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SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

BP ENERGY CENTER
Anchorage, Alaska
September 29, 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
Edward GreyBear

Regional Council Coordinator, Nissa Pilcher

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 9/29/26)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: All righty. Good morning everyone. I'm going to go ahead and we'll get back in order here. We got Diane and Angela, they both said to start sharp at 9, so we'll start sharp at 9 without them. But anyway, we do have a quorum. We got a couple on -- Ed and Dennis online, so we got 9 of us in the quorum. So, we're going to get back to the agenda where we stop. We were on the Draft Board Communication Policy. But before we go there, we got a little thing to read you that -- on the bottom of -- I'll let Nissa read it. It's -- anyway, it's open to public comment on non-agenda items.

MS. PILCHER: I think actually Greg just summed it up. So, well, if anyone has any comments on non-agenda items, I will remind folks online -- actually that leads me to wanting to mention something. Has anyone joined us today, either in the room or electronically, that didn't get a chance to introduce themselves yesterday?

MS. GERBATSCH: Hi, this is Kirsten Gerbatsch, Associate General Counsel with Ahtna Inc. I wasn't able to join yesterday afternoon and joining today. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

MR. PICHE: Matt Piche, Native Village of Eyak, Natural Resource Coordinator

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Matt.

MS. DEMOSKI: Hello, good morning. This is Kaitlyn Demoski calling in. I'm with the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, boy. Thank you.

MS. KETRON: Good morning. I'm Caroline Ketron, I'm the anthropologist and Federal Subsistence

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1 Coordinator for the Bureau of Land Management Glennallen
2 Field Office.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

5
6 MR. MCKINNEY: Good morning. Shaun
7 McKinney, Forest Supervisor on the Chugach National
8 Forest.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Sean, thank
11 you.

12
13 MS. LA VINE: Good morning. I'm Robbin
14 La Vine, subsistence policy coordinator for OSM. And
15 it's good to see you all.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we need
18 some policies. Thank you.

19
20 MS. MONAHAN: Good morning everyone.

21
22 (Simultaneous speech)

23
24 MS. MONAHAN: (Indiscernible) biologists
25 here at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

26
27 MS. PILCHER: I'm sorry, I just spoke
28 over you. Could you say your name again?

29
30 MS. MONAHAN: Macie Monahan, biologist at
31 Wrangell.

32
33 MS. PILCHER: All right, thank you.
34 Anyone else?

35
36 (No response)

37
38 All right. So, public comment period
39 will now open as a reminder to those online. Of course
40 keep your mics muted unless speaking. You can either use
41 the mute function on teams. You can use the mute option
42 on your phone if calling in. And you can also use star
43 6 to mute and unmute. And also as a reminder, star 5 is
44 a raise hand function if you do wish to speak moving
45 forward. Awesome. Well, I will turn it back over to
46 Chair Encelewski.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I shut off
49 my noise and we're ready to move. Hearing and seeing no
50 comments and I got no cards. We're going to go ahead and

1 start with the agenda. Andy is waving his hand. Okay.

2

3 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
4 Chair. It's just kind of my duty to represent the public
5 at large where I'm from. And a common sentiment and
6 concern, of course, I had -- of course, our -- the area
7 report early at the beginning, but with a lot of dismal
8 things about populations that are of conservation
9 concern of many species. And so, I had some notes here
10 to go over. And these are things that I've researched
11 amongst popular opinion and of the people that I
12 represent, highly regarding trawling and the pollock
13 fishery in the State. And the majority of that is
14 corporate interests and these corporate interests are
15 actually out of State in origin. But our State
16 constitution explicitly lists that the natural resources
17 have State ownership and benefit by Article VIII,
18 Section 1. And ANILCA as it states that the legislature
19 must provide for the development and conservation of
20 natural resources belonging to the State and for the
21 maximum benefit of its people. Common use in that Article
22 VIII, Section 3, specifies that fish and wildlife and
23 waters are reserved to the people for common use. So, I
24 find it very interesting that the waters of Prince
25 William Sound are in a jurisdiction. The marine waters,
26 by the way, are in jurisdiction by the State, while out
27 of State corporate interests are the ones that are
28 benefiting from this. It's kind of against the general
29 Katie John ruling stuff from a long time ago.

30

31 Federally qualified rural subsistence
32 users' way of life is becoming detrimentally affected
33 by many factors. And one large contributor is this
34 destruction that is happening in the habitat and the
35 ecosystem by profiteering and political gain. It's an
36 exploitation of the resource that are under a
37 conservation concern and is a continually benefiting
38 politicians and non-residents. Subsistence users do not
39 have the power of an organized lobby that the financial
40 power corporations do for influencing political
41 decisions and politicians. The funding enables the fox
42 to guard the henhouse, and subsistence users cannot
43 compete with the pollock fishery lobby. The pathway of
44 science that's being used and being cited by NOAA and
45 the NPFMC, North Pacific Fishery Management Council,
46 focuses on very tunnel visioned numbers.

47

48 What's going on right now is bycatch.
49 2025, there was 100,000 Alaska salmon. And get this 4.2
50 million pounds of halibut caught as bycatch in the

1 pollock fishery, 4.2 million pounds. It's no wonder
2 we're seeing less halibut now. My position on this RAC
3 is to be the eyes and ears for the Board and to represent
4 the subsistence users in my home region. And in my very
5 short lifetime in Alaska, I've witnessed a tragic and
6 dramatic decline in this halibut population. They simply
7 are not as easy to catch and is available as they used
8 to be. The managers of these harvested fish populations
9 find out, oh, this catch was this much. And they just
10 increased the threshold by allowable bycatch numbers as
11 time progresses. An important factor not factored into
12 the trawling is this habitat destruction that is taking
13 place. And Prince William Sound is what I'm
14 representing, but it's also happening in the Bering Sea
15 and the Gulf of Alaska. And as we heard yesterday, we
16 can't even talk about halibut because none of this
17 Federal jurisdiction happens. But there has to be some
18 Federal places somewhere where halibut exists. And these
19 are migratory species, just like the State and the Feds
20 regulate migrating waterfowl. You know, it's a migratory
21 species. And there are places where it exists that are
22 in Federal jurisdiction.

23
24 Any major issue that is not included in
25 the NOAA and national - NPFMC's data used to manage the
26 pollock harvest by trawlers is undeniably damaging the
27 food web. Midwater trawling, which we've heard at
28 meetings previously, is, oh, it doesn't touch the
29 bottom, it only tickles the bottom, blah, blah blah. But
30 that is a myth. They claim to not be touching the bottom
31 or only occasionally tickling it. But proof is in the
32 current 2026, this year's Trawl Fishery Report, already
33 showing that 3,618 crab were caught so far. Crab live
34 on the bottom okay. Coral reef structures that took
35 millennia to evolve are being bulldozed essentially on
36 the ocean floor. That damaged habitat is a major part
37 of the life cycle of healthy ecosystems, where
38 salmonids, rockfish, juvenile and adult species of
39 shrimp, clams, shellfish, countless species of
40 vertebrates and invertebrates, all utilizing that
41 forested ocean floor habitat for vital parts of their
42 life cycle. There is no science quantifying with data
43 the level of devastation that has taken place, because
44 there is no baseline information gathered prior to this
45 destruction and this rape of the bottom of the ocean.
46 The numbers that NOAA uses to determine bycatch are what
47 is delivered to the port. And you can ask any trawl
48 fisherman about bycatch, and he cannot say that tons of
49 wanton waste was not literally tons, was not discarded
50 overboard, and was kept off of the logbooks and never

1 made it to port. And if they tried to deny that, they
2 would not be telling the truth. We currently rely on
3 logbooks as an honor system, and the reality is there's
4 just no record of this devastation that is actually
5 happening on this take of bycatch.

6
7 The Fisheries Management Council claims
8 that the annual pollock fishery netted 832 million
9 dollars per year for Alaska. 960 million was for
10 Washington. 116 million was for Oregon, and 628 million
11 was for elsewhere in the world, but not Alaska. In 2023,
12 a recorded 2.5 billion in revenue was created by the
13 Alaska Pollock Fishery in State and Federal waters all
14 went out of State. With 65% of these jobs as being non-
15 Alaskan. My question is, if my home marine water is a
16 Prince William Sound are non-Federal and all only under
17 State jurisdiction. The quotes I read earlier from the
18 State of Alaska's Constitution showed that the State
19 owns the resource and is to manage them for the best
20 interest of the State residents. At what point does the
21 priceless inherent value of subsistence resources that
22 enable our way of life to continue, when does it outweigh
23 the profiteering of the industry that ends up lining the
24 pockets of the politicians? The Alaska Pollock Fishery
25 Alliance currently has a stranglehold on Alaskan
26 politics. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council
27 has 11 members. The Chair is Ann Vanderhoeven. Not
28 coincidentally, she also is on the board of directors
29 for the Arctic Storm Management Group, which is out of
30 Seattle, and they are the main industry -- industrial
31 trawl group that fishes our waters with the bottom
32 draggers.

33
34 We here on the RACs must make sound
35 decisions so that the resources we can assist in managing
36 for season, type of harvest, type of gear, limits of
37 catch locations where this can happen. We all have to
38 be concerned about conservation concerns at the
39 paramount and forefront of how we allow the harvest to
40 be taken. These harvest rates ensure that the resources
41 can exist into perpetuity for future generations.
42 Currently, corruption at the highest levels show
43 conflict of interest, rendering our opinions
44 functionally powerless against the dominating corporate
45 interests that are detrimentally affecting the Alaska
46 subsistence way of life. Money is in politics.
47 Politicians then fall back on pointing to the NPFMC
48 Board. That board is not serving the interests of
49 Alaskans. It is serving the -- to a high degree, the
50 out-of-State corporate interests of the pollock fishery.

1 They are using dead end science that is cherry picked.
2 Data showing certain factors like biomass of certain
3 species in the ocean and what is brought to port, but
4 not including actual discarded bycatch numbers when
5 questioned. The fallback is always we need more
6 research. Meanwhile, the ecosystem is collapsing, at
7 least in part are to overharvest and bycatch, let alone
8 the habitat degradation and destruction. Dark money
9 groups such as Securing Alaska's Future, which, the name
10 implies one message. But the terminology is a disguise,
11 which means the opposite of what it sounds like. Very
12 much akin to like a peacekeeper missile or Citizens
13 United.

14
15 Other countries recognize their own
16 marine ecosystems as ecologically sensitive. Other
17 countries are following in a smarter pathway. Belize,
18 Argentina. The Argentine Burdwood Bank, they have put a
19 halt to their trawling because they realize that the
20 resources tied to that in the ecosystem and the food web
21 are being exploited for profit. And they decided that
22 it's worth more to have these fisheries unexploited and
23 stable, un-trawled and unexploited. If the pollock
24 fishery affects of the resource and the food web tied
25 to, I'm sorry, if the pollock fishery affects of the
26 resources in the food web tied to it were managed by
27 this Council, there would be managers issuing emergency
28 orders. Like if our -- you know, we have to, oh,
29 emergency orders got to stop it. Conservation concern.
30 But we're they're not doing that with this pollock
31 fishery and have -- because they're only focused on the
32 biomass of pollock. There would be a moratorium, you
33 know. Anyhow, that would be the reasonable thing to do.
34 In Southeast Alaska there are indeed Federal waters that
35 have trawling prohibited inside the 200-mile range from
36 shore. We need a statewide regulation that would apply
37 this to our entire shoreline of 200 miles. Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
40 Andy. That was a lot of information. Some of it we have
41 no control over and it's very political. And we know
42 that how devastating that is. And it's a major threat
43 to our fisheries. We have a lot of things going on that
44 are affecting us. So, it was about 15 minutes. I know
45 that it's very important. I wish we had control of it.
46 A lot of this stuff, like the halibut, is controlled by
47 NOAA. It's controlled by out-of-staters. It's controlled
48 by separate boards. And it's -- we need policy or, or
49 something brought to our Board that, that we have control
50 of to take action. But thank you. Very good information.

1 Okay. We're going to go ahead and get back on the agenda
2 here to Draft Board Communication Policy Feedback.
3 Justin.

4
5 MR. KOLLER: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
6 Members of the Council. My name is Justin Koller with
7 the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm here with my
8 colleagues from the Interagency Staff Committee in the
9 back of the room here, so they may be able to answer
10 some questions if I can't. We're here to introduce you
11 to the Board -- the Draft Board Communications Policy,
12 which is included in your supplemental materials. And I
13 believe it's Tab 7 in those materials.

14
15 This draft policy comes from discussions
16 between Board members and Council representatives during
17 the August work session. During that work session, the
18 Board directed staff to draft a policy that explains how
19 the Board responds to correspondence and annual reports.
20 The Board asked for your feedback before it reviews the
21 final draft at the February regulatory meeting. This
22 will be a public-facing document posted on the OSM
23 website. It's meant to provide general guidelines on how
24 the Board handles incoming communications. Detailed step
25 by step procedures will be handled internally by program
26 staff. One of the primary purposes of this policy is to
27 explain what the Board can respond to directly, and
28 what's just outside the Board's authority. The Board
29 will respond directly to anything within its relatively
30 narrow authority for the -- excuse me, the subsistence
31 take and uses of fish and wildlife on Federal public
32 lands. So once again, the Board is only going to respond
33 directly to anything within that narrow authority. If
34 an issue is outside of the Board's authority, such as
35 funding requests or State management issues, the Board
36 may elevate it to the Secretaries of the Interior and
37 Agriculture and only those Secretaries. So, the Board's
38 not going to forward Council communications directly to
39 the Congressional delegation, State authorities or other
40 Federal department Secretaries like the Secretary of
41 Commerce, for instance.

42
43 We do recognize that timelines for Board
44 responses have been a continual concern of many
45 Councils. And we acknowledge that but we refrain from
46 putting a time frame in policy because it may set the
47 Board up for policy failures if deadline simply can't
48 be met, which happens on occasion. One possible solution
49 could be that a standing agenda item at every Council
50 and Board meeting is updates on outstanding

1 correspondence. So, that's something we can touch on at
2 every Council and Board meeting. According to this draft
3 policy responses to annual reports will not be drafted
4 ahead of the summer work session. Instead, the Board
5 will have discussions with the Council Chairs on their
6 annual reports during the Board work session. Ideally
7 face to face when it's possible. Then responses will be
8 written afterwards based on those discussions. So, it's
9 important for you to know that the Board may not respond
10 to all annual report topics. Because the Board expects
11 that many of these topics will be informational in
12 nature. So, while this is still a draft policy, we
13 recognize it may affect how the Council writes their
14 2026 Annual Report and what topics they choose to
15 include. So, that's the overview on the draft Board
16 communications policy. And I'll open it up for Council
17 discussion questions and feedback. And I know that Chair
18 Encelewski was at that Board work session, and I invite
19 him to add anything else of substance that he wants the
20 Council to know about. Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm going
23 to open it up to our Council for questions for Justin,
24 and discussion. Judy was involved in that too.

25
26 (Talking)

27
28 MS. EWAN: Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

31
32 MS. EWAN: So, they said there was a
33 timeline frame on this year? Did you guys set the time
34 frame for what are you guys doing on this drafter?

35
36 MR. KOLLER: Yeah. So, the idea is -- was
37 to draft this board correspondence policy or
38 communications policy rather, and then bring it to the
39 Councils during the fall meetings. So, each Council is
40 going to have an opportunity to weigh in on this and
41 provide input to the Board. And then we're going to
42 present that to the Board at the February Fisheries
43 Regulatory Meeting. And then they'll make a -- make it
44 to final.

45
46 MS. EWAN: So, who is all on this
47 committee here that did this draft?

48
49 MR. KOLLER: Many people were involved
50 in the draft. The Interagency Staff Committee, I would

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1 say, took the lead there. The staff to the Board and OSM
2 helped quite a bit on this as well.

3
4 MS. EWAN: Was there any tribal input?

5
6 MS. LA VINE: Through the Chair. This is
7 Robbin La Vine. I am Subsistence Policy Coordinator, and
8 I'm the Chair of the Interagency Staff Committee. And
9 the Interagency Staff Committee is made up of myself as
10 Chair, Orville Lind, our OSM Tribal Liaison, Glenn Chen
11 and Rosalie from BIA, Jill from Fish and Wildlife
12 Service, Eva and Kim from NPS, Greg from Forest Service
13 and Brent from BLM. And this group has -- this group is
14 on hand to support all the board members, including our
15 public board members. So, we're the first group of folks
16 that gets tapped to crack out a draft based on what the
17 Board said during the work session. So, I guess you
18 asked specifically if there was Alaska Native or Tribal
19 input. And I would say that the input or the guidance
20 we are following is that given to us by the Board, and
21 the Board is made up of Tribal citizens as well as
22 directors from the agencies. Thank you.

23
24 MS. EWAN: So, that was all the Federal
25 Subsistence Board members that -- the -- that make these
26 decisions? Okay. Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I think that
29 explained it well. We debated it and we talked about how
30 they're going to present it and make it legal and make
31 it right. And how they're going to control it in a in a
32 more consolidated manner, I guess a good word, I would
33 say. But this is the outcome right here. We just read
34 it, so.

35
36 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

39
40 MS. CAMINER: I mean, not knowing all the
41 discussions and I'm glad Greg was there. And then the
42 Tribal members of the Board were there to or could have
43 been there. But it does seem like, for example, the
44 issues that Andy just brought up, it sounds like the
45 Board will have the option to just simply not forward
46 correspondence if they don't feel like it, I guess, or
47 with some parameters.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
50 Robbin.

1
2 MS. LA VINE: Mr. Chair -- through the
3 Chair. I think the Board -- I was there during the
4 meeting, during the work session, and so was Greg and a
5 number of people here were and they had deep discussions.
6 Part of the challenge was frustration on both sides. The
7 Board members as well as the Council members about what
8 this group of people can do. And the Board has limited
9 authority as referenced here. And there are so many
10 things that impact the subsistence way of life and the
11 Board can only really do one thing. They -- the Board
12 can make changes to regulations informed by you and with
13 your guidance. And those regulations are effective on
14 Federal public lands and waters. There are so many other
15 things that impact that fish and wildlife on your lands
16 and waters. And the Board wants to know about that. The
17 Board can't do much other than pass it on. Right? That's
18 the power the Board has been given. We can pass this on
19 to other people who do have decision making authority.
20 They don't. Fish and wildlife regulations on Federal
21 public lands and waters. So, they were looking for a way
22 to let folks know simply, what can we do? And also, to
23 elevate your knowledge so that the annual reports or the
24 letters are not just about you know, we need to change
25 trawling regulations or apply subsistence beyond Federal
26 management. The Board wants to know what are the impacts
27 of these things outside of their purview. How is it
28 affecting you and what kind of responsive regulations
29 can we come up with based on your knowledge, right?
30 Based on the challenges that you're facing. And so
31 really, that's what we're hoping that we can focus on
32 because that's what we can work on. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 MS. EWAN: Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Just a
37 second, Faye. What Robbin answer to that. You know, that
38 -- what they're trying to do, I believe, is very clear
39 by their authority and their additional under the 43 CFR
40 51 is to show that, you know, they're limited in what -
41 - how they got a report to the Secretary, what they
42 could act on. And so, we need to know that what we send
43 them has got to fit in that parameter is, I guess, the
44 way I would take it. Because they certainly can't act
45 on the trawling thing. They can't act on things out of
46 their purview. And one of the big things with the All-
47 RAC meeting was we really wanted to be able to meet with
48 the Secretary face to face and talk on some of these
49 issues, and that was one of our solutions where we're
50 going to talk about later in the day. Okay. But that

1 said, I just throw that out there. Very limited by law.
2 Faye.

3
4 MS. LA VINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
5 I will note that the Board did strongly agree with the
6 Councils that a regular standing meeting with the
7 Secretaries who have given the Board this group
8 authority would be ideal. We had the opportunity kind
9 of recently. Once, right? In 2023, we met with the
10 Secretary of Interior Deb Haaland, and that was -- it
11 felt like such a good, promising beginning and we would
12 love to have a standing meeting like that that we can
13 provide a report on the Federal Subsistence Management
14 Program, how it's functioning, how -- all of the
15 knowledge that you all bring forth. We can say we're
16 covering this part. What can you do? Right? And if we
17 can, we've -- we have asked for a standing meeting. I
18 think there is a letter also for you to review later.
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Go
22 ahead, Faye.

23
24 MS. EWAN: I was going to ask, why
25 doesn't the Federal Subsistence Board ask the Secretary
26 of Commerce about the impact of the -- in the river and
27 the salmon? And also, the Department of Interior
28 Secretary is charged with the sustainability on our
29 land. And I think that the Federal Subsistence Board
30 need to write a letter to the Department of Commerce --
31 Secretary of Commerce and bring these issues up because
32 it is affecting us big time. Especially when you see the
33 Yukon and Kuskokwim River and next will be Copper River.
34 It's going to be no more fish. We'll save the last fish
35 for you, but it's not going to work that way. You're
36 starving our people out. The sustainability is not in
37 compliance with our people. And the government-to-
38 government consultation and a government-to-government
39 fiduciary trust responsibility is need to be upheld by
40 this group of people. The Federal Subsistence Board need
41 to step up and start standing up for our people. Thank
42 you.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I think he
45 declined to evaluate it too, if they so choose. But
46 yeah, so they're limited. Go ahead, Robbin.

47
48 MS. LA VINE: Mr. Chair, I -- there are
49 2 letters. There are 2 letters circulating. The Board
50 just recently submitted a letter to the Secretaries

1 requesting a standing meeting and requesting that the
2 first meeting be on fisheries issues in conjunction with
3 the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture and
4 their associates who can make decisions and work on those
5 broader issues. Right? So, we've got that letter out.
6 And then I think there is another letter that is
7 circulating that the Council signed with a similar
8 request that the Board is transmitting to the
9 Secretaries. Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any other
12 questions for Justin or Robbin?

13
14 (No response)

15
16 Thank you. Thank you very much. It's a
17 tough situation, but we just keep reporting the best we
18 can. I'm going to turn it over to Nissa now. She's got
19 the next subject matter.

20
21 MS. PILCHER: All right, everyone. So,
22 on page 27 of the meeting book is your FY25 Annual Report
23 reply. You should have gotten a copy either in the mail
24 or via email earlier. But just to go over it briefly.
25 Topic 1 from this Council, oh.....

26
27 (Simultaneous speech)

28
29 MS. PILCHER: Okay. Topic 1, fund
30 wildlife resource monitoring program. So, we did already
31 talk about that and you guys have signed on with the
32 Joint Council letter. Topic 2, the lack of compensation
33 for Council members and the use of Council time. I did
34 want to give you an update that this request for
35 compensation came also from multiple Councils over the
36 course of the year I believe. Probably not -- definitely
37 not starting with the Joint Council letter from your All
38 Council meeting, but definitely for sure since then. And
39 these letters were elevated to the Office of the
40 Secretary as of March of 2026. Topic 3, on commercial
41 trawling operations. So, the response referenced the
42 Chair meeting that was held this summer that we have
43 talked about on a couple different times during this
44 meeting. And we will hear more about that meeting about
45 the salmon crisis very shortly. But yes, yeah. That
46 Salmon meeting was kind of a -- it was a broad salmon
47 crisis. So, there were a lot of things discussed and not
48 just the trawling issue. And then topic 4 on adequate
49 signage. So, to boil down the response the Board believes
50 that it would be more effective to contact the specific

1 land managers to let them know where the additional sign
2 is needed and what it should be saying. And if this is
3 something the Council would like to spend more time doing
4 to pursue the Council could potentially designate a
5 member or two, to work with me on drafting,
6 correspondence to these specific agencies on specific
7 locations. So, we can review and transmit those letters
8 out to the agencies if that's something they'd like to
9 do. So, after that if -- is there any questions about
10 your annual report from last year?

11
12 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, I have one
13 question.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

16
17 MS. CAMINER: Well, on topic 3 and our
18 recommendation had been we'd like a action to be taken
19 by the Board and OSM to relay our Council's concerns.
20 Can we not -- I mean, we've had speakers from North
21 Pacific Fishery Management Council here before. We've
22 had people from NOAA Fisheries. Can we just invite them?

23
24 MS. PILCHER: Oh, absolutely. Yes. And
25 we can, I can mark that down. And I can certainly see
26 if I can get someone here for your winter meeting.

27
28 MS. CAMINER: Yes. Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Be good for both
31 of us. Both ways.

32
33 MS. PILCHER: All right. So, then the
34 next agenda topic is identify FY26 Annual Report topics.
35 So, one thing that was just discussed is that the Board
36 does kind of -- actually, I see Justin coming up. I will
37 let him take over.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
40 Justin. Yeah.

41
42 MR. KOLLER: Yeah. Good morning again,
43 Mr. Chair, members of the Council. Justin Koller with
44 the Office of Subsistence Management. Yeah, this is the
45 time that this Council can offer topics for the annual
46 report. The FY26 Annual Report. You know, in the spirit
47 of that communications policy we just talked about, the
48 Board is really interested in Council knowledge,
49 concerns and information that's within its jurisdiction.
50 So, they can actually do something and make decisions

1 based on your insight and information and concerns.
2 There may be topics mentioned here that staff in the
3 room can have a discussion with the Council about and
4 potentially just answer your questions right on the
5 spot. In which case we don't need to add those or we may
6 not or the Council may not want to add those topics to
7 the annual report.

8
9 So, annual reports are generally geared
10 towards information items for the Board consumption and
11 for OSM's knowledge, for in-season managers' knowledge,
12 things that can be used for decision making that's within
13 the Board and season manager authority. So, I'll just
14 give you a couple of examples that that we've seen in
15 the past from come from Councils like requesting funding
16 for various things. A Fisheries Resource Monitoring
17 Program, the Board doesn't have any authority over
18 funding levels or where to direct funding and so forth.
19 However, what would be really important instead is to
20 talk about how that lack of funding and lack of resources
21 affects this Council and the people you represent in
22 your communities. Another example is law enforcement.
23 We would all like to see more law enforcement on the
24 ground. But again, the Board just doesn't have any
25 authority over putting law enforcement on the ground.
26 So, what they would rather hear is how the lack of law
27 enforcement affects the users on the ground and the
28 resources and so forth. So, just wanted to give you an
29 idea of where the Board would like these topics to head.
30 You may not get you know, responses from the Board on
31 all topics depending on where they land in that
32 jurisdiction and what they are. So, just wanted to lead
33 with that. And if you have any questions, I'm happy to
34 answer them. Thanks.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No, Justin, I
37 think that was real good. Thank you. But the one thing
38 I want to just the report clarity that they talk about
39 here is please avoid filler and fluff language that does
40 not specifically raise the issue of concern to provide
41 information to the Board. So, those are things that we
42 need to be specific of how like Justin says, how are we
43 going to resolve it? OSM staff Council should each ensure
44 that each topic is understood and stated clearly and
45 significant evidence and detail to -- for the
46 explanation. So, they're telling us to do our homework
47 a little more precise I guess.

48
49 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.
50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

2
3 MS. CAMINER: I don't know if this would
4 be good for our annual report or something. We need to
5 discuss more with the managing agencies, but we talked
6 about how it would be helpful to know where, what
7 tributary, what area fish are caught. And I -- and that
8 of course would involve a change in the permitting and
9 reporting system, which would be an agency
10 responsibility. But I don't think we want to lose track
11 of that. Cause I don't know where the proper places for
12 it at this point, but.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
15 Justin.

16
17 MR. KOLLER: Mr. Chair, Member Caminer.
18 We definitely don't want to lose sight of that. We do
19 have a question on our permit harvest report that says
20 specific location. Now people can populate that with
21 whatever they like and be general. But that's something
22 that we can change on our harvest report on the actual
23 permit. Unfortunately there's approvals, those things
24 need to be approved by the Office of Management and
25 Budget and they do so every 3 years. So, we're going to
26 be putting that together in the next year and a half I
27 think. And that's going to be our renewal window. And
28 when we do that, we can make those changes right on the
29 permit and maybe add specific tributary or some more
30 information there. So, if you have something that you
31 would like to see we can try and make it happen. You can
32 just put it on the record. Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That would be
35 good. That would clarify some of the issues we had
36 yesterday around where the -- where they're catching
37 this fish.

38
39 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, this is Angela.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Morning,
42 Angela. Go ahead.

