BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes

Dolly Hall
Naknek, AK
March 9, 2026

Invocation:

Richard Wilson provided the invocation.

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Quorum Establishment:

The meeting was called to order on Monday, March 9, 2026, at approximately 8:34 a.m. by Chair Nanci Morris Lyon.

Council members present in person were Nanci Morris Lyon, Richard Wilson, Walter Kanulie, John Rhyshek, Kenneth Nukwak, Sr., Dan Dunaway, and Robert Hill. Attending via MS Teams were John Christensen, Jr., Kenneth Nukwak, Sr., and Robert Hill. With all eight seated Council members present (Council has two vacant seats), a quorum was established.

Election of Officers

Nanci Morris Lyon was elected Chair.
Dan Dunaway was elected Vice Chair.
Richard Wilson was elected Secretary.

Attendees:

**Indicates attending via MS Teams*

- **Office of Subsistence Management (OSM):** Leigh Honig, Dr. Hannah Voorhees*, Kristen Morrow*, Cory Graham, Kendra Holman, and Katya Wessels
- **National Park Service (NPS):** Liza Rupp, Leslie Skora, Suzanne Sanders, and Mark Sturm
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS):** Jon Gerken and Brian Wehausen
- **Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G):** Amy Vandervoort
- **Tribal Representatives:** George Anderson* (Chignik Intertribal Coalition)
- **Public:** Mary Tibbets, George Tibbits, and B.J. Hill

Review and Adopt Agenda:

Motion by Member Dunaway, seconded by Member Wilson, to adopt the agenda as amended to include discussion of correspondence to the family of former Council member Billy Trefon under Miscellaneous Business.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Council Member and Chair Reports:

John Christensen, Jr. of Port Heiden reported sea otters attempting to cross frozen bays toward open water, as well as strong ptarmigan numbers and nearby caribou.

Robert Hill of Naknek noted healthy ptarmigan and rabbit populations, strong lake ice conditions, and difficult access to caribou due to windblown snow.

Kenneth Nukwak, Sr. of Manokotak reported improved travel conditions between villages later in the season and observations suggesting the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd was further north and northwest.

John Rhyshek of King Salmon reported selective moose hunting opportunities near river systems, stable ptarmigan numbers, declining snowshoe hare observations, and encouraging Chinook Salmon catches during the previous summer.

Richard Wilson of Naknek described favorable snow and ice conditions, successful caribou harvest opportunities, trapping activity, and observations of lynx and Arctic hare.

Walter Kanulie of Togiak reported difficult travel conditions due to rough snow surfaces, ongoing smelt fishing activity, and optimism for future salmon returns based on winter conditions.

Dan Dunaway of Dillingham noted difficult travel conditions in some areas, reports of caribou shifting northwest, strong ptarmigan observations, and an extension of the Unit 17A moose hunt.

Chair Nanci Morris Lyon of King Salmon highlighted positive community use of caribou harvest opportunities in Kokhanok and Igiugig, particularly involving youth participation and community sharing. She also noted improved Chinook Salmon observations in the Naknek River in recent years, though numbers remain well below historic levels.

Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

Chignik Intertribal Coalition Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program Update

George Anderson, President of the Chignik Intertribal Coalition, provided an update on the Coalition's Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP) project.

Mr. Anderson reported that the four-year project focused on:

- Extending operation of the Chignik weir by two weeks annually
- Comparing traditional 10-minute Chinook Salmon escapement counts to 24-hour video monitoring
- Implementing in-season subsistence harvest reporting

Preliminary results from 2023 and 2024 indicated that 24-hour video monitoring estimated Chinook escapement to be approximately eight percent higher than traditional extrapolated counts. Mr. Anderson explained that even small increases in escapement estimates could significantly affect commercial fishing opportunity and salmon management decisions in the Chignik region.

Mr. Anderson also discussed the value of real-time subsistence harvest surveys in improving understanding of harvest timing, sharing networks, and food security needs within Chignik communities. He emphasized concerns regarding continued stocks of concern for Chinook and early-run Sockeye

Salmon and expressed support for recent Alaska Board of Fisheries actions raising standards for stock rebuilding and delisting criteria.

Federal Subsistence Management Program Review

Mr. Anderson also provided comments regarding the Federal Subsistence Management Program (FSMP) review. He emphasized the importance of maintaining representation from individuals actively engaged in subsistence hunting, fishing, and resource use on Federal Subsistence Boards (Board) and Councils.

