FRMP funded and
41 assisted with the Gulkana Sonar, ADF&G ran this year.
42 Tributary level escapements are important because
43 there's a lot of variability in the Copper River Basin
44 as far as glacial and non-glacial tributaries, spawning
45 (indiscernible) habitat, predation, survivability,
46 productivity, to name a few. I'm on a project AKSSF-
47 funded, partnered with Prince William Sound Science
48 Center, looking at juvenile chinook survivability and
49 distribution, and outmigration already. And I guess my
50 point is, without having the building block of the

1 tributary level escapement estimate, we don't have
2 anything to compare everything to. I routinely go to
3 working groups with partners and colleagues, and we
4 determine that these escapement estimates are of top
5 priority to compare partnered studies with. Just --
6 yeah, so FRMP is incredibly important right now in this
7 time. Grant funding is really hard to come by. Match is
8 insane. And to run these projects costs a lot of money.
9 So, FRMP is really important. For example, I'm going to
10 submit for Klutina River Sonar again next cycle. Just
11 so you know, and you probably already do, if we can get
12 a sonar unit on the Gulkana River and the Klutina River,
13 we can cover about 70 to 75% of the sockeye in the Copper
14 River Basin and like 40% of the kings. So, with that, I
15 will leave you to consider. Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
18

19 MR. GORZE: Yeah, let me pull up the PIN.
20 Estimate chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon escapements
21 into tributaries of the Copper River. Any other
22 questions?

23
24 MS. EWAN: Just one question. Is this
25 funding that support the Klutina, is it sonar?
26

27 MR. GORZE: It did, through the Chair.
28 Back in 2021, there was funding for three years for the
29 Klutina River Sonar Project.
30

31 MS. EWAN: I think this would help us in
32 the long run toward monitoring those rivers too, for
33 what, especially the count, you know, that's reaching
34 back to the spawning ground because there's no data on
35 that. And did they ever get their funding for that
36 monitor, whatever they were going to get, for the sonar?
37 To do that?
38

39 MR. GORZE: Are you referring to
40 continued funding for Klutina Sonar Project?
41

42 MS. EWAN: Yeah.
43

44 MR. GORZE: Yeah. I don't recall the
45 sequence of events, but it was selected for funding, I
46 think, at one point or another, and the funds weren't
47 there.
48

49 MS. EWAN: So, this one here would be
50 going for the funding to monitor the sonar project?

1

2

MR. GORZE: Yeah, that's my goal.

3

4

MS. EWAN: Okay. Thank you.....

5

6

(Simultaneous speech)

7

8

MR. GORZE: And to add to that, we've been doing pilot work using hydroacoustics in Klutina Lake to estimate juvenile -- or sorry, sockeye abundance to compare to the adult escapement estimate. And a lot of other grants that I've put in for, I wanna use leverage of the FRMP escapement projects, to get those other projects funded for a whole life cycle study on those fish.

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MS. SELANOFF: Quick question. You said you wanted to get additional sonar units for where exactly?

MR. GORZE: Yeah, I was talking about Klutina and Gulkana. So, there's -- if we covered escapement estimates on the Gulkana and Klutina Rivers, we'd get about 70% of sockeye that go off the Copper River. We would count them. And about 40% of kings, I believe.

MS. SELANOFF: Okay, so this verbiage change you want would cover that?

MR. GORZE: I just wanted to include the word tributaries to the Copper River to make it less ambiguous, I guess.

MS. SELANOFF: Okay.

MS. PILCHER: And my apologies, I am trying to put the new language up on the screen. And for some reason, I can't --like, that's what I've got, even though that is not what's on my screen. And there is a question online.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is that for Dan online questions?

MS. PILCHER: I am not sure about that. There's just a hand raised.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Whoever's online got the hand raised. Speak up, please.

1

2

MR. PICHE: (Distortion)

3

4

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

5

6

MR. PICHE: Hello, this is Matt. This is Matt Piche calling and not a question for Dan. Just a - just also wanted to contribute to the conversation for public testimony. But I don't mean to interrupt Dan's talk. So, I'll stop talking until I'm called upon.

11

12

13

14

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, you need to be here to call upon you. I know that. Okay. I'm giving you a bad time.

15

16

(Talking)

17

18

I think we're good. Thank you.

19

20

MR. GORZE: Thank you.