43
44 MS. TOTEMOFF: I know we're just kind of
45 reviewing the responses from the annual report that the
46 Federal Subsistence Board provided us. I think moving
47 forward, I think in our next annual report, we definitely
48 need to include our communications with the actual
49 Federal Subsistence Board. And maybe even having our own
50 one-on-ones with the Board itself. I'm feeling like we

1 got a lot of direction here and a lot of handholding and
2 them telling us. So, I just feel like there's a break
3 in communication between what's happening here within
4 our region with our feet on the ground versus the
5 decisions that are being made there. Also, I have some
6 comments on you know, what they -- when they respond
7 saying, oh, that we don't have -- that's not within our
8 authority, that's not our responsibility, and they wash
9 their hands of it. I understand -- we understand that,
10 you know, some of these things are managed from other
11 agencies and from other boards. We understand that.
12 However, advocacy is incredibly important. And so, if
13 it's being said at the RACs at the local level and it's
14 being reiterated at the Federal Subsistence Board level,
15 not necessarily that they have to change it, but if they
16 can advocate for that still, I think that's a very, very
17 important role that they should be playing. And also,
18 they should be working to establish a very clear
19 communication and relationship with the RACs throughout
20 the State. And so, I've been to Federal Subsistence Board
21 meetings. They go for days. I understand that they have
22 a lot of stuff that they're processing. But they're doing
23 that on our behalf and we're supposed to be the ones
24 advising them. These are our people on the ground, boots
25 on the ground. And what's so frustrating is we go through
26 these meetings and we make decisions here based off of
27 our local knowledge, and then it gets shot down at the
28 Federal Subsistence Board for one reason or the other
29 with no real explanation or possibility for us to explain
30 what that decision making process was. So, I'm just
31 feeling a little frustrated right now and a little
32 disconnect between our RAC here and our relationship
33 with the actual Federal Subsistence Board. And so, that
34 would be my recommendation moving forward is improved
35 communications. And then reiterate what our roles are,
36 roles and responsibilities are. And that includes
37 advocacy. Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Angela. That
40 was very good. I think you got some great things here.
41 And Nissa is capturing this stuff. Some of them is --
42 and I just make a comment to that. Yeah. I believe they
43 should advocate for us a lot of cases they don't want
44 to advocate. Because it's very controversial and they're
45 not going to and they have in their policy that maybe
46 they can't. I don't know how to change it. I do know
47 that what we can do is when we send a policy to them,
48 that we send a proposal to them, that we endorse, that
49 we strongly defend that. And if there's -- they have to
50 give us deference, if there's -- unless there's

1 something radical we missed. And that's the way we can
2 get our proposals through. But the bureaucracy is I mean,
3 I'm not going to get into it because I'm not in charge
4 of it. But I tell you what, when we get into the All-
5 RACs meeting, you're going to hear the frustration and
6 the problems and the resolve. It's very clear to the
7 Federal Board of the peril that the whole State is in
8 on the hunting and fishing, and they are very passionate
9 about it. And there are people there that are advocating
10 on it. And it's the first time I've seen that passion
11 from a lot of the public members on the Federal Board.
12 So, I think we're making headway. A lot of work to do.
13 But thank you very much. Justin, what else are we going
14 to do?

15
16 MR. KOLLER: Mr. Chair I think we're just
17 still developing topics that you want to include to the
18 FY26 Annual Report. Yeah, yeah. And I think Nissa is
19 doing a good job capturing those it looks like. Thank
20 you.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: So, that's one.
23 Diane, got you first. Go ahead.

24
25 MS. SELANOFF: The other thing that's a
26 bit frustrating for me is you know, when we have our
27 Federal waters and our State waters and our meetings and
28 our times for gathering are to -- they're separate. We
29 can never, you know, coordinate to have one together.
30 I'd like to build a better relationship with the State
31 and you know, at some point in time, if we can have a
32 meeting or a gathering with them to, you know, share our
33 thoughts and ideas. Because they regulate one part, we,
34 you know, advise on, you know, another part and it --
35 there's no connection. And sometimes we're scratching
36 our head wondering what they're doing, and I'm sure
37 they're doing the same to us. And, but I feel like we're
38 always taking, you know, the short end or trying to be
39 the example of, you know, this is what we're doing.
40 Hopefully they'll see us and follow, but we need to meet
41 with the State if it's not at an All-Council or I know
42 it's probably impossible from just an individual, you
43 know, RAC level, but there needs to be some connection
44 there and I don't know how to do that, but.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, Diane, I
47 probably shouldn't say this, but the only way you're
48 going to do it is probably put on the war paint. Okay.
49 The State is not in favor of our program. That's why we
50 have the Federal program. And because they didn't

1 provide the preference that we did -- we deserve. And
2 so there's a disconnect there. We've been working a lot
3 closer with them in the past years. In fact, if anything,
4 what I've seen in my 24 years here or whatever is that
5 we follow a lot of State policies. And I don't agree
6 with that. But anyway, that's what's happening. So, I
7 hear you and yeah, anything we could do. I have great
8 concerns for what's going to happen to the whole policy.
9 You know, if they open up all public lands to hunting
10 and fishing, which Trump signed off on, you know, we're
11 not going to talk politics, but he did it so, I could
12 talk it. And what -- how is that going to affect us? You
13 know, if it goes into that we're in a bind. Okay. Thank
14 you. Katya's got her hand up too. But I think, Faye, you
15 might have been before, but then we're going to go to
16 Katya. Go ahead, Faye.

17
18 MS. EWAN: I would like to add to this
19 here, is the impact on the environmental on the land and
20 Ahtna region. Unit 13 is being impacted up off the road
21 -- all-terrain vehicles that are on public Federal land
22 and Tangle Lakes area and on Denali Road. You can drive
23 a car to those lakes that says no off-road vehicles.
24 Those laws and policies that the Feds put out there
25 affects us indigenous people. When we used to walk out
26 there and hunt and get our food, we pack it out and now
27 you see these big huge tanks come out of Paxson with
28 fork and moose horns on there, on there. And how many
29 people how much is inside those vehicles? There is no
30 coverage on this here. And we bring this up every year.
31 We're talking to the wall. There is no there is no
32 protection on public land. And now you go to Eureka.
33 That is another place that's impacted. There's no
34 Federal protection on the land that our people have.

35
36 And another thing too, is I think native
37 allotments should be included in Federal land to hunt
38 on, because that is Federal land. And we can't hunt on
39 our own land because they say the State has jurisdiction
40 over Public Law 280, which I don't think is right. I
41 live in Glennallen, where they got their moose right by
42 Dry Creek right by the airport. I own 160 acres there
43 and me in the State of Alaska have been in conflict over
44 that land for almost 90 years since my father started
45 that allotment application. The Federal government does
46 not even try to help us as a Tribal member. And also I
47 also am a Council member for my Tribe. And, you know,
48 the impact I see on my people today when we have no
49 moose in our village, what are we going to do this
50 winter?

1

2

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

3

4

MS. EWAN: They're starving us out. That's what the Federal government should be doing as fiduciary trust responsibility to our people, to make sure that we're okay. And it's not happening. And the all-terrain vehicles, there should be a law against them going in there to the Federal land. Tangle Lakes all the way to Tyone Lake, you can drive. And that's sad. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. That's -- we're going to put that as one of our -- Nissa's recording it for the annual report. Go ahead. I'm going to ask -- Katya's online, has her hand up. So, go ahead, Katya.

MS. WESSELS: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the record, Katya Wessels. You already guys [sic] moved past what I was going to talk about earlier. But I just also noticed yesterday when I was there at the meeting, I took some notes when the Council members were providing their reports. There was a lot of very good information that can go in the annual report. You know, just one example here, like a lot of the Council members were talking about how the weather affected actually the populations like -- and the, you know, even simple things like berries, like berries were late or there were no berries. And also, interactions between like commercial fishery and subsistence. And it just -- my suggestion also think back to the Council member reports and see if there's ongoing themes there that are you know, true across the region. We just create an overall region, I would use the word painting, painting of the trends, like what is happening. Which I think would be helpful. And especially next year, that's going to be a wildlife year. So, there will be proposals. But this kind of a overall picture of the region creates the background for, you know, what that the Board should consider of what is happening in the region. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. I think that's really great. Yeah. I think we should put that together. Nissa.

MS. PILCHER: Thank you, Chair. I guess I have 2 things to mention. So first, I'll talk to what Katya just did. The Western Interior, who I also coordinate, does something very similar and they call

1 it internally as their report card. And they have me
2 kind of synergize their annual reports into topics of
3 kind of what's going on as a regional basis. And I can
4 certainly do that for your Council. And that also could
5 help you guys formulate what you want to include in your
6 annual report or excuse me in your reports to know what
7 should be going -- what you'd like for me to be putting
8 into your annual report. And then I would also like to
9 mention Faye did bring up concerns over impact lands of
10 all-terrain vehicles on Federal lands that may or may
11 not be closed. And that was something that was included
12 in your last year's annual report. And the response was
13 to let the individual agencies know where the signage
14 should be and what it should be saying. So, if anybody
15 would like to work -- if you, if you wanted to discuss,
16 create, assigning this role to a couple individuals to
17 then work with me, we can figure out correspondence or
18 what is appropriate in order to communicate those wants
19 and needs, to those agencies. Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Kirk. Go ahead.

22
23 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I'd just like to
24 speak. I've had the same issues with State and all this,
25 but the last 2 times I've come to a Board meeting, I've
26 went in and met with our fish biologist, game biologist,
27 AITRC, the Fish and Game in Glennallen. I've called and
28 talked with BLM. Some of them I don't get much response,
29 but I'm telling you, with the Fish and Game this year,
30 there was 3 biologists in there and we actually had some
31 great things that we agreed on. And there's some things
32 that we will be able to work together on. And we just
33 wouldn't even know that if I didn't go in there and talk
34 to those people. So, that's just a suggestion to
35 individual board members that those kind of things might
36 help in your case a little bit, because maybe we'll have
37 a little bit of togetherness on some of this.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. That's
40 good, Kirk. We got -- we had problems with too much
41 togetherness. They didn't support us, so we just locked
42 them out of the Native land. But anyway. I guess you got
43 different areas. What you want to put -- we got a pretty
44 good start here. And we got a (indiscernible) -- what
45 Katya talked about would be good. Go ahead, Andy.

46
47 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
48 Chair. Just looking back at the FY2025 Regional Advisory
49 Council Annual Report chart that we got there. And seeing
50 Eastern Interior and Western Interior both mentioning

1 the need for interjurisdictional management. Need for
2 interjurisdictional ecosystem-based management. And
3 along with Angela's topic of advocacy, we understand
4 that the Board has got their hands tied when things
5 don't apply to what their bailiwick of decisions can
6 influence. But we definitely need to request their
7 advocacy towards some of these things would take an act
8 of Congress in order to create a newer, more sufficient
9 way to protect the resources that we have conservation
10 concern for. So, I think very important that we also
11 join the club and include that interjurisdictional
12 management topic. Not sure how to do it, but request
13 advocacy for it or something like that. Thanks.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's good,
16 Andy. Nissa's got that down. Michael.

17
18 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. Just something that
19 always seems to be on my brain here lately. Is the
20 current review of the Federal Subsistence Program that
21 we discussed last year and where that's at. And, you
22 know, maybe have somebody show up and give us an update
23 at one of the meetings.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You could ask
26 the Board to give us an update on their status. Justin's
27 going to give an update. Okay.

28
29 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, one other
30 thought. And I'm sure it might be considered fluff by
31 the Board, but we here want a briefing and I'm sure
32 we'll get one at our next meeting on the D-1 lands. But
33 we think it's important that the Board members
34 understand the implications. Again, not that they can
35 maybe do anything about it, but have a sensitivity to
36 how the whole issue could be affecting subsistence
37 resources and the Federal Board's decisions.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, that
40 could be a big topic. It's a lot of land. The State's
41 holding it up. But anyway.

42
43 (Pause)

44
45 Dennis or Ed online, any comments? Just
46 speak right up.

47
48 (Pause)

49
50

1 MR. ZADRA: Just let you know I'm still
2 here, but no comments. Thank you.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thanks,
5 Dennis. Go ahead, Faye.

6
7 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah. This is.....

8
9 (Simultaneous speech)

10
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Hang on.

12
13 MR. HOLSTEN: This is Ed.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Ed.

16
17 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, I'm still here. But,
18 you know, my -- and this has been brought up, especially
19 with all-terrain vehicles, especially on the
20 Denali/Eureka those areas. I think most of those lands
21 are BLM lands where most of that impact occurs. And I'd
22 like to see some kind of response from BLM on what their
23 management are concerning all-terrain vehicles. Because
24 like objections a lot of the speakers, I've been up in
25 Eureka and I've gone back in those areas, and it is an
26 absolute ecological disaster on many of those lands. And
27 I may be wrong, but I think a lot of it is administered
28 by BLM. Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.
31 Good point. Katya has got her hand up again. Go ahead,
32 Katya.

33
34 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Katya
35 Wessels. You know, we heard a lot the Council talking
36 about advocacy. And I don't know if it was pointed out
37 to the Council earlier or not, but you have in your
38 meeting books a guidance. I don't know what page is it
39 on, but I'm sure Nissacan tell you. A guidance on the
40 Council's ability to advocate. You know, you're all are
41 [sic] representative members. You represent your user
42 groups, you represent subsistence user group and you
43 represent commercial sport user group. And you can
44 advocate on behalf of these groups, you know, fully, you
45 know, free to advocate on behalf of those groups. But
46 as for the Board, Federal Subsistence Board, the Federal
47 Subsistence Board was appointed by the Secretaries. So
48 they are, you know, acting on behalf of the Secretaries.
49 And at this point, there is no clear guidance if the
50 Board can advocate or not. This is why the Board is

1 seeking a meeting with the Secretaries to get that
2 guidance. And we really hope that they will be able to
3 have these annual meetings with the Secretaries, because
4 various Secretaries might have different guidance for
5 the Board. Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's a great
8 point and great reminder.

9
10 MS. PILCHER: Page 79.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Page 79. Okay.
13 We're going to wrap this one up. Go ahead, Faye.

14
15 MS. EWAN: I don't know your name, but.
16 I would like to also request a new 810 analysis for
17 17(d)(1). And also, that the BLM not to consider opening
18 up the caribou hunt until there's 2 cows to 1 ratio. And
19 that there's not enough caribou to open up the hunt. So,
20 I would like to advise BLM not to open it up until they
21 get at least to a thriving numbers. I mean, the State
22 of Alaska is trying to encourage the BLM to open up the
23 hunt for 2 caribous per family. There's only 17,000
24 caribous, and there's only 100,000 hunters. The impact
25 will clean them out. So, I would like to see that analyst
26 [sic] to put in here, in all these different numbers of
27 our salmon and our fishing. Why is it declining? There's
28 got to be some kind of scientific report that needs to
29 be published in these books here. So, we can understand
30 the data and the scientific issues and compare it to our
31 traditional knowledge. Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I take it
34 that's for the annual report. We're talking on now. So,
35 anyway.

36
37 (Talking)

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Go ahead,
40 Kirk.

41
42 MR. WILSON: I heard Nissa say something
43 about writing a letter about this. These all-terrain
44 vehicles and everything, and I'd be happy to be on that
45 committee to work on that. And I think that's an
46 excellent idea for us to send some letters around. Even
47 if we can't do anything, we got to get started someplace.

48
49 MS. PILCHER: If the Council is
50 agreeable, what I can do is, it sounds like Ed also had

1 some input. So, I can work with Ed and Kirk between now
2 and the next meeting and then bring a draft letter or
3 letters back to the Council for review.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Sounds good.
6 Okay. We got quite a bit here to draft and put in. And
7 we could always add more correct? At a later date. We
8 got -- we're not on a deadline.

9
10 MS. PILCHER: This is actually the
11 deadline. This.....

12
13 (Simultaneous speech)

14
15 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair.

16
17 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. All the topics need
18 to be done today. And then you'll review it at your next
19 meeting.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

22
23 MS. TOTEMOFF: So, and that's where --
24 just one more. I'm really interested in actually
25 advisory group training, roles and responsibilities. I
26 think that's a good reminder for all of us to recognize
27 what we can provide, what we can't provide, and also how
28 we represent ourselves at any other meeting. I know that
29 when I go to other meetings, even the Federal Subsistence
30 Board meetings, I'm representing myself, not necessarily
31 the Southcentral RAC. And so, I think that's just one
32 example of one of the things that we need to relearn or
33 learn and be reminded of. Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's a good
36 point. Yeah, it's individual. We are limited to what we
37 could do.

38
39 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Yes, one more
40 quick comment for Nissa as you're working on this.
41 There's an executive order on the use of ORVs on Federal
42 land, so probably need to watch that we don't conflict
43 with that in our recommendation.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: What's the
46 executive order? Let them go anywhere. Yeah, okay.

47
48 MR. KOLLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Justin
49 Koller again, with OSM. I just wanted to say that we do
50 schedule Council trainings. I'm not exactly sure the

1 details of that, but we can look to incorporate some of
2 those things into those trainings that we heard -- we've
3 heard today. And also, just as a quick reminder before
4 that training when you are at meetings outside of this
5 Southcentral Council meeting, you are representing
6 yourself because the Council hasn't voted on a position
7 or anything like that. So, yeah. Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, that's,
10 that's very true. We never represent the Council outside
11 of our business. Okay. Nissa you got enough there. I
12 think we're going to go ahead and move on. Action item.
13 Get action on it. Let's go.

14
15 MS. PILCHER: I can -- this is Nissa
16 Pilcher for the record. I can attempt to very quickly
17 go over the topics and then if you'd like to take a
18 motion.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yep.

21
22 MS. PILCHER: Okay. I will do my best on
23 the fly. So, my apologies in advance.

24
25 (Talking)

26
27 MS. PILCHER: No worries. Okay. So, one
28 agenda topic would be on discussing Advocacy as well as
29 other topics about the Council's responsibility versus
30 the Board's responsibility and how we'd like to see that
31 relationship. As well as clear lines delineating
32 responsibilities as well as communication. Another would
33 be to work with the State better. There was additional
34 conversations about that that I will for sure include.

35
36 Yeah. Another topic is going to be
37 impact to all-terrain vehicles on the landscape. Paying
38 attention of course to the EO that was released. This
39 would not be a request for action by the Board. This
40 would be simply informing them that it was discussed,
41 this is a concern. And to agencies to be expecting
42 letters in the future. Another topic would be have the
43 fish -- or request to have the fishing permits updated
44 in -- on the Copper drainage to reflect where people are
45 catching fish. The next time that those permits do go
46 before excuse the acronym mix up, I believe OMB. You got
47 -- I guess this is a question. Do you guys -- would you
48 want a current review of where the secretary review,
49 excuse me, the programmatic review of the Federal
50 Subsistence Program is? I do believe we'll be getting

1 an update on that at the very end of the meeting. So,
2 we.....

3
4 Okay, sorry. And then there was an
5 additional agenda topic about Nelchina caribou and some
6 requesting information. That is a topic that might be
7 better addressed as correspondence to BLM specific
8 instead of going in the annual report. That being said,
9 you can certainly include in the annual report that there
10 are grave concerns over this herd, just as an
11 informational topic. That can also more than likely be
12 included in the report card we did talk about, which
13 will be included as it was spoken to during your -- the
14 subsistence reports this morning. And then the final one
15 was advisory group training, roles and responsibilities.
16 And that wraps it up and I do apologize. My neck is sore
17 for some reason I'm having a hard time turning this way,
18 so I'm not trying to ignore those of you on my right.
19 But those topics.....

20
21 (Simultaneous speech)

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: The other topic
24 was -- Katya was talking about all our discussions that
25 we've had and that we wanted to report on all the
26 conditions that are happening.

27
28 MS. PILCHER: Yep, there -- yep. For
29 sure.

30
31 (Talking)

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You get
34 them all? Andy, we missing one?

35
36 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Was the
37 interjurisdictional management needs in there?

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. She said
40 -- make sure it's there.

41
42 MS. PILCHER: It's in there. But I know
43 I didn't say it just right now.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

46
47 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Okay. Yeah. Just saying,
48 you increase the surmounting conservation concerns for
49 substance -- subsistence resources that are
50 detrimentally affected by single jurisdiction management

1 systems. Where our jurisdiction doesn't apply. But
2 there's a need for advocacy at a higher level to perhaps
3 change some of that jurisdiction.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we got
6 that. Okay. You just heard all the review from Nissa on
7 (distortion). And she's going to try and get it
8 straightened out a little bit. And well, I shouldn't say
9 that, but she'll put it together here.

10

11 MS. EWAN: I just wanted to add that in
12 Copper River, we never had caribou for 7 years, you
13 know, and that's a big impact on our people. And that
14 should be that should be addressed to the Federal
15 Subsistence Board. Because we've been talking about this
16 for years and we've been working with the State, and
17 they still won't -- they'll want to open up hunting. And
18 that's really an emergency to me because it's not going
19 to it's not going to last long, especially with the
20 impact of climate change. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Faye. We're
23 going to put it in our overall report of the Council
24 reports of our concerns. And we'll try and get that
25 letter drafted up properly. Thank you. Yes, please.

26

27 MS. TOTEMOFF: Motion to approve the list
28 of topics that will be included in the 2026 Annual Report
29 to the Federal Subsistence Board.

30

31 UNIDENTIFIED: I'll second.

32

33 MR. WILSON: Second.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's great.
36 Moved and seconded. Seconded a second time. Any -- all
37 in favor, aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

42

43 (No response)

44

45 Okay, you got your letter. You'll need
46 some wordsmithing and some few little changes, but let
47 us know and we'll review it. Thank you. It's coffee
48 time, so let's go get some coffee for a few minutes. 5
49 minutes? 6 minutes.

50

00029

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Folks, if
6 you could find a seat, we'll get started. Okay. We're
7 on Future Meeting Dates, right?

8

9 MS. PILCHER: Yes.

10

11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Judy.
12 Let's see. Who are we missing? Faye. We got Faye. We got
13 Diane. We got the whole group. Okay. Our next topic that
14 we're going to take up here is Future Meeting Dates. We
15 want to look at our calendar. We got to confirm the
16 winter 2027 and fall of 2027. Nissa, you got any input
17 on that?

18

19 MS. PILCHER: Currently, no. So, of
20 course the this is an action item. You can either take
21 it up individually by winter and then fall, or you can
22 do it all together. It's up to you guys, of course. The
23 winter 2027 calendar is found on page 43 of your meeting
24 book. And at this point in time, there's no changes.
25 Sometimes you guys are given additional copies of a
26 calendar with slight changes. So far this is still
27 current, so.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. if it's
30 current, the first one the winter 2027 shows us March
31 16-17. Is that correct?

32

33 MS. PILCHER: That is correct, yes.

34

35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. And then
36 the fall regular meeting is -- our RAC is set in Copper
37 Center for September 29th and 30th. Right toward the end
38 of hunting season. A year from now, yes. So, if those
39 dates are still good, we could take a motion to keep
40 them and press on.

41

42 MS. PILCHER: And I'll speak for -- this
43 is Nissa Pilcher, for the record. I'll speak for Dennis
44 and for Ed. Generally they like things later, but then
45 Andy likes things earlier. So, you'll have to figure out
46 if you want to leave as is. But just putting that on the
47 record.

48

49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: And I like to
50 leave it as is. We came up with it, so. Okay. Is everyone

00030

1 good with what we got so far? Okay. Would someone make
2 a motion to continue those dates? Andy? GreyBear, you're
3 up.

4
5 MR. GREYBEAR: I'll make the motion to
6 approve those dates.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

9
10 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by
13 Andy. Any discussion?

14
15 (No response)

16
17 Hearing none. All in favor, aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

22
23 (No response)

24
25 Our dates are set. We'll see what
26 happens in the future. Thank you.

27
28 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, this is Angela.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

31
32 MS. TOTEMOFF: So, the dates are set. Did
33 we talk about the actual locations? I do see a location
34 of Anchorage here. And I see a location of Copper Center
35 for the fall.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yep.

38
39 MS. TOTEMOFF: It's my understanding that
40 this was supposed to be held in -- near Copper Center
41 for this meeting. Do we finalize that now or when does
42 that get finalized?

43
44 MS. PILCHER: So, at your last Council
45 meeting, you did vote to have this meeting in Anchorage
46 next meeting in Anchorage, and then the following one
47 in Copper Center, as it as this stands. You can certainly
48 -- you did vote on the meeting dates. One could infer
49 that the meeting locations were included. But if you did
50 want to change the meeting locations currently between

1 where they are right now. So of course, the winter
2 meeting Anchorage and then the fall meeting in Copper
3 Center, you're more than welcome to do that as well.
4 There is theoretically a list of hub communities. Yes,
5 there is, in your meeting book on page 83 is a list of
6 regional hubs for Southcentral. You will notice that it
7 is updated to say or any other on the road system
8 community that had inadvertently got left off the last
9 time this was updated, which then left out all of the
10 Copper Basin area. So, it has been updated to reflect
11 that. That being said, if you wanted to meet in a
12 location that is not on this list, it just involves a
13 motion, an approval from the Council and then I request
14 if we can meet there. And if it's approved, then we meet
15 there. And if we don't then we meet in a backup. So,
16 it's up to you guys to request where you meet for the
17 next 2 meetings.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: So Angela, I was
20 assuming that we approved those locations. But if not,
21 if you want to change, we could do we could entertain
22 that.

23
24 MS. TOTEMOFF: I would just put it on the
25 floor to recommend Cordova for the winter 2027 meeting
26 in March.

27
28 (Pause)

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Do you
31 want to make a motion to that effect?

32
33 MS. TOTEMOFF: I move to have the Winter
34 2027 Regional Advisory Council meeting for March 16th
35 and 17th in Cordova.

36
37 MR. WILSON: I'll second it.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by
40 Kirk. Discussion?

41
42 (No response)

43
44 Everyone looks like they want to go to
45 Cordova. Okay, we're going to go count the fish
46 ourselves. Well very good. And we'll catch a king too.
47 Okay. All in favor, aye.

48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

2

3

(No response)

4

5

6

There's some traveling if we could make it swing it. Okay. Thank you.

7

8

(Pause)

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

Okay. We got those set, don't go back and give me more. Okay, now we got the Alaska Board of Fisheries meetings, just for your information. We don't have to take action on this, but they're included for reference. And I know that, Dennis, you attend those very faithfully and support our causes, but anyone got any questions here on page 47?

18

19

20

21

22

MS. PILCHER: Yeah. And then this is Nissa for the record. That was mostly there in case you did want to change meeting dates to know. At least those dates are set to know when those are, but you certainly don't need to take action.

23

24

25

26

27

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. So that's good to know. We're ready for the Wrangell-St. Elias Resource Council Membership Appointment. Amber.

28

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MS. COHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair and the Council. For the record, this is Amber Cohen, cultural anthropologist at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission, or SRC for short, is a citizen advisory committee that provides a venue for local subsistence users to have input into the management of subsistence resources at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. It also makes recommendations to the Regional Advisory Councils and the Federal Subsistence Board about proposals to change Federal subsistence regulations for hunting, fishing and trapping. Under the provisions of ANILCA, 3 of the 9 SRC members are appointed by RACs, including one by the Southcentral RAC. These members provide an important link between the SRC and the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Southcentral RAC today has the opportunity to take action on your appointment for the SRC. RAC appointments or RAC appointees to the SRC must be a member of the RAC or a local Fish and Game Advisory Committee within the region. Mercedes Starr Knighten is currently on the Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Her term on the committee lasts until June

1 2028, and she's also the Secretary for that committee.
2 And she is currently the Southcentral RAC appointee for
3 the WRST SRC, and I am asking for you to reappoint her
4 today.

5
6 So, a little bit about Starr. She was
7 born and raised in the Copper Basin and currently is a
8 resident of Glennallen. She harvests numerous berry
9 species and has a deep understanding of Ahtna medicinal
10 plants and uses. She hunts moose in Unit 11 in Wrangell-
11 St. Elias National Park, hunts grouse and other fowl,
12 fishes in the Copper River in the Glennallen Subdistrict
13 with the fish wheel, (indiscernible) in the Prince
14 William Sound and hunts caribou when it was open up in
15 the Paxson area. She is currently a Board member of the
16 Copper River Basin Child Advocacy Center, Alaska Native
17 Utilization Agreement Committee, Alaska Native
18 Shareholders Development Group and the Ahtna Language
19 Committee. She previously was a Board member for the
20 Native Village of Kluti-Kaah and a youth board member
21 for the Alaska Federation of Natives. Starr's held
22 positions at Copper River Native Association, the Ahtna
23 Heritage Foundation and the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource
24 Commission. She is currently the Shareholder Development
25 coordinator for Ahtna Incorporated and is working on her
26 Associate of Arts in Alaska Native Studies.

27
28 Starr is passionate about teaching
29 youth, including partnering with the Ahtna Inter-Tribal
30 Resource Commission and the Prince William Sound College
31 to teach a (indiscernible) course for local youth. She
32 was the instructor for the Ahtna Culture and History
33 course at Glennallen High School and taught plant lore
34 and traditional food preparation. Starr has been a very
35 active and engaged member of the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC.
36 She comes to each meeting prepared and gives great
37 insight and thoughtful feedback on each agenda item. She
38 was elected in this past meeting in the spring to serve
39 as the Vice Chair for the SRC as well. The park is asking
40 for the Council to reappoint Starr to the SRC so she can
41 continue to serve her community and the subsistence
42 users affiliated with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

43
44 MR. WILSON: Do we need a motion?

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we do.

47
48 MS. TOTEMOFF: I have a question.

49
50 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Question first.