Action Items:

Call for Federal Fisheries Proposals (2027–2029 Regulatory Cycle)

Cory Graham, OSM Fisheries Biologist, announced the Call for Federal fisheries proposals for the 2027–2029 regulatory cycle. The Council did not develop any fisheries proposals.

Review and approval of FY2025 Annual Report

The Council reviewed the draft FY2025 Annual Report and discussed several regional subsistence issues and management priorities. Topics discussed included the importance of continued Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program support, improved in-season subsistence harvest reporting, Chinook Salmon escapement monitoring, youth involvement in subsistence activities, and maintaining strong local and rural representation within the FSMP.

Council members also discussed concerns related to proposed changes to Board membership and emphasized the importance of local and regional knowledge in Federal subsistence management processes.

Motion by Member Dunaway, seconded by Member Wilson, to approve the draft FY2025 Annual Report.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Future Meeting Dates

The Council confirmed the following future meeting dates and locations:

- Fall 2026 Meeting: October 28–29, 2026, in Dillingham, Alaska
- Winter 2027 Meeting: March 2–3, 2027, in Naknek, Alaska
- Fall 2027 Meeting: October 28–29, 2027, in Dillingham, Alaska

Fisheries Resource Monitoring and Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program updates

Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program

Mr. Graham provided an update on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP), which supports research and monitoring projects that inform Federal subsistence fisheries management and promote collaboration among federal, state, Tribal, and local partners.

Council discussion focused on potential research needs related to halibut harvest, subsistence use patterns, bycatch concerns, and the lack of available information on halibut populations and subsistence harvests in the Bristol Bay and Bering Sea regions. Members discussed the importance of improving baseline information and documenting subsistence harvest activity across coastal communities.

Council Members Dunaway and Rhyshek and Chair Morris Lyon volunteered to participate in developing priority information needs.

Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program

Mr. Graham provided a brief update on the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program (Program). He reported that funding for the 2026 cycle was approved for three new partners, including the Bristol Bay Native Association, Native Village of Eyak, and the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission. The next funding opportunity is expected in spring 2027 for projects beginning in 2028.

Council members discussed the value of the Program in supporting regional research, monitoring, and subsistence resource capacity.

Reports

- Alaska Peninsula and Becharof NWR Report, presented by Brian Wehausen, Refuge Manager
- USFWS, Alaska Peninsula, Bristol Bay, and Aleutian Islands Fisheries update presented by John Gergken, Federal In-Season Manager
- Lake Clark NP Report, presented by Liza Rupp, Subsistence Coordinator
- Katmai NP Report, presented by Mallory Zaroff, Tribal Liaison and Subsistence Coordinator, Mark Sturm, Superintendent, and Leslie Skora, Wildlife Biologist
- ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation Report, presented by Amy Vandervoort, Area Wildlife Biologist
- OSM update, presented by Katya Wessels, Council Coordination Division Supervisor

Other Business:

Correspondence

Leigh Honig, Council Coordinator, provided an update on the correspondence sent on behalf of the Council since the fall 2025 meeting cycle.

Council discussion: Native corporation lands and allotments on federal maps

Ms. Honig presented a request from the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to include Native corporation lands and allotments on Federal subsistence regulation maps to help reduce trespass issues. Members discussed the increasing complexity of land ownership and jurisdictional boundaries throughout the region and the importance of providing clear and accurate mapping information to subsistence users.

Council members discussed the usefulness of digital mapping tools such as onX Maps App for identifying land ownership and boundaries in the field, while also recognizing limitations related to cost, accessibility, and technology use in rural areas. Members noted the importance of balancing detailed mapping information with practical usability for hunters and subsistence users.

The Council also discussed the value of having more detailed map materials available during Council meetings. Members expressed interest in having map booklets or regional map packets available at

meetings that are tailored to the specific topics and proposals under discussion so Council members can be better informed when making recommendations and decisions. Members noted that more detailed maps showing proposal areas, jurisdictions, and land status would improve understanding of issues being considered by the Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m. on March 9, 2026

Signature on file

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Leigh Honig, Designated Federal Officer
U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Subsistence Management

Signature on file

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Nanci Morris Lyon, Chair
Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes were formally considered and approved by the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its October 28 - 29, 2026, meeting in Dillingham, Alaska, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes at that meeting.

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