21

22

(Pause)

23

24

25

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28

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Matt. Now, we're -- Dan is done, you want to go ahead and offer your advice for how you're going to fund your PINs? We're all the way to 11 and we can't even fund 2. Thank you.

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MR. PICHE: Absolutely. Thank you, through the Chair. My name is Matt Piche, Native Village of Eyak, natural resources coordinator and also Partners fish biologist. And I just wanted to say these are -- this is a pretty exhaustive list of PINs. I think there'll be a lot of excellent projects submitted. And also, just wanted to concur my support for PIN number 1, PIN number 2, as well as PIN number 11. And again, you know, enhancing escapement monitoring on the Copper River is something that the Native Village of Eyak has been involved with for, you know, the past 25 years. And, yeah, that's -- these are all very important PINs. And I would just say that, if we are to add tributaries at it as well as -- I would say escapements into the Copper River and its tributaries. Just in case there are any shortfalls with the Miles Lake Sonar or with the Copper River Chinook Program, we can continue those mainstem monitoring programs as well as tributary monitoring that's going to happen upriver. So, just word that so we're not boxing ourselves just into tributary-based monitoring. Thank you. That's all I have.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, very
3 good. Thank you.

4
5 (Pause)

6
7 All right. I know it's getting late
8 here, but we need to discuss our PINs. Are you guys
9 done? You got one more? Okay, go ahead.

10
11 MR. FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do
12 have one observation on PIN number one. In the language
13 in the PIN estimate run size, it speaks to adult chinook
14 and sockeye salmon, yet later on in that same PIN, it
15 discusses juvenile outmigration counts. And so, that
16 seems to be a little bit of an inconsistency. So, I
17 would like to offer to the Council to either strike out
18 juvenile outmigration counts or preferably add smolt
19 production in between estimate and run size. So, it would
20 read as estimate smolt production, run size, strength,
21 and/or distribution. And then it gets into the adult
22 wild chinook and sockeye salmon, small headwater
23 tributaries. And then the rest of it would read as such.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You'll
26 have to make sure you get it in there. I saw Nissa trying
27 to type and she was going over her fingers twice. Go
28 ahead, Andy.

29
30 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
31 Chair. Yeah, I actually had a note about -- I wanted to
32 add smolt, so I'm glad you did that. Are we at -- forgive
33 my ignorance, are we at a stage where we can add more
34 PINs? Like, we need more PINs. Yeah, I know we have
35 plenty of PINs, but I think halibut are being neglected
36 in this list.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: When we discuss
39 -- I'm not sure we could add or whatever. We had a lot
40 of people working on this. So, I worked some of those
41 Priority Information Needs before, but I don't know, you
42 want to add new one is what you're saying?

43
44 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I just had some
45 comments here and.....

46
47 (Simultaneous speech)

48
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

1 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I don't know if
2 this is possible at this stage.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead. Go
5 ahead.

6
7 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, so regarding stock
8 and status trends is one of the things that we're
9 supposed to be doing here. You know, there's like no
10 information available. It's definitely a research gap
11 for Priority Information Needs of halibut mortality. We
12 don't have baseline about halibut, established
13 population dynamics. Including things like halibut prey,
14 halibut migration timings and patterns, seasonally.
15 Another issue is just habitat degradation as well, but
16 that's a completely different PIN. These things seem to
17 be something that Prince William Sound Science Center
18 or CRRC could help contribute some research on. Thank
19 you.

20
21 MS. MORROW: Thank you, through the
22 Chair. For the record, this is Kristen Morrow.
23 Unfortunately, Member McLaughlin, the funding for this
24 program is constrained in that it can only be used to
25 fund projects that pertain to Federal fisheries
26 resources that are within the Federal subsistence
27 jurisdiction and halibut, because it's marine, is
28 outside of our jurisdiction.

29
30 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Gulf of Alaska is then
31 not in that jurisdiction, I assume.

32
33 MS. MORROW: That's correct.

34
35 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So, you're talking only
36 freshwater tributaries? Okay. Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. It's
39 good or bad now, how do we get the halibut in here? Just
40 for the halibut? Okay. Where are we moving next? Any
41 more questions on the PINs?

42
43 MR. WILSON: Yeah, this number one --
44 excuse me. The number one PIN is one of mine. It
45 directionally relates to that proposal that we just
46 voted on earlier, because what it does is it gets a
47 count on some of those fish and some of those small
48 streams we don't even know about.

49
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's why the
2 PIN is there.