1
2 MS. TOTEMOFF: What is the actual process
3 for evaluating youth representatives?
4

5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I think our
6 representative just could answer that.
7

8 MS. COHEN: Yeah. Through the Chair for
9 the record, Amber Cohen. So, Starr is a Southcentral RAC
10 appointee, not a youth appointment for the SRC. We
11 currently don't have youth appointments for the SRC. I
12 think it's just the Regional Advisory Councils that have
13 those youth seats currently. And so, that would be a
14 Federal Management Program answer on how you guys do
15 that.
16

17 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you for that
18 clarification. And so, which -- what appointment are we
19 evaluating at this point? I missed that. If you can
20 clarify please.
21

22 MS. COHEN: Yeah of course. Through the
23 Chair and again for the record, Amber Cohen. So, this
24 is for the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence
25 Resource Commission, and that's within ANILCA Section
26 808 that there is the citizen advisory body that gives
27 subsistence management input for the national parks and
28 monuments. So, Wrangell-St. Elias has one. And so did
29 the other subsistence national parks and monuments
30 across Alaska.
31

32 MS. TOTEMOFF: I actually didn't know
33 that we had that authority to make that appointment.
34

35 MS. COHEN: Yeah.

36
37 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you. That's all I
38 had.
39

40 MR. WILSON: I'll make a motion that we
41 take a vote on Starr.
42

43 MR. OPHEIM: I'll Second.

44
45 MR. WILSON: Support her.
46

47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Michael
48 seconded. Discussion? GreyBear.
49
50

1 MR. GREYBEAR: Yeah. This is Edward
2 GreyBear. I just wanted to say that Starr is kind of a
3 teacher to me and, like a mentor in my life, and she's
4 really helped me a lot with all my customary and
5 traditional knowledge that I have gained. And so, I'm
6 fully supporting her. And I wouldn't be as far as I am
7 in life without her.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, that's
10 great to have local insight there on the Council.

11
12 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I'd like to just say
13 one more thing about Starr myself. I've known her since
14 she was a baby, and I've watched her grow up, and she
15 is a real part of it.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Great. I don't
18 think there's opposition here. We've got a motion. We
19 got a second. We got discussion. All in favor, aye.

20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

24
25 (No response)

26
27 None opposed. It's unanimous. Thank you.

28
29 MS. COHEN: Thank you, so much.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Katya, you
32 don't believe this, but I can see your hand up.

33
34 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
35 just wanted to mention that the Council's authority to
36 appoint members on the SRC is actually in your charter.
37 You have your charter in your book somewhere in the end
38 of the book. And in the section Description of Duties
39 for the Council, it's item 4 in the charter under e.,
40 it says appoint -- one of your duties is appoint one
41 member to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence
42 Resource Commission and two members to the Denali
43 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission in
44 accordance with Section 808 of ANILCA. This is just an
45 FYI, so the Council members are aware that it's a part
46 of your duty. Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you very
49 much. Angela, question. Go ahead.

50

1 MS. TOTEMOFF: No, just a comment. Thank
2 you for that, Katya. I appreciate the reminder.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Good
5 information. That's needs to be passed on at least. Okay.

6
7 MS. PILCHER: I would actually like to
8 use this as an opportunity to do a plug for the youth
9 seat. Currently, all Councils, all Regional Advisory
10 Councils do have an option for a non-voting youth member
11 seat currently. Your Council's youth member seat is
12 vacant. The qualifications for that is of course -- and
13 this is off the cuff, somebody that is a rural user,
14 there's exceptions for if you happen to be living in
15 Fairbanks or Anchorage, going to school or, or doing
16 something else that's taking you out of your home
17 community, but you do return there. That is still your
18 base of base of home. Youth seat, we're looking at age
19 18 to 25. And what it is, is it's a letter of interest
20 that's written and submitted to OSM generally during
21 when we're accepting applications. But if anyone is
22 interested or know a youth that is interested, you're
23 more than welcome to put them in touch with me. I can
24 help get their all the information that we need from
25 them. And where they need to send their letter. And I
26 can certainly hold it until it's time for the
27 applications to be submitted. So, just a plug for that.
28 And you did have a youth member appointed, but one of
29 the not issues, but one of the things about being a
30 youth is things change. You're living a very dynamic
31 life. And they were no longer able to attend meetings
32 because their life had changed since they were first
33 appointed. But thank you.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Very
36 good. I thought we had one. So, I understand now we
37 don't. Okay. So, anyone that knows of anyone that would
38 be a great thing that's really important to pass on to
39 get youth. So, if you've got one, get with Nissa. Go
40 ahead.

41
42 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, can I make a
43 recommendation that we should bring our appointee
44 recommendations for the youth position at the next
45 meeting? Do we have to have applications by a certain
46 date to include in the packet?

47
48 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair. I can speak to
49 that.

00037

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I don't know
2 who's speaking. Is that Katya?

3
4 MS. PILCHER: Katya.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead. Do
7 speak to it.

8
9 MS. WESSELS: Yeah. Okay. So, we don't
10 currently have the open season for regular Council seats
11 or for the youth seat. We're still trying to figure out
12 when the season is going to be open. The previous season
13 is closed. But that said, really a Council -- any
14 potential future Council member or potential non-voting
15 youth leader candidate can apply at any time. They can
16 apply right now if you know one. And we'll just keep
17 their application till the season is open. And then they
18 go through the regular process of application reviews
19 and interviews and so on and so forth. For the youth
20 members, for the -- not the youth members, the young
21 leader, I shouldn't call them youth. For the young leader
22 members, there, you know, application -- there's no like
23 application. They usually just write an essay with an -
24 - answering a couple of questions like why is subsistence
25 important in their life. And you know, like why they
26 want to be on the Council. And we can, you know, provide
27 more information from the previous call for young leader
28 seats to the Council members. Nissa can send it to you
29 via email so you have it in writing. So, if you know
30 any, anyone that might be a potentially good young leader
31 on the Council you can send this information to them
32 right now and they can just apply and we'll hold their
33 application. Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank
36 you. Yeah. So, you're going to take the applications,
37 correct?

38
39 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. Once the applications
40 are submitted they go through a pretty similar process
41 when your applications are submitted. So, they go
42 through an interview process and then -- an internal
43 interview process. And then we forward names up to the
44 Department, excuse me, the -- thank you. Secretary of
45 Interior and they make the ultimate decision. So,
46 similar process. Yes it is.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: So, we need to
49 still come up with if we have someone that we submit to
50 her. Okay. And I'm working with some 18 to 25s. And

1 sometimes it's so great and other times it's Holy smokes.
2 One's my granddaughter, she's 24. Anyway. Okay. That
3 said, yeah, we'll do that. Okay. Regional Advisory
4 Chairs Workshop is the next one. And this is the workshop
5 we had on the salmon crisis. And we're going to summarize
6 it and we're going to talk about the next steps. And
7 I'll let Nissa summarize that. I was there, I was heavily
8 involved and I would be glad to answer any questions.
9 And that was one tremendous workshop and a very great
10 outcome. So, and we wanted to talk directly with the
11 Secretaries. Go ahead.

12
13 MS. PILCHER: All right. Good morning
14 again, everyone. Nissa Pilcher for the record. So, this
15 information is found on Tab 5 of your supplemental
16 materials. It's a basically a summary of what happened
17 at the meeting. Which it was pretty hard to quantify
18 what would happen -- what really happened. This was the
19 first meeting of its kind. And so, the Chairs did spend
20 quite a few -- quite a bit of time finding common ground
21 and looking at common strengths and challenges that were
22 faced across the State. And we also discussed
23 opportunities for Councils to work more collectively
24 together as was previously noticed there are similar and
25 overarching concerns that this region has that other
26 regions have, just in other parts of the State. Concerns
27 about jurisdiction issues about how do we properly relay
28 our concerns. There's many different siloed management
29 strategies of salmon. We're talking internationally as
30 well as nationally. The Yukon flows into Canada. The
31 Southeast also has a lot of interjurisdictional between
32 Canada and Federal government as well as the State
33 issues.

34
35 So, one of the immediate outcomes of
36 this meeting was to request for the Board to pursue a
37 meeting between the Council Chairs and the Board and the
38 Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to discuss
39 the salmon crisis. And this request was sent up the
40 chain to the Secretaries on September 10th. The rest of
41 the summary documents the activities and outcomes of the
42 workshop, among them, the desired outcomes some
43 obstacles that were encountered along the way. And then
44 some main strategies that can lead the group forward.
45 So, are there any questions about what that summary
46 contains?

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, yeah, I
49 have a question or statement. I think you need to look
50 under Tab 9. And under Tab 9, says the Alaska Salmon

1 Crisis. And it's a report on the Regional Advisory
2 Council Chairs. And it's got the workshop August 3, it
3 talks about the introduction. It talks about the whole
4 thing and the outcome there. And one thing I'd bring
5 your attention to is on the back page here, you're going
6 to see goals for a sustainable and successful future.
7 We were put in workshops and we were divided into groups
8 and we had to come up with what would be a perfect thing
9 if we were to fix the salmon crisis and how we'd go
10 about it. And, you know, we would have happiness, we'd
11 have healthy people, we'd have increased run strengths,
12 we would have independent research, we would have people
13 feed themselves ancestral first foods. Increase quality
14 of life, protect marine corridors, bigger fish, local
15 on-site management, hatchery, integrated marine trophic
16 ecosystem. We'd have fewer meetings. We would have data
17 security. We would have data transparency. We would have
18 data sovereignty to make decisions. We would be berry
19 picking with our aunts. We would have comprehensive
20 management and all lands and waters and all species. How
21 you like that, Andy? Fish interaction and permits are
22 owned and operated by local Alaskans. That would be
23 utopia. A great world.

24
25 So, to get to that, we had to identify
26 all the problems. The group spent time visualizing what
27 it would look -- take, like to completely solve the
28 salmon crisis. That's what that was. And then the
29 strategy, the decisions they have in there, they got
30 building external trust and improve the process. And it
31 goes on and on. Resource issues. And people ask for
32 Council opinions. Council following up after Board
33 meetings. Celebrating our successes. And we got Councils
34 make solid recommendations. Councils identify a TEK and
35 Western science information needs and a whole bunch of
36 stuff. Councils increased their -- but. So, the one thing
37 that came out. The next steps here for the workshop,
38 Council Chairs asked the Board for a meeting between the
39 Board Council Chairs and the Secretaries of the Interior
40 and Agriculture to discuss the salmon crisis. They
41 further asked that the Secretaries of the Interior and
42 Agriculture work with the Secretary of Commerce and the
43 State to address the issues at hand. The Board agreed
44 to request an annual standing meeting with the
45 Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture.

46
47 The next steps for the Councils could
48 include deciding whether they're interested in
49 continuing collective work. And if so, how would the
50 collective work could focus on preparing for a joint

1 meeting with the Secretaries? It could also focus on any
2 multiple entities in the table above. Examples of
3 potential focused projects include planning and
4 preparing for Secretary meeting. Exploring ways to
5 increase our Council's impact. Identify structures and
6 supports for subsistence and how to contribute to them.
7 Identify traditional ecological and indigenous knowledge
8 and the Western science needs. Explore ways to support
9 tribal and Alaska Native Corporations co-management and
10 stewardship. Address Council's weakness and other
11 extension opportunities for that. And additional items
12 not listed in this table topics, relating to the Fish
13 Resource Management and the wildlife resource management
14 program Developments.

15
16 So, it was very broad. It took up a lot
17 of stuff. It was very passionate. The Federal Board met
18 with us. We met all day and the next day. And we really
19 had a good heart to heart discussion with the Chairs and
20 the Federal Board. Orville, he was there, you've seen
21 the passion and some of the stuff that went on there.
22 One of the things that was brought up is, you know, we
23 not only got a crisis from the fish, but we got a crisis
24 of how to even get to some of these places. The cost of
25 gas. Dillingham at that time was damn near \$10 a gallon.
26 The stuff up north is \$24 a gallon. You can't even fill
27 up a 4-wheeler. But anyway, the crisis is there. I really
28 appreciated them really opening up and really digging
29 into what we could do to make a change. So, you're going
30 to hear more about it. It was one of the best meetings
31 I had in my 24 years here. That's all I got to say for
32 that. Thank you.

33
34 (Pause)

35
36 Oh, yeah. We can put the button on. I
37 hope you got my speech. Okay.

38
39 UNIDENTIFIED: Start over.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh God. Oh no.
44 Okay, that would be -- yeah, just the last couple of
45 words. We're going to make it work. Thank you. Anyway,
46 reports, we're going to go 15 minutes, if -- unless
47 approved in advance. And you're trying to give me
48 something here. I got a request for the Forest Service
49 to go first. Because there's a there's a time report
50 on the -- constraint. So, let's if you guys would agree,

1 let's let the U.S. Forest Service started.

2

3 MS. PILCHER: I might have misspoke.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You misspoke?
6 Someone misspoke. Let's go ahead and see who's going to
7 speak.

8

9 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Chair, I'm sorry to
10 announce that the plan is going to have to change. Mr.
11 Shaun Kinney -- McKinney, who was just here. He is the
12 Acting Forest Supervisor for the Chugach. And he just
13 came by and handed me all these papers and said, I have
14 to go to Cordova. So, I'm just now skimming through
15 about 15 pages of Roadless Rule stuff, and that's all I
16 would be giving, but I should have a few minutes at
17 least to look through it myself. But anyway, go ahead
18 on your schedule. Thank you.

19

20 MS. PILCHER: It's on the agenda. Just
21 further down. So, we could just ignore that I handed you
22 a note and move forward.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We'll just go as
25 we were planning all along.

26

27 MR. RISDAHL: That would be great. Thank
28 you.

29

30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. The first
31 one is Tribal Governments, Native Village of Eyak,
32 Partners in Fishery Monitoring. And that's Matt. Matt
33 came to talk to us. Thank you.

34

35 MR. PICHE: Good morning, Council
36 members. For the record, my name is Matt Piche. I am the
37 Natural Resources Coordinator and PFMP fish biologist
38 for the Native Village of Eyak in Cordova. And I'm here
39 today to give our Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
40 Program report. It was a busy summer. We staffed 8
41 seasonal fish techs, 2 high-school interns, and 1
42 college-level intern. Most of whom were tribal members
43 or local residents. And the work presented here is funded
44 by the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program,
45 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, the U.S. Forest
46 Service, as well as the Chugach Regional Resource
47 Commission. Our Copper River Chinook Salmon Monitoring
48 Program was in its 24th year of producing management
49 data on king salmon on the Copper River. We operated 4
50 fish wheels from May 18th to July 22nd continuously. In

1 total at Baird Canyon, we captured, tagged and released
2 1,641 chinook salmon. And at Canyon Creek it's about 90
3 kilometers upriver. We inspected for marks and released
4 1,234 chinook salmon. Of those, 122 contained a mark.
5 Mark and recapture rates varied temporally. So, a
6 Darroch estimator is going to be used this year to
7 produce an in-river abundance estimate. This is typical
8 of the project across all years. And we're currently
9 working on analyses. Had this meeting been a couple of
10 weeks later, I would have had an estimate for you. But
11 at this time I don't I will have it for the next meeting.
12 Currently, individual analyses are ongoing for the mark-
13 recap as well as the Miles Lake Sonar Chinook
14 apportionment estimate. And we'll be analyzing those
15 individually, Native Village of Eyak and ADF&G, and then
16 those will be compared as well.

17
18 On the following page, with the upcoming
19 Board of Fish meeting and proposals due in the spring.
20 I know that's separate from the Federal subsistence
21 process, but Board of Fish decisions absolutely impact
22 Federal subsistence users. So, I'm going to take every
23 opportunity I can get to put chinook salmon data in
24 front of this group. So, here in Figure 2, we can see
25 harvest and spawning escapement from 1980 to 2025. This
26 will be updated at the winter meeting with the 2026
27 data. Harvest is downward stacked in order as fish
28 migrate upriver. So, on the top in the gray, you'll see
29 commercial harvest followed by Delta subsistence,
30 personal use, Copper River Basin subsistence, sport,
31 which occurs mainly across the tributaries, and then
32 ultimately the spawning escapement estimate in that
33 light blue toward the bottom. On the following table,
34 it's all the same data, just the numbers so you have
35 that on hand. And then lastly on the back page I just
36 wanted to mention that this summer marked the 67th season
37 of salmon weir operations at Eshamy Creek in western
38 Prince William Sound. Due to some funding shortfalls,
39 we had a truncated season in 2026. We started 15 days
40 later, but we were able to add a few extra days on the
41 end. The Chugach Regional Resources Commission stepped
42 up to the plate this year in 2026, and they fully funded
43 the project for Native Village of Eyak to go out and
44 conduct this important long-term monitoring project. In
45 total, 14,900 sockeye salmon passed the weir. This
46 exceeded the lower bound of the biological escapement
47 goal, which is 13,000 to 28,000 sockeye salmon. And here
48 you can see a photo of the weir this year. Pretty low
49 water. And then also, I just wanted to introduce a new
50 pilot study that we're -- that's happening right now.

1 I've got crew, we've got equipment in the field. We're
2 conducting a sonar study on the Copper River Delta to
3 count coho salmon. This is using autonomous sonar, sonar
4 operation and sonar counts. If we can figure this out,
5 it'll drastically reduce the cost of sonar fish counting
6 operations, which could be useful across the whole
7 Southcentral region. And funding with that is provided
8 by the U.S. Forest Service and this is a partnership
9 between the Native Village of Eyak and the U.S. Forest
10 Service. And that's all I have. Thank you.

11
12 MS. SELANOFF: I have a question. On your
13 table you have a standard error. What -- how do you --
14 what is your standard error? What does that mean?

15
16 MR. PICHE: So, a lot goes into informing
17 that. But that's basically how confident we are in that
18 abundance estimate. So, in years where fish wheel issues
19 or sample -- sampling has to stop for certain parts of
20 the year our error will increase. So, it's how certain
21 we are in that estimate. So, a larger standard error
22 means we're less certain in that estimate. And that
23 varies from year to year.

24
25 MS. SELANOFF: So, say again how you
26 derive with that error estimate. It's what -- you
27 mentioned it, but I.....

28
29 MR. PICHE: Without taking about 15
30 minutes to get into the statistics of it, I won't here.
31 But I'm happy to chat with you on the side, but basically
32 you come up with -- there's a Petersen mark-recapture
33 estimate and there's also a Darroch estimator. We're
34 using the Darroch estimator. Our mark-recapture rates
35 vary weekly across the season, if not daily. Pulses in
36 the water level change. So, basically accounting for all
37 of that variability goes into our standard error. And
38 it lets us know how confident we are in that abundance
39 estimate. The estimate we put out, it doesn't mean that's
40 exactly how many fish went through. It's just an
41 estimate. You can think of this as an overall index.
42 Compared across all years, it gives you a really nice
43 comparison across all years. But don't get hung up on
44 the you know, for example, last year, 42,561 chinook
45 salmon, is that exactly how many came up? The Copper
46 River. No, but 42,005 or I'm sorry, 35,584 is what we
47 had for an abundance estimate last year. So, that
48 standard error lets us know how confident, how wide those
49 error bars are within that range. So yeah.

50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We're going to
2 send you school Diane.

3
4 MR. PICHE: It's not an absolute count
5 like a weir, for example. Our Eshamy Weir, we're counting
6 every single fish. We know exactly what passed. Right?
7 You can look into the water. You can see it. We open up
8 the pickets and you see a fish pass through. With
9 abundance estimates you don't have that opportunity. So,
10 just like the sonar operations or mark-recapture
11 operations, there's always -- there always should be an
12 error published with those estimates. That takes into
13 account all of the potential issues that could have
14 occurred with the data set that year and let you know
15 how confident you are in that estimate that you put out.

16
17 MS. SELANOFF: I was just trying to
18 determine if it was favorable or unfavorable, you know,
19 with the error count. So, anyway.

20
21 MR. PICHE: You absolutely want to
22 minimize your error the best you can. But mother nature,
23 the Copper River doesn't always allow us to do that.
24 Yeah.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Judy has
27 a question.

28
29 MS. CAMINER: Thank you. Matt, thanks a
30 lot. And, you know, congratulations on another good year
31 of work. You mentioned you probably have this year's
32 results, perhaps in December. I wonder.

33
34 MR. PICHE: In October.

35
36 MS. CAMINER: In October. Okay, great. I
37 wonder if you could send Nissa, you know, updated chart
38 or whatever it would look like. Just so we -- it's fresh
39 in our minds. Now, I'd be curious to see it next month
40 then.

41
42 MR. PICHE: Absolutely.

43
44 MS. CAMINER: Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Andy has a
47 question, but I got one first. Anadromous sonar. I don't
48 want to get into detail, but how the hell does that
49 sonar work?

1 MR. PICHE: Yeah. So, we're figuring it
2 out, but we're trying to have an unmanned sonar. So, it
3 -- it's remote power system generator kicks on
4 automatically. We've got some solar hooked up to it.
5 We're just trying to figure out if we can run sonar
6 without a crew stationed at the site. And if that can
7 occur, it can drastically reduce the cost of an overall
8 sonar program to basically just the cost of the sonar
9 itself. So, that's one of the problems we're running
10 into with funding statewide is how do we do more with
11 less? And this is an opportunity for that.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
14 Thank you, Matt. Go ahead, Andy.

15
16 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
17 Chair. Yeah. Just I'd like to commend you and NVE work
18 for all the baseline data you've been gathering. That
19 was data gaps that were needed and all the things you've
20 done for all the years. It's been phenomenal. Just
21 curious if NVE is considering doing any type of
22 monitoring at a different section of the life cycle of
23 the salmon? Like in the juvenile stages, egg, not just
24 fecundity type things, but you know, marine
25 outmigration, marine -- that would determine marine
26 survivability and how these correlate to some of these
27 other baseline that you've already established. It just
28 seems that would be prudent to go into a different part
29 of the life cycle of the salmon, you know.

30
31 MR. PICHE: Through the Chair. Absolutely
32 correct. That's a huge data gap that exists. Funding has
33 been difficult. However, I think this Council just set
34 up a pretty good FRMP PIN. So, potentially some funding
35 might be available for some of those projects. And I'm
36 excited to explore that -- those opportunities with our
37 partners at Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission and
38 elsewhere throughout the watershed. To try to get at
39 some of that data because it is a data gap and it's
40 important.

41
42 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you.

43
44 MS. EWAN: Based on these numbers here.
45 How does the State of Alaska count their numbers? I see
46 this -- I listen to the radio, and I see the numbers and
47 the reports the State of Alaska give. Are these numbers
48 compared to them? Who is accurate? You -- mean the Feds,
49 you guys or the State?

50

1 MR. PICHE: So, the State of Alaska
2 counts all fish passing through the Miles Lake sonar.
3 So, that's historically how the sockeye salmon fishery
4 has been managed. And then the State of Alaska has
5 utilized the abundance estimate and the fish wheel data
6 that NVE produces, as well as the Gulkana River tower
7 counts, Tanada weir, some of the other monitor -- also
8 aerial surveys. But those have been severely reduced in
9 numbers over the years, to try to figure out what's
10 going on with chinook salmon in season. Just recently,
11 they added a chinook salmon apportionment to the sonar.
12 So, that is -- I'm not going to speak for the State on
13 their confidence in that data. I'm -- NVE is waiting on
14 some data sharing before we have any opinion on how
15 accurate that data is. So, I can't assess the Miles Lake
16 sonar chinook apportionment at this point in time but
17 it's something that we're excited about. Because the
18 opportunity to have in-season data in real time on
19 chinook salmon would be wonderful for management
20 purposes. So, we're continuing forward with the mark-
21 recap. We're just in year 1 of a new funding cycle.
22 Until Native Village of Eyak is confident in that sonar
23 data. And if Native Village of Eyak is confident in that
24 sonar data, then the mark-recap program will no longer
25 be needed and the sonar will be used. But we haven't
26 seen data yet. So, we're waiting on that data to assess
27 how accurate the sonar is in counting chinook salmon.

28
29 MS. EWAN: My concern is that king
30 salmon, the chinook. I don't see no report on that, but
31 we know it's declining. And another thing too is the
32 scientific data should be added to this year to know why
33 these things are happening. There's some that blame warm
34 water, some blame other things. But you know, in reality,
35 I know what's happening. It's overfished.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Kirk, go
38 ahead.

39
40 MR. WILSON: At this at this sonar. Can
41 they tell a king salmon from a red salmon by its size?

42
43 MR. PICHE: Through the Chair. Again, so
44 I'm not in charge of the ADF&G program over there, but
45 I am familiar with kind of what they're looking at and
46 yeah, it's going to be size based apportionment. That's
47 about as all we can do right now with current sonar
48 technology. So, there'll be a cut off where you no longer
49 have sockeye salmon overlapping with chinook salmon.
50 It'll essentially be counting large kings. They've been

1 doing this on the Kenai for some time now. And they're
2 looking at using those techniques on the Copper. They've
3 been running that sonar for about 7 years now. There's
4 a great comparative data set and we're trying to figure
5 out how that data compares with the market recap data.
6 But yeah, it's basically a large fish escapement or large
7 fish estimate. So, that in turn later down the road is
8 going to impact -- you're going to have to switch to a
9 large fish escapement goal. There'll be a lot of changes
10 to how the fisheries manage and it'll be based off that
11 large fish. If it is -- if that's all they do, so.

12
13 MR. WILSON: Yeah, the reason I talked
14 about this is because the fish I got out of the fish
15 wheel this year, there were probably 7 reds in the batch.
16 I had 30 fish and I had 2 kings in there that was way
17 smaller than any of those reds.

18
19 MR. PICHE: Through the Chair. We
20 actually saw a bit of a bimodal length distribution this
21 year in our data set, and we've never seen that before,
22 24 years of operating fish wheels in the Copper River
23 continuously throughout the entire season. So, it seems
24 to be a bit of an anomaly in our data set. What's causing
25 that? I'm not sure. But certainly there were a lot of
26 small fish, small chinook salmon in the Copper River
27 this year. So again, how -- I can't speak for how the
28 State may deal with that with their data and their large
29 fish apportionment. But it's an observation that we also
30 had on the fish wheel program. And at the winter meeting,
31 if you'd like me to present a length distribution
32 analysis, I'd be happy to bring that forward.

33
34 MR. WILSON: So, these small kings, are
35 they coming back? Do you know an age limit on the small
36 kings or are they just small or are they coming back
37 early?

38
39 MR. PICHE: So, there is scale data. I
40 haven't seen the results of that data yet. It takes some
41 time to age all those scales. But the Alaska Department
42 of Fish and Game should have that data released on this
43 year. So, the answer will come. It's just a lot of work
44 to age all those scales.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well
47 thank you, Matt. Very good job. I know they want you to
48 answer everything, but that's okay. We know what we got
49 here. That's good. Just keep up the good work. Appreciate
50 it.

1

2

MR. PICHE: Thank you.

3

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(Pause)

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Next, we have..... Is this is correct? Carl. Dustin Carl. Where's Dustin? Is he there? Okay. There you go, Dustin. Yeah. Native Organizations, Resource Commission, Tribal Fisheries, Wildlife Department.

MR. CARL: (In Native). Good morning. I'm Dustin Carl, I'm the Tribal Fish and Wildlife Director for the Chugach Regional Resource Commission. We serve the 7 Tribes of the Chugach region. Nanwalek, Port Graham, Qutekcak, Chenega, Valdez, Tatitlek and Native Village of Eyak. And we run natural resource projects to support our tribes' subsistence rights. I will go through our fisheries, wildlife and marine mammal program as long -- as well as our special projects. For our fisheries program, we run the Nanwalek weir out of Nanwalek. And this year we counted just under 4,600 sockeye, which did not meet the escapement goal of 6,300 to 12,000 sockeye. We did implement a new style of weir this year. So, we are going to reevaluate that to see if that had any -- because there are some concerns of the new weir for the salmon out there. We also started a water quality monitoring project for the Nanwalek Lagoon to -- because our Tribe members have noticed a decrease in eelgrass there. And then we also are doing a fish inventory update in the Kenai Fjords National Park.

For our wildlife program, we completed a moose population estimate for the Port Graham and Nanwalek area. The numbers we got are somewhat low, but there may be some explanation to that in our study plan. So, we need to reevaluate that study plan as well. We did survey the Kings Bay moose area for Chenega and Tatitlek. We -- we've seen 9 moose there and we deployed -- we also deployed 4 trail cameras there to track the moose population. And we plan on doing more aerial surveys this upcoming winter in hopes of getting more data to potentially or eventually put in a proposal to open back up the moose hunt there for Chenega and Tatitlek. We are also working on a pilot study to get biodiversity credits for our Tribes. Using the trail camera footage due to potentially work with contractors to sell the biodiversity credits to bring some income into the Tribes.

1
2 For our marine mammal program, we are
3 working on a harvest management plan for all the
4 communities to use. And then we have an app we're working
5 on with the Indigenous Sentinels Network for harvesters
6 in our region. We're also working on a harvest sampling
7 protocol for that -- to track the health of marine
8 mammals. We're working with the Tlingit and Haida on
9 that training. We do have signs made by traditional
10 artists in our region that are going up in Cordova,
11 Valdez and Whittier, that are going on the docks and the
12 boardwalks. That'll be -- those will be constructed
13 probably next month, I think it's the timeline. And then
14 we also have a -- we worked with the Native Village of
15 Eyak and the ADF&G Subsistence Program this winter to
16 conduct subsistence surveys -- household subsistence
17 surveys. We also had a film project where we collect --
18 we conducted interviews with Tribe members to capture
19 the importance of those subsistence surveys on our
20 subsistence users.

21
22 And we just completed our first Tribal
23 youth training program a couple of weeks ago. We took
24 Tribal members from around our region 16 to 26 years
25 old. We brought them to the Kasitsna Bay lab in Seldovia
26 and we trained them on -- we trained them to set up bear
27 hair capture sites and then collect the bear hair
28 samples. We taught them how to do electrofishing and
29 juvenile salmon ID-ing. And we taught them how to
30 identify songbirds. And then we took a marine mammal
31 tour to help to train them on identifying marine mammals
32 and conducting skiff surveys. And we also taught them
33 general field safety, setting up tents, things like
34 that. And we did some -- we had some elders with us from
35 the region and we taught them how to identify different
36 wild foods and Michael taught them how to track animals
37 as well, so. And for that we had 6 participants. We were
38 hoping for 15, but we got 6 that completed it. But that's
39 okay because now they are going to have an opportunity
40 to come to meetings like this. All of our CRRC hosted
41 meetings and Board of Game, Board of Fish. They'll be
42 invited to go to that. And earn a stipend for attending
43 those since they did -- we do have extra money for them.
44 So, we're going to turn them into Tribal leaders whether
45 they like it or not. But, yeah, and during this, during
46 this training camp, they did earn \$100 a day for
47 completing the project. So, that was, that was good for
48 them. They were excited about that. And that's all I
49 have. So, if you have any questions for me, let me know.
50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm going
2 to open it to the Council for questions. Go ahead.

3
4 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Dustin, good job on all your work you've been doing. It
6 sounds amazing. You were talking about subsistence
7 surveys. Which communities were those completed?

8
9 MR. CARL: Just Cordova.

10
11 MS. TOTEMOFF: In Cordova.

12
13 MR. CARL: Yeah.

14
15 MS. TOTEMOFF: Okay. And you did that in
16 coordination with who?

17
18 MR. CARL: Native Village of Eyak and
19 ADF&G.

20
21 MS. TOTEMOFF: Gotcha. So, you did have
22 Tribal consultation and input for that.

23
24 MR. CARL: Right.

25
26 MS. TOTEMOFF: Excellent. That's all I
27 needed to know. Thank you.

28
29 MR. CARL: And Native Village of Eyak
30 actually hired the survey helpers the -- I forgot what
31 the titles were, but they were helping out with surveys.
32 (Indiscernible)

33
34 (Simultaneous speech)

35
36 MS. TOTEMOFF: Excellent. Thank you for
37 that. Yeah.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Diane.

40
41 MS. SELANOFF: Yeah. I had a question
42 too. So, the weir in Nanwalek. Your numbers were lower,
43 but it could have been the new system that you're using.
44 I was kind of curious about if you've done any -- or if
45 you have any information on the take that -- of the fish
46 that comes before the weir. So, as it's just coming in
47 the lagoon before it goes up, I know there's a lot of
48 fishing going on at that time. Do you know about how
49 much fish is taken?

50

00051

1 MR. CARL: We don't. We don't track that.
2 That would have to be tracked by ADF&G if it is getting
3 tracked. But it -- I mean, it doesn't seem like there
4 were any more or less than normal.

5
6 MS. SELANOFF: Okay. And then you also
7 mentioned too, that you're doing a biodiversity and is
8 that -- are you starting a specific place, location or?

9
10 MR. CARL: So, for that we're just using
11 the game camera footage we got out of the moose project.

12
13 MS. SELANOFF: Okay, okay, okay, I got
14 you. All right. Good job, good work. You're doing a lot.
15 Thank you.

16
17 MR. CARL: Thanks.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Anyone
20 else got comments? Well, I tell you what, Michael, you
21 guys are doing outstanding work there. Yeah, we do a lot
22 of that for the Tribal work and Ninilchik too. So, it's
23 good to see all these initiatives going with the Tribal
24 leadership to do it. Faye.

25
26 MS. EWAN: Good job.

27
28 MR. CARL: Thanks.

29
30 (Simultaneous speech)

31
32 MS. EWAN: The information, you know,
33 that you guys gather affects us on Ahtna region, big
34 time. You know that I see over fishing big time in the
35 in the Chitina Region, Chitina area. And by the time
36 that fish get up to where I live, we probably get this,
37 you know, maybe -- not as much as we usually get it
38 after it hits Chitina bridge, that decline goes way down.
39 By the time it gets to us, we're lucky we get 10 or 15,
40 maybe 100 fish at the most. I dipped net all summer, I
41 didn't use a fish wheel because that's our traditional
42 way of fishing to begin with. And I see the overabundance
43 of people from other regions coming into Copper River
44 and putting fish wheel in and multiple people using that
45 fish wheel. I don't think a lot of those accurate numbers
46 are being reported. And, you know, that's something that
47 we need to put the Federal law on is that they got to -
48 - when they get first permit, make sure they do it
49 correct, not come back next day and get another 30 fish
50 all year long (indiscernible) during the season, that's

1 over fish. I'm allowed 500 fish. I got 100 fish, 50 of
2 it came from Tyonek. That's where I got my salmon because
3 I know Copper River was being overfished. And our elders,
4 they don't have fish wheel and young people to go get
5 their fish. So, our people are really hurting
6 culturally-wise. And those numbers, when they go down,
7 that means we're hurting and that prices of food is way
8 too high. So, in abundance of things, you know, sometime
9 we need to probably give advice to the commercial fishing
10 to, you know, not being mean to them, but let some
11 survive. That's all I can say. Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You didn't know
14 you was going to get all that? Good. You listen good to
15 elders, okay. Very good information. Thank you very
16 much. Okay. Okay, now I have Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource
17 Commission. Unknown presenter. That's unknown, but I see
18 this young gal coming up. Hand out in the meeting. Okay.

19
20 MS. KOSBRUK: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
21 Council members. My name is Deanna Kosbruk. I work for
22 Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission as the Regulatory
23 Specialist. And so, Nissa -- I had sent Nissa a handout
24 and you guys have that in front of you. So, I just want
25 to share a few of the research projects that we are
26 conducting in the Ahtna Region. And I'll just let you
27 guys -- I'll just note that our ecologist section is
28 removed for this report. And our ecologist is just
29 waiting on the results so she can complete her report.
30 And that was for our fish monitoring, health monitoring.
31 And another one is our moose health monitoring. And AITRC
32 was working -- is working with one of our Tribal citizens
33 who is working on her master's and they're working --
34 our ecologist as well as our Tribal citizen are working
35 together on the moose health. And we're just waiting on
36 the results and the report. And so, hopefully by winter
37 2027, we'll have that for you guys and add it back into
38 our updates.

39
40 So, moving forward with wildlife. Our
41 wildlife biologist is working with our tribes on monitor
42 -- the monitoring of caribou, wolves and Dall sheep in
43 Game Management Units 11 and 13. The current work
44 combines aerial surveys and remote cameras, as well as
45 GPS collaring, field and laboratory sampling and hunter
46 participation to address data gaps and herd recruitment
47 and survival. As well as the wolf movement and diet. And
48 potential exposure to Dall sheep to heavy metals and
49 trace elements. The projects also strengthen the
50 partnerships, tribal capacity and the information

1 available for future wildlife management decisions. And
2 one of the graphics is of the -- from the results from
3 the laboratory, was for the wolf diet. And it just breaks
4 down, you know, what we're seeing in the fecal samples
5 and what's coming back to our wildlife biologists.

6
7 Moving forward into our fisheries and
8 our fisheries biologist is here. So, if he wants to add
9 anything after I'm done, he can, so. So, for fisheries
10 work he had surveyed 9 accessible lakes in the northern
11 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve for
12 subsistence fish species. He also continued the Tanada
13 Creek salmon passage monitoring and supported partner
14 studies on juvenile chinook habitat and the migration.
15 And Gulkana River salmon escapement field results
16 documented Arctic grayling and several other species
17 found no -- and there was no pike in the Copper River
18 drainage. And had generated the data for final reports
19 and improved future monitoring methods at the Tanada
20 Creek weir.

21
22 Going into anthropology. Our
23 anthropologist had a documented recent changes in wild
24 food use across Copper Basin communities, including the
25 decline in per capita harvests and shifts between salmon
26 and large land mammals. It also developed longer term
27 harvest monitoring and shared network methods and
28 completed a capacity building project supporting the
29 Native Village of Chetna and cultural -- excuse me. And
30 he also completed a capacity building project supporting
31 the Native Village of Chitina in Cultural Resource
32 Management. As well as Section 106 consultations, tribal
33 monitoring and protection of culturally important sites.
34 And, and under his section, he had shared the results
35 from their interviews with subsistence users within our
36 region.

37
38 And this year was the third season that
39 AITRC had hosted with National Park Service, our weekly
40 in-season salmon teleconference. This will go through
41 2027. And I believe there was talk that we would continue
42 even after funding -- after we had completed this with
43 National Park Service. So, this season we had held 13
44 weekly teleconferences, and that connected our fishery
45 managers and biologists, researchers, Tribal
46 representation, Tribal citizens, subsistence users. And
47 so, I just wanted to highlight that here was marked --
48 there was delayed runs, low passage and fishery
49 restrictions. And this had come from our area biologists
50 and managers. And so, the Miles Lake sonar recorded

1 570,391 salmon, about 30,000 short of target for
2 sockeye. And the series paired agency data with local
3 and Indigenous observation.

4
5 Oh, and I also wanted to note that
6 including -- so, what was recorded through the Miles
7 Lake sonar as well was 19,223 large chinook. Which is
8 the lowest count on record since large king
9 apportionment began in 2019. So, and then for our Tribal
10 stewardship mapping, he's still working on -- our
11 project coordinator is working on working with our GIS.
12 And they're completing the reporting and now it's going
13 through edits and before that's shared with the Tribe
14 that he's been working with. So, that is what I have for
15 AITRC and our research projects. But it's not limited
16 to what we've been doing. So, are there any questions?

17
18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You're doing an
19 awful lot. Judy's got a question here.

20
21 MS. CAMINER: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Yeah. Gosh, you are doing a lot, and we really appreciate
23 it. Cause I can see you're filling in for a lot of places
24 the Federal government maybe used to do some of the
25 work. But it does say on the Tanada Creek that the
26 project report is complete and available. And so, I
27 wonder if, same thing, if a report could be sent to the
28 RAC and we could look at it later. Do you want to answer
29 that first then had another question but go ahead.

30
31 MR. GORZE: Yeah. Through the Chair. Dan
32 Gorze, Fish Biologist and Partners for Fisheries
33 Monitoring Program Biologist. A lot of this work
34 wouldn't have been done without OSM funding. So, I --
35 I'm really appreciative of that. The 2025 annual report
36 was submitted for -- to meet requirements for -- this
37 is an FRMP funded project with a cooperative agreement
38 through NPS. I can -- it's like a gray paper right now,
39 so I can forward the link to that or send the document.
40 And I'm more than willing to elaborate on fisheries as
41 well. Thank you.

42
43 MS. CAMINER: Thanks. My other just
44 comment maybe for everybody to look at. Maybe this is
45 something that really could, should at some point be
46 brought up at the Federal Board meeting. On page 4,
47 towards the end where you have, you know, what people
48 have taken for their subsistence harvests. I mean some
49 of the numbers that that paragraph next to the left of
50 the chart there, I mean, it's kind of stunning how the

1 number of pounds has fluctuated over the years. But of
2 course, in this case you know, decreased in many
3 categories. So, I think that's really important numbers
4 to have.

5
6 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Angela, for the record. Honestly, AITRC you guys are
8 setting the bar for the types of work and the data
9 gathering that needs to be done, that should be done by
10 both State and Federal agencies. So, I want to thank you
11 for filling those gaps. Also, I'm really thoroughly
12 impressed with this -- these weekly salmon
13 teleconferences, in-season salmon teleconferences that
14 you guys host. And I really think that that could
15 actually set -- be a model moving forward for other
16 organizations to use. Just to have real time tracking
17 of what's happening out there. So, we're not talking
18 about it at the end of the season. You guys are actually
19 connecting the right people with the right answers so
20 they -- everybody knows exactly what's happening. So, I
21 just wanted to make a comment that that's really
22 impressive. And I'm going to take that back home and
23 have a recommendation to implement that in my own region.
24 So, thank you.

25
26 MS. LINNELL: And that's very much -- for
27 the record, Karen Linnell Executive Director for Ahtna
28 Inter-Tribal Resource Commission. That's due in part to
29 the partnership that we have with Wrangell-St. Elias
30 National Park. We do have the State of Alaska Sport Fish
31 and Comm Fish that call in on that, and they give a
32 report and then they get to hear from subsistence users
33 up and down the river. It's in, you know, when you start
34 to hear and they get to hear whether our subsistence
35 users, both Tribal and non-Tribal are catching fish or
36 not, or what they're seeing on the ground, how many
37 eels, etc., that they're getting instead of salmon. The
38 small jack kings that we talked about yesterday. You
39 know, it informs management as well as our Tribal
40 citizens and our participants in the call, getting to
41 hear from -- directly from managers what's happening on
42 the ground. Native Village of Eyak calls in as well and
43 provides updates from the fish wheels and things like
44 that. But this is something -- the in-season calls is
45 something that I think they're doing on the Kuskokwim
46 as well. So, it's, you know, we didn't invent the wheel
47 on it and we're just happy to be able to participate in
48 it.

49
50

1 The other thing that we've been doing
2 is tracking all the changes that we're seeing with the
3 Federal government and the agencies and their
4 secretarial orders and how that impacts funding to
5 Tribes and non -- and to our partners and to non-
6 governmental organizations such as AITRC, Prince William
7 Sound Science Center, Copper River Watershed Project.
8 We work together quite a bit in trying to get the best
9 bang for the buck and partner with them on many small
10 projects and in setting priorities for that data
11 collection, you know. Native Village of Eyak as well.
12 It's a -- this is kind of a tumultuous time, right? And
13 we have to be so vigilant in watching what's happening.
14 The OMB you know, the claw back that tried to happen at,
15 at the beginning of this administration and they lost
16 that with some of the climate change or climate
17 resilience funding and that kind of thing that happened.
18 They lost that and they had to reinstate some of that
19 funding. Then OMB put forward a proposed rule that
20 touched every branch of government. And that political
21 appointees could cancel contracts that are in play. You
22 know, if you're in year 2 of a 3-year contract, they can
23 shut it down and the work would stop immediately based
24 on political direction and appointee executing that,
25 bypassing the contracts and the acts that were passed
26 by Congress. And so, those are things that we've been
27 working with across the country, not just in State, but
28 across the country with the rest of the Tribes and Tribal
29 organizations in trying to make sure that they're not
30 putting things into place that could really affect the
31 monitoring and things that are happening across Alaska.
32 Filling those data gaps.

33
34 The other thing that we've been paying
35 close attention to is that 17(d)(1). We've got some
36 information on our website, if you're interested in
37 looking at that and the potential impacts it could have
38 to Unit 13 specifically. But we -- at one point we had
39 an interactive map on there when it went through the
40 last administration, but it costs quite a bit of money
41 to keep that interactive map going. So, we have PDFs of
42 that information available. And just moving forward, we
43 do appreciate this -- the Southcentral RAC and your drive
44 to do what's best for the resources and your advocacy
45 there. So, I just wanted to say that and hopefully our
46 Tribal citizen will have her Master's project finished
47 this semester. It's taken a little bit longer. They have
48 the data. It's just analyzing it and getting it done so
49 she can finish her Master's project. Then we can publish
50 the moose health information. She's looking to become a

1 wildlife biologist. So, you know, part of that grow-
2 your-own. But yeah, I think that's it. I don't want to
3 take up too much of your time but, thank you.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank all
6 of you that a lot, a lot of good information. You're
7 doing great work and we appreciate it. We gotta move.
8 Go ahead.

9

10 MS. EWAN: Good job. I, you know, I think
11 that -- I shouldn't say I think I know, that a lot of
12 work these guys put into our conservation issues in the
13 Copper River region has been really helpful to a lot of
14 agencies. And I'm sad to say that we've been sued by the
15 State of Alaska Commissioner many times over, you know,
16 just trying to negotiate to talk about our salmon and
17 our caribou, things like that. And you can't even mention
18 Ahtna in those State Board meetings, you know, they get
19 all -- I mean, it gets ugly. And, you know, I really
20 think the Southcentral RAC should support these people.
21 Even the NVE, Eyak guy over there. That we should write
22 a letter of support for them to do -- continue to do
23 this study so we can have accurate information and data.
24 Because I don't trust the State of Alaska's data. I
25 might trust Federal data, but I know when we got it at
26 our own home, it's done there, we know what's happening.
27 Before, we didn't know what was happening. Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Much,
30 much better. Okay. Thank you very much. Yeah.

31

32 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Thank
35 you. Okay, Jacquie, we're going to let you -- we're
36 going to move to you next, so. Okay. Okay. Why did you
37 not complete your homework?

38

39 MS. KEATING: Well, good morning, Mr.
40 Chair, and members of the Council again. For the record,
41 my name is Jacquie Keating. I'm the lead researcher for
42 the Division of Subsistence, Southcentral Region for the
43 Department of Fish and Game. And the great thing about
44 us having so many great partners is you get to hear most
45 of our updates from other people instead of hearing us
46 ramble on. So, you've heard a lot of the things I'm
47 going to mention already today. What's being passed
48 around is just a very brief handout to summarize some
49 of what I will talk about today. One thing I failed to
50 put on that handout is that we have a very recent

1 publication for the work that we did in collaboration
2 with AITRC, as well as Wrangell-St. Elias. You're going
3 to hear a lot more about this from Amber, but we
4 published the paper that looked at four communities in
5 the Upper Copper River area. It came in at a like 600
6 pages. If anyone would like some light reading, this was
7 published earlier this summer and I believe the link to
8 that will go around for anyone that's interested in
9 picking that up.

10
11 The other main project that we have
12 going right now, you heard from Dustin, who we worked
13 very closely with, the Native Village of Eyak and Chugach
14 Regional Resources Commission over this winter to do the
15 comprehensive surveys in Cordova. There are several
16 people in this room that were very active part of that
17 effort. One is even sitting up there at your table, who
18 is out there doing surveys with us. We went back this
19 year in the summertime and did some more detailed
20 ethnographic interviews with knowledge holders. Folks
21 that are not familiar with our household surveys, they
22 average about an hour of time to complete per household.
23 And that doesn't even include all the time it takes
24 driving around looking for people and tracking everybody
25 down. So, it's a lot of data to go through. It takes us
26 kind of all spring and all summer. We are getting at the
27 point where we're ready to review that data. So, we do
28 an internal review meeting with us and CRRC and NVE
29 staff in a few weeks. And then we will be in Cordova for
30 multiple days in November to have a couple different
31 places where people can come look at these draft data
32 with us, let us know what looks weird, provide feedback.
33 One of the venues for that will be at the Prince William
34 Sound Science Center Tuesday night talks, so I included
35 a link for that on this page. Because you can actually
36 listen to that online and watch the recording for anybody
37 who's interested in seeing that and can't be there in
38 person. And then we're working with NVE to see what
39 other types of meetings we can do that week to get as
40 much feedback as possible. So, we'll keep everybody in
41 the loop on that.

42
43 Another project I've mentioned in the
44 past, but this coming spring, we will be working with
45 the Division of Wildlife Conservation to do a survey of
46 hunters for the Prince William Sound black bear hunt.
47 Many of you know this is a very popular, highly utilized
48 hunt. We're looking to collect perceptions of hunters
49 about bear populations and other issues. But leading up
50 to that, we're doing a series of focus groups with people

1 who are knowledgeable about bears, but also just anybody
2 who has concerns about hunting pressure or anything like
3 that in Prince William Sound. These are paid groups. We
4 can do them in-person. We can do them online. I do have
5 an info sheet on that that I can give to people. It
6 would be great to have assistance recommending folks
7 that would be a good fit to participate in those. We're
8 certainly looking to document the broad range of
9 perspectives.

10
11 And then you already heard the Board of
12 Fish dates earlier. I did just want to put on everybody's
13 radar that the Lower Cook Inlet Board of Fish is in
14 Seward, December 1 through 4. This will actually be the
15 first year that this particular board meeting offers
16 what they've been doing the past several years, which
17 is the traditional knowledge testimony. This is a new
18 format for Board of Fish. They started it 3 years ago,
19 immediately after the Lower Cook Inlet Board of Fish
20 meeting. So, this will be hopefully the first one where
21 it's offered for this particular region. This is an
22 opportunity for traditional knowledge holders to present
23 before public testimony. So, instead of 3 minutes you
24 get 10. The information on signing up for that is usually
25 included in the meeting announcements prior to Board of
26 Fish. So, I just wanted to put on folks' radar that that
27 is an opportunity for either you to think about or to
28 invite others in your community to consider. And that's
29 all I have. Thanks for your time.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good report
32 Jacquie. We know how to get a hold of you now. I see you
33 got addresses on here. Yeah, that's good. Questions? Any
34 questions? Go ahead, Angela.

35
36 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you. Angela, for the
37 record. Jacquie, when you complete these -- there's --
38 I feel like there's an opportunity here to really build
39 some relationships with the Tribes, particularly in the
40 Chugach region. That's all I can speak to, of course,
41 from Southcentral RAC. So, I'm happy to connect you to
42 some of our folks just to have -- to start the
43 conversation about what these subsistence surveys mean,
44 how they're held, where the information is held. Because
45 I feel like there's a lot of misconceptions about where
46 that information is stored, where it's going, how it's
47 used and how it's been misused in the past. And so, I'm
48 happy to be that connection moving forward. And so, I
49 can connect through CRRC if that's a good avenue to do
50 that. But I just wanted to make that comment because I

1 do feel like there is an opportunity there to do some
2 relationship building.

3
4 MS. KEATING: Through the Chair. Thank
5 you. I would love that. I appreciate that. I would love
6 to have that conversation. And I would also just like
7 to re-plug the video that Dustin mentioned is really
8 exciting to me. CRRC took the initiative to work with
9 NVE Tribal members to compile their perspectives on why
10 they chose to participate in these. So, that's just one
11 small piece of the puzzle, but I'm excited to share that
12 too and hopefully have that be part of the conversation.
13 Thanks.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Jacquie,
16 I think you're -- thank you very much. Todd, I think
17 you're next. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

18
19 MR. ESKELIN: Thank you, Council. Todd
20 Eskelin, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. And I just want
21 to say it's really good to see everybody again. I know
22 Greg emphasized that a lot over the years and never
23 really took it to heart that much. But, you know, in the
24 recent years, it's just been really positive. And the
25 amount of information we exchanged both at the meeting
26 and between meetings is well worth it. So, keep up the
27 good work. Obviously in Unit 15, moose hunting season
28 has 2 seasons and we've only had the first one. So, this
29 will just kind of be a -- an initial report. Not that
30 many people have reported back to me yet. So, you'll get
31 a more complete table, an actual handout and everything
32 at the winter meeting once I've been able to pester and
33 track down all of the harvest reports that don't come
34 in immediately.

35
36 But in the initial -- well, let's start
37 with the drawing hunt. As with the previous year we
38 administered drawing hunts for sheep, mountain goat and
39 caribou. And to date I have only got reports back on the
40 2 caribou permits that we gave out. And one was hunted
41 and was successful and harvested a cow caribou and the
42 other one did not hunt. So, that's what I have for our
43 drawing hunts. The 4 goat hunts run through November
44 14th or something like that. So, a lot of those folks
45 haven't reported, and the 1 sheep permit hasn't
46 reported, though it should be coming in in shortly.

47
48 As for the moose season, actually did
49 pretty well this year. There were 7 moose harvested in
50 the in the early season, 3 of those were cows, and that

1 was better for us. You know, last year we were running
2 up against that harvest cap that we have set at 8. And
3 so, we were kind of kind of nervous that was going to
4 be a continuing trend. But it came back down into to
5 normal again this year. So, 3 cows and 4 forks. So, all
6 7 of the moose harvested would not have been legal under
7 the State regulations. So, definitely continuing to show
8 the added benefit to subsistence users with the Federal
9 subsistence regulations. No larger bulls harvested in
10 the early season. Which probably has kind of been normal
11 until the, the previous couple of years where 1 or 2
12 were harvested. But then this year it seemed like the
13 moose stayed up high and distant and away from areas
14 where people could get to them, especially the larger
15 moose did that. So, just no big moose harvested in those
16 -- in that early season.

17
18 One thing I did want to bring on the
19 hunting season is kind of a question for the Council.
20 We've talked about this quite a few times before. We
21 have tended to switch everything as far as our reporting
22 requirements back to a 5-day reporting requirement on
23 the permit. Which just means when the people come in out
24 of the field, they have to make sure they send their
25 card in or text or call me, let me know what they got.
26 We have in the past always maintained 3-days on the on
27 the moose season because of that cow portion and needing
28 to know whether or not we were going to have to close
29 the cow portion of the season. So, just want to kind of
30 check in with the Council and see, you know, put it on
31 the record, that we're still good with maintaining that
32 3-day call-in requirement on the on the 1505 moose hunt,
33 so.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I'll put it on
36 the record. I'm good with 3.

37
38 MR. ESKELIN: Okay. Appreciate it. And
39 the only other thing I have is just kind of a nod to
40 both the Council and to Matt. This discussion of
41 declining fish populations, declining salmon
42 populations. I think we are getting to this point --
43 it's partially a professional opinion and a personal
44 opinion growing up on the Kenai. I think we're getting
45 to this point where we have to stop just looking at the
46 different appropriations, the different what's
47 harvesting, who's harvesting? And we need to start
48 getting down into the nuts and bolts of stream
49 temperature. And when our, you know, reds? When are fish
50 emerging from these redds? And is that timing changing?

1 Does that put them at an advantage or disadvantage? When
2 are they outmigrating? Some of these changes seem to be
3 too broad based to just look at trawlers and these other
4 things. I think there's some foundational things that
5 are that are probably going on as well. And I just
6 applaud you guys for thinking outside the box and wanting
7 to look at some of those data gaps. So, that's it and
8 take any questions.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Questions
11 for Todd?

12
13 (No response)

14
15 Good job, Todd. Keep it up. Yeah, we
16 definitely got to look at the bigger picture, so we
17 understand it. We got a kind of a collapse, but okay.
18 Judy, I'm going to step out for about 2 minutes.

19
20 (Pause)

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Just a little
23 adjustment to the proposed rule that that's going to be
24 a little bit later, but we're going to do the Wrangell-
25 St. Elias National Park. Ambler you could come up. I'm
26 going to just step out a minute. Judy's.....

27
28 MS. COHEN: Okay. For the record, this
29 is Amber Cohen cultural anthropologist and Acting
30 Subsistence Program Lead for Wrangell-St. Elias. I do
31 want to ask the Council, I do have 3 reports in 1 here.
32 I could try to do this within 10 minutes so we can break
33 for lunch before 1:00. I'm also wondering if the Council
34 would prefer to break for lunch early, and then do these
35 3 reports after the 1:00. Maybe I'll ask the current
36 Acting Chair.

37
38 MS. CAMINER: I don't dare make that
39 decision.

40
41 (Simultaneous speech)

42
43 MS. COHEN: Okay, perfect.

44
45 MS. CAMINER: So, I would say proceed
46 with your report.

47
48 MS. COHEN: I will proceed.

49
50

1 MS. CAMINER: We can consult with him
2 when he gets back.

3
4 MS. COHEN: Okay. Sounds good.

5
6 MS. CAMINER: He needs to leave by 1. So,
7 he probably wants to get as much done as possible.

8
9 MS. COHEN: Perfect. I will try my best.
10 So, Nissa put together a great handout of all of our
11 reports which are the subsistence and anthropology
12 report and then the fisheries report and then the
13 wildlife report. So, starting with our subsistence and
14 anthropology report, I wanted to highlight 2 different
15 projects. One that is still in progress and one that we
16 completed as Jacquie from the Division of Fish and Game,
17 Division of Subsistence have mentioned. So, for the Dall
18 sheep local knowledge interviews, we finished
19 interviewing 8 full-time or longtime hunters and we
20 wrote a summary report last year. We wrote a revision
21 to the summary report this year, and now we're just
22 waiting for another round of revision before we can give
23 it to the narrators and get their feedback. And
24 eventually, hopefully within this next upcoming year,
25 put that out for the public. That is our goal.

26
27 But very exciting that -- is that we did
28 get that technical paper published. And that was a
29 partnership between again, ADF&G and AITRC and the Park.
30 And we looked at 4 different communities in the
31 headwaters of the Copper River. So, that was
32 Chistochina, Mentasta Lake, Mentasta Pass and Slana and
33 Nabesna. And one of the things that we highlighted was
34 that, as we all probably know, wild resources continue
35 to be incredibly important for those communities. 93%
36 of households harvest those wild resources, and
37 basically about all of them use wild resources in 2022
38 and 2023. And those were the 2 study years. However, we
39 did document changes between the last survey years of
40 2009 and 2010. The overall per capita harvest declined
41 significantly in Mentasta Lake and Slana and Nabesna
42 Road, and resource substitutions between salmon and
43 moose appeared to account for a relatively stable per
44 capita harvest, in Mentasta Pass and Chistochina.
45 Residents in all of the communities share concerns about
46 accessing resources like salmon and large land mammals.
47 We do have some limited physical copies in our
48 headquarters in Copper Center and at the Slana Ranger
49 Station. We do have the report online. As Jacquie
50 mentioned, it is quite massive. It is 600 pages. It's a

1 pretty hefty file. And Nissa did post that in the chat
2 for anyone who is online too. And I really want to thank
3 again Jacquie Keating, Christian Woodard, David Hooper,
4 Jesse Coleman, Kerry Holinen for their work on the
5 technical paper, as well as Mary Lamb from the Division
6 of Subsistence. And to Dr. Barbara Cellarius for all the
7 guidance and input that she put into that paper. And to
8 the communities of Chistochina, Mentasta Lake, Mentasta
9 Pass, Slana and Nabesna for welcoming our research team
10 and providing valuable insights throughout our research.

11
12 On the next page, we have our hunt
13 updates. Usually in your winter meeting, I'll give you
14 actual harvest reports. We have really limited reports
15 in right now. For Unit 11 goat, we had 10 permits issued
16 this year. That hunt is open until the end of December.
17 The Unit 11 remainder. We had 136 permits issued so far.
18 I've had 15 harvest reports given back. And we've had 4
19 moose harvested currently. And hopefully we'll get some
20 more harvest reports back from that one. Our winter moose
21 hunt opens on November 20th and goes till January 20th.
22 And so far, we have 12 permits issued. Our elder sheep
23 hunt it goes until October 20th and it's -- 27 permits
24 issued on that one, 2 sheep harvested so far. For the
25 elder/junior sheep hunt, we had 1 permit issued. For
26 Unit 12 caribou, we've had 10 permits issued. That hunt
27 closes tomorrow. The Unit 12 elder sheep hunt, we had
28 10 permits issued. So far, no reported harvest. And there
29 were no permits issued on the elder/junior sheep hunt
30 for Unit 12.

31
32 And then on the back page, I just wanted
33 to highlight the Outer Coast Ethnographic Landscape
34 Study. We did an awesome talking circle in Yakutat back
35 in March. Where we brought knowledge bearers from
36 Cordova to Yakutat to talk about the landscape between
37 Cordova and Yakutat. And we're going to replicate that
38 same talking circle in Cordova on November 5th through
39 November 8th, coinciding with sobriety. So, we're really
40 excited. We're going to bring folks from Yakutat over
41 to Cordova, have those very similar landscape
42 discussions, and they will feed into the overall
43 ethnographic landscape study that we're working on
44 there. So, excited for that. I guess I'll pause any
45 questions on subsistence anthropology report before I
46 jump into fishing?

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Questions
49 before fishing?
50

1 (No response)

2

3 We're going to go fishing.

4

5 MS. COHEN: Okay. So, the fisheries
6 report where it starts on this page here. Just do the
7 summary of key updates. So, this report was written by
8 myself, and also Erin Drumm who is our seasonal fisheries
9 biologist. She onboarded in May and she hit the ground
10 running working on assisting with Tanada Creek Weir,
11 with AITRC, installing Long Lake weir with the Prince
12 William Sound Science Center, providing key updates as
13 we monitor the Copper River run this year and working
14 on a temperature monitoring program throughout Wrangell-
15 St. Elias. So, we're really happy to have her. She did
16 fantastic work. It was great to have that support on the
17 fisheries program.

18

19 Federal harvest opportunities remained
20 open throughout the 2026 season, and there were no
21 restrictions that were enacted by the Federal in-season
22 manager. For the Upper Copper River Federal subsistence
23 fishery permits, we issued 219 in the Chitina
24 Subdistrict, 291 in the Glennallen Subdistrict, and 4
25 in the Batzulnetas area. For both Chitina and
26 Glennallen, that's a little bit low in terms of our
27 permitting. That could have been due to, you know, a
28 delayed and perceived weak run. But it was a little --
29 we were kind of watching those numbers throughout the
30 season, and it was a little bit lower than we expected.
31 I did put the really -- emphasis on really preliminary
32 numbers for 2026 harvest reports on tables 1 through 4.
33 And I emphasize the word really preliminary here because
34 I only have 22% of harvest reports returned. They're due
35 on October 31st. So, we get them trickling in throughout
36 the whole season. I think overall, I've inputted about
37 190 reports. So, those numbers that you see,
38 particularly on table 1, they will probably go down.
39 Those are the expanded estimates. So, I just wanted to
40 emphasize that those are preliminary and they will
41 change.

42

43 For the Federal subsistence fishery in
44 the Lower Copper River. There were 192 permits issued
45 and an in-season total harvest of 1,417 sockeye salmon
46 and 18 chinook salmon. And I received harvest reports
47 through August 3rd from the Chugach National Forest and
48 it seemed that after that time there was no fishing that
49 occurred after August 3rd. And we just wanted to
50 highlight our partners at the Alaska Department of Fish

1 and Game, Native Village of Eyak, AITRC and other
2 stakeholders that help support Wrangell-St. Elias within
3 our delegation of authority for the Copper River and its
4 tributaries throughout this 2026 run. So, I will pause
5 here and see if there's any questions on fisheries.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Fishery
8 questions?

9
10 MS. EWAN: Yes.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Faye, go ahead.

13
14 MS. EWAN: How did these fish wheels.....

15
16 (Distortion)

17
18 were all of those Federal
19 subsistence qualified users that got the fishing permit
20 from you guys, from the region?

21
22 MS. COHEN: Through the Chair again,
23 Amber Cohen. Yes. For permits that you got from Wrangell-
24 St. Elias, those are only for federally qualified users.
25 So, again, we look at driver's licenses, and we look at
26 a secondary proof of physical address. So, that could
27 be a voter registration card, a utility bill. In some
28 cases, we do have federally qualified users vouch for
29 other federally qualified users, or we do allow staff
30 who particularly have a long time here in the area vouch
31 for a federally qualified user. But either way, we at
32 least need a 1 document that has an address on it. We
33 prefer to have 2 documents with an address in it.

34
35 MS. EWAN: And when these guys apply for
36 it and they use fish wheel, where do they get access to
37 the river? It's all Ahtna land, (indiscernible), all the
38 way from Batzulnetas almost to past Chitina. How do they
39 get access to these land to put their fish wheel in?

40
41 MS. COHEN: Through the Chair again,
42 Amber Cohen. I think that's a difficult question for me
43 to answer, Member Ewan. We registered 46 fish wheels at
44 the headquarters in Copper Center, and then we
45 registered another 8 fish wheels up in the Slana Ranger
46 Station. And people give us the locations of where
47 they're going to put their fish wheel, but it's up to
48 that fish wheel owner to actually have permission to put
49 their fish wheel there to have that access. The park
50 does not have the jurisdiction to enforce that part.

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MS. EWAN: When they do get their permit?
Are there other Federal users that use those fish wheels.
Are they from the Tok area? Where are these guys coming
from with this wheel up in Batzulnetas, right in Slana?

MS. COHEN: Through the Chair. We do have
folks who are up in Tok, and Tok is a qualified community
to harvest salmon in the Glennallen Subdistrict. And
some of them do have wheels that are not in the
Batzulnetas area, it's a little bit south and around
Slana. And they do have wheels there. The other folks
include like Slana residents have wheels there as well.
And generally, federally qualified users can be on other
federally qualified user's wheels. And they'll let us
know like, oh, I'm going to be on so and so's wheel and
yeah, and they do there are, they are eligible to do
that.

MS. EWAN: So, when the State of Alaska
says that there's low king numbers and your agencies,
they follow through with that? Or did you get, I mean,
I know they didn't close it. Because I know a lot of
people went down and said they got their wheel because
they were Federal users. But when the king is declining,
you know, and when the State says something, you know,
I think that the BLM should ask the people in the region,
you know, 5 kings is a lot of fish when you don't have
nothing. And you know, it really sad to me is that
there's no accurate numbers of who and what uses these
wheels. There's no patroller. No -- I don't see -- I run
around all over Copper River all summer long. I go from
Chitina, all the way to Mentasta, everywhere. I watch
what's going on. And then you see me out and about, that
means I'm checking, I got cameras, I got pictures of
everything that happens in our region. And I see
overabundance of fishing that should not be going on.
And I don't think those numbers are accurate because I
didn't see no fish. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Other
questions?

(No response)

MS. COHEN: Okay. We have one more
report, our wildlife report and that'll be the one that
has Kyle Cutting's name on it. He's the one who wrote
this one as our wildlife biologist. His contact
information right up there, if you have any hard-hitting

1 questions that I might not be able to answer. So,
2 starting with our Mentasta Caribou Herd Monitoring.
3 There was an estimated 280 adult caribou that were
4 observed during a population survey conducted this past
5 June. And we have a composition survey scheduled for
6 this fall. There are 37 GPS collars that are currently
7 deployed on Mentasta caribou. And we're -- throughout
8 this year and next year, we're working on a project that
9 analyzes data on these changing herd overlaps between
10 the Mentasta and Nelchina and the Chisana Caribou Herd
11 within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. And Table 1,
12 you can see the population parameters for the herd dating
13 back to 2017. For the Chisana Caribou Herd Monitoring,
14 there is a population survey scheduled again for this
15 fall in coordination with the Alaska Department of Fish
16 and Game and Environment Canada. This is an
17 international herd that we manage in cooperation with
18 Canada. The fall 2025 composition survey showed above
19 average calf to cow ratios and bull to cow ratios. So,
20 this did support a limited bulls-only subsistence hunt.
21 That's that FC1205 permit, of which I said we had 10
22 permits out on that one this year. There are 35 GPS
23 collars and 12 VHF collars that are currently deployed
24 on the Chisana Caribou Herd.

25
26 For moose monitoring, Kyle is nearly
27 done an analysis and an accompanying article. That
28 assesses how extreme snow events influence the spatial
29 and temporal patterns of moose distribution within
30 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. And then a moose
31 survey is also planned for this November, with results
32 in the spring. And we're at the park very excited for
33 that survey because it will help us with that delegation
34 of authority that we recently got in the last Federal
35 Subsistence Board meeting for Unit 11 moose. For Dall
36 sheep, this past summer in July, they completed sheep
37 surveys across a 5-million-acre amount of land within
38 Wrangell, including the southern Wrangell Mountains, the
39 University Range, St. Elias Range and the Chugach
40 Ranges. It's a massive amount of land. There was a total
41 of 143 10-mile transects that were flown by 3 aircraft
42 over 9 days. That totaled about 81 survey hours, and
43 1,250 individual sheep were classified by sex and age.
44 Those results will be available in the spring, hopefully
45 by your spring meeting in March. These park-wide sheep
46 surveys will inform whether an observed snow gradient
47 is influencing changes in sheep populations relative to
48 that 2010-2011 baseline period. And you can see Figure
49 1, is all of those different locations that they went
50 through this summer.

1
2 Of interest might be microplastic work
3 on the Malaspina Forelands. Kyle was really interested
4 in looking at plastic pollution levels and the impact
5 on the coastal areas of our park. And this past May they
6 captured shorebirds and looked at their tissues for
7 plastic contamination. They had 11 shorebirds across 3
8 species that were captured and 196 fecal samples from 6
9 species. And they're currently going through the process
10 of analyzing the pollutants in those samples. And then
11 finally, Kyle worked on a really massive looking at
12 dynamics between the bald eagles, bears and salmon
13 across the Copper River, Chitina River, and on the
14 Malaspina Forelands. So, they did about 400 miles of
15 rafting on the Copper River and the rivers combined and
16 25 miles of hiking to collect eagle and bear scat and
17 hair samples to look at diet analysis. This monitoring
18 is looking to quantify the diets of the region's 2
19 primary apex predators, bald eagles and bears. And
20 understand how they use shifting resources across
21 seasons that will then inform management decisions. And
22 also, during the summer, they deployed these small tarps
23 near 17 occupied eagles nests and 24 bear-hair sample
24 setups along the Copper and Chitina Rivers and on the
25 Malaspina Forelands, you can see a photo of one on the
26 Malaspina Forelands in the corner there. A total of 151
27 hair samples were collected, and they are currently
28 undergoing processing and analysis. So, hopefully
29 results will come in 2027. And that is our wildlife
30 report.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: What's
33 commendable too is these 25-mile hikes.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I mean, I could
36 do the 400 rafting. Okay. Any other questions?

37
38 (No response)

39
40 That's a great report. A lot of stuff.
41 Thank you, Amber.

42
43 MS. COHEN: Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Question
46 for the Council. We got some stuff to do, mostly reports.
47 I'm -- I can't guarantee how long it'll take, but we
48 probably could finish up in an hour. We could probably
49 go through lunch if you want, or we could take lunch and
50 come back and give it another shot here. We have to be

00070

1 back at 1 anyway for -- so, if we go through it to 1,
2 we're.....

3
4 MS. TOTEMOFF: Are there any other action
5 items that we need to take care of?

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No.

8
9 MS. TOTEMOFF: Okay. I say we lock in and
10 keep going. It doesn't matter. If you guys need a break,
11 then that's fine with me too.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, let's
14 take 5 minutes and let's keep going. See if we can finish
15 it up. Thank you.

16
17 (Off record)

18
19 (On record)

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I think
22 we're ready to go. So, I'm going to do this. Glennallen.
23 Is Caroline in the house? Oh, there you are. Yep. We're
24 going to jump to you, if you don't mind. Okay. Okay.
25 We're going to go ahead for the -- Caroline.

26
27 MS. KETRON: Yep. Hi, everyone. For the
28 record, I'm Caroline Ketron. I'm the anthropologist and
29 Federal Subsistence Coordinator at the Bureau of Land
30 Management Glennallen Field Office. And my report for
31 you all today is pretty preliminary since our season for
32 moose in Unit 13 has not yet concluded. And in general,
33 this time of year we're not quite finalized on our
34 numbers anyway, but I'll give you an overview of what
35 we've got so far.

36
37 As far as general reporting we continue
38 to work with Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission
39 community harvest system and receive regular updates
40 from them. They haven't gotten any harvests yet on that
41 system yet, but we'll see what this 10-day extension
42 brings us. We, again, issued a Federal moose and
43 designated hunter permits for Unit 13 for 3 days in
44 Delta Junction. And also, of course, out of our
45 Glennallen Field Office beginning in early July, hunters
46 still must get permits in person, demonstrate Alaska and
47 rural residency, and have a current Alaska hunting
48 license. We still issue the most Federal subsistence
49 permits of any Federal agency in Alaska. When the caribou
50 hunt was fully open, we issued 65%, but we're down to

1 24-25% of all permits in Alaska out of our office. So,
2 we're still edging out Wrangell-St. Elias National Park,
3 just barely.

4
5 We issued slightly fewer Unit 13 moose
6 permits than normal. The permit number I have for you
7 today is 775. It's pretty close to last year. Our final
8 number of permits for last year was 783. So, I think
9 with the caribou hunt close, that seems to be the kind
10 of just under 800 is the sort of stabilized number for
11 what we're issuing for moose permits for Unit 13. I did
12 want to thank the Office of Subsistence Management staff
13 on the record for helping us issue permits in Delta
14 Junction, and also in general for just database support
15 with our new database and public communication support.
16 It's been really great to have that this summer.

17
18 I -- it was not final as of the writing
19 of this report, but I did get some support to purchase
20 moose collars for fish and game use to just help with
21 moose monitoring and tracking in Unit 13. So, BLM
22 supporting that, and then I also got support to do winter
23 checks of caribou and moose populations. It's something
24 that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game typically
25 does. Just checking on the herd. It's kind of a
26 composition count. But I'll be able to participate in
27 that over the winter as weather allows. So, I'm happy
28 to be able to help out with that. And so far this year,
29 we've got 12 moose harvested, but I expect that number
30 to go up significantly as we send out reminders and as
31 the season concludes. As most of you know, we did have
32 a season extension go through for Unit 13 to extend the
33 season to September 30th for Federal users. So, I went
34 out myself last week. I didn't see a moose, but I had a
35 great and peaceful time out there. So, we'll see what
36 the harvest reports look like with that extension. And
37 maybe it gave some folks some more opportunity. And I'll
38 just add, based on the comments I heard from folks this
39 morning, that the BLM has not made a decision on a
40 Federal caribou hunt yet. We're going to consider
41 everyone's feedback and there's a consultation process
42 we would go through if we were to exercise our delegated
43 authority over that. So, we'll just -- yeah. We'll be
44 in conversations on that locally. And we do want to hear
45 everyone's concerns and please put it on the record if
46 you have things to say on that issue. So, that concludes
47 my report. Hopefully, I'll have final numbers for you
48 all in the spring.

49
50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Very
2 good. Judy has got a question for you.

3
4 MS. CAMINER: Thanks very much. And I
5 know I asked you this at the break, but I think it'd be
6 good for everybody to hear this. One of the very
7 controversial proposals that the last Federal
8 Subsistence Board meeting was closing one subunit to
9 non-Federally qualified subsistence users. And so, I
10 asked Caroline, "Well, how did that work? Did it make a
11 difference in the harvest?" And your answer was.....

12
13 MS. KETRON: I won't get too much into
14 the weeds because the regulatory side is not my area,
15 but the gist of it is, from my front desk view, is that
16 that closure that was passed by the Board in this past
17 April did not go into effect during this hunting season
18 in Unit 13. So, we're unable to assess whether or not
19 that was effective. But I can let someone else speak to
20 that if -- through the Chair.

21
22 MR. VICKERS: Brent Vickers, BLM.
23 Caroline gave the synopsis of it. If there was more
24 questions about why it wasn't put in this -- the closure
25 wasn't implemented this year, I could help more with
26 that. But the basics is what she said. It wasn't
27 implemented, so there's no way of assessing how
28 productive it was. Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. That's
31 what he said. Other questions? Diane.

32
33 MS. SELANOFF: So, looking at the permits
34 issued for both the caribou and the moose, I mean, a lot
35 of permits are issued, and the harvest isn't as extreme
36 as the permits issued, but how do you base your issuance
37 of permits? Because I don't see anywhere here where
38 there's an estimated population amount to base your
39 permits off of. So, how do you come up with that factor?

40
41 MS. KETRON: Through the Chair. That's a
42 really good question. In general, we work with the Alaska
43 Department of Fish and Game for population estimates.
44 And then they allocate a certain amount of their
45 estimated harvest to Federal. And so, for caribou, it -
46 - typically, in the past with, you know, when the herd
47 was meeting population objectives, I think they'd
48 allocate maybe 400-500 to -- I'd have to get a Fish and
49 Game person to speak to that, but they'd allocate a
50 certain amount for Federal -- for a Federal harvest. And

1 then, there was no limit on the amount of permits we
2 could issue. I think it was something where they would
3 watch and see. And, you know, if we -- if the Federal
4 user started to harvest more than average or something
5 where we needed to address that issue, we could, but
6 it's been stable over the years.

7
8 MS. SELANOFF: If -- it would be helpful,
9 I think for me, because this is all, you know, these are
10 our actual numbers that you have. If we could get the
11 actual number of the population that was reported so we
12 could just look at the comparison. Thank you.

13
14 MS. KETRON: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Through
15 the Chair. I believe I could get those data from the
16 Fish and Game because they -- I think they publish their
17 -- It's not always in the -- you know, as far as the
18 recent seasons, I don't know if I have access to that,
19 but there should be some historic data I could use to
20 include that in that line graph for you if that makes
21 sense. Yep.

22
23 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,
24 you said the closure was not implemented. Was that a
25 timing issue?

26
27 MR. VICKERS: Great question. This is
28 Brent Vickers, BLM. It was a timing issue. As you
29 probably have heard, the Federal rule, which would have
30 put into effect all the wildlife regulations that the
31 Board adopted last April, it has not been published yet.
32 And so those regulations -- all those regulations that
33 were passed and adopted in April, have not yet gone into
34 effect. There were some special action requests, one of
35 which was to implement this Unit 13 closure that was
36 made. However, because of the timing of when that was
37 made, which it was -- actually, the request was -- I'm
38 sure the proponent was waiting for the final rule to be
39 published. Like everyone, let's just get this going any
40 day now, the day -- next day. As soon as it publishes,
41 the next day, this will be implemented. They just go in
42 and it never published. So, they -- special action
43 request came in too late. And if we had it when -- it
44 came in very close to the end of the season -- of the
45 moose season. I can't remember the days exactly, but by
46 the time we received that special action request, there
47 would have been no way of notifying people already on
48 the land and enforcing a closure. So, just -- really,
49 it was -- it just was a practicality issue. And it would
50 have probably caused a lot of confusion to try to put in

1 a special action.....

2

3 (Simultaneous speech)

4

5 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you.....

6

7 MR. VICKERS: within days of the
8 closure. So, yeah.

9

10 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you. So, excuse my
11 ignorance. Can you explain to me the process of -- from
12 the Federal Subsistence Board passing a proposal. Can
13 you take over then how those proposals get implemented
14 into regulation? Can you...?

15

16 MR. VICKERS: I'm not the best person for
17 that. But as we all.....

18

19 (Simultaneous speech)

20

21 MS. TOTEMOFF: Well, if anybody.....

22

23 MR. VICKERS: If someone else in this
24 room who knows more about the process of -- oh, there
25 he is.

26

27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I can tell you
28 the process too, but I'll let him talk.

29

30 MS. TOTEMOFF: Sure. Thank you.

31

32 MR. KOLLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Through the Chair, Justin Koller, again. Office of
34 Subsistence Management. I'm the regulation specialist
35 for Office of Subsistence Management. Once the Board
36 business has concluded at the regulatory meeting, we
37 draft a final rule based on their decisions, and that
38 final rule goes through a number of reviews all the way
39 up to the Secretary's Office, Secretary of Agriculture,
40 and the Secretary of the Interior. Those reviews take a
41 lot of time. And, you know, we get edits back and we
42 have to make those edits to make sure we're capturing
43 exactly what the Board did in a way that's digestible
44 for the public and so forth. And we get that rule
45 published. Now, it's easier said than done. It takes a
46 lot of time. And there are many, you know, reasons that
47 it was delayed this year. And usually, we like to publish
48 those on the wildlife cycle before the regulatory year
49 starts, which is July 1st.

50

1 MS. TOTEMOFF: Can you tell me those
2 reasons for the record?

3
4 MR. KOLLER: Well, so we have -- you'll
5 hear this many, many times. We're severely short on
6 staff. So, we got -- we had delays in getting started
7 even writing the rule after the Board meeting. And then,
8 when we sent those off for review, everybody short on
9 staff. So, those reviews take a lot more time. They were
10 reviewed at a higher level for longer. I don't know
11 what, you know, I can't speak to what they were
12 reviewing, or how long it took, or who got a chance to
13 review that. So, we just didn't get.....

14
15 (Simultaneous speech)

16
17 MS. TOTEMOFF: You're talking about the
18 offices?

19
20 MR. KOLLER: we just didn't get the
21 -- I'm sorry.

22
23 MS. TOTEMOFF: You're talking about the
24 Secretary's offices, correct?

25
26 MR. KOLLER: Yep. It goes up to the
27 Secretary's office, and it gets reviewed pretty
28 extensively. And we wait to get those reviews back. And
29 that just takes some time.

30
31 MS. TOTEMOFF: And they make the final -
32 - I don't mean to interrupt you, I -- so, please excuse
33 me. I'm just trying to understand the system. So, then
34 they make the final ruling based off of the Federal
35 Subsistence Board recommendation? So, they don't even
36 have to follow it?

37
38 MR. KOLLER: So, the Secretaries do have
39 the final say in the Board decisions. But they are just
40 reviewing the content, you know, to make sure it's
41 capturing the Board's intent. Now, if they flag
42 something that they want to take a closer look at, they
43 do have the authority to do that. The final say.

44
45 MS. TOTEMOFF: And this was just purely
46 because of staffing shortages, not necessarily an issue
47 with the content?

48
49 MR. KOLLER: It was primarily due to
50 staffing shortages. Yeah. I'm not sure discussions that

1 were had. We're usually not privy to the discussions at
2 the department level about whether they're looking at
3 specific regulations or not.

4
5 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
6 is just very concerning to me because this is affecting
7 and because if there's a delay this season, we don't
8 talk about it for another couple of seasons. Will it be
9 implemented by next season?

10
11 MR. KOLLER: Through the Chair. I don't
12 like to estimate when, but we do expect sometime this
13 fall for this to publish and go into effect fully. Now
14 our regulations -- from the '24 to 2026 wildlife
15 regulations are still in place. They never go away. They
16 never stop. Right? So, those are always going to remain
17 in place, while or until these are published in the
18 Federal Register. But I would -- to answer your question.
19 Yes, they will be in effect before next season.

20
21 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you. And so, I guess
22 just to wrap up real quick, Faye. I guess that's kind
23 of ringing a red flag for me. I think that's very
24 concerning that a regulation that was passed and this
25 was a long time ago. And I know -- I understand some of
26 these reviews take a long time, but then when you think
27 about the shortages of these very, very short seasons
28 and the huge impact that they can have on those
29 populations, we made those closures based off of
30 observations that were very important. And those were
31 very heated discussions that we had in this room. And
32 so, it's very frustrating that we went through that
33 entire process through both this Council and at the
34 Federal Subsistence Board, that they did not follow that
35 within a timely manner. So, I don't know if there's
36 anywhere in your Annual Report that you can actually
37 include that topic under the topics that we had already
38 discussed in terms of communication and processes. So,
39 hopefully we can have that included in our Annual Report.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we could
42 do that, Angela. I could tell you horror stories about
43 getting things published, but yeah, it's a bad, bad deal.
44 But thank you. Hey, Faye. Go ahead.

45
46 MS. EWAN: As I understand, as a Federal
47 Subsistence Chair, I see this letter, it says, "Reject
48 wildlife emergency special action." When I asked about
49 it, they said, "Yeah, it's open." So, we got our permit
50 to go out and look for this 10-day extension. To me, my

1 concern is my 8 Tribes didn't get no moose. And this
2 special action here could've help our people out. And
3 you guys got 60 days to review and to register it in
4 your Federal Subsistence Board. This was last -- I think
5 this was in Cordova when we discussed this. It was Nick
6 Jackson promote -- promoted this proposal. And according
7 to what I understand, it was opened, and it was legal,
8 but I'm not going to tell you if I went hunting or
9 nothing. Because if I did, that's illegal. Because this
10 -- I don't know, I'm confused between what was open. And
11 then you guys say now it's closed, and there's people
12 out there hunting right now on the Federal land. Because
13 I just came back from Paxson and Valdez. I checked out
14 the Federal -- there's people hunting there. And if it's
15 illegal, is that going to be a Federal or State offense?
16 You know, that to me, it concerns me because it's my
17 people that's hunting. And I'm very concerned about the
18 rules and regulations, you know. It take you guys one
19 year to put this in the book to process it. It was done
20 last year. And, you know, we thought it was a push --
21 it was going through. And I'm very disappointed to hear
22 what you guys just said in your report, because our
23 people really had high hopes that they had extended 10
24 days so they can get food in their home. They got kids
25 to feed and elders to feed. And it hurts us in our
26 potlatch ways, in different ceremonial ways. So, put
27 that in the book when you guys write your book and say
28 what -- see what the tribes have to say. This is really
29 a concern to me. I didn't get a moose this year. And I'm
30 very hurt because that's how I feed people, not only my
31 family. I don't put it in my freezer, I share it, I give
32 it to everyone. Thank you.

33
34 MR. VICKERS: Through the Chair. This is
35 Brent Vickers, BLM. Thank you for that. It's hard for -
36 - heartfelt comments there. So, for clarification, in
37 April, there was two proposals that were adopted by the
38 Board concerning Unit 13 moose. The first I just spoke
39 about was for a closure to non-Federally qualified
40 subsistence users to be implemented from -- during the
41 State sports season, which is September 1st to September
42 20th. That didn't get implemented. And as I explained
43 before, we -- even a special action request was rejected
44 because it was just received too late. It was days before
45 the 20th. But for the second proposal was for an
46 extension for Federally qualified subsistence users for
47 an additional 10 days. So, to be able to hunt on BLM or
48 Federal lands from September 20th to 30th. While that
49 regulation was also not implemented, there was also a
50 special action request specifically for that. And

1 because that's a lot easier for us to message later in
2 the game, we were able to adopt that special action
3 request in time. And so, we -- even though it's -- I
4 think the messaging was put out days before, I think the
5 subsistence users were able to call the field office and
6 BLM. And that was actually on the permit to call them
7 to see if this extension was going to be implemented.
8 And as far as we know, there are still people hunting
9 today because the Federal season was -- is still going
10 to be open. It is open this season until the 30th. So,
11 and I also wanted to say that even though we don't --
12 earlier question, we're not going to be able to see how
13 productive that closure was. We are luckily going to be
14 able to see how many -- if we have a boost in the number
15 of moose harvested by Federally qualified users because
16 of that 10-day extension.

17
18 MS. PILCHER: I did want to bring the
19 Council's attention to, under the next agenda topic,
20 which is Additional Business. There is a special action
21 request update. The two different special action that
22 Mr. Vickers was just speaking to WSA26-10, which
23 concerns Unit 11 and 13, which is the one that passed.
24 That news release is included in your supplemental
25 materials under Tab 8. The one that he spoke to that did
26 not pass WSA26-12, that is a handout that's in your
27 manila folder. Again, due to the very close nature to
28 this meeting that it happened, it was not able by --
29 yeah, it was very much not able to meet the subsistence
30 or the supplemental materials deadline. Mr. Ubelaker is
31 going to speak to both of these later on in the meeting
32 as well.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We just did.

35
36 MS. PILCHER: Well, he's off the hook
37 now.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We finished
40 that up for you, Brian. Very much.

41
42 MR. VICKERS: This is Brent Vickers, BLM.
43 I just wanted to add, I am trying to get BLM Native
44 Liaison Donna Bach, said that should be able to provide
45 a BLM update on the D-1 land withdrawals. After 1:00,
46 sometime, she'll be available. So, if you'd like, then
47 I can try to get her. I could -- yeah. She's that much
48 better than me. She's been through the process much more
49 than I have. So, she said she will be able to do that.
50 I'll just also note that Ms. Linnell gave -- already

1 gave a very substantial update, but we'll be -- Donna
2 will just give you a rundown from a BLM perspective.
3 Thank you.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. If we're
6 here. Thank you.

7
8 (Pause)

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We made all the
11 laws. Yes. Go ahead.

12
13 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Chair, members of the
14 Council. My name is Greg Risdahl. I'm the Subsistence
15 Program Lead for the Forest Service and Interagency
16 Staff Committee member. I apologize, Mr. Shaun McKinney,
17 He's the Acting Forest Supervisor, and he ended up having
18 to go to Cordova. I didn't know his schedule. Actually,
19 I didn't even know he was going to be here. So, he handed
20 this to me. And I'll just give you a very brief
21 background on the 2001 Roadless Rule and where it stands
22 today. So, that Roadless Rule, you guys -- the -- it
23 hasn't really affected the Chugach National Forest much.
24 So, I'll begin with that. But it is a national rule that
25 affected about 58.5 million acres all across the nation
26 with -- including both the Tongass and the Chugach. The
27 Chugach does have Wilderness Study Area here. The Nellie
28 Juan Study Area. Most of you guys know about that.
29 Anyway, so, what -- basically, what the Roadless Rule
30 was implemented for was to prohibit road construction,
31 timber cutting, sale, removal, etc. Those sorts of
32 things as needed to reserve the outstanding rights,
33 public health, safety, catastrophic events, etc., for
34 those natural areas. The Roadless Rule has been subject
35 to extensive and complex litigation since it was first
36 promulgated, and it was enjoined and reinstated on
37 multiple occasions. So, keep that in mind. It is kind
38 of come and gone.

39
40 Basically, the last big things that
41 happened was during the first Trump administration. The
42 entire Roadless Rule was rescinded. When the Biden
43 administration came back on board, following that, it
44 was re-implemented. Now, we're back on the second Trump
45 administration and it is being rescinded again. So,
46 we're in a proposed rules situation to have the entire
47 Roadless Rule rescinded. So, it is affected the Tongass
48 National Forest quite extensively. And their Council,
49 Southeast Council, spent a tremendous amount of time
50 working to give their views of that process. In fact, I

1 remember reviewing and editing their 28-page letter. So,
2 they're very actively involved in this Roadless Rule
3 situation. Something else that happened during the first
4 Trump administration was we held a 60-day public comment
5 period and did 18 subsistence hearings during that time.
6 Over almost 200 people, there were -- 196 people
7 commented during those 18 public hearings. And
8 virtually, all of those comments were against rescinding
9 the Roadless Rule because they protect important
10 resources that affect subsistence users. So, that was
11 really what that mostly came to pass. So, where we are
12 now is they're looking at rescinding the Roadless Rule
13 again and they're taking public comment on it. They're
14 -- in fact, I just -- I believe you guys have a copy of
15 it back here. They're holding more subsistence hearings
16 today, tomorrow, and October 1. And looks like maybe
17 there's another one happening later in October as well.
18 To take public comment on the rescension of the proposed
19 2021 -- rescinding of the Roadless Rule.

20
21 So, I guess as far as this forest goes,
22 the Roadless Rule is -- Nellie Juan is really hard to
23 get to, right? And much of the Tongass National Forest
24 old growth is also very hard to get to now. They've
25 pretty much harvested almost all of it through, what?
26 The late 1970s? What's left is probably -- there's no
27 roads to it, basically. So, it's really hard to get to.
28 And the cost to do that could be very, very high. But
29 like this forest here, there are some roads down on the
30 Kenai and even out of Cordova that could access some
31 areas. And I do know that the Forest Service is currently
32 looking at some of those areas to see if there is
33 basically merchantable timber for that. And we're
34 looking for comments from folks, especially the
35 Councils, to give some testimony about what they feel
36 related to the Roadless Rule and the rescinding of it.
37 So, that's a very short summary of what's happening right
38 now. And if you have any questions, I'd be happy to
39 answer them, or we can talk about it.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You did good.
42 You studied it good. That was well. I wonder if we're
43 going to go the other way in a short order, but we'll
44 see. On the Kenai, where you're talking about Chugach
45 National Forest, there is where you're concerned it
46 might use some old roads or...?

47
48 MR. RISDAHL: Yeah. So, currently, there
49 -- you know, I guess the Forest Service -- the chief was
50 here last week. Our new chief, Thomas Schultz, and he

1 did kind of a review and survey of some of the different
2 areas on the Kenai, looking around to see what's -- what
3 the forest looks like. He's by training and his career
4 was in forest harvest management, sales, that sort of
5 thing. So, he knows forests well, but he was asking,
6 "Well, like, what do the people think? Are these forests
7 -- what are they useful for?" Well, it's -- the Kenai
8 is primarily recreational, right? Subsistence hunting,
9 sport hunting, bicycling, hiking, right? We all know
10 that. And really, the areas that are accessible are
11 heavily used by the public, right? It's a -- it's
12 probably the most heavily used place on the whole -- in
13 the whole State of Alaska. So, I'm not sure, but I don't
14 believe that there's going to be a real push to do much
15 harvesting down on the Kenai, on the Chugach National
16 Forest. Number one, there's just simply not a lot down
17 there from the standpoint of merchantable timber. So,
18 that's kind of where it stands. I know the chief was
19 looking at areas trying to get some ideas about what
20 people thought and we don't know where it'll end up, of
21 course.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, good.
24 That answers my question. Thanks. Judy.

25
26 MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Greg. I'm sure this
27 is an unanswerable question, as in like, when would you
28 expect a decision to come out?

29
30 MR. RISDAHL: Well, no, they do have --
31 an estimated date would be the late 2026. And we're
32 getting into that. Yeah. That's when the decision, you
33 know, a lot of things are kind of happening before the
34 mid-term elections. And who knows what will happen once
35 that takes place. I mean, anything could happen.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well,
38 thank you very much.

39
40 MR. RISDAHL: You bet. You're welcome.

41
42 (Pause)

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Is Andrew on for
45 the Chugach National Forest update?

46
47 MR. SANDERS: Yeah, here I am.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Good,
50 good. Here we are, too. You go right ahead.

1
2 MR. SANDERS: Okay. Let's see. So, you
3 guys have a report in front of you. I'll just run through
4 that with some updates since all this stuff was due for
5 the book. So, got a staff list for you and nothing's
6 changed there. Still have a vacant position on the Kenai,
7 so I don't have any personnel over there right now. We
8 did two special actions this year. So, the first one was
9 Unit 7 caribou. Restricted that to bulls only. Kind of
10 a weird situation with that one. There's definitely a
11 conservation concern there, and the State's been issuing
12 five bull tags each year for the last couple of years
13 in a drawing, and we have a quota of five. But until
14 recently, the Seward District Ranger didn't have any
15 delegated authority there. So, you know, when there's
16 60 caribou left in the herd, we're really concerned about
17 the potential of 10 caribou being taken. So, you know,
18 part of that there is working with the State to discuss
19 what is the right number of tags. And then, we felt that
20 something needed to happen. So, the forest reached out
21 to the Board to start talking about a special action.
22 And they came back to us with a delegation of authority
23 for the Seward District Ranger. You know, it was really
24 not her obligation necessarily at that point to step in
25 but we felt that something needed to happen. So, we
26 started reaching out. And then, we will be having a
27 hearing next week about potentially continuing that
28 closure on cows until the end of the season. So, right
29 now that expires October 8th because we did it under an
30 emergency special action. And those are limited to 60
31 days.

32
33 The other special action is another kind
34 of interesting situation that I'd like to bring to the
35 attention of the Council. You may want to do something
36 -- consider doing something on this in the future too.
37 So, we have -- ever since the Dall sheep hunt in Unit 7
38 started, we have had a permit requirement that said the
39 Cooper Landing closed area would be closed in this hunt.
40 And it was brought to our attention that we couldn't put
41 that in the permit conditions. And through, you know, a
42 -- the -- just the strange ways that things happen and
43 fall through the cracks, the Cooper Landing closed area
44 was never closed under Federal regulation. So, without
45 the special action or some kind of other intervention,
46 then the Cooper Landing closed area would be open to
47 goat and sheep hunting, potentially under Federal rules.
48 This area has been closed to mountain ungulate hunting
49 since before Alaska was a State. And it's a very small
50 area. It -- there's a lot of people in there. It's a

1 very accessible. There are not a lot of animals. It's
2 just a very sensitive area, and I think if it were to
3 be open to hunting, that's something that we wouldn't
4 want to happen until there's been a lot of discussion
5 and research done on what exactly that would do to the
6 animals in that area. So, it might be something worth
7 considering putting into regulation in the future, but
8 certainly something to discuss going forward.
9

10 We have a number of cost share
11 agreements that are ongoing and that we're trying to get
12 spun up. So, we've had a cost share agreement with ADF&G
13 for years, and years, and years and that's still going.
14 It's very successful and it's just been really -- it's
15 really fruitful to combine our efforts instead of trying
16 to do everything twice, once on the State side and once
17 on the Federal side. And so, it just makes everything a
18 little bit easier and saves everyone a lot of time and
19 money. Very, very successful. We have another cost share
20 agreement with CRRC. You guys heard about some of that
21 earlier from the CRRC folks, especially the moose
22 research that's happening in Kings Bay. Really
23 appreciate all the great work that they have done over
24 there and especially Rick flying those surveys. They're
25 doing a great work. We also are participating in a new
26 cost share analysis or cost share agreement with Native
27 Village of Eyak. So, the Cordova Ranger District
28 Fisheries Department is the lead on that. But the
29 Subsistence Program is also a partner on that,
30 especially with monitoring the salmon returns to the 18
31 Mile Creek system. Small little system that drains into
32 Alaganik, but is very important to subsistence users and
33 is seeing a lot more sport harvest lately. So, really
34 like to know what exactly is going on in there.
35

36 Then, we're working on getting started
37 with a new interagency agreement with the Kenai National
38 Wildlife Refuge. So, we heard earlier this morning or
39 maybe yesterday, about -- from, I believe, Andy
40 McLaughlin, about cross jurisdictional work. And this
41 is a really great cross boundary project that we have
42 going on with the Refuge to study what's going on with
43 the Dall sheep, especially those Dall sheep in the Round
44 Mountain area that were affected by the Swan Lake fire.
45 They moved back and forth between the Refuge and the
46 forest, so neither agency would be able to really get
47 the full picture trying to do it alone. Just a really
48 cool project. Unfortunately, between weather and folks
49 going down to the Lower 48 to help fight all the
50 wildfires down there and availability of aircraft and

1 pilots, we were not able to fly very much this year, so
2 we had to push a lot of the surveys. We hope to get done
3 this year to next year, but we're almost done collecting
4 a lot of baseline data that is going to allow us to get
5 into more of a 3-to-5-year return holding pattern. And,
6 you know, ultimately, this might be able to inform some,
7 you know, vegetation management, controlled fire, other
8 kinds of habitat work that we can do to help promote the
9 Dall sheep population there.

10
11 I'll get into some harvest stuff now.
12 So, the Unit 6C moose season is going on right now, and
13 so far, we haven't gotten too many harvest reports back
14 yet, but it just really started feeling like fall about
15 a week ago. So, you know, people finally decided they
16 were done silver fishing, and it felt like time to go
17 hunting, I think. And we've had six bulls and six cows
18 harvested so far as of yesterday. Let's see. We received
19 826 applications for 44 permits.

20
21 The deer season is going on. You know,
22 doe season starts on Thursday, so a lot of people wait
23 until they can shoot a doe to go hunting for deer. The
24 deer pellet data and just anecdotal data, looks like the
25 last couple mild low snow winters have really had a
26 positive effect on the deer. I think it really made it
27 a little bit harder to go hunting, also. The deer stayed
28 higher. The snow line was up high. They weren't down on
29 the beach. So, between being a little bit less accessible
30 and having an easier time of it in the depths of winter,
31 we've seen that population really bounce back. And I
32 think that because of the way this data lags, I'm excited
33 to see what we see next year, unless this hunting season
34 is just gangbusters and people manage to knock them down
35 a peg. You know, just out doing the surveys, we found
36 more sheds than I think in all the other years I've done
37 surveys combined. We had days where we would go do pellet
38 surveys and find two, three, four sheds. My technician
39 went to go check our game cameras yesterday and found
40 four sheds. So, we've seen a lot of deer. It's just very
41 encouraging to see the deer numbers recovering out in
42 the sound.

43
44 Black bear is going on. Not a lot of
45 subsistence black bear harvest. It seems like the sport
46 harvest has kind of cooled off a little bit too. 2022
47 and 2023, people were getting really excited about it
48 and kind of moved a little bit back to the back burner.
49 The Unit 6C mountain goat hunt is currently going on.
50 We've issued one permit. That guy went out and got him

1 a goat the very next day. So, super successful, but a
2 little bit lower number of permits than usual. I don't
3 know if (distortion) tick up a little bit as we get into
4 the fall.

5
6 Salmon numbers. I don't have harvest
7 data for you yet. We haven't really issued a lot of
8 permits since I first wrote this update. It was a really
9 great year on the Lower Copper River. So, I think you
10 guys heard about that already from Wrangell-St. Elias.
11 They managed the harvest data for that. But you know, I
12 guess I say that, but really there was a lot of effort
13 this year. People spent a lot of time fishing. There
14 were very few commercial openers on the flats. And so,
15 a lot of people who would have been out commercial
16 fishing and getting home pack, were dip netting. And so,
17 I think people had to work a little bit harder to get
18 their fish this year, but they had a lot of time to do
19 that. And we saw a lot more people just out the road in
20 Cordova doing all sorts of stuff, really. And then also,
21 I ran into a guy a couple weeks ago who was dip netting
22 for silvers, which I've never heard of that before. And
23 he reported a harvest of two silvers. So, I don't know
24 if you got any more than that afterwards, but that's
25 interesting to see that people are able to dip net
26 silvers out there and do so successfully. So, I don't
27 know if we'll be seeing more of that in the future, but
28 just a little evolution of the dip net fishery.

29
30 Over on the Kenai side of things, you
31 know, loads of public meetings over in Hope, Cooper
32 Landing, and Moose Pass. A lot of gratitude to Fish and
33 Wildlife Service for holding those fish permit meetings.
34 As long as we don't have any staff in Moose Pass, I just
35 can't be over there all year to handle all of these
36 things and in Cordova to handle all the stuff there at
37 the same time. I just can't be in both places at once.
38 But we did get over there in the fall to do the hunt
39 meetings. And I do appreciate all the time when I get
40 to have face time with the subsistence users and interact
41 with those folks. And I really appreciate the Cooper
42 Landing Community Club, and the Bear Creek Lodge, and
43 the Moose Pass Sportsman's Club for letting us have those
44 events there and serve the users.

45
46 The Dall sheep hunt just ended. The
47 person with the permit went and hunted, and it sounded
48 like they hunted pretty hard, but they did not harvest
49 a sheep. I already mentioned the collaboration we've
50 been doing with the Refuge and that great stuff. We also

1 started doing a recruitment monitoring project for the
2 Crescent Lake subunit a few years ago and again, just
3 the time of year when that happens is around the same
4 time that we're doing deer pellets and have a lot of
5 stuff going on here in Cordova, and we haven't been able
6 to do that since that position was vacated.

7
8 The Unit 7 moose season is going on
9 right now. We've issued 62 permits this year. So far, 4
10 people have reported harvest. One of those moose was a
11 -- over 50-inch antlers. The other was just under 50 but
12 had three brow tines. And the other two, the folks called
13 and left a voicemail to let me know they harvested, but
14 I haven't gotten their actual harvest reports back yet,
15 so I don't know if they got a spike, or a fork, or 50-
16 inch or what. So, we are already doing better than we
17 did last year. You all may recall that the Council
18 supported in the Board passed a late season for Unit 7
19 moose. That is caught up in the regulations not being
20 put into effect yet, as was just discussed a little
21 earlier. So, a lot of users are calling and asking about
22 that. And I guess the only option there is for the Board
23 to do a special action. I don't know if that's something
24 that the Council would want to request. The Seward
25 District Ranger does not have delegated authority to
26 open that season herself. So, it's something that would
27 need to come from the Board.

28
29 The caribou season is also going on. I
30 just mentioned we'll be having a public hearing next
31 week to discuss extending the closure on cows. We issued
32 27 permits this year. So far, we've had one successful
33 harvest. I have not heard from the State how many Caribou
34 were harvested in the State hunt. Although, I have
35 reached out to them and asked for that information. The
36 Unit 7 mountain goat harvest is also still going on. One
37 person so far has reported that they were successful,
38 and the other two hunters are still out there, as far
39 as I know. So, that's doing a little bit better than
40 last year as well.

41
42 I mentioned the public meetings that
43 Fish and Wildlife Service held to issue salmon permits
44 to the folks in the rural communities on the Forest
45 Service, part of the Kenai. 118 permits were issued to
46 those folks, and that's down from 181. Seemed like a lot
47 of folks were restricted for not submitting their
48 permits. Again, I'll leave that to the Fish and Wildlife
49 Service. Just another little update that online harvest
50 reporting is still not back since 2024, and that has

1 been making a little bit more difficult to get harvest
2 reports from folks. And then, we will be here having a
3 public hearing on Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. at the
4 Loussac library in Anchorage to answer questions and
5 receive testimony about the Roadless Rule. And I think
6 that's everything I've got there in all my little update
7 notes. So, I'm happy to take questions at this point if
8 anybody's got any.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Andrew.
11 Thank you. That wasn't a little bit, that was a lot.
12 That covered a lot of things. Thank you. Questions for
13 him, anyone?

14
15 MR. HOLSTEN: Mr. Chair, this is.....

16
17 (Simultaneous speech)

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Go ahead,
20 Ed.

21
22 MR. HOLSTEN: Ed Holsten. Yeah.
23 Andrew, thank you so much for that report. This is Ed
24 Holsten, Cooper Landing. Just a little feedback. I was
25 really happy to hear the Forest Service expressing a
26 concern -- a conservation concern for caribou. I've
27 heard this same concern from, I'd like to say the
28 majority of users in Cooper Landing, Moose Pass, et
29 cetera, et cetera. I know you probably can't answer this
30 because -- what -- why do you think, or do you have a
31 feeling why ADF&G is continuing with Unit 7 caribou when
32 populations from hundreds -- in previous years hundreds,
33 are down to 60? People have told me in the community,
34 "I don't understand why this hunt is being allowed when
35 a population is basically a conservation concern issue."
36 Now, you probably can't answer for ADF&G, but do you
37 have a feeling for that, Andrew?

38
39 MR. SANDERS: Thanks, Ed. That's a really
40 great question. And unfortunately, yeah, I just don't
41 feel comfortable speaking for ADF&G. So, the best I can
42 do is speculate, and I just don't think that has a place
43 here, so.

44
45 MR. HOLSTEN: Okay. Well, maybe over a
46 beer.

47
48 MR. SANDERS: Maybe over a beer.

49
50 MR. HOLSTEN: Thanks so much.....

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(Simultaneous speech)

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

MR. HOLSTEN: It was a great, great presentation, Andrew. Right? Thank you.....

MR. SANDERS: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We're going to get to that beer. We got to get going. Thank you. Okay. We had that 1:00. Okay. Move on ahead.

MS. PILCHER: All right. Well, thank you very much, Andrew. Moving on. The next person -- it was a time-certain for 1 p.m. for Dr. Elizabeth Bella to give an update on the proposed rule. She is attending virtually, and I'm going to get your guys' -- or your presentation up and running and then on Teams. All right?

DR. BELLA: All right. Sounds great. Thank you. And just a sound check, making sure you can hear me.

MS. PILCHER: Sure can.

DR. BELLA: Awesome. All right. Whenever you're ready. And I will go ahead and get started. It's a very short presentation with time for questions after.

MS. PILCHER: We should be ready to go.

DR. BELLA: All right. Wonderful. I'll just go ahead and get started. I'm Dr. Elizabeth Bella. I work for the National Park Service. I'm currently the Acting Deputy Regional Director. And in my day job, I'm sometimes an Acting Regional Director for resources. And in my job before that, I was a planning and compliance lead with a background in ecology, biology, forestry, that type of thing. So, that's me. And this is my fourth round -- or this is the National Park Service's fourth round in revising this rule, although this particular rulemaking also involves other rules outside of what we used to shorthand as the Wildlife Rule. So, the title -- I'll draw your attention first of all to the title of it. So, this update is on a proposed National Park Service rule. Alaska is always kind of in the title, just so it's easy to recognize when it's listed on the Federal Register and other listings. And the expanded

1 title, which is more accurate to the content of what the
2 proposed rule talks about is Wildlife Harvest and
3 Access. And that RIN number is the internal identifier
4 that goes -- is attached to this rule making all the way
5 through the process as it goes through our regulatory
6 upgrades and public notices. So, it doesn't mean
7 anything particular. It's just -- the RIN is how we
8 refer to it. We can go on to the next slide next.

9
10 So, this is kind of hot off the press.
11 So, this is what I am able to share. The final rule has
12 not been signed. It's still in the process of being
13 reviewed at the highest levels. It has to go through the
14 Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, also known
15 as OIRA. And then it goes back to the Department of the
16 Interior. And then it gets a review period before it's
17 signed, typically by the Assistant Secretary for Fish
18 and Wildlife and Parks. This one has been on the docket
19 as something that's of interest to the Secretary of the
20 Interior, as mandated by an Executive Order through a
21 Secretarial Order. But I'm not going to get into all
22 that today. What I would like to share with you today
23 is the timeline. So, back in March -- and we're focusing
24 specifically on changes from the proposed rule to what
25 you will see in the final rule once it is signed and
26 published on the Federal Register. In March, that
27 proposed rule was published for public comment. That
28 public comment period went for 46 days. There was a 15-
29 day comment period extension that was added in direct
30 response to a number of comments that requested that
31 extension. That was heard loud and clear. And so, the
32 Department of the Interior authorized an extension for
33 an additional 15 days past the original 30-day comment
34 period. So, essentially, it was a total of 46 days in
35 which the proposed rule was available to submit public
36 comments on.

37
38 So, the premise of that proposed rule
39 that was published for public comment on March 10th,
40 2026, was -- it was described as a restoration of Alaska-
41 specific regulatory framework that governed park areas
42 before rules that were passed in 2015, 2017, and 2024.
43 And two of those had to do specifically with prior
44 iterations of the Wildlife Rule and various hunting
45 regulations. And one of them had to do with subsistence
46 collections, also known as the Horns and Antlers Rule.
47 So, this proposed rule addressed all three of those
48 rulemakings. And the idea was that it would turn the
49 regulatory landscape, the specific text in the Code of
50 Federal Regulations, back to what it looked like in 2014,

1 before these three other rules were passed. So, that's
2 all the history you'll get. That's -- in a couple
3 sentences because we have -- I know time is limited
4 today, so we'll just keep moving on.

5
6 So, just a couple notes on the number
7 of comments received. There were 5,172 individual or
8 unique comments received. And so, unique comment is just
9 one that's considered a full submission. There were
10 submissions from organizations that represented over
11 48,000 signatories, and of those unique submissions,
12 which each had a contained submission point, about 2,000
13 of them were considered form letters. They were
14 identical. They might have been signed by different
15 people, but they were from one entity kind of sending
16 those. But those 5,172 unique submissions, the team
17 reviewed every single one of -- every comment received
18 and read through it. Consultation during this whole
19 process, public comment period, the proposed rule is out
20 for public comment, and before and beyond that, the
21 process of formal consultation with the State of Alaska
22 and with Alaska Native Tribes and with ANCSA Corporation
23 has been ongoing, and that will continue. The
24 consultation period is considered open until the time
25 at which the rule is signed and final. So, that's an
26 iterative continuing process. And I'll talk a little bit
27 more about that, I think further down. What we expect
28 to see is the final rule publication sometime this fall.
29 That's as granular as I can get. I know in prior
30 meetings, it was mentioned that the end of September was
31 a target date. It may be a little later than that, but
32 we do expect it to be signed sometime this fall and
33 probably in not too long a time period. All right. Let's
34 go on to the next slide.

35
36 So, I did want to talk to you about, and
37 I think this is important. This is the concerns that
38 were expressed in those 5,172 comments, each of which
39 was reviewed. So, we saw comments that expressed both
40 support and opposition to the proposed actions that were
41 listed in that proposed rule that was published on March
42 10th. The big one was clarity and many commenters, they
43 expressed concern that the text was hard to read, that
44 it was very long, and it wasn't clear, and that was
45 definitely taken to heart. I will share that many of us
46 internally struggled to understand and follow through a
47 13-page rule. So, comments were heard loud and clear,
48 both from the public comment period and during the
49 process of consultation with the State and our Tribal
50 entities to make it more clear and easier to read and

1 make it -- make better logical sense and flow. So, that
2 was a big one. There were also comments on the process.
3 The request for an extension of the comment period, which
4 the Department of Interior decided to extend the comment
5 period based on those comments and the feedback that was
6 being received. And they expressed the need for
7 meaningful participation, local rural residents that
8 wanted part of the management decision-making process.

9
10 Wildlife. There were comments on
11 proposed changes to the bear baiting provisions.
12 Concerns related to public safety, the potential
13 ecological impacts, and also ethical considerations were
14 mentioned in the comments. Some expressed support for
15 live collection of (indiscernible) on national
16 preserves. Subsistence comments were also very common,
17 and there were quite a few of those. Some of the language
18 was not clear in the rule, going back to the clarity
19 piece. There were comments about potential competition
20 for subsistence resources in our Alaska national
21 preserves under some of the proposed rulemaking sections
22 and expressed the desire to protect ANILCA subsistence
23 priority. There were also concerns about local --
24 localized safety and access concerns. And so, in
25 considering these, it doesn't necessarily mean that they
26 directly related to what the rule was proposing. It just
27 means that's what people understood, and felt, and
28 reacted, and wanted to comment on. There were also
29 comments on, "Who's in charge? What's the authorities?
30 What's the relationship?" And some of these, along with
31 the subsistence, were what we would consider to be
32 outside the scope of what was actually being proposed.
33 But it's always informative to hear the full spectrum
34 of what the public and what our consultant partners have
35 to say about the rule. And it definitely informs being
36 able to prepare, respond, and rewrite. Excuse me. All
37 right. I think we can go on to the next slide now.

38
39 All right. So, this slide is called
40 Responses and Changes. Back to -- we are listening to
41 what was said. And that's part of the process of writing
42 a rule, as well as preparing an environmental
43 assessment. More on that in a bit, too. So, complete
44 technical edit to make it easier to read. And as I
45 mentioned already, on the first slide, we talked about
46 how the title was changed to address the broader spectrum
47 in the more expanded scope, not just addressing the
48 Wildlife Rule in its prior iterations but also talking
49 about the Subsistence Rule as well for the Horns and
50 Antler Rule. And the public comment period extension,

1 we talked about that already. And definitely kind of a
2 push by NPS to help DOI connect with all the interested
3 entities through meetings, calls, really letting the
4 entities that are interested in consulting or talking
5 with us lead in terms of meeting them, either attending
6 meetings of their choosing, meeting at their places,
7 sending an updated set of consultation invitation
8 letters to the Tribal entities and ANCSA corporations.
9 That was very clear about what the expanded proposed
10 action included.

11
12 Wildlife comments were considered, so
13 they did inform making some text edits for clarity. And
14 then subsistence, I'm not going to read all of those
15 because it gets pretty technical, but some comments on
16 the definitions led to like, "Well, maybe we really don't
17 need to make those changes." So, this was a great example
18 of direct input on specific comments led to not actually
19 making the change that was proposed in the proposed rule.
20 So, the final rule text takes that into account. And so,
21 it's not the specific changes. And I think, personally
22 reading through it, I think it reads much better than
23 the original proposed changes as they looked on March
24 10th, based on what we'll actually see in the final
25 rule. So, your comments mattered. They were heard and
26 they were appreciated.

27
28 And then some other pieces there just
29 to make it very clear in the text, the final rule does
30 not -- will not, as it's not published yet, alter Federal
31 Subsistence Priority and ANILCA, and the retention of
32 the Federal Subsistence Board consultation for
33 subsistence closures. So, that's another one where it
34 probably wasn't as clear as it needed to be in the
35 proposed rule text back in March. But the final rule,
36 based on comments and feedback, it will be clear. And
37 then as far as authorities, response and change, again,
38 the comments were useful in making the text edits that
39 needed to happen to make the rule -- final rule much
40 more clear. All right. We can go on to the next slide.

41
42 So, I wanted to talk more about
43 consultation. I know we've said that word a lot in this
44 presentation. And we've talked about how we received
45 verbal and written comments during the public comment
46 period, as well as during the consultation process with
47 the State and with the Tribal entities. They were
48 considered in developing the environmental assessment,
49 which is the document written under NEPA, as well as in
50 revising that proposed rule. And there are some stats

1 on what the process looked like. And this will also be
2 in the text of the environmental assessment. And we have
3 a whole slide on that coming up. So, the invitation went
4 out to 113 Tribes and ANCSA corporations. That's the
5 total number of entities that were invited to formally
6 consult as part of Tribal consultation. So, that initial
7 letter went out way back in April 2025, when the scope
8 was very narrow. It only talked about bear baiting and
9 trapping language. And then the updated invitation
10 letter was sent in April, following that publication for
11 public comment in March to all of the same entities. And
12 that reflected that expanded scope, addressing three
13 rules instead of just the very narrow one that was in
14 the initial 2025 endeavor. NPS did our best to follow
15 these letters with calls and emails, kept track. We
16 really relied on our local practitioners and our on-the-
17 ground folks that work with our Tribal entities day-by-
18 day, week-by-week, side-by-side, to really try to meet
19 with all of the entities that wanted to meet, attending
20 meetings, all of that. And that was the way -- like,
21 just really letting the Tribal entities lead to meet in
22 the format and the venue of their choosing, as part of
23 our trust responsibilities.

24
25 State consultation. It was a steady
26 dialogue with the State of Alaska. And that was
27 consistent with the direction we received, again, from
28 that same entity that does the rulemaking approvals,
29 final updates, and go time that OIRA, Office of -- I
30 always forget. I said it earlier in this presentation.
31 Anyway, you can Google OIRA. I don't want to screw it
32 up now. So anyway, that follows the direction that OIRA
33 provided to the Department of the Interior to keep
34 consulting with the State. And generally, the NPS and
35 DOI does keep in touch regularly with most of our State
36 colleagues in different divisions, and so that'll -- is
37 still proceeding consultation with the Tribal entities
38 and with the State. As I mentioned, it continues until
39 the rule is final and signed.

40
41 Iterative process. And then there's some
42 notes on some other consultation type activities, just
43 different presentations connecting at -- of these
44 meetings, other meetings. And I know there's a whole
45 bunch more coming up this fall. So, this will be the
46 messaging that I'm able to share at upcoming meetings
47 to not necessarily me, but someone from the Park Service.
48 I don't even know if I'm the most qualified person to
49 be talking about this, but I have spent a lot of time
50 with this rule. But there's a lot of folks in NPS and

1 DOI that worked on this rule very closely and over a
2 long period of time. And DOI also, I just wanted to
3 mention, met with the Alaska Federation of Natives they
4 asked to meet. And so, that was done by the Department
5 of the Interior. All right. We can move on to that next
6 slide.

7
8 All right. Compliance. My favorite
9 thing. My happy place is NEPA. I know we'll get questions
10 on this, so I'll do my best to answer or talk about what
11 I know so far. So, the NPS has prepared an environmental
12 assessment under NEPA as well as an ANILCA Section 810
13 analysis. The purpose of these documents following the
14 law NEPA and ANILCA, is to analyze the impacts of the
15 proposed rulemaking. And so, this is standard stuff.
16 Environmental assessments or other levels of NEPA are
17 undertaken, if there's a proposed action that might
18 impact park resources. And this has been done. This is,
19 like I said, four rounds of the Wildlife Rule,
20 specifically, and then the other Subsistence Collections
21 Rule. So, all of them have an EA associated with them.
22 And so, this just follows with that. And that was what
23 the determination was. It's an environmental assessment
24 level rather than an environmental impact statement or
25 a categorical exclusion. So, it slots into the
26 appropriate category of environmental assessment. So,
27 when it is complete and the Finding of No Significant
28 Impact is signed, that's the decision document that will
29 be published in the PEPC system. And that will happen
30 at the same time as the final rule publication in the
31 Federal Register. So again, stay tuned. It'll be
32 available for public review at that time, for public
33 notification. There are -- there were questions along
34 the way of -- when will the EA be released for us to
35 look at? And the answer is it will be released upon
36 release of the final rule. There is no requirement that
37 an EA-level NEPA analysis be released for public review.
38 That's EIS-level. And so, in this case, the Department
39 of Interior determined that the EA, as a process that
40 would unfold in tandem with the development of that final
41 rule, would happen at the same time. And so, in this
42 instance, for this project -- and it's not uncommon.
43 It's fairly common to develop the EA as a final
44 rulemaking is progressing. So, that's the route we took,
45 is that there was no real impetus or push to write an
46 EA, a preliminary, or an early -- or a draft EA in this
47 case. So, it'll just be a final -- an EA. It's not even
48 called a final EA. The EA will be released upon release
49 of that final rule. So, the issues that were identified
50 that needed analysis under NEPA in the EA are listed

1 there. They came out as public safety, wildlife, Federal
2 subsistence, public use and experience of kind of
3 recreational uses, and other types of use. And then the
4 ANILCA Section 810 analysis is included as an appendix.
5 It's a standalone analysis document. It's included in
6 the EA as an appendix to that EA. And here you can see
7 the preliminary conclusions. They're not final until the
8 EA is -- the FONSI is signed. All right. Yeah. We can
9 go on to the next one. Thanks.

10
11 I think this is just about the last
12 slide. So, this is the roundup of things that happened
13 in the proposed rule to the final rule. So, it allows
14 bear baiting under applicable State and Federal law. It
15 restores the pre-2024 definition of trapping. And the
16 questions on that are like, "Oh, won't this -- will this
17 have public safety effects?" And the net effect is the
18 State -- we will follow the State regs, which are totally
19 fine. They clearly demarcate when a firearm can be used
20 for humane dispatch of a trapped animal. And we won't
21 get that granular in this talk, but that's essentially
22 what happens. And then allowing live (indiscernible)
23 collection under State and Federal permits. Subsistence.
24 You can read the specifics there. It removes that permit
25 requirement for collection of animal parts for
26 handicrafts, specifically. It removes the NPS specific
27 restrictions on bear baiting, and then it reinstates
28 references to State laws for subsistence uses. A big
29 push to do this rulemaking in the first place was the
30 idea that we want to move towards aligning State and
31 Federal regulations so that they're closer. And so, a
32 lot of these were done to meet that direction.

33
34 Public process. And you can just read
35 those real quick here. Reinstates fixed limits for
36 emergency and temporary closures. That allowance has
37 always been there. But it just takes us back to what the
38 language looked like in the Code of Federal Regulations
39 in 2014, not what the additional rulemaking since that
40 time had added or changed some of the language. So, it's
41 not a huge change. It just does take us back to that
42 2014 regulatory language landscape. And then express
43 requirements for local hearings. The way that notices
44 are let out and the consultation process surrounding
45 that. And then reinstating defined procedures for
46 different types of closures that -- these always
47 existed. All of this. But it does -- again, the idea was
48 bring it back to what it looked like in 2014. And I
49 think that's it. We can go on to the next slide. See if
50 I forgot anything. Oh, the questions! All right. So, I

1 will stop talking. I know that was a lot in a fast amount
2 of time. And caveat, this is pretty much all I can share
3 at this point until that final rule comes out. But I
4 will do my best to answer questions if you have any, and
5 I'll try to listen up and respond here.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We're
8 open to questions. Judy, you will start out.

9
10 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Hi,
11 this is Judy Caminer from the Southcentral Council.
12 We'll have a couple more comments and then questions for
13 you. My understanding is that the final rule did clear
14 OIRA September 21. So, it sounds like maybe we'll be
15 seeing the next version relatively soon based on that
16 date. I hope you've seen the comments from the
17 Southcentral Council, and particularly your last slide,
18 I think talked about aligning with the State as much as
19 possible. That's not necessarily something this Council
20 agreed with. Again, having to continue the subsistence
21 priority is something very important to us. And then,
22 did the SRCs have an opportunity to comment? Because the
23 regs came out before their meetings. I don't know if
24 there was any additional opportunity. I'm wondering if
25 you did receive any comments from SRCs.

26
27 DR. BELLA: Yeah. So, the questions I
28 heard, did SRCs have a chance to comment? And did we
29 receive any comments? And the answer is yes. The public
30 comment period was open and announced, and I'll own that
31 -- I'm not saying it went the way it should have, but
32 I'll own that the rollout was a little uneven, and that
33 there wasn't necessarily the direct connection with SRCs
34 that there should have been in advance. But I do know -
35 - my understanding with Sarah Taylor, she made an effort
36 to connect with each of the SRCs individually as a
37 department representative. I'm only NPS, an agency under
38 DOI. So, my understanding was, DOI really was taking the
39 lead on communicating out as appropriate to SRCs. And
40 as far as receiving written comments, the NPS did receive
41 written SRC comments.

42
43 MS. CAMINER: Okay. Thank you. And I
44 guess -- I mean, I heard your rationale for not taking
45 public comments on the environmental assessment or the
46 very important 810 analysis, but Park Service did allow
47 comments on those documents in 2014, and '18, and '23.
48 And I think it's unfortunate that you're not looking for
49 those comments now.

00097

1 DR. BELLA: Yeah. Understood.

2

3 (Pause)

4

5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Other
6 questions?

7

8 (No response)

9

10 Well, thank you very much for your
11 presentation. And I don't hear any other questions from
12 the Council. So, we'll go ahead and press on. Thank you.

13

14 DR. BELLA: Yeah. Thank you for the
15 opportunity to speak.

16

17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you much.
18 Just for the Council's note, I'm going to -- I have to
19 head out, but we're going to do the D-1 lands here.
20 She's trying to get me to do one more thing before I
21 leave.

22

23 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa Pilcher, for
24 the record. I did -- before you leave, I did want the
25 Council -- Angela brought up to add to the Annual Report
26 the delay in publishing of the Federal Register -- was
27 at adverse upper -- it adversely affected subsistence
28 users and subsistence needs. So, I was hoping the Council
29 -- that is a -- an action item. So, I'd like you guys
30 to take action to add that to the Annual Report. And
31 then, that's all I wanted.

32

33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I thought we
34 took action.

35

36 MS. PILCHER: We took action. But then
37 that was brought up later. I would be fine with -- if
38 everyone is in concurrence of adding that on.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Is everyone in
41 concurrence of adding that?

42

43 IN UNISON: Yes.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yes. There you
46 go. Unanimous.

47

48 MS. PILCHER: All right.

49

50 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

1

2

MS. PILCHER: Thank you.

3

4

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Anyway, now for my speech. I've got other commitments. So, I'm going to head out. But Judy's going to finish up the meeting here. Sorry, I'm leaving a little early. I thought we'd be complete by now, but it was a very good meeting. A lot of information. Very informative as usual. A lot of pressing items that I'm very concerned about, as we all are. And so, I want to thank all the efforts from the staff, and all the presenters, and all the OSM, and everyone else, and all the agencies. It's a lot of hard work goes into all this and a lot of stuff. So, Judy, you're in capable hands. Try not to keep them all night. And I apologize for my early departure, but I got to get on the road. So, thank you guys. What?

18

19

(Pause)

20

21

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

22

23

24

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Angela.

25

26

MS. CAMINER: Go ahead, Angela.

27

28

MS. TOTEMOFF: Sneak attack.

29

30

MS. CAMINER: Huh...?

31

32

(Simultaneous speech)

33

34

35

36

37

38

MS. TOTEMOFF: Came in from the phone line. Before you go, Mr. Chair, I just want to thank you for your leadership. I appreciate your guidance on this Board and look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

39

40

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Me too. And we'll be in Cordova. We're going to do fishing.

41

42

MS. TOTEMOFF: Looking forward to it.

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Angela, likewise. You're very, very good at additional info for that RAC and you keep us on track, I appreciate that. You know, our goal is to have priority for the subsistence users. And we got a long-ways to go, but we're getting there.

1 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Thank you.
2 Safe travels. We have BLM on the line, Donna, to tell
3 us a little bit about D-1 lands and how the process
4 might affect the subsistence users. Go ahead.

5
6 MS. BACH: Hi. Thank you, Madam Chair,
7 and departing, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the opportunity.
8 For those who don't know me, my name is Donna Bach. I
9 am a program analyst and a Native Liaison based in the
10 Anchorage State Office here in the Federal Building
11 downtown. I -- just for folks that may not be familiar
12 I'm happy to just afford a brief update. I know Brent
13 Vickers is there as our liaison for our State Director
14 Kevin Pendergast, regarding the ANCSA 17(d)(1)s. The
15 Anchorage District Office has been spearheaded, and I've
16 been delegated the task to afford follow-up
17 consultations regarding the determination of NEPA
18 adequacy as it pertains to what has -- what was
19 explicitly communicated in Executive Order 14153 issued
20 by the current administration in 2024 [sic]. My
21 understanding of the D-1 withdrawals were put in place
22 for a specific purpose over 50 years ago to allow for a
23 brief period of study and classification to help
24 facilitate land entitlement selection of ANCSA
25 Corporation entities. And that purpose has long since
26 been satisfied. We know that our 940 Alaska ANCSA Land
27 Transfer Team here works diligently in facilitating full
28 entitlements from interim conveyances. And we also, as
29 an agency, have to uphold per the Alaska Statehood Act
30 remaining entitlement for the State of Alaska and their
31 105 million acres that, essentially, they were promised
32 at statehood.

33
34 For folks who aren't tracking or
35 familiar, withdrawals are -- were not and never intended
36 as protections. But they were put in place for an
37 administrative purpose. And that is why majority of
38 withdrawals have already been lifted statewide under the
39 direction, and through multiple consultations we've had
40 out of the Anchorage District Office. I believe we've
41 had over -- nearly 30 consultations with Tribal and
42 corporation entities to afford the history and
43 background. If all the withdrawals were lifted tomorrow,
44 we attempt to clarify that subsistence would still
45 remain a priority under ANILCA. For folks -- regarding
46 the 28 million acres that were studied under the EIS,
47 approximately 16 million of those acres are already open
48 for mineral leasing. However, any protected --
49 protections proposed would still continue to have a
50 robust process afforded through consultation and as

1 guided by each resource management plan. The one
2 exception with the direction moving forward under this
3 administration is to proceed with Alternative D. And
4 with that administrative action, there's roughly 800,000
5 acres broken across the 28 million acres that are
6 afforded as State top filings, which would become
7 selections that would remove subsistence priority as
8 defined under ANILCA.

9
10 We understand in Alaska, land is
11 involved. It's highly mixed and fragmented, and it's not
12 one large contiguous area. So, with that being said the
13 Executive Order 14153 has directed BLM to reinstate the
14 5 PLOs originally issued in January of 2021. And much
15 of the analyzed landscape is already open to multiple
16 use opportunities. If you do a deep dive into the final
17 EIS, which I can put in the chat, if folks have more
18 time this weekend to jump into that analysis. Under
19 Reasonable and Foreseeable Scenarios, approximately,
20 23,000 acres are on lands that have a higher likelihood
21 of development. Public motorized access will not see
22 broad changes. Existing travel rules and land ownership
23 will remain in place. And existing protections for
24 cultural, environmental, and historic resources will
25 continue to apply on BLM managed lands.

26
27 The revocation of the withdrawals does
28 increase lands available to the State for conveyance
29 under the Statehood Act, as they work to fulfill their
30 remaining 3.8-million-acre entitlement. And that number
31 has certainly changed as a result of the administrative
32 action regarding PLO 5150, and the State of Alaska has
33 administered more notifications through the Department
34 of Natural Resources and its public comment phases on
35 its efforts of relinquishment, which essentially could
36 be a net benefit for ANILCA Title VIII subsistence users.

37
38 I'm happy to sort of share my screen,
39 if the time affords, to do a little more of a deep dive
40 into the live ArcGIS Web Mapper. Let me queue this up.
41 This is a public-facing web mapper that is attached to
42 the ANCSA 17(d)(1) FEIS. And this is what we have used
43 to share in our consultations with interested parties.
44 I can zoom in a little more into the Southcentral Region.
45 So, folks can actually see the outline of the F -- the
46 EIS area, and essentially everything you see in purple
47 are considered the D-1 withdrawal lands. We did add a
48 new web layer that can show the game management units.
49 So, you can see the GMUs within the footprint of the
50 Southcentral RAC. You are able to sort of toggle on and

1 off these layers that helps designate subsistence lands.
2 So, if you look where I'm clicking Federal subsistence
3 lands, you'll notice that anything in the green, the
4 Park Service lands, or the BLM-managed lands are
5 distinguished by polka dots. And I'm going to toggle off
6 and on the Alternative D, which is the proposed action,
7 so that you can see where the footprint of that is. But
8 I think -- what I want folks to pay more closer attention
9 to is this lime green areas that you will see south of
10 Paxson, northwest of Gulkana, south and north of
11 Mentasta Lake, as well as south of Cantwell. Those are
12 the priority top-filings that would attach with the
13 anticipated record of decision that would become
14 selections. So, I'm just going to toggle off and on.
15 Those lime green areas, for folks that are familiar and
16 understanding that. And I will toggle off Alternative
17 D. You can see, as well, the priority rankings on this,
18 if you zoom in -- I'm just going to -- it makes it
19 certainly more busy, but if you zoom in in greater
20 detail, you can see -- I'm just going to go near
21 Cantwell. You can see numbers that are attached to sort
22 of those priority ranking areas once you zoom in. And
23 so, the -- these were number two selections. You can see
24 threes, twos. And I believe the areas that are surrounded
25 by brown outlines are ANCSA top filing and selections.
26 Are there -- I'll pause there. Because I've been talking
27 for about ten minutes, and I'd like to afford -- if
28 there's any points of clarification or areas of the map
29 that folks would like to see in greater detail.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Thank you,
32 Donna. Questions from the RAC? Michael.

33
34 MR. OPHEIM: Just a question. Can you
35 share that link with Nissa? So, she might be able to
36 share it with the rest of the RAC members.

37
38 MS. BACH: Absolutely. I will queue that
39 up.

40
41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: And this is
42 Judy. I think it would be helpful -- well, a few zooms
43 back where you had kind of the general picture of what
44 the possible selections could be that would most affect
45 subsistence areas. If you can screenshot that and get
46 that to Nissa, that would be helpful to us also.

47
48 MS. BACH: Yeah, I will attach an actual
49 map. There's a way to -- on the top area of this live
50 web mapper, you can print certain selections. And I've

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1 already taken the -- I'm going to try to see how I can
2 attach a file, but I can share that with Nissa. I do
3 have a printed -- or maybe if Brent -- I don't know if
4 he has his computer. If he can copy and paste that PDF
5 that I'd shared. For some reason, I'm not able to attach.

6

7 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: That would
8 be fine. It doesn't have to be this minute.

9

10 MS. BACH: Okay.

11

12 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: But just so
13 we have it for our reference, it would be very helpful.
14 And.....

15

16 (Simultaneous speech)

17

18 MS. BACH: And one thing I -- oh, sorry.

19

20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Go ahead.

21

22 MS. BACH: One thing I'm going to also
23 put in the link here is the State of Alaska DNR has a
24 story map as well about it proceeding on its
25 relinquishment processes. And there may be, you know,
26 more notifications and updates about essentially the
27 priority threes and fours of lands that they are
28 essentially taking off the table. And when I say taking
29 off the table, that means that could essentially afford
30 more parcels and acres of lands that would fall into
31 Title VIII federally qualified subsistence uses.

32

33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Thanks.
34 Thanks. Yes, we would appreciate having that website or
35 reference as well. And thank you very much for kind of
36 on the spot taking the time to do this for us. Because
37 it's come up a few times in conversation. It's good for
38 us to understand it a little bit better.

39

40 MS. BACH: Are you still seeing the web
41 mapper screens on your.....

42

43 (Simultaneous speech)

44

45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Yes, we are.

46

47 MS. BACH: Okay, okay.

48

49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Okay. Well,
50 thank you so much, Donna. And I think we have Office of

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1 Subsistence Management next. Sure. Faye has a question
2 for you, Donna, if you're still on.

3

4 MS. EWAN: My question is.....

5

6 (Simultaneous speech)

7

8 MS. BACH: Yes.

9

10 MS. EWAN: The State of Alaska being in
11 a State situation for 67 years, and they finally want
12 to attack the land that we hunt, and fish, and trapped
13 on for centuries before they even became a State. I
14 think there is some kind of loop here that's really
15 promoting mining, and industry, and rural conglomerate
16 corporations are pushing this agenda to take away this
17 land from us. We're the last of the frontier. And I
18 think BLM need to stand up for our tribes and our people
19 in the area that hunt and fish up there. And also, this
20 is a threat to my livelihood. And I think that the BLM,
21 and BIA, and all of these Federal agencies should have
22 had a Tribal consultation with us and which land is
23 selected. Because the corporation still has over 2
24 million acres that hasn't been conveyed to them either.
25 We should have had first selection, then the State of
26 Alaska had a selection. I don't agree with this agenda,
27 and I think you need to tell the people that you work
28 for that. You know, this is unfair to us for development,
29 to take away my food off my table for development, to
30 make another company, rural conglomerate corporation
31 rich. And here, at the same time, all of our food is
32 declining. There's something wrong with this Agency and
33 the State of Alaska to do this. Thank you.

34

35 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Kirk.

36

37 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I have a comment on
38 this too. It's kind of funny that we put in this
39 regulation and it -- pretty much, what we changed last
40 year didn't get published. So, it doesn't work this year.
41 And now the State of Alaska is going to go ahead and
42 take all that land away from the people we got. So
43 basically, we're -- it looks like we're getting side
44 washed.

45

46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Any other
47 comments? Sorry?

48

49 MS. BACH: If I can respond -- and I thank
50 you, Ms. Ewan and the gentleman. We are continuing to

1 work with tribes and corporations on reviewing, in more
2 detail, those areas. I know that our State Director is,
3 you know, in communication with a lot of the east Alaska
4 RMP stakeholders. Ahtna -- our Glennallen Field Office,
5 Jake Masterfield has been in more detailed consultations
6 to essentially look at parcels of land with the Ahtna
7 Region people to, essentially, deliberate and prioritize
8 areas that may be within the jurisdiction of our State
9 Director to consider for -- in his conversations with
10 Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum, to consider
11 demoting for the very reason Ms. Ewan stated. We also
12 are aware that, you know, the State has been in
13 tremendous chronic over-selection of its top filings.
14 And I know that our State Director is really proud of
15 the State finally moving forward and considering
16 relinquishments, which, you know, could truly benefit
17 ANILCA Title VIII users. So, those comments are
18 appreciated, and I thank you.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Thanks,
21 Donna. So, we'll go to the Office of Subsistence
22 Management presentation now.

23
24 MR. KOLLER: Thank you, Madam Chair.
25 Members of the Council, this is Justin Koller, again,
26 with the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm just
27 going to give you a quick summary of what's happened
28 with OSM and the Federal Subsistence Management Program
29 since the winter of 2026 meeting cycle ended, as well
30 as just a quick preview of upcoming events. I'll start
31 with the wildlife regulatory cycle. The Board met last
32 April, as you know, for the wildlife regulatory meeting.
33 The final rule for that meeting, for the 2026-2028
34 Wildlife Harvest Regulations has not published in the
35 Federal Register, and until that time that it publishes,
36 the current Federal subsistence regulations remain in
37 effect. Those are the 2024 to 2026 regulations published
38 on our website and in the CFR -- excuse me. And those
39 reflect the Board decisions from that previous cycle.

40
41 But there are some temporary regulation
42 changes via special actions and could be in the near
43 future. So, before -- we just want to remind people
44 before heading out into the field that they check the
45 special action list on our website, call the local land
46 management offices if you'd like, or contact OSM to make
47 sure you're aware of all the regulations. And of course,
48 you know, there are many, you know, reasons that the
49 rule is delayed, you know, staffing shortages and the
50 reviews at the departmental level, once again, evolve

1 in different administrations. And this year, they happen
2 to be taking a lot longer. The Office of Information and
3 Regulatory Affairs, that OIRA, which is an offshoot of
4 Office of Management and Budget, has reviewed this rule
5 as well. So, we apologize for the delay, and we
6 acknowledge the Council's frustration, not just this
7 Council, that these weren't published and don't reflect
8 the hard work of the Council's last cycle.

9
10 Next up is the Secretarial Review. So,
11 the Secretarial Review is ongoing. And while there are
12 no major developments to report at this time, Kara
13 Moriarty is the Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the
14 Interior for Alaska Affairs. And she has still noted
15 that all comments that were submitted earlier this year
16 are still being reviewed, and no decisions have been
17 made on whether the review will result in any program
18 changes at all. So also, as a reminder, any Tribe can
19 request a consultation on this topic at any time by
20 contacting Kara Moriarty.

21
22 Summer Work Session of the Board. So,
23 the Board met in Anchorage in August for its summer work
24 session. And during that work session, the Board
25 approved the replies to the Council's Annual Reports.
26 This was the second year when all Council Chairs or
27 representatives were invited to attend and discuss
28 Annual Report topics in person with the Board, and most
29 Councils took advantage of this opportunity. The Board
30 members, Council representatives, and OSM staff
31 benefited greatly from these direct interactions, and
32 OSM hopes to make Council representative attendance a
33 regular part of the Board's Annual Report review
34 process, as we discussed earlier. The Board also
35 discussed during that work session the Annual Report
36 reply process, received a report out from the Council
37 Chairs on their salmon -- Alaska Salmon Crisis Workshop,
38 reviewed Council and Board correspondence, approved
39 Wildlife Special Action request WSA26-04 that was
40 regarding winter moose hunt in Unit 24A. They approved
41 a delegation of authority letter for Unit 7 caribou that
42 Andrew talked about a little bit earlier, and they also
43 approved a Wildlife Special Action 26-08, and that was
44 to implement a Board action approved at their April
45 meeting regarding Unit 8 fall antlerless moose hunting.
46 They also had an executive session, and during that
47 session, the Board developed recommendations to the
48 Secretaries on Council member nominate -- or excuse me,
49 appointments.

1 Next up is the fisheries regulatory
2 cycle, which we're in right now. Of course, we received
3 11 fisheries proposals, and we have 10 fisheries closure
4 reviews to review this cycle. And Tribal consultation
5 opportunities on these proposals and closure reviews
6 occurred on August 18th. And there's also additional
7 Tribal consultation occurring after the fall Council
8 meetings on November 10th. The Board will meet in
9 Anchorage February 1st to the 5th of 2027 to act on
10 fisheries regulatory proposals and closure reviews that
11 are under review this cycle, and the Board's also going
12 to consider three deferred wildlife proposals, also.
13 That's the 26-01, which you'll hear about in a little
14 bit later from Brian Ubelaker. That's the delegation of
15 authority letter proposal. And then the other ones are
16 20, 22, 77 and two other Wildlife Special Actions 01 and
17 05.

18
19 As a reminder, public testimony provided
20 to the Council on regulatory proposals does not go
21 directly to the Board. For those who want to provide
22 testimony to the Board, the Board receives those
23 comments and testimonies on regulatory proposals when
24 they come up on the agenda at the Board meeting. Public
25 testimony on non-agenda items will be allowed for one
26 day only, the morning of Wednesday, February 3rd. Now
27 this is a departure from previous years. So, please help
28 us spread the word. So, once again, that's Wednesday,
29 February 3rd in the a.m. will be the only time for public
30 comment on non-agenda items to the Board. Another
31 opportunity for Tribal consultation will take place
32 immediately preceding the Board meeting on February 1st,
33 with virtual and in-person options available, and those
34 reminders will go out from our Native Liaison Orville
35 Lind.

36
37 Council applications and nominations.
38 So, the Board's recommendations on the Council member
39 appointments that they made at their summer work session
40 are being reviewed by the Office of the Secretary of the
41 Interior, and it is expected that these next set of
42 appointments will be issued this December. Although, the
43 official call for Council membership applications is not
44 currently open, if you know anybody who is interested
45 in applying to the Council or would like to nominate
46 somebody to serve on the Council, the applications and
47 nominations can be submitted at any time throughout the
48 year to your Council Coordinator or somebody at OSM, but
49 -- and we'll keep those until the next appointment cycle
50 starts.

1
2 Lastly, I just have a staffing update
3 at OSM. I mentioned this earlier. We have many vacancies
4 that remain at OSM. And several staffing changes have
5 occurred. Glenn Westdahl was the Executive Secretary.
6 He retired in April. Kristen Morrow, our Pathways
7 anthropologist intern, recently completed her Ph.D. in
8 Anthropology and Integrative Conservation and was
9 successfully converted to a permanent cultural
10 anthropologist with OSM. Grace Cochon was lateraled into
11 a Council coordinator position for the Northwest Arctic
12 Region. We have Christopher Paulson, formerly of Fish
13 and Wildlife Refuge, is also lateraling into a financial
14 specialist position with OSM, and we are extremely
15 grateful to have them all on Board permanently with OSM.
16 We have one loss is Brent Vickers. He's the former OSM
17 Anthropology Division Supervisor. And he's lateraling
18 over to the BLM as their subsistence coordinator and ISC
19 member. So, we're sorry to see him leave OSM, but we're
20 happy to have him remain with the program.

21
22 So, speaking of vacancies, we just
23 wanted to take a moment to let the Council know that OSM
24 continues to have these large number of openings that
25 we're not able to fill. And I want to acknowledge
26 multiple people within and even outside the Office of
27 Subsistence Management have met the challenge by
28 temporarily filling these roles. And they often do this
29 while continuing to conduct their own work. So, we're
30 working really hard over here at OSM, and we're grateful
31 to everybody that's taken on extra duties just to keep
32 this program afloat and moving ahead. So, some of them
33 are in the room right now. Thank you very much. And
34 that's all for the OSM update and presentation. And once
35 again, I just want to thank the Council members and all
36 others in attendance for your support of the program,
37 the hard work and, you know, most importantly, the
38 people, you know, for representing the people in your
39 communities and the people in the region. So, we
40 appreciate working with you. And very nice to see
41 everybody again. Thank you.

42
43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Thanks,
44 Justin. Questions or comments?

45
46 (No response)

47
48 I would just.....

49
50 (Simultaneous speech)

1

2

MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, this is.....

3

4

MS. CAMINER: Go ahead, Ed.

5

6

MR. HOLSTEN: Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair. Question to Justin, real quick. It's -- we had members from Cooper Landing, the Committee on Safe Trails that -- sending these proposals, especially WP26-22. And they were a little concerned or didn't understand the process. Why the Board decided to defer this to a fishing fisheries regulatory meeting? Now, is there a reason why some of these proposals are deferred? Is it a lack of time? Or can you explain to me a little bit so I can explain to these community members? Thank you.

16

17

MR. KOLLER: Madam Chair, Member Holsten. Yeah, I believe you're going to hear from Brian Ubelaker about WP26-22, the trapping setback proposals. I'll just say now that they were deferred to wait to see the outcome of the Board of Game meeting on those similar companion proposals. And again, Brian will elaborate on that in a little bit. Thank you.

24

25

ACTING CHAIRPERON CAMINER: Thanks. Maybe, I'll wait for Brian also, because I was going to ask about 26-19 having passed, although I suppose not implemented, but just asking the same thing as the Board of Game acted similarly. But we can wait for Brian if we need to.

31

32

MR. KOLLER: Yes, Madam Chair. I prefer

33

34

35

36

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38

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41

42

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48

49

50

to wait for Brian for that one. Thank you.

MS. EWAN: As I gather information here, I see that the feds and -- are working real hard on getting our land developed. And I don't see you guys pushing our issues on the table with caribou, and salmon, and all the other stuff that we deal with. The impact we feel in Unit 13 is outrageous. There's a federally qualified users where there's -- eight tribes can be accepted, and then they have rural preference users. And then you have the State of Alaska that gives permit to everybody in the whole State of Alaska to hunt in our area. I think that should be a number one priority. Instead of giving our land to the Federal and just going along with it, I know they're your boss and everything, but we should have a say so in what's happening to us. To me, it's just like the Palestine's getting attacked, you know? That's what I feel like, because that's my

1 livelihood. Where am I going to go if I don't got nowhere
2 to go hunt anymore? Over to the Parks Highway and Mount
3 -- Wrangell-St. Elias Park. We can't go over there and
4 hunt and do stuff like this on our side of the river
5 because it's all protected. It seems to me -- and no
6 offense to you people, but I think I feel like I'm being
7 bombarded by policies, and regulations, and stuff like
8 that against me feeding my family and offering our land
9 to developers, so they can get their nickel and dime out
10 of Paxson area, over in Denali and Cantwell area. We
11 know there's gold mine. We know where all the minerals
12 are. We were taught that by our elders. We know that's
13 why this -- Ahtna picked those lands, because it was
14 valuable. It was more than just land. It has a lot of
15 history to it. And another thing I want to bring up is
16 that the State of Alaska has 82 bodies on a highway in
17 Tonsina going to Valdez underneath that road, when they
18 were told not to do that. And in Paxson area, that's
19 where a village was. Where is the study -- the
20 anthropologist study that the people should be
21 presenting to say where these grave sites are? And on
22 top of that, in Chitina, where they're fishing, they're
23 sitting on dead bodies. There's 40 some bodies sitting
24 there where the O'Brien Creek is. This kind of land
25 protection we need implemented through your system, so
26 they can protect our land and our people from further
27 destruction. That's what I see coming. Thank you.

28
29 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Thanks,
30 Justin. I think we can bring up Brian then and talk some
31 specifics about what's happened since the Board meeting.
32

33 MR. KOLLER: Thank you, Madam Chair,
34 members of the Council.
35

36 MS. PILCHER: Judy, did you want me to
37 jump in real quick and do an 805(c) update, that's
38 technically the next thing, but Brian could also come
39 up. It's up to you guys. All right, I will go ahead.
40 This is Nissa Pilcher, for the record. I'm just going
41 to give you a very brief update on your 805(c) Report.
42 As a reminder -- so, this document can be found on page
43 63. As a reminder, this provides the Council with a
44 summary of its recommendations from the previous
45 regulatory cycle and the Board's actions on these
46 recommendations. This was something that Angela did
47 mention when you guys were discussing your Annual
48 Report. So, as a reminder, 805(c) of ANILCA provides
49 that the Board is to consider the recommendations of the
50 Councils considering the take of fish and wildlife for

1 subsistence uses. And the Board does generally defer to
2 the Council on these recommendations, but it can deviate
3 if it determines that the recommendation is either not
4 supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized
5 principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would
6 be the -- or would be detrimental to the satisfaction
7 of subsistence needs. And when it does rule -- or when
8 it does not follow a Council recommendation, it is
9 required to provide to the Councils why it did not. And
10 that is what an 805(c) analysis -- or 805(c) letter
11 report is. So, your Council did an amazing job of getting
12 through nearly 30 proposals last year. One was
13 statewide. Two were Eastern Interior crossovers, but the
14 rest were all Southcentral Region. That is a lot of
15 proposals. If you have not already reviewed it, on page
16 67 and 68 is where the Board justifications are located.

17
18 Of all those proposals, there were only
19 three that the Board did not follow the recommendations
20 of this Council. And those were -- and I will briefly
21 run through them. WP26-15, which sought to close Federal
22 lands on Hawkins and Hinchinbrook in Unit 19 -- Unit 6
23 deer, not 19, by hunting by non-federally qualified
24 users. Your Council was in support, but the Board stated
25 there was not enough evidence provided to meet ANILCA
26 standards for such a closure for either conservation
27 concerns or for the continuation of subsistence uses.
28 WP26-28 sought to change caribou harvest limits in a
29 portion of Unit 13 and delegate the authority to
30 determine harvest limits and sex to the in-season
31 manager. The proponent BLM requested that the proposal
32 be withdrawn, which the Board did. And then WP26-28A
33 sought to extend moose seasons in Unit 11 by ten days
34 on the end of the season, so the hunt would close
35 September 30th, which the Council was in support on. If
36 you'll remember, this was discussed at both the fall and
37 the winter meeting last year. The Board modified this
38 proposal to establish the extension as a may-be-
39 announced season and delegated the authority to the
40 Wrangell-St. Elias superintendent. So, that extension
41 can still happen based on if there's a population to
42 sustain it and that will be decided by the
43 superintendent. So, just -- also, to let you know, the
44 Board did defer two proposals at their April meeting,
45 which Brian will talk about in a little bit. And then
46 that is all for the 805(c) Report. Thank you.

47
48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Thank you,
49 Nissa. And Brian, come on up.
50

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1 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, Madam Chair.
2 Hello, Council members. Good to see you all again. Yes.
3 As Nissa said, I will give you a brief update on two
4 deferred wildlife proposals from the last wildlife
5 regulatory cycle. First one being WP26-22, which
6 requested to establish trap setbacks along certain roads
7 and trails around Cooper Landing. This was deferred by
8 the Board during the April regulatory meeting. This
9 deferral was requested so that recently adopted State
10 regulations could be finalized and published, so Federal
11 regulations could match the State regulations to reduce
12 confusion. Unfortunately, delay in the publication of
13 the State regulations has occurred, and we are still
14 waiting for the final language on the trap setbacks that
15 they will be implementing. This proposal -- the Federal
16 proposal is currently scheduled to be taken up by the
17 Board at the February Fisheries Regulatory Meeting. But
18 in the meantime, OSM would like your feedback on how to
19 proceed with this deferred proposal. Do you want to
20 comment on this proposal again? Would you like to comment
21 now, not knowing what ADF&G language would be? Would you
22 like the Board to delay a decision on this once again
23 until the State regulations can be presented to the
24 Council? So, you know how the regulations would appear.
25 It's kind of all up to you. I will let you discuss and
26 tell us how to proceed.

27
28 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Thanks,
29 Brian. I guess I'll turn to Andy and Ed to see what you
30 think about the setback regulation. Do you want to remind
31 us what it says now? Please. If you have that. What did
32 we pass? Yeah.

33
34 MR. UBELAKER: So, passed as far as WP28-
35 19 -- 26. Sorry. Thank you. I'm working on the next
36 round already. So, what was adopted in proposal WP26-19
37 with modification that required trapping setbacks in
38 Quartz Creek, Crescent Creek, and Russian River
39 campgrounds and clarified the regulatory language. So,
40 that's what was set up to match the current State
41 regulations in that area.

42
43 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: So, maybe
44 Ed, I'll ask you then. What you think about that? Should
45 we keep it as is?

46
47 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah. This is Ed. Hi,
48 Brian. Yeah, I think we ought to keep it as is. It's --
49 it was kind of a no-brainer type of an issue. And it
50 follows the State, and the people that were involved in

1 all these proposals are happy with that one, that wasn't
2 a concern. I recently talked to the people that made
3 these proposals, and I think Brian just cleared it up
4 for me, it had to do with the Board, OSM deferring their
5 decision on one of these trapping proposals until the
6 fisheries meeting in February, I believe. And that
7 proposal was passed, but apparently not officially
8 issued by ADF&G. And it has to do with 50-yard setbacks
9 along certain areas on Quartz Creek, Old Sterling
10 Highway, and the Bean Creek areas. So, I guess I
11 understand now that OSM will wait until the State
12 officially, for lack of better words, approves that --
13 their proposal. And once that's done, then the Feds will
14 probably come along and -- okay. Give their blessings.
15 Is that correct, Brian?

16
17 MR. UBELAKER: Not 100%. No. Sorry if I
18 created any confusion. So, WP26-19, which the Board
19 adopted with modification in April, matches the current
20 State regulations for the three campgrounds, the Quartz
21 Creek, Crescent Lake.....

22
23 (Simultaneous speech)

24
25 MR. HOLSTEN: Right.

26
27 MR. UBELAKER: and Russian River.
28 The WP26-22, which was on the consensus agenda to not
29 be adopted because of action taken by 26-19. 22 was
30 taken off because the Board of Game recently adopted new
31 trap setbacks. So, 26-19 matched what the State
32 currently had at the point in April. But they have also
33 adopted further regulations, which 26-22 will be
34 matching. But 26-22 was deferred because the State
35 language was not out at that point. Does that make it
36 as clear as mud?

37
38 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, it's as clear as mud.
39 Thanks. Yeah, I can -- I kind of understand these. The
40 people that were at the OSM Board meeting were a little
41 upset and couldn't understand why this was being
42 deferred. And I'll try to go back and explain to them.
43 If not, I will have them give you a call.

44
45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: That sounds
46 like a great plan, Ed. Thank you. Okay. Other items for
47 us?

48
49 MR. UBELAKER: Well, Madam Chair, it's
50 still -- OSM would still like your -- the Council's

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1 direction on what to do with WP26-22, which is the --
2 has -- it was deferred waiting for the State language --
3 - the State to draft the regulatory language and then
4 OSM could draft -- copy their language. So, we do not
5 have the State regulation as of yet. Do you want to --
6 would you like the Council to -- or the Board to defer
7 making a decision on this until their next regulatory
8 meeting and hope that the State will have their
9 regulations published by that time?

10
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Is that not
12 what the Board...?

13
14 (Simultaneous speech)

15
16 MR. HOLSTEN: I'm just.....

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Didn't they
19 defer on -22?

20
21 MR. UBELAKER: The Board did defer on
22 -22, but they're going to take it up at the February.....

23
24 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Okay.

25
26 MR. UBELAKER: fisheries meeting,
27 but you guys won't have a chance to weigh -- you guys
28 don't have a chance to see what the State is going to
29 do with their regulations. And of our -- if OSM's
30 recommendation is to match State regulations and we do
31 that without your input, that cuts you out of the
32 program.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Ed, go
35 ahead.

36
37 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, just -- what I had
38 heard during the Board of Game meeting, they adopted
39 that Proposal 22 with modification. And what the
40 modification was, was not a 100-yard setback. It was 50-
41 yard setback. And I may be wrong on that, but that's
42 what I heard via people that were at the Board of Game
43 meeting.

44
45 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, Ed, you are correct.
46 I was at that meeting and that is what they had decided
47 upon. But the Proposal itself asked for numerous other
48 areas that the Board of Game did not discuss, which is
49 why OSM was waiting to get the published regulations
50 before we try to match it. Because there are -- there

000114

1 may be areas that, you know, OSM -- or that the Federal
2 regulations will not affect that could be State land.
3 We just want to make sure that what we're putting into
4 regulation will match. That way, there's no confusion
5 down the road.

6
7 MR. HOLSTEN: Thanks, Brian. I
8 understand.

9
10 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Well, I
11 certainly can't recall the language of -22 that we
12 probably discussed at our meeting earlier this year, and
13 we don't need it right now, I think. But I think whatever
14 we decided then would probably be a good lead for you
15 to follow on what our opinions were at the time. And I
16 think we would probably also support being consistent
17 with whatever the State might come up with. And we
18 wouldn't want to be more restrictive than what they came
19 up with.

20
21 MR. UBELAKER: So, your comments -- so,
22 your -- you guys voted to support 26-19 with
23 modification, which got passed. Take no action on the
24 others, WP26-18, -20, -21, -22 and -23. With 22 being
25 taken off, you did not specifically comment on it, but
26 your comment on -19 -- the Council noted there was
27 community support for much of this. It ended with -- the
28 Council stated, this is a long-standing issue for this
29 area. And in this case, it makes sense to align with the
30 existing State regulations. So, if you would like to
31 consider that comment, we can just take that comment and
32 apply it to -22. And then when regulations -- if
33 regulations do come out between now and February, we can
34 proceed with -22 to match whatever the State may come
35 up with.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Any
38 comments on.....

39
40 (Simultaneous speech)

41
42 MR. HOLSTEN: Hello, this is Ed.

43
44 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Go ahead, Ed.

45
46 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, this is Ed. Yeah, I
47 agree with Brian on that path he just explained. Wait
48 to see the final language from ADF&G on 22. And then
49 take a look at those. And if it aligns, go ahead and
50 adopt it.

1
2 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: I guess I'd
3 ask when, if the Board of Game comes up with new wording
4 circulated.....

5
6 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah.

7
8 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: to us,
9 and we can have a discussion. Obviously, it won't be a
10 formal RAC recommendation because we won't be meeting,
11 necessarily. But it would be helpful and you might get
12 some informal input that way.

13
14 MR. UBELAKER: I'm not sure.....

15
16 (Simultaneous speech)

17
18 MR. HOLSTEN: Thank you. I appreciate
19 that.

20
21 MS. PILCHER: For the record, this is
22 Nissa. So, I can certainly distribute the language that
23 is happening, and I can keep you guys informed about the
24 process. The Council just wouldn't be able to weigh in.
25 I mean, you could individually email me and say, "Oh,
26 this is great or this is absolutely not great." But it
27 wouldn't be -- it wouldn't go to the Federal Subsistence
28 Board. It wouldn't be forwarded on as a Council comment.
29 So, right now, is kind of your time to change your
30 recommendation or justification on -22 as a Council, if
31 you wish.

32
33 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Go ahead,
34 Brian.

35
36 MR. UBELAKER: Or you can recommend right
37 now to defer so that the Board will not take this up in
38 February. When State regulations do get drafted and come
39 out, we can present it to you. You can see exactly what
40 the language is and then give your official comment at
41 that time. And then, at the next Board meeting, this can
42 be figured out. So, probably the summer work session.

43
44 MS. CAMINER: Uh-huh. Oh, okay. Well,
45 does that make sense to folks or what would you like to
46 do? Ed, any thoughts?

47
48 MS. PILCHER: I have a question
49 for Brian. Yeah. If that was the case, if they did
50 defer, would there be a period of time where the State

1 regulations and the Federal regulations did not align?

2

3 MR. UBELAKER: Yes.

4

5 MS. PILCHER: Would that just be during
6 the spring or the late portion of the trapping season?

7

8 MR. UBELAKER: It would -- so, as soon
9 as the State regulations publish, they will be live as
10 soon as they publish. Federal regulations would misalign
11 until the next time the Federal rule is published. So,
12 if this was taken up at the summer work session, that
13 would probably not be until the Wildlife Regulatory
14 meeting is concluded and the final rule is published in
15 a year and a half.

16

17 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: It's a
18 little hard for me to focus on it when we don't have the
19 wording right in front of us. That would have been
20 helpful so we could see the difference between what we
21 and the Board did approve, and what might be with this
22 other proposal; how they would be different. So, perhaps
23 deferring is the best case for now. Andy.

24

25 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Madam
26 Chair. It just seems like keeping this table would be
27 appropriate to see where this all leads to, and if --
28 whoever made the proposal could come back later if they
29 don't like the ending result, which is probably going
30 to be three years from now.

31

32 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Do we need a
33 motion to defer?

34

35 MS. PILCHER: Yes. This is not an action
36 item. So, I believe the intent behind it is just to
37 gather Council feedback. So, you do not need to make a
38 formal motion.

39

40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Michael,
41 did you have a comment?

42

43 MR. OPHEIM: Oh, I was just going to
44 agree to -- sounds like deferring would be a good option
45 right now.

46

47 MR. WILSON: I'm on Board with that, too.

48

49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Okay. You
50 have enough to go on now.

1

2

MR. UBELAKER: That is more than plenty.

3

Thank you.

4

5

ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Okay.

6

7

8

MR. UBELAKER: Yeah. OSM will describe to the Board or ask the Board to defer it again until State regulations come out and this Council has a chance to hear it.

9

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But briefly, the new approach is the development of a single comprehensive table that includes all the wildlife authorities currently delegated in over 60 letters, as well as associated guidance that will apply to all in-season wildlife managers. This will allow updates to guidance to be made in a single document that can be quickly distributed to all managers. Both the table and associated guidance

1 will be published on the program's website providing
2 transparency. OSM also plans to provide annual training
3 to all in-season managers and associated staff.
4 Initially, OSM considered asking to withdraw WP26-01,
5 but realized a lot of regulatory cleanup was achieved
6 through this proposal. This includes housekeeping items
7 such as combining hunt areas with identical regulations,
8 deleting duplicative delegated authority language
9 already in regulation, and changing to-be-announced
10 seasons to may-be-announced seasons. Because of this,
11 OSM is revising its recommendation to retain all of the
12 regulatory cleanup proposed by WP26-01, but not to
13 transfer delegated authority into codified regulations.
14 Everything is currently on track for the Board to act
15 on this proposal at their February meeting. All Councils
16 supported the regulatory housekeeping portions of WP26-
17 01 when they took up this proposal last fall. While
18 delegated authority is an administrative and legal issue
19 that is not subject to Council deference. Therefore,
20 Councils are not being asked to reconsider this deferred
21 proposal. But if you would like to comment on it, you
22 can make a comment. And with that, at the end of my
23 presentation, I'd be happy to answer questions.

24
25 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Any
26 questions?

27
28 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Madam
29 Chair. So, what I hear -- just kind of heard was
30 delegations of authority are administrative and not a
31 regulatory function. Is that true?

32
33 MR. UBELAKER: That is the opinion that
34 we have been given by the solicitor.

35
36 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: But a regulatory
37 function is what put the delegation of authority into
38 existence. Is that correct?

39
40 MR. UBELAKER: Delegated authority was
41 typically in addition to a regulatory proposal or
42 regulatory change proposal. So, somebody would submit a
43 proposal to change regulatory language. And along with
44 that, you know, delegated authority was added to it at
45 the discretion of the Board to help make these decisions
46 easier and get the decisions closer to people in the
47 field who understood what was happening.

48
49 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So, if us as a RAC, try
50 to come up with some type of regulatory function, which

1 seems to be what our proposals are bringing to the Board,
2 the RAC is part of that regulatory function that creates
3 suggestions for delegations of authority. Is that
4 correct?

5

6 MR. UBELAKER: Can you clarify that one
7 for me? Are you saying the RAC is suggesting?

8

9 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: That's kind of -- yes.
10 We kind of give our 2 cents worth as a RAC that goes up
11 to the Board, then. And then the Board decides on this
12 delegation of authority letter or whatever it is that
13 gives this in-season management function. And that is
14 part of the regulatory process, is it not?

15

16 (Pause)

17

18 MR. UBELAKER: Oh, I'm going to phone a
19 friend.

20

21 MR. KOLLER: Madam Chair. So, I think
22 your question was about the RAC making recommendations
23 on delegations of authority. Correct?

24

25 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

26

27 MR. KOLLER: Yeah. So, the RAC makes
28 recommendations on regulations to be put into
29 regulations on take of fish and wildlife on Federal
30 public lands. The Secretaries have delegated authority
31 to the Board. And the Board can further delegate some
32 of that authority in certain instances at their
33 discretion. So, if the Council thinks it's a -- it can
34 also add a recommendation that authority be delegated
35 for convenience and for quick action to be taken on the
36 ground. But the Board doesn't have to defer to that or
37 anything. If they agree to delegate that authority, they
38 just delegate it. So, it's not necessarily a regulatory
39 function at all because it's within Board -- it's the
40 Board's prerogative to delegate that further.

41

42 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Then, why have us vote
43 as a RAC on a delegation of authority letter to support
44 an in-season manager to be able to make these decisions
45 without our input?

46

47 MR. KOLLER: I think we -- I'm not exactly
48 sure what you're referring to. If you're referring to
49 something specific. But we asked the Board to vote on a
50 regulation, not on a delegation of authority.

1
2 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Okay. Hard for me to
3 want to ever support delegation of authority again.
4 Thank you.

5
6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Any other
7 questions?

8
9 (No response)

10
11 Is there anything in writing? I guess,
12 is the question. The solicitor's opinion?

13
14 MR. KOLLER: I can get back to you on
15 that. I'm not exactly sure if there's anything in
16 writing.

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: That's
19 fine. Okay.

20
21 MS. EWAN: Do you want a recommendation
22 or what...?

23
24 (Simultaneous speech)

25
26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: They're
27 just reporting to us.

28
29 MS. EWAN: I mean, what is this -- why
30 you got to wait for the State of Alaska to make your own
31 law?

32
33 MR. UBELAKER: We are not waiting for the
34 State on this one. We're -- it was deferred at the last
35 -- upon solicitor recommendation, it was deferred. And
36 we're going to be bringing it to the Board at their
37 February Fisheries Meeting for a final decision.

38
39 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Okay. You
40 have more for us?

41
42 MR. UBELAKER: I can give you an update
43 on two special actions that you have already heard and
44 fairly-well discussed. If you would like me to rehash
45 what you've already talked about, or I can just skip
46 away happily from the table right now.

47
48 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Does anyone
49 want more details?

50

1 (No response)

2

3 No, I guess not. Thank you. I guess we
4 did hear. Okay. Correspondence policy, next.

5

6 MS. PILCHER: Hello, everyone. This is
7 Nissa Pilcher, for the record. I did want to draw your
8 attention to -- in your book, on page 71. That is the
9 only document. That's the only piece of correspondence
10 the Council took action on at your last meeting. It was
11 comments to the National Park Service concerning the
12 proposed rule that was mentioned earlier today. Vice
13 Chair, did also mention your comments. And that is where
14 it is found. That's just included in here for your
15 record, you should have received a copy in the mail or
16 via email when it was distributed, shortly after your
17 winter meeting. But it's just here as a reminder that
18 it -- you requested it, it was drafted, and it was
19 distributed accordingly. Off the cuff, that is not in
20 here. One thing that did come up during a previous
21 discussion about the draft policy -- Draft Board
22 Communications Policy was a standard item for
23 correspondence about getting you guys updated on where
24 your guys' correspondence is, especially when it's
25 directed to the Federal Subsistence Board. And I just
26 did want to remind you that this is a section I always
27 have in the agenda. So, that is being done. And if it's
28 stuck somewhere, I will certainly let you guys know as
29 well. Thank you.

30

31 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Thanks.
32 Well, I think we've had a lot of progress and sorry we
33 went through lunch here. But thank goodness Nissa
34 supplied us with food to tide us over at least a little
35 bit. We really thought we'd be done pretty much after
36 the 1:00 presentation, but I guess not. Anything else
37 Council members want to bring up or we'll go through --
38 go ahead, Faye.

39

40 MS. EWAN: That presentation that was
41 done by the lady for the land selection, can you get
42 that to us, an email or some kind of way to get the
43 information?

44

45 MS. PILCHER: Yes. You have the links for
46 both the StoryMap and the ArcGIS maps, and then the
47 screenshot of the map she also sent me in your email.

48

49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Thank you
50 for being so fast. Kirk, do you want to start some quick

1 closing comments to wrap us up here?

2

3 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I just appreciate
4 everybody being here, and appreciate all your hard work.
5 And I've spent a lot of time myself away from the
6 meetings talking to others, and it's really helped me
7 here. I would really suggest that to others if you have
8 the opportunity. I'm just thankful to be here
9 representing the subsistence users of my area, and I'm
10 going to do the best of my ability to keep the Native
11 culture and the Native people's subsistence rights
12 alive. Thank you.

13

14 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Thanks very
15 much. Heartfelt comments. Faye.

16

17 MS. EWAN: (In Native). Thank you very
18 much for allowing me to speak and be part of this Council.
19 I learned a lot. I'm just learning the system. So, excuse
20 me, all you workers -- you Federal workers and State
21 workers. I'm just asking a question because I'm trying to
22 make myself understand how the system works and how I can
23 explain it to people that don't understand how the things
24 work. So, it was really confusing on the 10-day extension.
25 I did go out to Paxson, Valdez, look around. But there is
26 no -- I didn't see any -- even cows or anything. But a lot
27 of these policies and procedures that are being made, and
28 I think it's time for us to have a training in these
29 agencies for people that want to be involved, that want
30 to sit on, you know, Boards and stuff, so they know how
31 to be -- what to expect and what, you know, how to do the
32 procedures of working. And I understand all the policies
33 and laws that are being implemented on our way of life. I
34 had to share a story about Togiak land. I was on a plane
35 to Seattle. There was a famous hunter there. Even the
36 pilot came there to congratulate him. He took out the
37 biggest goat that ever was taken out of Togiak Region. And
38 I know that we had a meeting in Cordova where they said
39 they were going to limit it on hunting. So, stuff like
40 that, you know, I still -- over-fishing, over-hunting. I
41 think the Federal regulations need to start putting their
42 foot down on what kind of food is leaving Alaska,
43 especially when I see a hundred boxes of fish on that ramp
44 going into the plane, and our people are hurting in the
45 Yukon Kuskokwim and other areas. So, I think we need to
46 do a more broader scope of law and stuff and uphold it so
47 that people will be equal. Thank you.

48

49 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Thanks,
50 Faye. Michael.

1
2 MR. OPHEIM: Great meeting. Sure
3 appreciated getting all the information ahead of time
4 this time. There was a lot of reports, a lot of good
5 information shared from everybody. A lot of good
6 presentations in person. That was really cool.
7 Appreciate everybody's time and effort they put in to
8 be here and share that information. So, but yeah. I
9 appreciate everybody being here and thanks.

10
11 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Andy.
12

13 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. I'd just like to
14 express my gratitude to the Office of Subsistence
15 Management for all -- organizing all this. It was nice
16 having the booklets ahead of time to be able to review
17 all that and get more prepared. It hasn't happened in
18 the past as efficiently. And that was great. I'd like
19 to thank all the Council members for bringing a diversity
20 of opinions to the table here for us to discuss, and
21 deliberate on, and make choices for. And members of the
22 public as well as members of organizations and Tribal
23 entities and coming here, and representing, and helping
24 keep us informed. Thank you.

25
26 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Edward.
27

28 MR. GREYBEAR: Yep. Just wanted to say,
29 hey. First of all, sorry for being late. I've been having
30 a lot of bad luck this month, so hopefully it's over now
31 and everything's going to be good. And looking forward
32 to the next meeting. So, thank you everyone.

33
34 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Is Dennis
35 on? Dennis...?

36
37 (Simultaneous speech)
38

39 MR. ZADRA: Yeah. I'm here.
40

41 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Oh, go
42 ahead, then. I wasn't sure if you gave up on us.....

43
44 MR. ZADRA: Okay.
45

46 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: or
47 not.

48
49 MR. ZADRA: Oh, no. No. I've been -- and
50 I wish I could have been there in person. I -- this is

1 nice, but this time of year I just can't be away from
2 what I'm doing here. But very grateful for all the
3 comments, and all the input, and all the effort that goes
4 into it. And I will see you in person on the next meeting.

5
6 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Very good.
7 Well, thanks you and Ed for persisting online. Go ahead, Ed.

8
9 MR. HOLSTEN: First, I want to thank Greg
10 and you, Judy, for closing us out here. I really
11 appreciated this meeting, especially the input from our
12 Board members. And especially, from OSM for all the work
13 they do as understaffed they are. I can appreciate that.
14 So, thank you everybody. And Nissa, especially, did a
15 great job before the meeting and during the meeting, I
16 appreciate that. So, everybody have a good day. Thank you.

17
18 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Excellent.
19 Well, I'll pick up on what Faye says. This is complicated.
20 You know, we have a lot going on, a lot swirling around.
21 And then what Ed says, Nissa helps really keep us straight
22 and all the support she and you all give, all the staff,
23 provide to us. And I think we're just so impressed with
24 how much the Tribal entities have picked up in terms of
25 research, when maybe there's not a lot of other research
26 money going around. So, it's all fantastic in terms of
27 knowing the status of our resources. And so, it's very
28 much appreciated. So, we appreciate everybody's
29 dedication. When one looked at this agenda, you might
30 have thought, "Oh, this will be pretty light meeting."
31 But, you know, we always seem to have a lot of challenging
32 and complicated things to talk about. And it's good that
33 we take the time to do so. So, thanks everybody for your
34 dedication. Safe travels home, near or far, and look
35 forward to being in touch again. Do we have a motion to
36 adjourn?

37
38 UNIDENTIFIED: Motion adjourn.

39
40 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: Okay. All in
41 favor?

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 ACTING CHAIRPERSON CAMINER: We are
46 adjourned.

47
48 (Off record)

49
50 END OF PROCEEDINGS

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 124 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II recorded on the 29th 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