3
4 MR. WILSON: Yeah.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Any other
7 comments on them? What do you want us to do now? We're
8 going to discuss them and we're going to add to them,
9 all of them, or adjust them?

10
11 MS. PILCHER: It's really up to what the
12 Council would like to do at this time. So, you can
13 continue to discuss and modify the ones that were
14 written. You could add more granted that fit within
15 Federal jurisdiction, or you could take what you've got
16 now and either put a motion on the table to support or
17 support as amended with the language changes that Dan
18 and Matt suggested.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You got
21 that -- we got a few options, support with changes,
22 change the whole thing, or modify. Support with changes
23 sounds pretty good to me, but anyway. Okay. Anyone? Go
24 ahead, Diane.....

25
26 (Simultaneous speech)

27
28 MS. SELANOFF: I can make a motion to
29 support the PINs with the changes to number 11. Okay.
30 And 1.

31
32 MR. WILSON: I'll second it.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Sounds good.
35 Can I vote? All in favor?

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

40
41 (No response)

42
43 Okay. We passed it with 11 and
44 modifications to 1. Thank you very much. Okay. Time
45 check. You guys want to work all night? You want to work
46 till 10? Or what do you want to do? Not really. I don't
47 know. Some of us -- I was concluding. I thought we'd be
48 done by noon tomorrow. I'm not sure we will, but we'll
49 do our best.

50

00091

1 (Talking)

2

3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Do we have
4 time for certain things tomorrow, Nissa? What is it?

5

6 MS. PILCHER: We do. We have a time-
7 certain for NPS to go over the proposed rule. And.....

8

9 (Simultaneous speech)

10

11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We already know
12 the proposed rule, so (indiscernible). Okay. Where are
13 we at here? Do we got time to do one more or you want
14 (indiscernible) public?

15

16 MS. PILCHER: Yes, we're currently on,
17 the Annual Reports topic. There is several things in the
18 annual report, so we could start working down them and
19 get as far as we can. Although.....

20

21 MS. CAMINER: About determining C&T use
22 804? Is that a topic or no?

23

24 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, the C&T is about --
25 that's a topic on the agenda. It was just to draw
26 attention to -- there was that work -- not the worksheet,
27 but the information in your guys' workbook on
28 determining C&T in that tab. So, it's not an action
29 item. You're good there.

30

31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Under the
32 Annual Report, the Board Work Session Report,
33 overarching topics from all Councils. That's going to
34 take a while, that one.

35

36 MS. PILCHER: It shouldn't. It's just a
37 brief update.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, go ahead
40 then.

41

42 MS. PILCHER: All right, this is Nissa
43 Pilcher, for the record. So, on Tab 5 of your guys'
44 supplemental materials is a -- actually, so before we
45 get to the Annual Report, formulating your next Annual
46 Report, I wanted to provide a little context on how we
47 got here. So, on page 61 of your Meeting Materials,
48 which is the one that's comb-bound that was mailed to
49 you. There is a news bulletin about actions at the Board
50 -- Federal Subsistence Board took at their Summer Work

1 Session. So, this meeting is typically where the Board
2 reviews the Annual Report topics for each Council and
3 approves the replies to each Council. So, this time --
4 and Greg can attest to that because he was there, it
5 looked different. So, rather than looking at each
6 Council's report separately, OSM analyzed all of the
7 reports to identify any trends or overarching themes
8 across all Councils to present this information to the
9 Board in the form of a table. And that table is what is
10 found on Tab 5 of your supplemental materials. The Board
11 also had the complete reports from all of the Councils
12 to look at as well. And as you can see, there was some
13 pretty strong common themes. So, and Tab 5 -- yep. There
14 we go. So, Tab 5 is a legal piece of paper. So, it folds
15 out. Yes. I couldn't get it big enough to then fit in a
16 book.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

19
20 MS. PILCHER: So, there's some pretty
21 strong themes. So, salmon and marine issues, monitoring
22 and research gaps, enforcement and other user conflicts,
23 caribou declines and management. As you know, this
24 region is facing caribou declines, other regions are as
25 well. There's also environmental and land use issues,
26 and program administration and communication issues.
27 I'll remind you that in your last Annual Report, you
28 requested staffing to be increased across DOI that
29 pertain to the Federal Subsistence Management Program.
30 So, that's a fancy way of saying program administration
31 and communication.

32
33 So, another difference this year was
34 that Council Chairs or their representatives were highly
35 encouraged to be present at this work session and have
36 the opportunity to discuss their Annual Reports topic
37 directly with the Board. There was back and forth
38 discussion that occurred. And it seemed to work very
39 well and be well received by both the Councils that were
40 in attendance as well as the Board members. So, I'm
41 going to pause for a quick second to see if there's any
42 questions about how that happened or -- do you have the
43 document? It's really small print. So, that leads me to
44 the next item in the agenda, and that is a Joint Council
45 letter. So, in your Annual Report, you discussed
46 staffing levels as well as a wildlife resource
47 management program funding. So, other Councils did as
48 well. And what was decided at that work session was all
49 Chairs wanted to see a letter being drafted that all
50 Councils could potentially sign on to involving fully

1 funding the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program,
2 funding a wildlife resource managing program, and then
3 making sure that staffing is adequate across DOI for
4 those that work on or with the Federal Subsistence
5 Management Program. And that letter, which is found on
6 Tab 6 of your supplemental materials, is OSM's stab at
7 that, basically. So, it asks to restore the funding for
8 the Fisheries Program, establish a wildlife program, and
9 adequately staff DOI.

10
11 So, the letter also explains why the
12 stable monitoring matters for management as well as the
13 resources and the users that depend on it. So, under
14 this agenda item, the Council can discuss if the Council
15 wishes to sign on to this letter. One thing to take into
16 consideration is all 10 Councils need to see pretty much
17 the exact letter. We can't change it significantly as
18 two Councils have already reviewed it. Math is not my
19 strong suit, especially on the fly, and seven Councils
20 still need to look at it. So, what you're looking at is
21 the letter as a whole. Do you support what it says? So,
22 that's the first step. And then second, if there's
23 additional things that you feel that should still be in
24 the letter, you can vote to draft an addendum to the
25 letter. For example, that's what Kodiak Aleutians did.
26 They don't want to see a fish -- or wildlife monitoring
27 program get funded at the expense of the Fisheries
28 Resource Management Program [sic]. So, that's their
29 addendum. They're going to put their name on that letter
30 that will be included with the joint letter. But Kodiak
31 Aleutians voted to support it with that addendum and
32 Northwest Arctic voted to support the letter as written.
33 And you're the third Council to have met. So, this is
34 an action. Well, if you choose to take action, this
35 would be an action item to then support the letter, and
36 then potentially write an addendum. But thank you.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Is that all?

39
40 (Pause)

41
42 Okay. You guys want to go ahead and try
43 and agree to what's in that letter with the adding the
44 addendum? Or do you want to take it up in the morning?
45 Okay, go ahead. We're gonna do it now.

46
47 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

1 MS. CAMINER: I think we can support this
2 letter. It's much of what we were stating. And if people
3 do want that modification of -- we'd like a wildlife
4 program, not at the expense of fisheries, that's
5 probably fine. I mean, my overall concern is there's
6 probably not much money coming towards studies anyway.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Do you want to
9 put that in the motion to move that?

10
11 MR. WILSON: I'll make a motion to move
12 forward with it. I like it.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: With the
15 addendum?

16
17 MR. WILSON: With the agenda.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Addendum. Okay.
20 Kirk, is there a second?

21
22 MS. CAMINER: I'll second that.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
25 Judy. Discussion? All in favor, aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

30
31 (No response)

32
33 Passes. Nissa, you were right. What time
34 do....?

35
36 MS. PILCHER: It's currently.....

37
38 (Pause)

39
40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. The next
41 one's gonna take a little bit, so we'll take it up first.
42 We'll go to the Draft Board Communication Policy
43 feedback in the morning at 9 a.m. sharp. No delay.

44
45 (Talking)

46
47 Okay. Sharp, sharp. Yeah. Anyway, is
48 anyone else got to leave tomorrow? We've got to go -- I
49 think we were down to reports. It looks like we'll
50 probably finish up by noon or close to it. And Nissa

00095

1 could stay for the 1 o'clock appointment. So, that'll
2 be just fine. I'm good. You got to know I tease once in
3 a while. Okay. Anyway, everyone, have a wonderful night,
4 and thank you all. It was a little disconcerting, but
5 we got it all figured out. So, let's start at 9 in the
6 morning. Have a good night. Charge your ticket on your
7 new card. Okay. Thank you.

8

9

(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 95 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 28th day of September;

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 14th day of October 2026.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager