

KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE

REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
Conference Room
Anchorage, Alaska
October 15, 2018
8:59 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Della Trumble, Chair
Melissa Berns
Mitch Simeonoff
Coral Chernoff
Patrick Holmes
Richard Koso
Christopher Price
Antone Shelikoff
Rebecca Skinner

Regional Council Coordinator, Zach Stevenson

Recorded and transcribed by:

Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
Anchorage, AK 99501

1 907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2

3

(Anchorage, Alaska - 10/15/2018)

4

5

(On record)

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the Kodiak/Aleutians Federal Subsistence Advisory Council. It's nice to be able to be in the APIA building, at least, in an area that we're in our own region, on the grounds of our region as close as we can get let's put it that way.

I'd like to call this meeting to order.

The time, I guess, is 8:59, I could have waited one more minute.

If we can have a roll call.

MR. STEVENSON: Correction, Madame Chair. Maybe have invocation.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, sorry. I guess we need to do the invocation first, I'm sorry. Do I have any volunteers.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris. If we could stand.

MR. PRICE: Good morning.

(Invocation)

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Chris. I guess then we'll call the meeting to order and it is 9:00 o'clock. If we can move on to the roll call, please.

MS. BERNES: Antone Shelikoff.

MR. SHELIKOFF: Here.

MS. BERNES: Pat Holmes.

(No comments)

1 MS. BERNS: He's on the phone -- Pat,
2 are you still on the line with us?

3
4 MR. FITZMORRIS: Yeah, Pat Fitzmorris
5 is here.

6
7 MS. BERNS: Pat Holmes, we're doing
8 roll call.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MS. BERNS: I'll come back around.
13 Richard Koso.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MR. KOSO: Here.

18
19 MS. BERNS: Sam Rohrer.

20
21 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair. This is
22 Zach Stevenson for the record. Mr. Rohrer has
23 apologized for his inability to join us today. He had
24 a business obligation leading a guided trip today and
25 he wishes the Council well and looks forward to seeing
26 us at our winter meeting.

27
28 Thank you, Madame Chair.

29
30 MS. BERNS: Chris Price.

31
32 MR. PRICE: Here.

33
34 MS. BERNS: Coral Chernoff.

35
36 MS. CHERNOFF: Here.

37
38 MS. BERNS: Rebecca Skinner.

39
40 MS. SKINNER: Here.

41
42 MS. BERNS: Della Trumble.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Here.

45
46 MS. BERNS: Mitch Simeonoff.

47
48 (No comments)

1 MS. BERNES: Okay.

2

3 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. We
4 are expecting Mitch today. Madame Chair.

5

6 MS. BERNES: Okay. Pat Holmes.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'm here.

9

10 MS. BERNES: Great. And Melissa Bernes,
11 here.

12

13 MR. HOLMES: I'm having trouble with
14 this phone but, anyway, I'll be in and out. Thank you.

15

16 MS. BERNES: Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
19 Melissa. Again, I'd like to welcome everyone to the
20 Kodiak/Aleutians Federal Subsistence Advisory Council
21 meeting.

22

23 At this time we'll go around and do
24 introductions, and, Melissa, we'll start with you and
25 then maybe through the audience.

26

27 MS. BERNES: Melissa Bernes. Originally
28 from the village of Old Harbor, Southeast side of
29 Kodiak Island, and I currently reside in the city of
30 Kodiak as of this fall.

31

32 MR. SHELIKOFF: Antone Shelikoff. I am
33 from Akutan Alaska.

34

35 MR. PRICE: Chris Price. I'm from
36 Unalaska. I work for the Qawalangin Tribe.

37

38 MR. STEVENSON: Good morning. My name
39 is Zach Stevenson. I'm the subsistence Council
40 coordinator -- the new subsistence Council coordinator
41 for the Kodiak/Aleutians and also work with the
42 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
43 at the Office of Subsistence Management.

44

45 Good morning.

46

47 MS. SKINNER: Rebecca Skinner from
48 Kodiak.

49

50

1 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Rick Koso, Adak.

2
3 MS. CHERNOFF: Coral Chernoff, Kodiak.

4
5 MR. HOLMES: Pat Holmes, Kodiak.

6
7 MR. RISDAHL: Greg Risdahl. I'm the
8 new OSM Division Fish lead recently from Izembek.

9
10 MS. LAVINE: Good morning. My name is
11 Robbin LaVine, and I'm an anthropologist at the Office
12 of Subsistence Management and anthropologist now for
13 the Kodiak/Aleutians.

14
15 MR. AYERS: Good morning. I'm Scott
16 Ayers. I am also with the Office of Subsistence
17 Management. I'm the new fisheries biologist for this
18 region in our office.

19
20 DR. MACK: Good morning. I'm Liza
21 Mack. I'm the Executive Director for Aleut
22 International Association from King Cove.

23
24 JOE: Good morning Joe from Akutan,
25 just observing.

26
27 MR. BURCH: Mark Burch with the
28 Department of Fish and Game.

29
30 (Audience introductions - not at
31 microphone)

32
33 (Teleconference interruption)

34
35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good morning. My name
36 is Tom Doolittle, I'm the Acting Assistant Regional
37 Director for the Office of Subsistence Management.

38
39 MR. EVANS: Good morning. My name is
40 Tom Evans. I'm a wildlife biologist for the
41 Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council.

42
43 MR. LIND: (In Native) Good morning.

44
45 My name is Orville Lind. I am the
46 Native Liaison for the Office of Subsistence
47 Management. I'm glad to be here.

48
49 MR. HOLMES: Hello. Hello.

50

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hello.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, this is Pat. I just
4 kind of dropped out again, I hope I'm back on line
5 again.

6

7 (Teleconference interruption)

8

9 (Audience introductions continued - no
10 microphone)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Can
13 we have any other names on line that are on line
14 besides Pat.

15

16 MS. MELENDEZ: Hi, good morning
17 everybody. This is Leticia from Izembek National
18 Wildlife Refuge.

19

20 MS. KRUEGER: Good morning. This is
21 Kelly Krueger with Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak.

22

23 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, good morning.
24 This is Tom Schwantes in Kodiak.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning.
27 Thank you everyone. My name is Della Trumble. I'm
28 from King Cove and I am the Chair of the
29 Kodiak/Aleutians at this time.

30

31 Maybe just in housekeeping, if you're
32 on line if you can keep your phones muted as we move
33 forward that helps with the sound.

34

35 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. For
36 those who have not signed in, there's a sign up sheet
37 outside the meeting room here, we encourage you to sign
38 up both today and tomorrow.

39

40 Thank you, Madame Chair.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Just
43 as a procedure, if anybody here from the public would
44 like to testify, I do believe there is forms that can
45 be filled out. And this Council has always made an
46 effort to have people fill them out and if they have
47 any reason to not be able to stay, that we get them to
48 testify as we move along through the agenda, so we're
49 always happy to hear from people.

50

1 Thank you.

2
3 Okay, moving on. We'll do the review
4 and adopt agenda. Are there any items that the Council
5 would like added to the agenda at this time.
6

7 MR. STEVENSON: This is Zach Stevenson
8 with OSM, for the record. I did want to point out that
9 the agenda that we are working off of now has been
10 updated and the updated agenda has items marked in red
11 and those items that are marked in red were not
12 reflected in the meeting book that was circulated
13 earlier this fall. We had a significant number of
14 additions close to the meeting. We've got 23 speakers
15 as well as presenters so it's a full agenda. And I
16 just wanted to make sure everyone had the correct
17 document in front of them.
18

19 Thank you, Zach.

20
21 Rebecca.

22
23 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I wanted to make
24 sure that -- I was scanning through the agenda, I
25 didn't see a discussion on the Board of Fish proposals.
26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Zach.

28
29 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
30 Thank you, Ms. Skinner. That will be covered on Day 2
31 of the meeting under Item No. 11, which is agency
32 presentations, and, OSM, through our State liaison,
33 George Pappas, will be available to address that item.
34 He is at the Board of Fish meeting presently but will
35 be here tomorrow. And I know that there was some email
36 exchange about interest in addressing some of those
37 statewide proposals, so there's certainly the
38 opportunity to do so.
39

40 Thank you, Madame Chair.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
43 Rebecca.
44

45 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. Yeah, I just
46 wanted to make sure that.....
47

48 MS. MELENDEZ: This is Leticia from
49 Izembek. And I just wanted to mention that we're
50

1 having a hard time, or at least I am having a hard time
2 hearing everyone. I don't know if it's on our end.
3 Zach, I heard you a little bit but there seems to be
4 some interference.

5
6 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, this is Tom
7 Schwantes in Kodiak, same thing. I can barely hear
8 anything that's going on. You know, I can hear the gal
9 from Izembek, but any of the Board I'm having a really
10 hard time hearing.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. He's
13 trying to make some adjustments, hopefully that
14 corrects that.

15
16 (Pause)

17
18 MS. SKINNER: Okay, well, I think
19 they're trying to fix the technical issue. But I just
20 wanted to make sure that the Council and anybody
21 listening in the public was aware that under the OSM
22 report, I expect that the Council is going to take
23 action and take a position on some of the Alaska Board
24 of Fish proposals. I don't think it's called out
25 specifically on the agenda so I just wanted to make
26 sure that everybody understood that.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
31 Rebecca.

32
33 Zach -- or Rebecca -- okay, Rick.

34
35 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I didn't see where --
36 we had some heartburn this year about trying to get
37 permits for shooting beach geese, emperor goose and I
38 was just wondering if -- I didn't see it on the deal,
39 if we could get that on the agenda.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
42 Rick. And just -- the other issue, is it in here,
43 specifically, on the sea otters, Zach.

44
45 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Madame
46 Chair. Under -- through the Chair, under Item No. 11,
47 on the updated draft agenda, agency reports, under US
48 Fish and Wildlife Service, we have subitem C, marine
49 mammals management update on sea otters to be addressed
50

1 by Charlie Hamilton, Special Assistant and James
2 MacCraken, supervisory wildlife biologist sea otter and
3 Pacific walrus.

4
5 Thank you, Madame Chair.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca. Thank
8 you, Zach.

9
10 MS. SKINNER: Yep, I just wanted
11 clarification on where the beach geese or the emperor
12 geese item that Mr. Koso just brought up, where that
13 would best fit?

14
15 MR. KOSO: On that, I was talking to
16 ADF&G on that this last summer, so I don't know if I'd
17 put it under ADF&G Department of Fish and Game, I don't
18 know if that's the right spot or not.

19
20 (Pause)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We'll
23 leave it there, I guess, for now, Rick and bring it up
24 then. Liza Mack, did you have a comment. For the
25 record you need to state your name and then.....

26
27 DR. MACK: Good morning, Liza Mack. I
28 was just going to ask on behalf of Aleut International
29 Association, if we could give a report, or just a brief
30 update to you guys about some of our activities.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Liza.
33 For those of you who don't know, Liza's from King Cove,
34 and she just recently -- she's now Dr. Liza Mack, and
35 she has a -- she's a doctor with.....

36
37 DR. MACK: Yes. I just finished my
38 program in indigenous studies so I just received my PhD
39 through the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

40
41 Thanks.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So just as a
44 comment, we're very proud of her.

45
46 The other question, Liza, is timing, do
47 you have -- when would be better for you to do this?

48
49 DR. MACK: Thank you. I'm -- I think

50

1 that if I could follow, maybe in the number -- agenda
2 Item No. 11, is that where.....

3
4 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair. I've --
5 through the Chair. I've added under agency reports,
6 Item No. 11, under tribal governments, sub-item C,
7 APIA, Liza Mack, if that's acceptable to the.....

8
9 DR. MACK: It's AIA.

10
11 MR. STEVENSON: Pardon me, AIA, thank
12 you.

13
14 DR. MACK: Thank you. Yeah, that would
15 be wonderful. Thanks.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
18 Rebecca.

19
20 MS. SKINNER: I just wanted to clarify
21 where it was going.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does anybody
24 have anything on line.

25
26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I
30 truly think that pot of coffee needs to get done back
31 there.

32
33 Rebecca.

34
35 MS. SKINNER: So I'll move to approve
36 the agenda as amended. So looking at the printed
37 version with all of the red print, plus the two items
38 that we added.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
41 Rebecca. Zach.

42
43 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
44 Just to clarify, the issue regarding marine geese, sea
45 geese, addressed by Mr. Koso, do we want to add that to
46 public and tribal comments on non-agenda items?

47
48 MS. SKINNER: Della had suggested it be
49 added under the Fish and Game, so 11.

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you very much.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick said he
4 added it there.

5

6 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right,
9 everyone. We have a motion made by Rebecca Skinner, do
10 I hear a second.

11

12 MS. CHERNOFF: I second.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Second by Coral
15 Chernoff.

16

17 Call for question.

18

19 MS. BERNS: Question.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question's been
22 called, all in favor signify by saying aye.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
27 sign.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.
32 If I may ask at this time, Pat, are you hearing any
33 better on line, those of you that are on the phone?

34

35 MR. SCHWANTES: No. No, we're not. At
36 least I'm not in Kodiak.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Do you
39 want to maybe take a few minutes and have them make
40 some adjustments.

41

42 REPORTER: Hang on, he's off right now.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Zach.

45

46 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. We
47 may also be able to turn up on the right hand side of
48 your microphone, there's a small volume dial and if you
49 push that forward all the way that will turn up the

50

1 volume on your microphone as well.

2

3 Thank you, Madame Chair.

4

5 REPORTER: No, that doesn't do anything
6 one way or the other -- can we have a minute, Della.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, this is Pat, I'm
9 having a hard time hearing folks.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, just hold
12 on, he's trying to make some adjustments. Maybe we'll
13 take a five minute break here while he's doing that.

14

15 (Off record)

16

17 (On record)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If everyone
20 could come back to their seats. Again, those of you
21 that are on line, if you can mute your phone when
22 you're not talking, we would appreciate it.

23

24 And we'll move on to the minutes of the
25 last meeting, that was February 22nd and 23rd in
26 Kodiak.

27

28 Rebecca.

29

30 MS. SKINNER: I'll move to approve the
31 minutes from February 22nd to 23rd, 2018.

32

33 MR. KOSO: Second.

34

35 MR. HOLMES: I have a few corrections
36 once we bring this on the table.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: On Page 5, my comments
41 down on the second to the last sentence, the third, was
42 large fish and spawners are gone, pollock devoid of
43 recruits, cod is particularly -- cod and I don't know
44 what's going on with pollock, probably Rebecca's up on
45 that, but my main thrust was the almost total
46 disappearance of cod because there was only one age
47 class supporting the fishery.

48

49 And I have -- let's see, on Page 8,

50

1 comments on Skinner requesting Nate Svoboda written
2 report to Council, difficult to keep the data -- down
3 below it said, Chernoff also inquired about bear parts,
4 handicraft and it's legality, George Pappas State
5 liaison responded with current subsistence regulations
6 passed at the Federal Subsistence Board, and I believe
7 that in that discussion that I mentioned that
8 previously we had taken up the topic at the Council and
9 particularly due to the comments from village elders,
10 that we did not endorse using bear parts in our region.

11
12 And then on the discussion on Page 9
13 about the number of caribou for False Pass, it doesn't
14 mention that the Council had requested more critters
15 than what was issued, and I think we were asking for 10
16 permits to hope to get to five, and what was eventually
17 -- approved by the Board was three, but I think there
18 should be a little bit that the numbers were discussed
19 for the harvest.

20
21 And then on Page 9, Fisheries Resource
22 Monitoring Program, there's a discussion there that we
23 objected that they didn't include the Unalaska projects
24 over the -- over a Kodiak project, and I think it
25 should list what that Kodiak project was, and I believe
26 that was the Southwest limnology.

27
28 And -- oh, I'm sorry here, Page 13,
29 discussion of harvest management plans, blood quantum
30 issues. I think that what we were trying to do in our
31 discussions on the sea otters was to raise the question
32 of maybe things should be specie specific rather than
33 as things now are, when you get approved for one
34 critter, you could end up harvesting, you know, polar
35 bears, or whatever, or another critter in other areas.

36
37 And I'm sorry, I should have made a
38 list rather than underline things. Okay, that's it.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

43
44 Rebecca.

45
46 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, another, I guess
47 we'll call it a clarification, on Page 7 under agency
48 reports. The first section there says Kodiak Native
49 Association, that should be Kodiak Area Native
50

1 Association and abbreviated as KANA, all throughout
2 that paragraph.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
7 there any other comments or corrections.

8

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
13 call for question.

14

15 MR. KOSO: Question.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question's been
18 called, any other discussion.

19

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion's been
24 made and seconded, all in favor signify by saying aye.

25

26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
29 sign.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Motion carried.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 At this time we'll move on to No. 7,
38 reports, Council member reports. Pat, since you're on
39 line do we want to start with you, are you ready to do
40 your report?

41

42 MR. HOLMES: Roger that. I'd like to
43 say that our sockeye returns for Kodiak area, as well
44 as Chignik, all the wild sockeye runs basically failed
45 and were closed. From what I hear, and what I've seen
46 along the road, the deer are nice and fat and fair
47 numbers, and that we had a really good meeting with the
48 -- on the FRMP and will raise those discussions a
49 little later.

50

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

4
5 Coral.

6
7 MS. CHERNOFF: Report?

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Report.

10
11 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, so I guess I'll
12 start out with our low red salmon returns this year.
13 That was kind of a big issue.

14
15 Especially locally our main salmon,
16 main river where we get our red salmon was closed for
17 subsistence for much of the summer, and I wish I had
18 thought to get dates of when it opened. But because of
19 this, like ourselves, and many other families who go
20 out to the Buskin to get their reds, we didn't get any
21 reds this year, because by the time the river was
22 opened for reds, our skiff was on the other side of the
23 island. So I know we had talked about this before at
24 meetings, but that is kind of an issue. Like even if
25 you have 30 days or 60 days for a subsistence season,
26 you don't always have all those days, between work and
27 weather and perhaps skiffs moving from this side of the
28 island to another, or boats being available, that plays
29 into all of your subsistence activities.

30
31 We seem -- we seem to have a good
32 silver salmon run. All the reports I'm hearing are the
33 silver salmon are huge, there's still a lot of them out
34 in the ocean in our area. They're bright and shiny and
35 big and fat. A friend of mine saw orcas, he didn't
36 know if they were chasing silver salmon around or other
37 little fish but they were like right up on the beach, a
38 family of three, around their boat, I mean right at
39 like 10 feet from shore and scratching their bellies on
40 the bottom. So that was kind of exciting.

41
42 Our berry population -- or berry crops
43 seem to be really healthy this year. Lots and lots of
44 salmonberries. Lots of blueberries. They were very
45 early. We've always been taught to get the cranberries
46 and the blueberries after the first frost, but it
47 hasn't even frosted yet and I was out looking at
48 blueberries the other day and I found one, so people
49 are getting into the patches near the road and they're
50

1 gone before they're -- way earlier than in the past.

2

3 Emperors are back in our area. Last
4 year, both for the sports and the subsistence season it
5 seems like the take for emperors was way lower than
6 expected. I think there was 39 emperors shot in our
7 area during the sport season, somewhere around there.
8 I don't know anyone that hunted or got an emperor
9 during the subsistence season and I've been meaning to
10 get out for a little while and haven't been able to.
11 We have an issue with not being able to hunt on the
12 road system and as emperors kind of like to mill around
13 on the beach and, in particular, beachy areas, they
14 seem to not want to be in the islands off shore, which,
15 probably it's a lot of moving water, a lot less food,
16 the beach where they hang out is near the road and it's
17 kind of a mucky sort of area and they poke around and
18 sort of seem to eat all day long there.

19

20 So at the statewide AMBCC meeting that
21 I attended, there was talk also in other areas of
22 changing the subsistence season, for ours the
23 subsistence season, I think, opens on April 7th, our
24 birds.....

25

26 (Teleconference interruption -
27 participants not muted - not an equipment issue)

28

29 MS. CHERNOFF: Our birds are all gone
30 by April 24th, so that leaves us a really short window.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral, I'm
33 sorry. Somebody on line, can you mute your phone, I
34 think we're getting some feedback.

35

36 (Teleconference interruption -
37 participants not muted - not an equipment issue)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

40

41 MS. CHERNOFF: So at the statewide
42 AMBCC meeting there was talk of looking at treaties and
43 what they say about when our subsistence seasons can be
44 and changing -- trying to change those seasons for a
45 few areas that are limited when the birds are in their
46 particular areas.

47

48 Last year I had talked about a project
49 that I worked on with the Sun'aq Tribe and the Kodiak

50

1 National Wildlife Refuge. It was a project where we
2 partnered and presented an art project to school aged
3 students. We went to two villages and we talked about
4 culture and -- Alutiiq culture and use of migratory
5 birds and then we did an art project and it was super
6 fun. And part of that project was to encourage
7 teachers to have their students submit a drawing or
8 poetry for the Migratory Bird calendar -- Migratory
9 Bird calendar contest. So in April we got the results
10 back and we had entries from several villages around
11 the island and we judged them and sent on, I think,
12 maybe 10 or 12 entries to the State. They were blue
13 ribbon winners in our area, we sent them on to the
14 State and we ended up with a winner from one of our
15 villages. So they received 1,300 -- just over 1,300
16 submissions statewide, from 52 rural towns and
17 villages, and so a student -- I think she's a first
18 grader, Anastasia Leech, from the village of Larsen Bay
19 was selected for one of the 12 posters on the calendar
20 for 2019. So we were very excited about that and would
21 like to thank the students and the teachers that
22 encouraged students to enter into this and participate
23 in this migratory calendar.

24
25 I'm always -- have been concerned about
26 the crayfish in Buskin. There seem to be a lot of
27 crayfish boils this spring when people were able to get
28 -- apparently it's easy to collect a bucket-full in 20
29 minutes out there so the population has really been
30 growing and we'll hear later from Kelly Krueger with
31 Sun'aq about what they did this summer.

32
33 And then, as always, I am super
34 passionate about the area that I live and subsistence
35 harvest for food, for gaining knowledge about the area,
36 food, nutrition, and local handicraft, and so at my
37 studio I continue to teach students, work with
38 classrooms, classrooms come in. I've gone to the
39 villages. This year I had a training for the new --
40 the Refuge interns for the summer, they came in and did
41 a class with salmon skin and we talked about -- a
42 little bit about salmon and subsistence uses, and, so I
43 just continue to work with the community, both local
44 and we have a lot of visitors that come into my shop,
45 and just teach them about cultural -- cultural uses and
46 the health of the environment and our system.

47
48 So, thank you.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
2 Coral.

3
4 Rick.

5
6 MR. KOSO: Well, as far as Adak goes,
7 we don't have any problem with our subsistence out
8 there because we don't have a huge population. The
9 halibut's been good, cod's been good. The caribou was
10 fairly good. As far as I know we've never had a
11 survey, which I've been pushing to try to get. The
12 caribou on the north end of the island are really hard
13 to find. The south end is where they have to go to get
14 the caribou. So they're getting harder and harder to
15 get. The local people are having a harder and harder
16 time. There's been too many hunters coming in and
17 they've been pretty much killing what comes north of
18 the mountain range there. So it's getting tougher.

19
20 As far as the salmon goes, our
21 fisheries in Adak has been very good this year,
22 actually. We've got a lot of humpies and stuff. I was
23 talking to Lisa Fox on trying to get an opening there
24 earlier this year, which never happened, but hopefully
25 next year we can get an earlier start and get something
26 going.

27
28 As far as the red salmon go, there was
29 a lot of reds showed up late, in the latter part of
30 August, so everybody was able to get their reds caught
31 without any problem.

32
33 So as far as Adak went, the subsistence
34 is pretty good for the people there.

35
36 I spent a month and a half in Cold Bay
37 this summer and that was a different story. I tried
38 for a month and a half to get my 250 fish and I think I
39 caught 55, so that's the size of the reds we had.
40 Later in the year the silvers came in heavy in
41 September, people were catching their quota in a matter
42 of an hour in Russell's Creek, so that was really good.
43 But as far as reds go, it was really a bad year for
44 most people.

45
46 So I think that's all I have for our
47 report.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.

50

1 Rebecca.

2
3 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you. So
4 in Kodiak, I've been seeing a lot of deer and bear on
5 the road system. I think you heard a little bit about
6 that from other people here this morning.
7

8 For Kodiak, and I'll also note for
9 Chignik this was a bad red salmon year. And I'll note
10 that the Alaska Board of Fish did take emergency
11 action, they basically declared an emergency for the
12 Chignik fishery and then implemented some emergency
13 regulations and that was in July.
14

15 For the cod issue -- Pat had mentioned
16 the cod issue earlier, this year they did an unusual
17 survey up in the Northern Bering Sea and they found
18 just unprecedented numbers of cod and pollock. So
19 they're not completely sure but what they think is that
20 the fish moved out of the warmer waters up into the
21 Northern Bering Sea where the water was cooler. And
22 I'll also note that as far as the Federal fish surveys
23 that are used in both the Federal and State management
24 systems were continually dealing with funding issues to
25 get those surveys adequately funded. So there used to
26 be five boats that did surveys and that's gone down to
27 three, and then this year the OscarDyson that does a
28 lot of the Gulf surveys is out of commission and right
29 now they don't have a replacement boat, so the surveys
30 upcoming in the next six months wouldn't happen unless
31 a replacement boat can be found.
32

33 You heard about the crayfish at Buskin
34 Lake, so Buskin River is one of the main subsistence
35 rivers in Kodiak and Buskin, it feeds out of Buskin
36 Lake and I am looking forward to hearing the
37 presentation later on about the crayfish. It looks
38 like, either the populations are getting bigger or
39 people are getting better at catching them, but just
40 looking at the printed out report we have, I see those
41 numbers are going up every year.
42

43 And earlier, I guess, a couple of weeks
44 ago I called into the Unalaska Fish and Game Advisory
45 Committee meeting and did hear a concern from the
46 people on that call about the McLees Lake weir, so that
47 was not funded through alternate sources. This was a
48 project that was considered for FRMP funding and I do
49 think that that weir is important for Unalaska and so
50

1 when we get to the FRMP discussion, I am going to
2 advocate that that be one of the priorities.

3
4 And that is all I had.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
9 Rebecca.

10
11 Chris.

12
13 MR. PRICE: From Unalaska, just to
14 followup on McLees Lake. I believe Lisa will probably
15 give us a report about some of the final numbers and
16 estimates that happened there this summer, but we
17 didn't have a weir this summer, so -- but in general it
18 sounded like we benefitted from the Bristol Bay
19 fisheries that were strong and we did get our reds and
20 we did get -- did get a lot of silvers this year as
21 well.

22
23 The really positive thing that we're
24 seeing is the king salmon in Unalaska Bay is starting
25 to have a strong return since we had the trawl closure
26 about three years ago, and so we seem to be seeing a
27 benefit there. We have two charter companies now,
28 fishing for kings in Unalaska Bay. So a lot more
29 people are able to access the king salmon than we ever
30 have been in the past.

31
32 The pollock is coming back into our --
33 inside the Unalaska Bay, so there's a lot of feeding
34 going on for those kings.

35
36 This summer we did have -- Aleut
37 International came out and we met with the Korean
38 Maritime Institute to have a workshop in Unalaska
39 discussing some of the issues with the environment in
40 the Arctic and some of the concerns that the Aleut
41 people have about marine vessel traffic and things like
42 that, and some of the partnerships and things that
43 we're working on.

44
45 We did have four interns this summer,
46 worked for the tribe. We worked on a paralytic
47 shellfish poisoning project sampling mussels with APIA,
48 and we did a habitat restoration plan for Morris Cove,
49 which was important for us. It's an area that's been
50

1 impacted by the Department of Defense, military debris
2 and possible contamination out there, it's in one of
3 our salmon rivers, so we have a plan that we got
4 developed this summer.

5
6 I did hear about a bird die-off up in
7 St. George, and concern by the community there, what's
8 going on in the Bering Sea.

9
10 I also did hear that the fish are
11 moving north and crab. It's a concern for our
12 community that, you know, the fisheries are definitely
13 influx and changing.

14
15 And we heard a lot of concern from Area
16 M fishermen, who, many of those are in our community
17 who weren't able to fish this summer.

18
19 But Bristol Bay was a very positive
20 year for Bristol Bay.

21
22 So that's about it for now.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
25 Chris.

26
27 Antone.

28
29 MR. SHELIKOFF: Yeah, usually May
30 through June is sea ducks, like rock ducks, we call
31 them rock ducks, they seem to be recovering. As far as
32 I know there were no emperor geese. And then June
33 through September, at first there was sockeye and then
34 -- no difference from last year, so I would say there
35 was no emergency closures of sockeye. Last was pink
36 salmon. I have no idea how the pinks are doing. But
37 the silver salmons this year it seems to be good.

38
39 And late August through late September
40 is berry season and there seems to be an abundance this
41 year, the same as last year too.

42
43 This year I attended a workshop for sea
44 lion (indiscernible) solving (ph) in late July. We
45 went to Nanwalek and Leanna Peterson of the Alaska Sea
46 Otter Commission was our contact person. Co-management
47 with the Marine Mammal Commission. And they held a
48 community meeting in July and I attended. The lady's
49 name was Jenna (Indiscernible) but she seemed to be a
50

1 doctor, both of them were, and the Marine Mammal
2 Commission. One note, though, I got some information
3 on the Chignik area fish closure. They allowed 150
4 sockeye salmon to be taken for subsistence so it was a
5 complete failure commercially but they did allow 150
6 salmon to be taken.

7

8 And that's all I had.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
11 Antone.

12

13 Melissa.

14

15 MS. BERNES: So I think as it's been
16 stated previously, there really was not a show of reds
17 very much on the island. I know several people in Old
18 Harbor who had gone out and they went out several times
19 and were not successful and so just kind of gave up on
20 it, rather than wasting their gas and energy, they were
21 even venturing further away from the village hoping to
22 connect, but that didn't happen. Fortunately we did
23 have a strong silver run this fall. Big Creek and
24 Barling Bay, which are close to our village where we
25 subsistence harvest were full and I think that people
26 were able to fill up their freezers by harvesting their
27 -- it was surprising to me, there's usually strong pink
28 runs in there as well as dog salmon, we harvest those
29 for our dried fish and we didn't get any of those even
30 when we were harvesting with nets. I was surprised to
31 not see them in abundance as we had previously.

32

33

34 Halibut are slowly starting to show up,
35 I know last year people had reported that they'd put
36 out their skates and just kind of struck out quite a
37 bit and so this year people are actually able to get a
38 few on their skate closer to the village and not having
39 to go so far away to try to get halibut.

40

41 Again, we haven't really had very much
42 cod.

43

44 And good salmonberry and blueberry
45 year. Like Coral said it was odd to have to go out and
46 harvest your blueberries earlier because, you know, we
47 were taught to go after the first frost and it kind of
48 helps with the worm problem but they were all full and
49 ready to be picked early on so either you got there

50

1 before the bears or somebody else did or they were just
2 gone.

3
4 Commercial fishing, which our community
5 is highly dependent on for economic stability. We had
6 a slow start but most of our boats were able to scrape
7 up a season by fishing later into the season, so that
8 was good for our community. People won't be hurting
9 too bad this year. It was a pretty scary start to the
10 season.

11
12 For sportfishing, I know that kings
13 were in abundance, they weren't very large.

14
15 We do have a lot of bears roaming
16 around the village right now. I know that some people
17 have had their smokehouses broken into. I think a
18 couple nights ago I had a lady send me a message in
19 Kodiak saying that one was ripping the siding off of
20 her house and they didn't even process fish around that
21 house, and so the people next door had a smoker and the
22 people on the other side have a chicken coop and it was
23 not drawn to either of those, it was ripping at the
24 siding of her house. So that was a little disturbing.
25 But they're out. There's probably about four or five
26 that are just roaming around Old Harbor right now and
27 are of concern to the residents.

28
29 We do have -- this year was a big year
30 for voles. I know that that's kind of weird. People
31 over in -- I work with a gardening program with the
32 village of Port Lions and Ouzinkie and Larsen Bay and
33 Old Harbor, and both -- or all three of the ones on
34 main Kodiak Island, Port Lions, Larsen Bay and Old
35 Harbor had major vole problems and they were causing
36 problems for their gardening activities. Which I
37 thought was great, because there's also a lot of
38 concern about the eagles population. And the migratory
39 bird council people are -- mainly over in Larsen Bay
40 there was a lot of concern from people that had small
41 animals about the eagles being in abundance and
42 attacking animals. And then also it was reported to us
43 by the bird biologist that the eagles that are in
44 abundance are actually starving and there's a lot that
45 have been found dead within the Kodiak Archipelago.

46
47 What else. I didn't really get out
48 harvesting last year because I was pregnant. I'm
49 really looking forward to getting out this winter and
50

1 doing my deer hunting and hopefully get a goat and be
2 able to go clam digging and get back home and enjoy all
3 the things that I do with my family. I've had a few
4 family members who were successful elk hunting up in
5 Afognak and they've gifted us some meat this past week,
6 so I'm really thankful for that, and it sounds like a
7 lot of other people are doing pretty well up there in
8 Afognak. It is hunting, I've heard of some that go out
9 and hike their butts off and come back empty handed,
10 but that's what it is.

11

12 So I think that's all I have.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
15 Melissa. I'll give Mitch a few minutes -- or go ahead.

16

17 MS. BERNS: I have one more thing. I
18 have been working with -- through my work with the
19 Koniaq Education Foundation and then just from being a
20 resident of the community of Old Harbor and then my
21 previous work with the Old Harbor Native Corporation,
22 we're working on a bear project with the Kodiak Island
23 Borough School District, and the secondary class, fifth
24 through 12th grade in Old Harbor, they're focusing
25 their curriculum this year entirely on having an
26 understanding of the brown bear, the biology,
27 physiology, cultural, economic importance of the bear,
28 now, and over history. And so it's been a fun project
29 working with the teacher down there and pulling in
30 experts from all the different topic, the different
31 subject areas. Each student picked a subject area and
32 they're to become an expert in that area, and so it's
33 really interesting to see how it's going to play out.
34 They're incorporating all of their reading, all their
35 math, all their history, all their sciences all around
36 the bear. And this kind of play space learning, we're
37 hoping, is more beneficial to the students rather than
38 learning about, you know, the speed of a train going
39 across country or, you know, all those other things
40 that are not really relevant to the student's life.
41 And I think that the kids, there's been kind of an
42 increased excitement from the students about learning
43 and about school and so we're hoping that it's
44 successful and this is kind of a pilot project. And
45 hopefully if it takes off they'll be able to also
46 incorporate it and expand it into the other villages.

47

48 And one thing that we also did was
49 there was a DLP this summer, a bear that was getting

50

1 into a fish processing plant and rather than having
2 that bear go to waste, we were able to get an
3 educational permit. We took all of the meat off of the
4 bear and then we buried the bear in the village and
5 this next coming year, the focus is going to go into
6 archeology and so the students, after this bear -- year
7 of bears, next fall, they're going to dig up this bear
8 and reconstruct it and it'll be on display in the
9 school and then that will go into their archeology
10 curriculum.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's pretty
13 neat. For the record, Mitch Simeonoff is here, and
14 Mitch I don't know if you're ready to do a report.

15
16 MR. SIMEONOFF: Sure. I don't have
17 much. I'd just like to point out that the deer
18 population has started to come up. And we still get a
19 lot of hunters out there with bear guides and deer
20 guides and, you know, whenever we go out we have to be
21 careful where we go and if there's guided hunts out
22 there we don't want to hunt in the area.

23
24 The fishing was pretty good this summer
25 for the first time in many years. A lot of setnetters
26 in the area were pretty happy this summer.

27
28 Resources are doing good except for
29 fish, our salmon streams are still in summer and
30 hopefully Fish and Game is doing something about them.
31 They are in Akalura and I think they had a camera at
32 one time, I don't know how it's going but I'm sure
33 we'll hear about it.

34
35 If I think of something else later I'll
36 chime in. But that's all I had.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
41 Mitch.

42
43 Zach.

44
45 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. Through the
46 Chair. For those listening on our teleconference,
47 please hit star-six to mute your phones we're having
48 some difficulty hearing our Council member reports, so
49 please do not disturb, just press, again, star-six to
50

1 mute your phones.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I'll
4 go ahead with our report, my report. This summer we
5 had, I think from mid-June all the way through the end
6 of August a tremendous amount of rain. We didn't see a
7 summer, I think, for the summer we might have had, if
8 we were lucky four sunny days, it was, weather-wise was
9 not good, and it was cold and we had a wind, it wasn't
10 very warm.

11

12 Salmon, was, as everybody, I think, has
13 stated, was very bad. The guys did not do well at all
14 with the reds. In August there were no pinks. A few
15 years ago there weren't any, and so this year I think
16 the guys did not fish at all and the hope, I think, was
17 to get some escapement. And that seemed to have been
18 going along pretty well until September we had some
19 huge rains and a massive amount of flooding in our
20 creeks, so it'll kind of be interesting to see what
21 happens there.

22

23 Salmon in Cold Bay, as Rick stated, was
24 disastrous. I know my daughter and her husband were
25 there, and I think over a period of five days got 13
26 red salmon, and they just basically scratching.
27 Fortunately, I think, September, the weather, we got
28 sunshine and silvers, you know the weather got really
29 good and people were able to harvest at least silvers.
30 All the communities that did, Sand Point, King Cove,
31 Cold Bay that did the silver salmon derbies had
32 beautiful weather and a lot of fun and did get fish.

33

34 Berries. I think -- it was
35 interesting, and in King Cove we had a good bunch of
36 salmonberries but no moss berries or blueberries. But
37 then like False Pass had all the species of berries and
38 were really good. And Cold Bay, I think was kind of a
39 hit and miss, they had salmonberries, maybe not so much
40 mossberries, no raspberries, hardly any raspberries so
41 they weren't able to get too many of those. So it was
42 kind of interesting to see. It was like a hit and miss
43 on different species of berries.

44

45 Caribou. I think people were getting
46 caribou before I left so that was good. However, I did
47 get a concern that I did not receive the Federal
48 permits until the 18th of August and the season did
49 open on the 1st. So we definitely need to work on

50

1 that. I think a lot of the people in King Cove that
2 came to pick up the permits, I went on line and got
3 them a State permit, but the ability to have someone
4 else get your caribou, if you're an elder and not
5 having the ability to go out is very helpful having
6 that permit available. So definitely going to work on
7 that next year, or depending on what we do. Because I
8 know there was some discussion of just having it going
9 through the State.

10

11 Moose. Interesting enough we're seeing
12 a lot of moose in King Cove toward the end of the road.
13 And starting to be in fairly, you know, in the past if
14 you saw one or two a year then, you know, that was
15 something, but now they're actually showing up farther
16 down the Peninsula in numbers and had people asking
17 about whether or not there's a hunt, and I said I think
18 there's a system through the State that they need to
19 look into but I'd rather see, I think, some of those
20 numbers build up before anything more on that.

21

22 Sporthunters. I was in Cold Bay the
23 other day. There's a concern, I think, brought up by
24 one of the residents, that they're seeing, of course,
25 and I brought this up last year, a lot more
26 sporthunters going into Cold Bay and they're targeting
27 the one emperor goose and also while they're there, of
28 course, they are harvesting the other birds. And they
29 feel that where they've gone to get their birds in the
30 past, they're not there, and whether it's that being a
31 part of the issue or whether they're just on the Bering
32 Sea side more and just staying in that area. Because I
33 did not hear anything in regard to any numbers on the
34 birds being down.

35

36 I did -- Greg Risdahl, who was the
37 Refuge manager for Izembek has taken a position here
38 with the Subsistence Division, so he's no longer in
39 Cold Bay, and I think once we get to the Izembek report
40 we'll discuss that a little bit more. So we're at the
41 point, again, of, I think, waiting to see the person
42 get to Cold Bay and then the future.

43

44 The other concern that was brought to
45 my attention in Cold Bay was the Troopers. The bird
46 season opened on the 1st of September, however, there
47 was not a Trooper there until October, I want to say
48 maybe the 6th, and the second Trooper going in I think
49 around the 14th, sometime maybe last week or early this

50

1 week, and there is a concern from residents there that
2 there has not been enforcement. And I also note that
3 it's in our annual report, the concern having to do
4 with enforcement in Cold Bay.

5
6 So basically that is my report. Some
7 doom and gloom, but other than that we are all
8 surviving.

9
10 (Pause)

11
12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, we will
13 move on. We have public and tribal comment on non-
14 agenda items and this is available each morning.

15
16 Zach, do you have any comments.

17
18 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Madame
19 Chair. I was informed by George Pappas that we may
20 have some comments from Neil DeWitt, a member of the
21 public, who I believe also serves on the Anchorage
22 State Advisory Council.

23
24 Is Neil with us on the teleconference?

25
26 (No comments)

27
28
29 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. DeWitt?

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MR. STEVENSON: Again, if Neil DeWitt
34 is on the line, I was informed that he would be sharing
35 some comments addressing defense of life and property.

36
37 If Neil DeWitt is on the
38 teleconference, please, state your name.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 MR. STEVENSON: I don't hear him.
43 Madame Chair.

44
45 Through the Chair. I wanted to just
46 briefly provide a brief report, if I may, on behalf of
47 the DFO, through the Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Zach.

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Madame
2 Chair.

3
4 Last week I had the privilege of
5 attending the Aleut Corporation's 46th Annual
6 Shareholder's meeting and used that opportunity to make
7 a brief announcement encouraging attendees to consider
8 applying for the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory
9 Council as part of our annual call for, both
10 nominations and applications. And I wanted to let this
11 group know that that deadline is February 8th and we
12 have materials here, just behind me, that can be used
13 for submitting applications, and we are inviting
14 members of the public to apply in the region.

15
16 Again, that deadline is February 8th.

17
18 I also wanted to briefly thank Orville
19 Lind and Thomas Doolittle for their participation in
20 that outreach as well. On Saturday we attended the
21 Board meeting and had a number of individuals express
22 interest in those positions, as well as support from
23 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, who's Staff
24 really went above and beyond for their participation in
25 today's meeting.

26
27 So that's all, thank you, Madame Chair.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Zach.

30
31 And just for the record I wanted to
32 make note that Peter Devine is in the back of the room
33 and he is our representative on the Migratory Bird Co-
34 Management Council. Peter if you want to raise your
35 hand.

36
37 MR. DEVINE: (Complies)

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
42 Okay, then we'll go ahead and move on to Item No. 8.

43
44 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is the
47 addressing the life and property, is that different
48 than what you.....

1 MS. SKINNER: I think Tom Schwantes is
2 trying to say something.

3
4 MR. SCHWANTES: Madame Chair.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, I'm sorry.
7 Go ahead, Tom.

8
9 MR. SCHWANTES: Yeah, I'd just like to
10 make a couple of comments under Section 8 there, if I
11 could.

12
13 Number 1, regarding emperor geese.
14 This year I've been paying particular attention to
15 those emperors and we had geese here in Kodiak, the
16 latest I have ever seen them, May 14th was the last
17 time I saw a bunch of emperors here. And they returned
18 much earlier this fall than normal -- this year.
19 Normally we don't see them until mid-September, so this
20 year we saw on the 14th of August. Not a lot of them
21 but there was a couple of small groups here on the 14th
22 of August.

23
24 Also I won't comment on the subsistence
25 issues as far as salmon goes because you've had a
26 number of comments on that.

27
28 But we've had a significant number of
29 bears in the area here and in the Flats, Bells Flats
30 area, Womens Bay area, it's been estimated that there
31 are as many as 13 individual bears and they are
32 starting to do damage in the community. In fact, last
33 week I had them in my yard going after -- it's
34 obviously they're hungry because they're going after
35 the Mountain ashberries now, which they haven't done,
36 at least here, in my area, in the last 10 or 12 years.
37 But this year they've been in here and they've damaged
38 five of my trees already. So that issue -- and it's
39 going to become a bigger issue. So I'm really
40 interested to hear about this defense of life and
41 property, I'd like to hear more on that.

42
43 As others have mentioned, the deer
44 population looks really good. One thing I noticed this
45 fall is that the fawns, this spring's fawns are much
46 larger and in much better shape than the fawns have
47 been in the prior years. I've seen fawns from this
48 spring that are, you know, look like yearlings already.
49 So really good healthy deer populations.

50

1 And the other comment I have is I'd
2 just like to say that I'm disappointed that this RAC
3 meeting is not being held within our region. I think
4 it's a real-- I think we should make every effort to
5 make sure that we hold these RAC Meetings within our
6 areas. If it has to be in the hubs, then so be it, but
7 we need to try to get back to the villages where the
8 people can access this. And I know one of the reasons
9 we did it in -- you did it in Anchorage this year is
10 because of AFN and I appreciate that, but I think we
11 need to get back to holding these meetings back in our
12 region.

13

14 So, with that, thank you, Madame Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tom.
17 Appreciate your comments. Especially in regard to the
18 meetings in our hub. That was in our annual report and
19 I think we just keep pounding on that. Because
20 Anchorage -- it's nice to have this meeting in
21 Anchorage, I mean I agree, but when we can't have it
22 within our -- at least in Kodiak or Cold Bay then it
23 creates a problem with people trying to come to these
24 meetings if they have issues that they want to bring
25 forward.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, one point.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

30

31 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I forgot to mention
32 that Lem Butler, the fellow, that I think was
33 responsible for increasing the caribou on the Peninsula
34 with his selective removals of wolves on the calving
35 grounds, he has left the Department of Fish and Game,
36 and I was wondering if I could have your permission to
37 write a draft, you know, kind of give him an atta'boy,
38 as well as Greg Risdahl, moving to Anchorage. I think
39 Greg is probably the best manager I've seen in Izembek
40 in the last 50 years and it's a shame to see him move
41 on. I hope they find somebody of his caliber. But if
42 it's okay with you, I'll cut a draft and forward it to
43 you to -- for your okay and then to send it into Zach.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think we would
46 all agree. We've worked with Lem for quite a number of
47 years and that would be, I think, appropriate on behalf
48 of the Council, for both him and Greg.

49

50

1 Thank you, Pat.

2

3 What we'll do is if Neil does come on
4 line we'll try and fit him in the schedule.

5

6 We'll go ahead and move on -- oh, we
7 kind of jumped ahead, I had a Chair's report here.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'm going to
12 blame that one on Zach.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I did attend the
17 Federal Subsistence Board meeting and it was basically
18 a refresher from the many years that I hadn't
19 participated, so it was a bit of a learning curve and I
20 think at the time they had 60 proposals, so over the
21 three day period, and had to leave a number of them to
22 a later meeting that they did do in May.

23

24 We had the hearings on the Unimak
25 caribou as we -- Pat stated earlier, I think we started
26 off at 10, and I'm almost positive we moved it to five
27 for a subsistence harvest for Unimak. And during the
28 course of the hearing that was held and the vote that
29 was taken, both Pat and Tom, myself attended, and --
30 not attended, but testified and people from False Pass
31 also testified, but what happened is they moved it from
32 five to three with the reporting as soon as you got it
33 so they could stop it at three. And the reasoning
34 behind it is because of the concern that the surveys --
35 the numbers with the surveys at the time that they had
36 in front of them, but the other issue, I think, had to
37 -- well, was the State, that they were concerned that
38 those numbers weren't up to the threshold for being
39 able to harvest. One of the locals did bring up the
40 fact that they were concerned that the timing of the
41 surveys having to do with, at the time of calving,
42 because they felt that those -- the mother and the
43 young ones, they're up higher at this time of the year,
44 and not lower, because of the impact, I think, of the
45 bears and the wolves, is what I had been told.

46

47 So we did attend that.

48

49 At least they did get a subsistence

50

1 hunt and I haven't heard whether or not they've
2 harvested, I wasn't able to see or talk to anybody from
3 False Pass prior to leaving.
4

5 We also attended the meeting, I think,
6 both Pat participated and on the -- my goodness my
7 brain's not working here, I had my notes, on the FRMP.
8 So I think we'll get a report on that later.
9

10 But other than that, just trying to
11 keep in touch with everybody and participate and like I
12 say it's a bit of a learning curve. Mitch has been in
13 this spot for a number of years and just trying to get
14 used to all the different processes in play.
15

16 Thank you.
17

18 (Pause)
19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, we will
21 move on to Item No. 9, old business. Temporary action
22 on the Unimak caribou, Tom Evans.
23

24 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Madame Chair and
25 member of the Council. I normally wouldn't attend this
26 meeting but since it's held in Anchorage it made it
27 easy for me.
28

29 As you know we had a special action
30 last year to open up a caribou hunt in False Pass. And
31 Della provided a brief summary of the number of permits
32 that were -- or the number of harvest quota, and the
33 harvest quota was three bulls, and I learned just this
34 morning that two of them have been taken. And there
35 were 10 permits issued, and out of the 10 permits
36 available and four of those were issued.
37

38 That's all I know. I did ask some more
39 specific questions to Leticia, who's out at -- who's
40 acting -- or out at Izembek National Wildlife Refuge
41 and she didn't have any additional information at this
42 time, but the hunt has closed October 15th. So we
43 probably can get more information later on.
44

45 Thank you.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.
48

49 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I just wanted to
50

1 make sure I understood what you just said. So there
2 were 10 permits available and four permits were issued
3 and two bulls have been taken out of all of that?

4
5 MR. EVANS: Yes.

6
7 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maybe I might
10 make a point. I think the idea was to issue -- you can
11 issue up to 10 but they'll only allow for three bulls,
12 so you're to report immediately when you harvest a
13 bull. Once they got to the third bull being harvested
14 then it would close.

15
16 Is that correct, Tom?

17
18 MR. EVANS: That is correct.

19
20 And Greg set that up kind of before he
21 left and so with the turnover, you know, it's been a --
22 the communication's been a little bit discontinuous
23 because of the change in personnel out there.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
26 Do we have any other questions or comments in regard to
27 Unimak caribou.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Just
32 for the record we have somebody from St. Paul on the
33 phone, can you state your name please.

34
35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Again, do we
39 have someone from St. Paul on the phone?

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

44
45 MR. STEVENSON: My understanding,
46 through the Chair, is that under agenda Item No. 11,
47 agency reports, per the updated draft agenda, under
48 tribal governments, subitem B, we have the Aleut
49 Community of St. Paul Island Ecosystem Conservation
50

1 Office prepared to provide an update on the Aleutian
2 and Bering Sea Island's Landscape Conservation
3 Cooperative, through Lauren Divine, their co-director.
4 I'm not sure if that's who's trying to call in right
5 now. But I do understand that was under tribal
6 governments. We're not quite there yet.

7

8 Thank you, Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Peter, do you
11 have a comment. Go ahead.

12

13 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

14

15 Just a comment on the caribou. I've
16 been following this for a few years. I know at one
17 point we were told we didn't have any; you know we
18 fought hard to get a hunt. And now that we have a
19 hunt, you know, it's kind of upsetting to me that, you
20 know, as a subsistence user we did not get to hunt, you
21 know, like we wanted to because of the weather. And
22 then to find out, you know, that there's a big game
23 hunt gone on, I don't know how that happened. But, you
24 know, this one guiding outfit was allowed to come in
25 and get 12 caribou this year. And I would like to know
26 which hunt that came out of, you know, is that a sport
27 hunt or I mean we're conserving for subsistence but I
28 mean as soon as we don't meet our quota they allow
29 other people to come in the back door and make money
30 off this.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
33 Peter. Maybe some clarification, I believe we initially
34 were doing the subsistence hunt with the five caribou
35 per community within the region, except for Akutan, on
36 9 and Unimak has been closed. And the caribou
37 population numbers have increased over the last three
38 or four years, the State has opened -- initially it was
39 one, either by State or one by Federal, and then it's
40 been increased to two this past year by either State or
41 Federal. So those numbers -- the reason for that -- so
42 they're getting -- it's not sport, but they're hunting
43 under the State caribou regs.

44

45 MR. DEVINE: Okay.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
48 comments.

49

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none, we
4 will.....

5

6 MR. KOSO: I have a comment, Della.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, go ahead.

9

10 MR. KOSO: You know, I noticed, you
11 know, I think we should create another position here
12 for St. Paul, to represent St. Paul and St. George on
13 this Board. I don't know that we have one now, and I
14 think they've been getting more involved it seems like
15 on the Federal subsistence stuff, so I would like to
16 see a position created on this board for St. Paul.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Zach.

19

20 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. I
21 just wanted to consult with our LT lead, Mr. Lind, I --
22 I'm curious what the protocol would entail for adding
23 an additional Council member. Would that require any
24 type of action from the Board, or from the Council, I
25 -- I -- I'm not sure what that would entail from a
26 protocol standpoint.

27

28 Thank you, Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat --
31 or Orville can answer that question.

32

33 MR. LIND: Good morning, Madame Chair.
34 Council members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the
35 Office of Subsistence Management.

36

37 As I understand the process, Madame
38 Chair, it has a request that comes from the Council
39 itself, and then, again, as Zach was mentioning earlier
40 on this morning, that encouraging folks from those
41 regions to apply.

42

43 That's all I have, Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
46 Orville. And at one point in time many years ago
47 Richard Zaharoff was the Council member that
48 represented the Pribilofs for a number of years so I
49 think it's through putting their names in and getting
50

1 appointed. I know we had some discussion about having
2 an input into that process and I'm not sure where we
3 left with that.

4
5 Pat.

6
7 MS. PETRIVELLI: Hi, this is Pat
8 Petrivelli with BIA. I used to work for Fish and
9 Wildlife Service. And I am on the InterAgency Staff
10 Committee. But the other -- I think it would be
11 unlikely that you could get additional Council members
12 just because of the expense. But you're one of the few
13 RACs that have in your charter, you have geographic
14 representation, and that's the one place where you can
15 have input, and in your charter you say that you want
16 to have a goal of having four members who reside on the
17 Kodiak Archipelago and three members who reside on the
18 Alaska Peninsula and three who reside on the Aleutian
19 and Pribilof Islands. So you have the goal in there.
20 It's just that people don't apply that meet those
21 criteria. And so the Board does try to, you know, look
22 at your goals, but if people don't apply, you know,
23 they can't do that. But it is in your charter, and
24 that was from a recommendation your Council made about
25 geographic balance on there.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

28
29 Any other comments.

30
31 Zach.

32
33 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
34 Thank you, Pat. And to Mr. Koso's point, we do have,
35 as I'd mentioned previously, a deadline that's a bit
36 off down the road, in February, February 8th, and I
37 would encourage anyone listening on our teleconference
38 or in the audience today, to get the word out. Because
39 as Pat had indicated, the need for geographic
40 representation is there and there are opportunities for
41 individuals to apply if they're so interested.

42
43 Thank you, Madame Chair.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
46 I think maybe as a recommendation we kind of look back
47 on this because I think we have three of us from the
48 Aleutians -- representing the Aleutians and the
49 remainder is Kodiak. And we've discussed this before.

50

1 So I think as a group, too, maybe we need to discuss it
2 and then also add that to our next annual report -- or
3 four of us -- yeah, it's four and five.
4

5 All right, moving on, to Item No. 10,
6 under new business, Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
7 Program, notice of funding opportunity. Scott Ayers
8 with OSM.
9

10 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair and members of
11 the Council. Good morning, my name is Scott Ayers.
12 I'm the fisheries biologist newly assigned to the
13 Kodiak/Aleutians Council. It's my pleasure to work
14 with all of you and I look forward to getting up to
15 speed with all the fisheries issues in this region.
16

17 MS. LAVINE: And I'm Robbin LaVine, and
18 I'm the anthropologist for your region. You've seen me
19 before.
20

21 MR. AYERS: So we're going to be
22 providing programmatic updates on a handful of items
23 this morning, including the Partners for Fisheries
24 Monitoring, the Fisheries Regulatory Cycle, the
25 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
26

27 (Teleconference interruption -
28 participants not muted - not an equipment issue)
29

30 MR. AYERS: The first two items are
31 brief updates but the last -- oh, sorry.
32

33 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I'm sorry. Are
34 there -- I just want to make sure we're all oriented,
35 are there handouts that go with your presentation. Is
36 there anything in writing that would help us follow
37 what you're going to say?
38

39 MR. AYERS: There's.....
40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Zach is getting
42 that together. Apparently there's some handouts over
43 here so we might want the Council members to make sure
44 they have a copy.
45

46 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. The
47 handouts are as follows. They read: Activities not
48 eligible for funding for the Monitoring Program.
49
50

1 The second item is Draft 2020 Southwest
2 Alaska Priority Information Needs.

3
4 And there's a flier as well.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Could --
9 Zach, could you do something with the connections here
10 because when you speak I can hardly hear and then when
11 people move away from the microphone they just totally
12 disappear.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 (Teleconference interruption -
17 participants not muted - not an equipment issue)

18
19 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. For
20 Mr. Holmes, there are three items that we are
21 addressing now regarding the Partners for Fisheries
22 Monitoring Program, Notice of Funding Opportunity. And
23 those in the room have those three items available.

24
25 The first document has the title:

26
27 Activities not eligible for funding for
28 the Monitoring Program.

29
30 The second document has at the top
31 Draft 2020 Southwest Alaska Priority Information Needs.

32
33 And the third and final item is a color
34 one page flier that reads: Partners for Fisheries
35 Monitoring, Notice of Funding Opportunity.

36
37 Thank you, Madame Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Zach.

40
41 Has everybody got the paper.

42
43 (Council nods affirmatively)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, we'll
46 go ahead and move on.

47
48 MR. AYERS: Okay, this is Scott again.
49 Thank you, Zach, for straightening us all out on that
50

1 front, I appreciate it.

2

3 The first -- as I was saying the first
4 two items for the Partners For Fisheries Monitoring
5 Program and the Fisheries Regulatory Cycle are simply
6 updates. And the last item dealing with the Fisheries
7 Resource Monitoring Program is an action item. And,
8 please ask questions along the way and Robbin and I
9 will do our best to help get answers to those things.

10

11 So for the Partners for Fisheries
12 Monitoring Program, which is the color flier that you
13 all have just been handed out, there's a -- this fall
14 the Office of Subsistence Management will be seeking
15 proposals for the Partners Program to strengthen Alaska
16 Native and rural involvement in Federal Subsistence
17 Management. The Partners Program is a competitive
18 grant that is directed at providing funding for
19 biologists, social scientists or educator positions in
20 Alaska Native and rural non-profit organizations with
21 the intent of increasing the organization's ability to
22 participate in Federal Subsistence Management. In
23 addition, the Program supports a variety of
24 opportunities for local rural students to connect with
25 subsistence resource monitoring and management through
26 science camps and paid internships.

27

28 The notice of funding opportunity will
29 be announced in the fall -- this fall, via a news
30 release and posted on the Federal Subsistence
31 Management Program website. As noted on this flier
32 here, Karen Hyer and Jared Stone are the points of
33 contact in our office for this Program.

34

35 And we don't yet have a date, but I
36 believe that there will be a date sometime in the next
37 several weeks of when this funding opportunity will be
38 opened.

39

40 There were six partners funded through
41 the last call. The calls occur once every four years
42 and the funding is for up to four years. And certainly
43 if the Council has any thoughts on potential partners
44 for the next call that they would like to let us know,
45 we would be happy to pass that information along.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, go ahead.

48

49 MR. KOSO: On your competitive grants,

50

1 I assume they're Federal grants. How often -- you said
2 it's up to four years, the grant lasts for four years
3 and then every four years you go and reapply or does
4 the grant come out all the time or just the one time
5 deal?

6
7 MR. AYERS: Through the Chair. That's
8 correct, Mr. Koso. The grants are up to four years and
9 for this particular program there is a notice of
10 opportunity once every four years. So there's -- you
11 could have continuous -- an individual or a group could
12 apply and have continuous coverage for more than one
13 cycle but unlike the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
14 Plan, which has calls every two years, for up to four
15 years, they don't have that overlapping schedule.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

18
19 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair. Members of
20 the Council. I would just like to let you know that I
21 really began my career in subsistence research and
22 fisheries at the Bristol Bay Native Association as a
23 partner's position. My experience with the Program has
24 been wonderful, in particular, at Bristol Bay Native
25 Association we had a spectacular internship program. A
26 big focus of the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
27 Program is to develop local capacity to involve local
28 youth, returning graduates, or university students and
29 to work with the local community representatives to
30 ensure that.

31
32 There is opportunities for education
33 and outreach and local representatives when it comes
34 to.....

35
36 (Teleconference interruption -
37 participants not muted - not an equipment issue)

38
39 MS. LAVINE:subsistence policy
40 and regulatory understand.....

41
42 (Teleconference interruption -
43 participants not muted - not an equipment issue)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
46 I'm going to make you state your name.

47
48 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 For the record my name is Robbin LaVine.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
2 Robbin.
3

4 MR. AYERS: All right. So the second
5 item today that I am up here for, or that we are up for
6 is the Fisheries Regulatory Cycle update. This
7 meeting, during the fall of even numbered years is when
8 the Regional Advisory Councils review analysis of
9 fisheries related proposals that have been submitted
10 through this Program. The Federal Subsistence Board
11 will take action on these fisheries proposals during
12 their January 2019 meeting.
13

14 There are 19 proposals that were
15 submitted this round for this regulatory cycle,
16 however, none of the proposals were submitted for or
17 affect this region for this regulatory cycle. And so
18 there will be no further discussion as far as us
19 needing action from this Council on that topic today.
20

21 Are there any other questions related
22 to the regulatory cycle?
23

24 (No comments)
25

26 MR. AYERS: Okay. So the next item is
27 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program update.
28

29 For the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
30 Program, we'd like to start with an update on the last
31 cycle, which was the 2018 FRMP cycle. The 2018
32 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan was finalized on May
33 25th, 2018. The following three projects in your area
34 were funded.
35

36 Project 18-400 Buskin River Weir, which
37 was funded for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
38 Sportfish Division.
39

40 Project 18-450 for Unalaska fish
41 harvest practices, which was funded for the Alaska
42 Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Division.
43

44 Project 18-451 subsistence harvest
45 trends of salmon and non-salmon in four southern Kodiak
46 Island communities with a focus on Olga and Akalura
47 Lakes, which was also the Alaska Department of Fish and
48 Game, Subsistence Division.
49
50

1 The Office of Subsistence Management
2 will announce the 2020 notice of funding opportunity
3 for the Monitoring Program later this fall. We will be
4 seeking proposals for projects that gather in formation
5 to manage and conserve subsistence fisheries resources
6 in Federal waters of Alaska. The Monitoring Program is
7 also directed at supporting meaningful involvement in
8 fisheries management by Alaska Native and rural
9 organizations and promoting collaboration among
10 Federal, State, Alaska Native and local organizations.
11

12 The first step in this process is for
13 the Regional Advisory Councils to identify priority
14 research needs or information gaps for each region.
15 These priority information needs provide the framework
16 for soliciting, evaluating and selecting projects for
17 funding through the Monitoring Program.
18

19 The development of the priority
20 information needs is an important process for the
21 Council. Your decision determines the types and
22 subjects of project proposals that are sought for your
23 region. Research topics and issues that fall outside
24 the scope of funding and will not be considered include
25 habitat protection, mitigation, restoration, and
26 enhancement. Hatchery propagation, restoration,
27 enhancement and supplementation. And contaminant
28 assessment, evaluation and monitoring. These
29 activities are most appropriately addressed by the
30 responsible land management or regulatory agency.
31

32 In addition, projects for which the
33 primary objective is education or outreach, such as
34 science camps, technician training or intern programs
35 are not eligible for funding under this program.
36

37 A working group composed of members of
38 this Council and the Bristol Bay Council met to discuss
39 developing priority information needs for the Southwest
40 FRMP region. I will discuss the results of that
41 meeting here today and then ask the Council to finalize
42 and adopt priority information needs for the region.
43

44 Similar to the last call for proposals,
45 the working group discussed priority information needs
46 in three categories. Those that are Southwest region-
47 wide, those specific to the Kodiak and Aleutians area,
48 and those specific to the Bristol Bay area. The
49 results of today's discussion will be combined with the
50

1 results of the Bristol Bay Council's discussion early
2 next month at their meeting to make up the final list
3 of 2020 priority information needs for the Southwest
4 FRMP region.

5
6 MS. LAVINE: So representatives from
7 the two Councils got together on October 2nd. You have
8 chosen to represent your Council, Madame Chair, Della
9 Trumble, Pat Holmes and Rebecca Skinner. From the
10 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council we have Molly
11 Chythlook and Dan -- Dan Dunaway. Also attending from
12 OSM was Zach, Donald Mike, the Council coordinator for
13 the Bristol Bay Native -- Regional Advisory Council,
14 and myself and Scott and Christine, our pathways
15 anthropologist from OSM.

16
17 So we provided the working group with a
18 number of materials and I believe you have them before
19 you. The working group looked at what we -- the
20 priority information needs from the last two rounds,
21 focusing most specifically on the 2018 call, and we
22 also had information provided in regards to research
23 needs from some of our natural resource managers and
24 fisheries managers from the Southwest region. So we
25 brought all of these together and everyone kind of made
26 comments, looked over the materials, and we came up
27 with a draft 2020 Southwest Alaska regional priority
28 information needs document, so you should have it here.
29 And what we did, is we looked at some of the old PINs,
30 the PINs from last time, and we kind of updated them.
31 We have comments, you will note, that where some of
32 those priority information needs might have been
33 addressed by proposals from the last call and where
34 they have not yet been addressed. We have comments on
35 those that may be new, new submissions, and you can see
36 that we've broken them down into the three information
37 areas, region-wide, Kodiak/Aleutians, and Bristol Bay.

38
39 If you'd like -- if you have them
40 before you, we could go through them and I could read
41 them to you, and we can go through them together or you
42 guys can read them quietly and we can begin
43 discussions. If Della or Pat, if you would like to
44 start to comment on the priority information needs that
45 we've developed -- we're not anticipating we may not
46 need all of them, but you may decide that that's
47 exactly what your -- your Council would like. It's up
48 to you. At this point we take your lead.

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think we're
2 good on time in our schedule so if you want to go
3 through them that way if any of the Council members
4 wanted to add to that discussion, that we can have it
5 on record at this point.

6
7 MS. LAVINE: All right. So then.....

8
9 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, this is Pat, I
10 didn't receive your draft from our discussions. I've
11 been traveling and if you could send that to my email,
12 K12.pat@gci.net, or I'll just have to wing it because I
13 don't think I received that.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Pat, we
16 can do that. I have a request to take a break and then
17 we'll go ahead and start this. So we'll take a 10
18 minute break and then we'll go ahead and start going
19 through that list.

20
21 Thank you, everyone.

22
23 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that'd be cool
24 because if you got it I could probably access it off my
25 email.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, well,
28 hopefully we can get that sent to you while we're
29 taking a break, Pat.

30
31 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

32
33 (Off record)

34
35 (On record)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And, maybe just
38 a reminder, Pat Holmes is still having a hard time
39 hearing so he's asking everyone to make sure your mic's
40 are turned all the way up so that when you speak
41 hopefully that will help.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 (Participant issue, not equipment
46 issue)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And we'll go
49 ahead and get started again. Scott.

50

1 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Madame Chair, I'm
2 just trying to print out those documents now, thank
3 you.
4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
6

7 (Pause)
8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, how are we
10 doing, Pat, did you get your documents?
11

12 (No comments)
13

14 (Pause)
15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat.
17

18 MR. HOLMES: Yes, Madame Chair, I did.
19 I got it up on the computer here.
20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
22 We'll go ahead Scott and Robbin.
23

24 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair
25 and the Council. Pat, can you hear me.
26

27 MR. HOLMES: Roger.
28

29 MS. LAVINE: Okay. I'm going to read
30 through the draft list of priority information needs
31 that the working group developed a couple of weeks ago.
32

33 We have three PINs that we've developed
34 for region-wide needs, this is Southwest Alaska.
35

36 The first is, reliable estimates of
37 abundance of salmon populations in the Southwest Alaska
38 region, an assessment of region-wide declines in
39 populations. And this PIN was carried over from the
40 2018 list.
41

42 The second PIN we have in the region-
43 wide section is, reliable estimates of the harvest and
44 use of salmon and other non-salmon fish species for
45 subsistence. Of particular interest, are harvest
46 trends at Togiak and Old Harbor. Now, you'll notice
47 that we have crossed off some of the communities that
48 were listed from 2018, and the reason why we did that
49 is because those communities have been addressed by two
50

1 new projects that responded to that 2018 call and those
2 two projects were 18-450 and that's a comprehensive
3 subsistence harvest survey being conducted in Unalaska
4 and 18-451 which addresses communities in Southwest
5 Kodiak Island so that's why you see the underlined --
6 or the crossed through communities. Then you'll notice
7 that we did add Old Harbor because at this point in
8 time we were unaware of any particular surveys being
9 conducted recently in Old Harbor. And so that Togiak
10 and Old Harbor may be communities that Southwest Region
11 recognizes as needing updates.

12
13 So our third priority information needs
14 is a new one this round. And this priority information
15 needs was forwarded in order to address trying to
16 capture the changes being observed by subsistence users
17 in Southwest Alaska and the priority information needs
18 reads as follows: Local observations of change in
19 salmon and non-salmon populations, in parenthesis
20 (quality, run, timing, sex ratios, age compositions, et
21 cetera) in the Southwest Alaska region, and impacts on
22 subsistence uses. And that would be a new priority
23 information needs for 2020. That would cover both
24 Bristol Bay and Kodiak/Aleutians regions.

25
26 And that completes the priority
27 information needs recommended for region-wide.

28
29 So the next section we'll go to is the
30 Kodiak/Aleutians and we have three priority information
31 needs for the Kodiak/Aleutians.

32
33 And these three priority information
34 needs are primarily carried over from 2018.

35
36 The first is comparative ecological
37 evaluation of lake rearing habitats of sockeye salmon
38 stocks in Southwest Kodiak Island, including Olga Lakes
39 and Akalura Lake watersheds. And the assessment of;
40 (1) declines of salmon stocks and associated
41 subsistence harvest opportunities and (2) potential
42 effects of climate change on salmon production in these
43 lake systems. Again, this was carried over from 2018.

44
45 The second list we have for the
46 Kodiak/Aleutians region -- or the second PIN.

47
48 Abundance and assessment of salmon
49 stocks harvested in critical subsistence fisheries. Of
50

1 specific interest are the McLees Lake, Mortensens
2 Lagoon, Chignik River and Kodiak Archipelli [sic] --
3 Kodiak Island area stocks. You'll notice that, again,
4 for this priority information needs we've crossed out
5 the Buskin River as that project was addressed by 18-
6 400 responding to your priority information needs of
7 2018. And new suggested locations from October 2nd
8 were those that you see in bold. Mortensens Lagoon,
9 Chignik River and the Kodiak Island areas. And, of
10 course, remaining on there as significant to this
11 Council is McLees Lake.

12
13 The last priority information need for
14 the Kodiak/Aleutians region is an assessment of crab
15 populations in Womens Bay. This has been carried over
16 from 2018.

17
18 If you turn your page over you'll see
19 for the Bristol Bay region, we have three bullets
20 listed, but, really, only two because the last was --
21 the last PIN was addressed by the last call for
22 proposals.

23
24 So the first Bristol Bay region
25 priority information needs is reliable estimates of
26 sockeye salmon escapements in the Lake Clark watershed.
27 We are going to be bringing this up for the whole
28 Bristol Bay Council to discuss, just to be sure that
29 this is something that's still a priority need for
30 their region.

31
32 The second PIN for Bristol Bay is the
33 evaluation of quality escapement measures, for example,
34 potential egg deposition, sex and size, composition of
35 spawners, spawning habitat quality and utilization for
36 determining the reproductive potential of spawning
37 stocks in Big Creek, Naknek River, Alagnak River,
38 Nushagak River, Chignik River, Meshik River and Togiak
39 River. This priority information need was carried over
40 from 2018. You'll notice that we have crossed off the
41 reliable estimates of salmon escapement. And we --
42 let's see, can you remember why, this doesn't say this
43 was addressed by a project, and I'm asking this now of
44 my associate, Scott Ayers.

45
46 MR. AYERS: I think that this -- for
47 the record, this is Scott Ayers. I believe that when
48 we had the working groups get together and discuss this
49 that we were looking to try and narrow down the scope
50

1 of this priority need a little bit because it was -- it
2 seemed like it was touching on two very separate
3 topics, both collection of estimates and then also
4 methods for evaluating estimates which was somewhat
5 touched on on the first priority information need.
6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. I
8 think maybe to add to that. I think that they felt
9 there were enough -- the salmon there -- but the other
10 issue I think that came up was the size of the salmon.
11

12 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
13 The last priority information need that is on this
14 draft was carried over -- is carried over from the 2018
15 list, however it has been addressed through Project 18-
16 751, that's a multi-region project so it straddles two
17 regions, the Bristol Bay region and the YKDelta
18 Regional Advisory Council area.
19

20 And that ends a reading of the draft
21 2020 PINs.
22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any comments
24 from the Council.
25

26 Chris, do you have a comment.
27

28 MR. PRICE: I was just going to ask to
29 get an update on the Unalaska 18-450 project.
30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
32 Robbin.
33

34 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 Through the Chair. Mr. Price, that project is in the
36 water. I think if you recall when we were first looking
37 at all of the proposals, or the projects and where they
38 kind of came out in our list going forward and being
39 funded, we weren't too sure if that one would make it,
40 but it did. It's in the water. I believe we recently
41 just signed all the contracts, the paperwork and the
42 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of
43 Subsistence is here and may actually be able to speak
44 more substantively to that question, either now or you
45 can wait until they -- we come to agency reports.
46

47 Thank you.
48

49 MR. PRICE: That's fine, thank you.
50

1 I'll wait.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. SKINNER: Thank you. I had a question about the four page handout that starts with activities not eligible for funding. On Page 3 there's -- it says Mark Burch, ADF&G and then it looks like he or Fish and Game suggested inclusion of two PINs for this cycle, am I reading that correctly?

MR. AYERS: (Nods affirmatively)

MS. LAVINE: (Nods affirmatively)

MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you. And then on the call, on October 2nd, was there discussion -- I guess, did the people on that call have these two suggestions?

MR. AYERS: (Nods affirmatively)

MS. LAVINE: (Nods affirmatively)

MS. SKINNER: Okay. So was there discussion about the difference in wording between the first PIN that he suggested and then the PIN that ended up under the Kodiak/Aleutians section?

(No comments)

(Pause)

MS. SKINNER: So his PIN says, reliable estimates of abundance of salmon populations on the Kodiak Archipelago important for subsistence use and assessment of changes in those populations. The PIN that came out of the working group, that would be analogous, would be abundance and assessment of salmon stocks harvested in critical subsistence fisheries of specific interest are McLees Lake, Mortensens Lagoon, Chignik River and Kodiak Archipelago stocks. So was there a discussion about why his wording wasn't encompassed? And no would be a fine answer, I'm just wanting to see if there was discussion.

MR. AYERS: Through the Chair. Ms. Skinner, I do believe that this document was covered during that meeting. I think that there was some

1 discussion about how the first item specific to the
2 Kodiak Archipelago was also, to some extent,
3 incorporated in the carry over item related to reliable
4 estimates for the whole region. The second one that he
5 suggested retaining.

6
7 MS. SKINNER: Okay. So when we get to
8 the part of approving PINs, I do like the wording that
9 Mark Burch provided and I have -- I want to incorporate
10 some of the specific location language that came out of
11 the working group. So when it's appropriate I'd like
12 to propose a change in that.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, that's
17 fine.

18
19 Any other comments or questions.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, do you have
24 any comments.

25
26 MR. HOLMES: Excuse me, I was on mute.
27 Yeah, I would, on the Bristol Bay one, and I'm not
28 speaking for them, you'd probably want to bring it up
29 at their meeting when you're talking about reliable
30 estimates of salmon escapement, quality of escapement.
31 I think one of the things that they were concerned
32 about was also enumeration. And I know that Mary and
33 Dan mentioned Togiak River chinook and some of the
34 other places so you might want to explore that with
35 them.

36
37 And I need to flip papers here.

38
39 I think -- oh, one of the things, and I
40 don't know how it gets reflected in your priority
41 needs, but it's a point of philosophy that our Council
42 has presented before and Della and I commented on at
43 the last one and that's in that sometimes the -- a good
44 example was McLees Lake and the last selection period
45 and that was a priority for our area but what happens
46 with your evaluative committee, is, it evaluates things
47 in terms of how good the proposal is. And McLees, from
48 what I understand, was turned down because there were
49 four partners or four proposals or whatever, and that

50

1 was a much higher priority, but the -- you know, the
2 comparative thing for the Southwest, you know, that
3 went through because it was written better, and so
4 sometimes it's not a question of -- at least in my
5 mind, it's not a question of how a proposal is written,
6 as to whether -- that, but I think you folks should
7 have some way in which you reevaluate it in terms of
8 the goals of the Council, and -- rather than the
9 quality of the proposal, because sometimes those are
10 two different things.

11

12 And at one point, several years ago,
13 there was actually, in the evaluation of the PINs for
14 funding, they were representatives, either the Council
15 Chairs so that, you know, that important issue was
16 addressed.

17

18 And so that's -- I don't know how you
19 point that out in here but I really think that, and, I
20 know that Dan and Mary kind of agreed with that as
21 well, is sometimes the desires of the Council in this
22 process get, I don't know, too specific and -- I'm
23 sorry, I'm just going to stop because I'm old and can't
24 verbalize too long.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

29

30 MR. AYERS: This is Scott, for the
31 record. Madame Chair.

32

33 I think one of the things that we have
34 struggled with internally is as.....

35

36 (Teleconference interruption -
37 participants not muted - not an equipment issue)

38

39 MR. AYERS:Pat stated, one of the
40 -- it's hard to figure out how to prioritize specific
41 projects that we want to occur when we provide priority
42 information needs for a whole region, which then are
43 assessed on -- by the Technical Review Committee based
44 on the entire package that they submit.

45

46 It's nice to have a lot of different
47 options available for priorities for a region to be
48 ensure that you solicit a lot of different types of
49 projects that cover a wide variety of issues at the

50

1 same time if you limit the number of information needs
2 that each region provides, you're more likely to have
3 projects that are proposed specific to those
4 information needs.

5
6 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair and Members
7 of the Council.

8
9 Also, this is the opportunity, now,
10 when we are developing the priority information needs
11 for you to really assert those issues that are
12 important to your region, to your Council, and from
13 there the technical merits of the proposals are
14 assessed by the Technical Review Committee and they
15 have a -- they have a wonderful process. They have
16 five criteria on which these proposals are reviewed and
17 assessed. And often from the time we are bringing
18 forward the priority information needs, like right now,
19 we've got our fingers on the pulse of a number of
20 different issues that are really critically important
21 to you right but by the time we are assessing and
22 reviewing the proposals, sometimes that target shifts a
23 bit. I think that may have happened this last time.
24 Because I remember when we were developing priority
25 information needs for 2018, there was a lot of
26 discussion about the comprehensive subsistence surveys.
27 I know that was really important to Pat. And I think
28 McLees was something that became more important a
29 little later.

30
31 This is now -- if McLees is something
32 that is really important to you as a Council, now's the
33 time to speak up, to express the significance of it.
34 And also, as we go forward with our notice of funding
35 opportunity, it's really important for us to make sure
36 that we are clear about what constitutes a complete
37 application and the five criteria that are required for
38 a strong submission. Because what we're really hoping
39 to do is to make sure that, not only is that proposal
40 for research addressing your priority information
41 needs, but that it has every indication that it will
42 succeed.

43
44 So these are two efforts coming
45 together and I'll take your questions.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

50

1 Rebecca.

2

3 MS. SKINNER: I don't have a question,
4 I guess. First of all I just wanted to make sure that
5 I am on the right part of our agenda. Are we at the
6 point where, as a Council, we are going to kind of
7 discuss and establish what we think the priority
8 information needs are?

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes. I think
11 so, yes.

12

13 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you. And
14 then I did want to -- so I'm going to respond to the
15 comment we just heard and then I'm going to suggest
16 some wording for this PIN.

17

18 So because the FRMP process -- because
19 the timeline is so spread out and because we're looking
20 at things so far in the future, so right now we're
21 discussing 2020 priority information needs, I agree
22 that some of the stuff we talk about today may not be
23 -- there may be things that come up between now and
24 when the proposals are actually being reviewed. So
25 when the Council is asked to give input, when we get a
26 chance to review the project abstracts and give input
27 on those projects, because of that I do think it's
28 really -- well, for me, and I think for the Council, is
29 really important that our input is listened to and
30 taken into account, and the McLees project is a good
31 example of that, where at one of our Council meetings
32 we had extensive discussion about how important the
33 McLees weir was and, yet, that's not how the projects
34 ended up being funded. And I understand there's
35 specific technical criteria under which the projects
36 are reviewed and I guess that's fine, but I have noted
37 down for the annual report, I do want to make sure we
38 include a section on FRMP and I think to -- a little
39 bit putting words in Pat's mouth, really, I guess,
40 emphasizing that, as a Council, we would like our
41 comments and our input taken into account. And I
42 understand -- I've heard the way the process is laid
43 out, I understand there's not really a place for our
44 input after the projects are written, but I don't think
45 it hurts to keep reemphasizing that that is important
46 to us.

47

48 So I'm going to skip, then, over to
49 specific wording for the first PIN listed under -- for

50

1 the second PIN listed under Kodiak/Aleutians. So I'm
2 basically starting with the wording that was provided
3 by Mark Burch and then I've added the specific
4 location. So my suggested wording is:

5
6 Reliable estimates of abundance of
7 salmon populations on the Kodiak Archipelago and
8 Aleutians that are important for subsistence use and
9 assessment of changes in those populations. Specific
10 areas of critical importance are McLees Lake,
11 Mortensens Lagoon, Chignik River and Kodiak Archipelago
12 stocks.

13
14 Although the Kodiak Archipelago stocks
15 seems kind of broad, so I guess if there's people on
16 the call that had specific comments about why that very
17 broad designation was used it might be helpful for me
18 to hear that.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
23 comments or questions.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Madame Chair.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

28
29 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'd go along with
30 Becky on that suggested wording that she just gave.

31
32 And I would like to clarify, and I
33 think it's gotten forgotten, it was something I was
34 going to point out for this draft discussion, is the
35 Chignik River is not in our region, but it's in the
36 Bristol Bay region. But Della and I concurred with
37 Mary and Dan that that was important to both areas,
38 myself particular, because we have a lot of Chignik
39 folks that live in Kodiak, so I'm sure it's a concern,
40 but I don't know, for our Council, for it to be lumped
41 in with the Kodiak PIN, so you probably should delete
42 Chignik from the Kodiak section and have something very
43 similar up in the region-wide one or Bristol Bay. And
44 I think you could do it regional because it does affect
45 the whole region.

46
47 Then I had another -- yeah, that was
48 the most important point on that.

1 Thank you.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
4 As I look at that and try to recall our discussion, it
5 seems like when we look at this as a region as a whole
6 we're in with Bristol Bay, and I think that it -- when
7 we went through this one, I think was to add Chignik in
8 there at the time because we were kind of within that
9 region -- we're still within that region, maybe why
10 that happened, because I do remember some discussion on
11 it.

12
13 Rick, go ahead.

14
15 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I would like to concur
16 with Rebecca on that. And I really think that I agree
17 with Pat on the Chignik. I think we don't want to
18 overstep our bounds in case they decide to come up with
19 something different, as far as recommendations go. I
20 think we probably should stay away from that. So I
21 really think that we should just stick to our area
22 only.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That would be
25 covered.....

26
27 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:in the
30 region-wide. Go ahead, Scott.

31
32 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair. I just.....

33
34 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

35
36 MR. AYERS: I also wanted to note that
37 because when we had this working group discussion it
38 seemed as though there were a number of issues specific
39 to the Bristol Bay region that we hadn't quite gotten
40 fully through yet and there was a lot of topic about
41 bringing those back up at that meeting, that certainly
42 we can introduce the Chignik discussion at that time if
43 we so choose -- if you all so choose to strike that
44 from this PIN specific to the Kodiak/Aleutians area.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca. Oh.....

2

3 MR. KOSO: Go ahead.

4

5 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. And I just
6 wanted to say I'm specifically not addressing Bristol
7 Bay because their Council hasn't met yet, and from
8 reading the notes it sounds like most of the stuff
9 listed here they did want to go back and discuss as a
10 Council. And based on the discussion so far, I agree
11 with removing the Chignik River location for now. And
12 I think after the Bristol Bay meeting, if it's apparent
13 that they have, you know, almost identical wording and
14 it makes sense to add in Bristol Bay areas into the
15 critical areas, I would think that that might make
16 sense. But I think for today, I'm just really focused
17 on the Kodiak/Aleutians region and nailing down what
18 our priorities are as a region.

19

20 Thanks.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Rick
23 did.....

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:you have a
28 comment.

29

30 MR. KOSO: Well, I think she covered
31 it. But, yeah, we do have the Chignik River there
32 under the Kodiak/Aleutians with Mortensens Lagoon and
33 McLees Lake and Kodiak so I would like to see that
34 crossed out on that. Chignik, the.....

35

36 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

37

38 MR. KOSO:Chignik area, yeah.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Go ahead,
41 Pat.

42

43 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. Yeah, that would be
44 fine. I think it was just a matter of our discussions,
45 is that, you know, on a region-wide level that was
46 something that, you know, we could support, but it's
47 not necessarily our priority as everybody else has
48 mentioned.

49

50

1 And one other -- another correction, or
2 something to consider in the upper part of that draft,
3 second item, reliable estimates of harvest and have
4 Unalaska Bay as addressed -- marked out as addressed
5 and then it lists Togiak, Old Harbor, but in thinking
6 back here on our discussions and input that I've heard
7 at the Fish and Game AC meeting and from folks I know
8 in relation to the difficulties with sea otters, I
9 think that Port Lions, Ouzinkie and Larsen Bay are the
10 other three villages for Kodiak that are not only
11 impacted by the otters, but Port Lion and Ouzinkie, a
12 lot of their fish come from Litnik or Afognak Lake and
13 so that's another one that failed in this whole thing.
14 And so either -- you might want to just say Kodiak
15 Island villages, other than Kodiak, or not just leave
16 it Old Harbor, but to include the other villages,
17 because I believe it's been quite a while since they've
18 had any kind of subsistence surveys. And -- but they
19 -- anyway, that's it.

20
21 Just readdress that.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

26
27 Any other comments. Rick, your mic is
28 on.

29
30 So Chris, go ahead.

31
32 MR. PRICE: On the FRMP process, you
33 mentioned these five categories that you guys use to
34 evaluate the proposals, and I'm the new guy here so I
35 don't know all those categories, but is the importance
36 of the resource to the community one of the categories?
37 Is there a way to evaluate that?

38
39 And then I got a couple more.

40
41 And then also, like, if there's a lack
42 of monitoring or lack of resources or, you guys talk
43 about capacity building -- building the capacity, you
44 know, how is that considered in your matrix that you
45 use there?

46
47 And, you know, I've done a lot of
48 proposals and grants and stuff like that, and
49 ultimately from this side you try to figure out well
50

1 how to gain the thing, how do you gain the system, how
2 do you figure out to give the managers exactly what
3 they need to get the project funded. That's your
4 ultimate goal sometimes. And sometimes it's just
5 checking off boxes or whatever, doing whatever it
6 takes, which isn't always maybe the best way but that's
7 sometimes the system that we have. But in the case of
8 McLees Lake, I'm not exactly sure where we fell short
9 and so I'd kind of like to understand a little bit more
10 about that.

11
12 MR. AYERS: Through the Chair. There's
13 a number of things covered in that one so I'll try and
14 pick away a little bit at a time.

15
16 But I did want to start with saying
17 that although McLees wasn't funded, that didn't mean
18 that the proposal that was submitted was not good. I
19 want to stress that. It was a good proposal and it's
20 similar to ones that have been submitted in the past.
21 So I don't think that was an issue, it just happened to
22 be that the way that it was evaluated, it did not score
23 as high as the projects that were funded. We do
24 receive a number of project submissions across the
25 state with a limited amount of funding to provide to
26 projects and so that's just the way that that fell out.

27
28 However, we are also continually trying
29 to improve our process and make it easier for people to
30 submit projects, as you said, that fulfill all of the
31 needs, the checked boxes that we have. And so we are
32 regularly reviewing our process and determining if
33 there are better ways to get that information out
34 there. And I do believe that the upcoming notice of
35 funding opportunity, the document that comes out with
36 it, not only provides the priority information needs by
37 each region, which projects must address them so that's
38 why it's important that these are developed by the
39 Councils because they direct exactly where the research
40 goes, but it will also list specifically the five
41 criteria priority -- or the priority criterias, so the
42 things that people must direct the projects towards,
43 that's the proposals, and then also it will give a bit
44 of information on specifically how to attain the
45 highest level of funding -- highest level of points,
46 for lack of a better term, in each of those criteria
47 which we have not done in the past.

48
49 So I think we are attempting, as best
50

1 possible, to get that information out there.

2

3 MR. PRICE: Just to followup. Just,
4 you know, if you could include the importance to the
5 community as part of the scoring criteria, that would
6 be something to consider. I know we all have important
7 projects and -- but if it's your primary subsistence
8 resource for say, one category, like salmon for the
9 whole community, maybe you'd have a way to score that
10 in a high priority.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Robbin.

15

16 MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair. Mr.
17 Price, the very first of the five criteria is strategic
18 priority, and then with each criteria there's usually a
19 little narrative. I don't have all of them in front of
20 me so I can't remember in detail. But when the TRC
21 addresses each criteria, under strategic priority, is
22 the importance to the community and as a subsistence
23 resource and does it address priority information
24 needs. There's a number of elements that goes into
25 assessing whether the strategic priority is addressed
26 and I do believe significance to the community and the
27 intensity of use, et cetera, is all within that first
28 criteria.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
33 Robbin. And, correct me if I'm wrong, in that portion,
34 too, also if partners that support the project, which,
35 you know, supports the need is that first section on
36 that.

37

38 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
39 We -- actually what I would prefer to do is to, you
40 know, find the five criteria and to be sure before I
41 potentially mislead you. But I do know that having
42 letters of support really increases the competitiveness
43 of a proposal, and I can't remember if that's included
44 under strategic priority or if it's included under
45 capacity building, demonstrating that you have actually
46 reached out and started communications with the
47 communities that are going to either participate or be
48 impacted by the research that you're proposing; I can't
49 remember where the letters of support come in, but I do

50

1 know that they really enhance the value of these
2 investigation plans.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Zach, did you
7 have a comment, and then Rebecca.

8

9 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. I'm
10 attempting to locate those five priorities right --
11 pardon me, the five criteria right now so I'll keep you
12 posted.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

15

16 Rebecca.

17

18 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I guess my view on
19 this is that the way the importance to the community of
20 these projects is infused in the process is a lot
21 through input from this Council in setting the priority
22 information needs but also in giving feedback once we
23 have the project abstracts. So I just want to revisit,
24 again, my frustration with the conversations we had
25 around the McLees project during the series of meetings
26 that we had.

27

28 So I do think, I mean letters of
29 support, and that kind of thing are very important, but
30 if there's resources and priorities with the
31 communities, it's really important for this Council to
32 get those documented through this list of priority
33 information needs because that's really what should be
34 driving the applications for these funds and that's how
35 those projects will be evaluated, will be in relation
36 to how well they responded to the priorities that this
37 Council and the Bristol Bay Council sat -- through the
38 Council process.

39

40 Thanks.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Zach, go ahead.

43

44 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. The
45 Department of Interior on doi.gov has a section
46 regarding the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
47 titled applying for funding, which gets to Mr. Price's
48 question, about the five criteria and reads as follows:

49

50

1 The 2018 notice of funding opportunity,
2 No. F, as in Frank, 17AS00028 has been announced on
3 grants.gov. The notice and additional information
4 about submitting proposals are also available. The
5 opportunity for 2018 Fisheries Resource Monitoring
6 Program was announced in November 2016. Completed
7 investigation plans must be submitted by February 20th,
8 2017. All of the materials need to be complete.
9 Investigation plan packages are provided, and there's a
10 series of four links addressing funding opportunity,
11 priority information needs, investigation plan
12 guidelines and budget table template. Further, and
13 specifically addressing Mr. Price's point,
14 investigation plans are evaluated by the FRMP, again,
15 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, Technical Review
16 Committee. Five criteria are used to evaluate
17 proposals including:

- 18 1. Strategic priorities.
- 19 2. Technical and scientific merit.
- 20 3. Investigator ability and resources.
- 21 4. Partnership/Capacity building and
22 cost benefit -- that's actually four and five.

23 And then it goes on to say, project
24 abstracts are assembled into a draft Fisheries Resource
25 Monitoring Plan. The draft plan is distributed to
26 Regional Advisory Councils for public review and
27 comment. The Federal Subsistence Board then reviews
28 the draft plan, the Technical Review Committee
29 recommendations and Regional Advisory Council comments
30 and makes final funding recommendations. The Assistant
31 Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management,
32 makes final funding decisions after reviewing the
33 recommendations and comments from the Federal
34 Subsistence Board, Technical Review Committee and
35 Regional Advisory Councils.

36 Finally, the Assistant Regional
37 Director, Office of Subsistence Management, is
38 responsible for implementing the final Fisheries
39 Resource Monitoring Plan. Applicants whose projects
40 have been selected for funding will be notified in
41 writing.

42 Thank you, Madame Chair.

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Zach.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

6

7 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, backing up just a
8 tad a couple places, I totally concur with Becky's
9 comments. She's much more articulate than this
10 bumbling old geezer.

11

12 I would like to add a point of
13 clarification early on, and I'm sorry I forgot the
14 young lady's name, Robbin, mentioned that McLees came
15 up later in discussions; that's not true. And it may
16 have been -- come up later for you folks, but, you
17 know, you're just kind of new in the game and we've
18 been discussing that for at least four or five years,
19 trying to get something to move in that direction and
20 we've been working on it very strongly for the last
21 three. And if you want to take strong and run it to
22 square or too great, the last two years, and so I would
23 like if you folks would please send us your evaluation
24 for that last series and why McLees didn't make the cut
25 so that we can get that, so the folks that did do it
26 can make another run at it, because that's really,
27 really important.

28

29 Thank you, Madame Chair.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
32 And just on a note, if you all will help me out a
33 little bit, but as I recall in our last meeting when we
34 talked about this process, we had asked for an outline
35 on how this process works, how the steps are, you know,
36 from one to the -- going to the Technical Review
37 Committee and how this all worked, and I thought we had
38 asked to have that -- a presentation on it at this
39 meeting, but apparently -- I'm going to put that on the
40 two of you.

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So go ahead,
45 Rebecca -- Coral and then Rebecca.

46

47 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. I don't know
48 if it could be dug up but a couple years ago we had a
49 really great presentation on the FRMP process with --

50

1 it was just a great presentation, that might have been
2 at the All Councils meeting, but we talked a lot about
3 -- at the All Councils meeting, too, that's when we
4 brought our FRMP work group together because we began
5 to understand how that process worked. So I don't know
6 at what point, maybe at the end of the meeting, or
7 maybe during some point in time, we reestablish the
8 FRMP working group since we have a new member and I
9 thought Sam Rohrer originally was on there or maybe Tom
10 was on there, and so now that he's off we might just
11 want to reestablish a new working group so people can
12 participate in that.

13
14 And then also in regards to the meeting
15 where we feel like we had pretty strong comments and
16 feelings on the McLees Lake project, I would, I guess,
17 stress to the Council, that maybe where we thought that
18 our point was understood, that in the future we submit
19 written comments, that might be better able to capture
20 how we feel about these things to make sure that
21 happens every time. I recommend that we look at doing
22 that in the future so we're really understood.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
27 Coral.

28
29 Rebecca.

30
31 MS. SKINNER: So going back to the
32 draft list of PINs that we're considering, so I'm on
33 the one page draft 2020 Southwest Alaska region
34 priority information needs. So the top section is
35 region-wide and then the bottom section of that first
36 page is Kodiak/Aleutians. Because of the suggested
37 rewording I gave for the second bullet under
38 Kodiak/Aleutians it now very closely resembles the
39 first bullet under region-wide, and so I'd like to
40 suggest that we delete the first bullet under region-
41 wide. Because I think everything in that bullet is
42 captured in the rewording, so it doesn't specifically
43 talk about declines in populations, but it talks about
44 changes in populations. So I think right now, because
45 they're worded so closely they're basically duplicative
46 so I would suggest, again, removing the first bullet
47 under region-wide.

48
49 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

2
3 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. In relation to
4 Coral's comments, I believe that, you know, the
5 evaluation committee should be reading our annual
6 reports and our letters to the Board and, you know, it
7 would -- do we need to really have to be writing other
8 things, I mean our comments and discussions go on for
9 hours at times and if they didn't read that to see that
10 that was important, then I think, you know, the nun
11 teacher or something should smack them on the hand with
12 a ruler. But, you know, because it's pretty loud and
13 clear.

14
15 And, anyway, whatever way works, if we
16 need to have Zach rewrite and abstract our comments to
17 go to them because they don't read it, I don't know.

18
19 But, anyway, thank you, Madame Chair.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
22 I'm looking at my notes from that teleconference and
23 what we scratched out and added, which is what is on
24 this paper, including when we go down farther on the
25 abundance and assessment of salmon stocks harvested in
26 critical subsistence fisheries, where we scratched out
27 Buskin River and add McLees Lake stocks and Chignik and
28 then Mortensens, and I think the discussion at the time
29 when we did this -- because I think I added Thin Point
30 in there but that wasn't added, they kept Mortensens,
31 was because of the concern of the lack of red salmon in
32 these systems this summer, is what I recall.

33
34 And then, of course, we had the
35 discussion with Rebecca, wanted to add to her -- added
36 what we added this list in regard to McLees Lake, is
37 what I recall.

38
39 And, Pat, do you want to add to that?

40
41 MR. HOLMES: No, I think that has it
42 pretty much spot on.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And the other
45 issue I think that came up from Bristol Bay was the
46 concern regarding the quality of the salmon and the
47 issue around over escapement.

48
49 Chris.

50

1 MR. PRICE: I have one comment on the
2 third bullet under region-wide, underneath there on the
3 bottom, it says a new region-wide suggestion for this
4 round trying to capture the changes being observed by
5 subsistence users. And I see above you got quality run
6 timing, sex ratio, age composition -- there's a lot of
7 curiosity about the chinook salmon in Unalaska Bay,
8 locally, in our community, where are these fish from,
9 what are they -- where are they going, is there genetic
10 information out there available from the previous --
11 when the trawlers were in there and they were doing --
12 were they sampling, were they doing genetic information
13 on those fish. So it'd be nice if you could include
14 some of that information for us somehow.

15
16 And I don't know if you're the right
17 people to ask. Does that make sense?

18
19 MR. AYERS: Through the Chair. Mr.
20 Price, are you seeking to have that as part of that
21 priority information need, like specifically listed, or
22 are you simply requesting that information?

23
24 MR. PRICE: I think both. So local
25 observations, so that would be -- include Unalaska Bay,
26 right, so I'd like to know about the genetic
27 information on those fish and where they're from. Some
28 people say they're from Kuskokwim, some say they're
29 Yukon fish, Bristol Bay fish, I'd like to know if we
30 could get some genetic information on those fish.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Robbin.

33
34 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 Through the Chair. Mr. Price, so I'm going to back up
36 just a little bit.

37
38 And explain that for the FRMP, the
39 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, we're seeking
40 two types of proposals for research. One of them is
41 called stock, status and trends. We're looking at
42 genetic materials, we're looking at run timing, we're
43 looking at abundance, we're looking at quality of runs
44 and resource. And then the other is harvest monitoring
45 and traditional ecological knowledge projects, and this
46 would be along the lines of harvest surveys, where
47 people are asked about their harvest that particular
48 year, sharing practices of, and -- practices of
49 harvesting and processing, and the local observations

50

1 would be in that realm, as far as what local people
2 have observed on the ground because these are the folks
3 that are actually working with the resource year after
4 year.

5
6 So that -- the -- the information that
7 you're looking for would be under, you know, genetic
8 assessments, fin clips, you know, that would be under
9 stock, status and trends, yep, the first category.

10
11 And then just to let you know that
12 generally we -- kind of on average, we try to put about
13 60 percent of the funding towards stock, status and
14 trends projects and about 40 percent of the funding
15 towards harvest monitoring and traditional ecological
16 knowledge projects. So it's always good to know that,
17 you know, if there is something in regards to harvest
18 monitoring and TEK in your region, an information need
19 that you have out there, and make sure that it's
20 represented on the bullets, because we are seeking to
21 fund those projects as well, but you might want to then
22 discuss with the group how and where your interest in
23 the chinook in Unalaska Bay might best fit.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, thank
28 you. We're coming up on the lunch hour here and as a
29 recommendation, maybe Chris, before you do go to lunch
30 you can maybe stop and talk with Scott and Robbin a
31 little bit more. They're going to be here, I think.
32 But maybe as a suggestion, go ahead with Rebecca's
33 recommended language and maybe we can resolve that
34 prior to leaving for lunch today.

35
36 Rebecca.

37
38 MS. SKINNER: All right. So I'm just
39 going to recap my suggestions for the PINs, and, again,
40 I'm looking at the one page doublesided that said Draft
41 2020 Southwest Alaska region priority information needs
42 at the top, and I'm going to ignore Bristol Bay on the
43 back page.

44
45 So under region-wide, I'm suggesting we
46 delete the first bullet, again, because it's going to
47 be addressed in a later bullet.

48
49 So the first priority need would then

50

1 be what you see as the second bullet, which is reliable
2 estimates of the harvest and use of salmon and other
3 non-salmon fish species for subsistence. Of specific
4 interest are harvest trends at Togiak and Old Harbor.
5

6 The second bullet under region-wide
7 would remain the same. Local observations of change in
8 salmon and non-salmon populations (quality, run,
9 timing, sex ratios, age compositions, et cetera) in the
10 Southwest Alaska region, and impacts on subsistence
11 uses.
12

13 In the Kodiak/Aleutians section the
14 first bullet would remain the same.
15

16 Comparative ecological evaluation of
17 lake rearing habitats of sockeye salmon stocks in
18 Southwest Kodiak Island, including Olga Lakes and
19 Akalura Lake watersheds. And the assessment of; (1)
20 declines of salmon stocks and associated subsistence
21 harvest opportunities and (2) potential effects of
22 climate change on salmon production in these lake
23 systems.
24

25 The second bullet would read:
26

27 Reliable estimates of abundance of
28 salmon populations on the Kodiak Archipelago and
29 Aleutians that are important for subsistence use and
30 assessment of changes in those populations. Specific
31 areas of critical importance are McLees Lake,
32 Mortensens Lagoon, and Kodiak Archipelago stocks.
33

34 And then the third bullet would remain
35 the same. An assessment of crab populations in Womens
36 Bay.
37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
39 Rebecca. Are there any comments in regard to what
40 Rebecca just read.
41

42 Rick.
43

44 MR. KOSO: Would that be a
45 recommendation or is that going to be a proposal or a
46 resolution or how do you want to label it?
47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think it would
49 be a recommended change to this draft list as a
50

1 Council.

2
3 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, and in the interest
4 of making sure that we have clarity on this, is I would
5 prefer to handle it as a motion. My only hesitancy at
6 this point is I'm not sure if Chris was going to try to
7 come up with another recommended PIN that he would want
8 to add later. So either I can make what I just read
9 into a motion and then we can vote on it or the other
10 suggestion would be holding voting on this until either
11 later today or tomorrow to make sure that -- because
12 other things might come up throughout the meeting.

13
14 Thanks.

15
16 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

19
20 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, maybe that would be
21 a good thing, would be to have Zach not eat anything
22 and come up with a draft and then he could email it out
23 and then get it to the Council members to look at. I
24 would suggest if this is a motion, to add on to that
25 dot up above on reliable estimates, that you include
26 the other Kodiak Island villages, because they are
27 impacted as much as Kodiak and Old Harbor.

28
29 And I would also like to suggest in
30 this discussion that we move under the
31 Kodiak/Aleutians, rewording, et cetera, that should be
32 number 1, and I would move the Southwest Lakes down to
33 number 2, and really if there's anything that goes on
34 for footnotes, you know, Tom and I have been discussing
35 this problems on crab populations in Womens Bay for
36 years but, you know, the reality is, is having 50 to
37 100 otters in there in the last couple of years, I
38 don't know if there's any crab left and I'd hate to see
39 that project get funded and not see something come up
40 for funding for McLees Lake, and the -- you know,
41 Mortensens Lagoon.

42
43 So I would move that number 2 to number
44 1, and then it's the pleasure of the Council on the
45 other things, but I think Becky's got a good, solid --
46 good solid proposal there if we could get it written it
47 up and circulated and look at it again.

48
49 Thank you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

2 Zach.

3

4 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Madame
5 Chair. And responding to Member Holmes' comments, I
6 just want to make sure that we're clear on terminology
7 here. This is not a proposal right now. We're not
8 developing a fisheries proposal. What we're -- the
9 action that we're looking at right now is identifying
10 and approving on the record the priority information
11 needs. And to that end, the document, which was sent
12 to Mr. Holmes and that we are reviewing now, include
13 some minor modifications in two cases with regards to
14 language, but I have not yet heard any action from this
15 body as to whether or not to reprioritize or change the
16 ranking of these PINs, which you spoke to just a moment
17 ago, Mr. Holmes.

18

19 So I know that we're about two minutes
20 away from the noon hour, so I'm not clear whether we're
21 at a point to take action on this item or whether we
22 want to continue this discussion further after we have
23 lunch.

24

25 Thank you, Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

28

29 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I guess I
30 understood Pat to be asking a question about whether
31 this one page, the front of this one page sheet could
32 be retyped, I mean I would actually probably
33 reprioritize it so that the Council has something to
34 look at for when we vote later today. And, I guess,
35 I'm not clear whether somebody's available to make
36 those changes in this document and then redistribute
37 it.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

40

41 Coral.

42

43 MS. CHERNOFF: I do have one other
44 comment. I know in a lot of our -- in talking about
45 the assessment of crab populations in Womens Bay, I
46 would assume that we're talking about dungeness, tanner
47 and king crab, and maybe we could specify those three
48 things in there, although there's been a lot of
49 discussion about king crab about Womens Bay, so I'm not

50

1 sure what the FRMP, or maybe Pat has some input on that
2 about all three of the crab, or just king crab
3 populations. And maybe adding those specifically in
4 there.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Pat,
7 do you have an answer to that.

8
9 MR. HOLMES: Pardon me. I gave a nice
10 oration to mute.

11
12 Yeah, it could be all crab. And if you
13 wanted to really address the area that's fished for
14 Kodiak you might want to say Chiniak Bay, rather than
15 Womens Bay. But I did, for the Council, a few months,
16 several months back called the Fish and Game for their
17 subsistence reports and basically there hasn't been any
18 reported catch of king crab. There might be a few
19 people cheating. Tanners are way down. I don't know
20 -- I used to be able to get dungeness all the time at
21 the Buskin while I'd gillnet, and I haven't gotten any
22 in years. So it's a -- I don't know, you could label
23 it all crab, Chiniak Bay but I just -- they just aren't
24 there.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
29 Maybe as a suggestion, under 10D, I think, because the
30 recommendation to take action on until towards the end
31 of our meeting, that gives us time if anything else
32 comes up between now and the end. The other item would
33 be C, identify issues for annual report. And I think
34 we always move that to the end of our meeting also in
35 the past. So that would be my recommendation, this
36 just be a working document until the close of the
37 meeting.

38
39 Chris.

40
41 MR. PRICE: Okay. Sorry if I caused
42 any confusion on this, guys. Where Unalaska Bay is
43 struck on bullet 2, I just want to make sure on bullet
44 3, where it says Southwest Alaska region, that Unalaska
45 Bay would be included for the studies, the local
46 observation changes. If that's included then that
47 satisfies what I'm looking for.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
50

1 Chris.

2

3 Correct me if I'm wrong, isn't there a
4 study being done now that includes -- that's why they
5 were struck out of the document?

6

7 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I was just going to
8 say that I believe for the FRMP Program, the Southwest
9 Alaska region includes everything from Kodiak, Bristol
10 Bay all the way out to the Aleutians, so, yeah, it
11 should include everything out in Unalaska Bay as well.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Robbin.

14

15 MS. LAVINE: Really quick. In agency
16 reports we're going to have a number of folks who are
17 actually conducting research at this point in time
18 giving you an update on where they're at and some of
19 the most recent studies done in your communities,
20 whether they are by the Division of Subsistence or by,
21 you know, Sportfish or Commfish, so that's also
22 potentially a good time to ask them questions about
23 what they may know or what they may not know. You may
24 begin to start teasing out some information gaps that
25 we weren't previously aware of. So that's another
26 thing to think of. And that's coming up in agency
27 reports.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Any other
30 comments.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So we agree
35 we'll move this toward the end of our agenda. And --
36 Zach.

37

38 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.

39

40 If we'd like to revisit this item, the
41 Draft 2020 Southwest Alaska Priority Information Needs,
42 we do have the option, if the Council so chooses, to
43 bring this document up on our projector, we could see
44 those line by line changes to confirm that the Council
45 is amenable to any modifications on the document you
46 have before you.

47

48 Thank you, Madame Chair.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Good
2 idea.

3
4 Okay, I think at this time we will
5 break for lunch. Do you want an hour, hour and a half.

6
7 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Zach if you could
8 get a rough on that that I could look at, send it to me
9 to my email.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, we'll take
14 an hour and a half, we actually did pretty good this
15 morning, so 1:30.

16
17 (Off record)

18
19 (On record)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We'll get
22 everybody settled in here and we'll get started in a
23 little bit.

24
25 (Pause)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We'll get
28 started in about two minutes and the next item on the
29 agenda, so if someone is available will be tribal
30 governments. Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak, Buskin Watershed
31 crayfish status report. So if we can get set up for
32 that we will get started in about two minutes.

33
34 (Pause)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, everybody
37 we'll call our meeting back to order.

38
39 The next item on the agenda is the
40 Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak. Do we have Kelly Krueger and
41 Tom Lance available on line.

42
43 MS. KRUEGER: I am here, this is Kelly.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Kelly,
48 whenever you're ready to get started, we're ready.

49
50

1 MS. KRUEGER: Okay, great. Thank you
2 everyone for the opportunity to talk. My name is Kelly
3 Krueger. I work with Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak and I've
4 given several presentations about the crayfish in the
5 past. So I just have a short slide show to go through
6 today.

7
8 So next slide, please.

9
10 This is a timeline of signal crayfish
11 in the Buskin watershed starting from 2002 when they
12 were first documented. I think I went through this
13 timeline at the last meeting and I'll briefly go
14 through it again.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Kelly, if I may,
17 I'm going to interrupt you for a second.

18
19 MS. KRUEGER: Sure.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We have the
22 handout and Zach's going to go ahead and get set up for
23 the -- to be able to show it on the screen.

24
25 MS. KRUEGER: Oh, okay.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So if you can
28 wait just a few more minutes, I think we can get that
29 set up.

30
31 MS. KRUEGER: Okay.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And then those
34 of us that are sitting directly here we might want to
35 move to the side.

36
37 (Pause)

38
39 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
40 Does anyone mind if we turn these lights down so we can
41 see that screen better, is everyone okay with that.

42
43 (Pause)

44
45 MR. STEVENSON: Are you still there,
46 this is Zach Stevenson?

47
48 MS. KRUEGER: This is Kelly, I'm still
49 here.

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Hi, Kelly. We're not
2 able to bring that presentation up on our projector
3 screen. I'm going to pause for just a moment and hold
4 up the presentation materials making sure that everyone
5 in our audience has those items and I'll be back on
6 line in just a second here so we can begin flipping
7 through the printed materials that you've provided us.

8
9 MS. KRUEGER: Okay.

10
11 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you very much.

12
13 MS. KRUEGER: Thank you.

14
15 MR. STEVENSON: You bet.

16
17 (Pause)

18
19 MR. STEVENSON: So for those in the
20 audience, again, I just want to confirm if there's
21 anyone who needs a copy of the Buskin Watershed
22 Crayfish status report printed format, please let us
23 know, we're going to get started in just a moment.
24 Again, that's the document here with the crayfish on
25 the front cover.

26
27 (Pause)

28
29 MR. STEVENSON: Everyone's got a copy.

30
31 (Pause)

32
33 MR. STEVENSON: All right, feel free to
34 proceed, we're good to go. Thanks, Kelly.

35
36 MS. KRUEGER: Okay, thank you.

37
38 MR. STEVENSON: You're welcome.

39
40 MS. KRUEGER: So as I was saying
41 before, my name is Kelly Krueger and I work for Sun'ag
42 Tribe, and this is just a very quick status report on
43 the work that we've done on the signal crayfish in
44 Buskin watershed this year and then the work that we're
45 going to be doing next year and then closing a grant
46 out in 2020.

47
48 So the second slide is a timeline of
49 signal crayfish in the Buskin watershed. And signal
50

1 crayfish were first found in the watershed in 2002, and
2 then the Kodiak Fish and Game set some minnow traps but
3 no crayfish were captured. They did have a dead
4 crayfish captured below the Buskin Lake weir much later
5 on after 2013 or 12, I think. And then work really
6 started picking up when Kodiak Soil and Water
7 Conservation District started working with the signal
8 crayfish. They started trapping in 2014 and they
9 captured a female, a female with eggs in 2015. And
10 following this, their grant money ran out and Blythe
11 Brown over there said that Sun'aq should start looking
12 for funding to continue learning about the crayfish and
13 we were awarded a BIA invasive species grant in 2016.
14 And during that year we captured 422 crayfish. The
15 following year, 2017 we captured 708 crayfish under
16 that same grant. And last year we were awarded a US
17 Fish and Wildlife Tribal Wildlife grant, which is what
18 I'm going to be talking about in this presentation, to
19 study the signal crayfish population dynamics of Buskin
20 watershed. And this work is going to be continuing
21 until 2020 and then we will write up a final project
22 report the spring of the following year.

23

24 So on to slide no 3, project design.

25

26 So as I said this was tribal wildlife
27 grant and the goal is to characterize the distribution,
28 movement and diet of the signal crayfish population
29 within Buskin watershed. We got the funding last year
30 and then field work started this past spring and will
31 continue until spring of 2020. And any crayfish
32 encountered are sampled, we look at the species, the
33 total length and the carapace length, the sex, life
34 stage and location and any crayfish that we capture are
35 then removed from the watershed. And this is the same
36 protocol that we followed for our other grant, too,
37 just to make sure that we have the same data that's
38 collected.

39

40 Next slide, Slide 4. Snorkeling
41 transect surveys. A huge part of this grant is doing
42 repeated measures of -- we have 30 sites that are equal
43 distance from each other all around Buskin Lake and we
44 are snorkeling at those sites from May to August and
45 seeing if there's crayfish at the sites and if there
46 are then we remove the crayfish. In that left picture,
47 we hire a three person snorkeling crew, plus myself as
48 the data recorder or sometimes the snorkeler and what
49 we do is we have these three lines that are

50

1 perpendicular to the lake shore that we have as our
2 transect lines. And then that rectangular white pvc is
3 our quadrant that we put down on random spaces along
4 this line and then sample anything that's in that
5 quadrant. So this is a repeated measure and we have
6 the 30 sites around the lake and we were able to sample
7 all of them about four times this summer. So it is a
8 repeated measure and this is something that we're going
9 to be doing again next year. And we have a lot of
10 measurements that we take other than the crayfish that
11 are captured within the quadrants. We are constantly
12 monitoring the water temperature, what kind of
13 substrate the crayfish are found in and also the lake
14 level and some weather observations.

15
16 So this is something that we're going
17 to be doing again all throughout next year and I will
18 be working on compiling the data from this past year
19 this fall.

20
21 On to slide No. 5. Something else that
22 we did this year was the bathymetry of Buskin Lake.
23 The last map that had the bathymetry mapped was back
24 from, I think the 1980s. So something we did this year
25 was we worked with Heather Finkle over at Fish and Game
26 and she was able to use that autonomous underwater
27 vehicle pictured at the right, that yellow picture, she
28 was able to use that to get updated bathymetry of
29 Buskin Lake, which is really useful for multiple
30 agencies in Kodiak and for our project because we can
31 see where some suitable habitat might be between the
32 historical bathymetry map and this one you can see kind
33 of on that southern corner, right in the middle there,
34 there's a really shallow spot -- it's about five meters
35 deep, and that has changed since the historical map was
36 written, or since they did the bathymetry and so
37 that's the spot we're going to be concentrating on next
38 year.

39
40 And then moving on to slide No. 6.

41
42 These are our sampling results from the
43 past three years. And so you can kind of see our
44 sampling methods have changed from 2016, 2017 to 2018,
45 but this just kind of lays out of the different methods
46 and how effective they were at capturing crayfish. In
47 2016 and 2017 our main focus was on electrofishing and
48 then also dipnet, hand capture. In 2017 the dipnet
49 hand capture number was much higher because we were
50

1 keeping lots of specimens to do crayfish dissections in
2 some of the elementary schools. As you can see the
3 kick seine number was zero for all three of the years.
4 It's been effective in other areas but with Buskin
5 watershed there's higher water and it's just more
6 challenging to be able to collect crayfish fish that
7 way. And in 2018 the snorkeling number of 1,283 is
8 much higher because we had that dedicated crew that was
9 able to be out there every single day doing the
10 snorkeling transects. It's not as high as it would be
11 if they were just snorkeling and collecting any
12 crayfish that they saw because our numbers were limited
13 to the ones that they were catching throughout the
14 transect. But our numbers are more effective because
15 we can see how quickly those areas are getting
16 repopulated when we take the crayfish out that they do
17 capture in those transects.

18
19 So this year we captured 1,392
20 crayfish, much more than we captured the previous two
21 years.

22
23 And then the next slide, No. 7.

24
25 Results continued. This is just kind
26 of a different way to look at the data based on the
27 method. Snorkeling and I see that I have -- that 2016
28 map does not look right, so disregard that one, but
29 2018 the snorkeling was really effective and it's a
30 really great way to be able to capture them. It's what
31 most of the sport fishers have been doing, just
32 snorkeling for several hours and being able to fill up
33 a cooler full of crayfish.

34
35 And moving on to No. 8, size classes
36 and sex ratio. This is the data that we've collected
37 all three of the years just to see how they compared to
38 one another. So the mean carapace, the carapace is
39 from the front of the crayfish, the very front where
40 their antenna meets their body all the way to where
41 their abdomen meets their where their leg start, so
42 it's just the front part, it's standard, it doesn't
43 include the claws, which makes it a good standard size.
44 So for 2016 29 millimeters, and it was much higher in
45 2017, 36.7 and a little bit smaller this year with 33.1
46 millimeters or 1.3 inches. The largest specimen that
47 we caught was also in 2017 for the carapace length, it
48 was 117 millimeters, 4.6 inches, so that crayfish was
49 easily over 8 inches for the whole body measurement
50

1 which is fairly large. The smallest specimen each year
2 have been the five millimeters and that is about the
3 size of your pinkie, pinkie nail. It's the young of
4 the year that have just recently become independent
5 from their mothers and normally we're catching those in
6 July and August. And then for sex ratios, they've been
7 fairly similar each year. We had more females that we
8 caught in 2016 and then it was reversed in 2017. This
9 year it was almost the same, 1.01 males to one female.
10 And then that's just broken down below for the number
11 of females, males and then unknowns. The unknown
12 juveniles are just too small to be able to tell if
13 they're male or female, the ones that are just recently
14 detached from their mother.

15

16 So moving on to No. 9, public outreach.

17

18 The public outreach has been a huge
19 part of this project, just because the public is really
20 interested in the crayfish and interested in harvesting
21 them as a sportfishery. We have signs that are posted
22 at the Buskin Lake outlet and river access point. And
23 we pointed a sign this summer asking people to write
24 down their harvest numbers and locations. And this has
25 been very -- people have responded well and they have
26 been writing down exactly how many they've caught, how
27 many female with eggs they've caught, where they caught
28 them and there's a column for their contact information
29 if they feel comfortable with us contacting them. And
30 so we haven't put down the totals, we haven't figured
31 out the totals from that yet but will be something to
32 work on later. And as of just a couple of days ago
33 people are still snorkeling for crayfish in Buskin. So
34 we'll be curious to see how long people do that until
35 the lake ices over. We've also posted information and
36 videos on our website and social media. Two years ago
37 we made a little project video that was shared on our
38 website and also on social media. Educational outreach
39 has been a big part of the project too. Every year we
40 go to the Welcome Aboard Fair at the Coast Guard Base
41 just so people know that signal crayfish are invasive
42 and what to do if they find them. And we have done
43 lessons at salmon camp and adventure camp with the
44 Refuge. We go out to Buskin and teach them about
45 invasive species and then try to capture some signal
46 crayfish from the shore. And this year we went out to
47 Afognak and did a crayfish dissection out there for the
48 kids which they really enjoyed. We've had some
49 interviews by KMXC and the Daily Mirror. And just two
50

1 months ago KMXC did a nice article on the sportfishing
2 aspect of the signal crayfish in Buskin.

3
4 So moving on to No. 10. Some upcoming
5 work.

6
7 We captured all the -- all the crayfish
8 that we captured we freeze them to kill them and then
9 we will be sending them to the UAF stable isotope lab
10 later this fall to do some stable isotope analysis and
11 see if it's more of a plant based or animal based diet.
12 And that's a question people have been wondering for a
13 long time so it will be good to have some data from
14 that. And we are contracting with AquaLife Engineering
15 to do some habitat mapping of Buskin Lake later this
16 fall, probably early November, through a camera sled.
17 So we'll see if there's any crayfish or burrows much
18 deeper in the lake that we haven't been able to access
19 yet. For the snorkelers, we can snorkel to about 10
20 feet and that's kind of the maximum depth we can
21 snorkel too and Buskin is about 18 meters or about 60
22 feet deep, so this camera sled would be really helpful
23 in seeing if there's any kind of habitat that they
24 would be utilizing if there's any kind of debris in the
25 bottom of Buskin that could be an artificial reef. We
26 did map salmon red locations when the sockeye were
27 spawning in the lake and so that's something we're
28 going to be overlapping with our data from this summer.

29
30 And then next year we're going to be
31 continuing our crayfish distribution work with the
32 snorkeling transects. One big thing we're doing next
33 year is a radiotagging study with those crayfish --
34 like those crayfish at that top picture, we're going to
35 put radio tags on them and track their movement, early
36 summer and then early fall and see where they're going.
37 We're not sure where they go in the fall. People seem
38 to have a harder time capturing them after mid-August
39 so they might be going deeper into the lake so that's
40 something we'll be able to verify. And then another
41 thing we're going to be doing next summer is a
42 mark/recapture study and that will help determine the
43 abundance of the crayfish, which is a huge question,
44 too, whether there's 10,000 or hundreds of thousands of
45 crayfish in the lake, we don't know and that's
46 something we're going to be finding out using these
47 visible implant elasta tags. It's a pliable silicone
48 that you inject into the tail of the crayfish and then
49 you release them back into the lake and once you
50

1 recapture them you can see if they have that mark or
2 not and then we'll use that and work with Fish and
3 Wildlife Staff to come up with an equation to figure
4 out the estimated abundance.
5

6 And we'll continue our public outreach,
7 talking to sportfishermen and seeing what the crayfish
8 harvest from Buskin Lake is next year as well.
9

10 So the last slide. Acknowledgments.
11

12 We've had a lot of people that have
13 helped us and have come down from Anchorage, especially
14 this year, help with the project. We've done some spot
15 checks in other water bodies other than Buskin Lake and
16 we had a lot of people that have helped us with that.
17 And a special thanks to our summer crew this year. And
18 to Fish and Wildlife tribal wildlife grant program for
19 funding this project.
20

21 So, with that, I will take any
22 questions.
23

24 Thank you.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Is
27 there any questions for Kelly.
28

29 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.
30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.
32

33 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Kelly, I was
34 wondering if you've done any diving up on the shallows
35 on the north end of the lake where the sockeyes spawn
36 and if you've done any observations of the crawdads in
37 there because I'm not sure, it's been a long time since
38 I looked at the literature but I think the thing
39 everybody is worried about is them burrowing down and
40 eating eggs. So have you seen them up in that neck of
41 the woods or are they on a different part of the lake?
42

43 MS. KRUEGER: Hi Pat. Yeah, they -- we
44 found a few of them up there and we found one female
45 with eggs in the middle of the summer and then I think
46 we found a few other ones. It's really muddy, sandy
47 habitat up there with no hiding cover and so we were
48 kind of stumped on why they would be up there before
49 the sockeye were coming back. And I'll have some maps
50

1 that I can show you after I compile all the data from
2 this past summer. But there were more than we thought
3 would be up there. I didn't really think any would be
4 up there.
5

6 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that'd be swell.
7 Yeah, I'd like to look at that. And if you guys have
8 time you might want to just make -- you're probably
9 already doing it, but make a cruise during -- or just a
10 regular linear patrol there during the spawning period.
11 Anyway, I'm sure Fish and Game's got that all figured
12 out, where they're at.
13

14 MS. KRUEGER: Yeah. Actually I talked
15 to Fish and Game and they didn't have any salmon red
16 locations so we did take GPS coordinates of all the
17 reds that we saw during -- we spent an afternoon going
18 around the lake, so I can overlap that with where we
19 caught the crayfish.
20

21 MR. HOLMES: Cool. You might check
22 with Steve (Indiscernible) he's a retired Fish and
23 Game, he used to do a whole lot of the limnology and
24 work like that and he may have had some observations if
25 he worked on that lake.
26

27 MS. KRUEGER: Okay, thanks, Pat.
28

29 MR. HOLMES: Bye-bye. Thank you,
30 Madame Chair.
31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
33

34 Zach, did you have a question.
35

36 MR. STEVENSON: Yes. For the speaker
37 -- for those unfamiliar with the project study site,
38 I'm wondering if you could perhaps help us understand,
39 perhaps using the image under updated bathymetry and
40 the image under upcoming work, showing the project
41 area, where the water enters the study site. If I'm
42 not mistaken it's at the upper left quadrant and where
43 the water leaves the site in the Buskin River. That
44 would be the lower right quadrant; is that correct?
45

46 Thank you, Madame Chair.
47

48 MS. KRUEGER: Sure. So I will go with
49 the updated bathymetry map on slide five. There are
50

1 several tributaries that are entering the lake on the
2 west side of the map and the lake meets the river on
3 that -- right by where the depth meter says 19, it's
4 that little point up there. And so the -- and then it
5 drains into the lake for several miles. And there's
6 smaller tributaries coming from all around the lakes
7 that are draining into the lake as well.

8
9 And so for those of you who don't know
10 Buskin Lake, it's about five miles from the city of
11 Kodiak, and it's the nearest subsistence salmon stream
12 and it's the spot where people mainly harvest, if they
13 have to in town, and it's just a very popular
14 recreational site as well.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
17 other comments or questions.

18
19 Chris.

20
21 MR. PRICE: Hi Kelly. Hey, thanks for
22 your report. I had a question on when your tribe did
23 -- you got your BIA invasive species grant, can
24 you.....

25
26 MS. KRUEGER: Yeah.

27
28 MR. PRICE:tell me why was it
29 just a one year grant.

30
31 MS. KRUEGER: The BIA invasive species?

32
33 MR. PRICE: Yeah.

34
35 MS. KRUEGER: So it was a one year that
36 was extended into two years. The way their grants work
37 is they're one year grants and so we just ended up
38 being able to extend it to a second year so we just
39 split up the funding between the two years and that's
40 why we could stretch it out. We had a full-time crew
41 that first year in 2016 and then in 2017 we just were
42 able to capture crayfish whenever we could, we didn't
43 have a full-time crew.

44
45 MR. PRICE: And just a quick followup.
46 Who was the BIA project officer for that project?

47
48 MS. KRUEGER: That is Rosealie
49 Debenham.

50

1 MR. PRICE: Thank you.

2

3 MS. KRUEGER: And she is out of Juneau,
4 I believe.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I believe
7 it looks like we are done at this time. Thank you so
8 much for your report, Kelly.

9

10 MS. KRUEGER: Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The next item on
13 our agenda is Aleut Community of St. Paul. Lauren
14 Divine, are you on line?

15

16 DR. DIVINE: I am on line, can you hear
17 me?

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We sure can, go
20 ahead.

21

22 DR. DIVINE: Perfect, than you. First
23 of all my name is Lauren Divine. I work for the Aleut
24 Community of St. Paul Island in the Pribilofs in
25 Alaska, and this is my first time attending this
26 meeting. I did apply for a position on the RAC, I
27 guess, a couple of years ago. I've been traveling so
28 much for the tribe that I did not qualify for permanent
29 residency in St. Paul, although I split my time between
30 St. Paul, St. George and Anchorage. And so I'm excited
31 to listen to all of the discussions that have been
32 happening and I'm excited to tell you a little bit
33 about what we've been doing in the Pribilofs.

34

35 So, in particular, I was asked to
36 provide a little bit of information regarding the
37 Aleutian and Bering Sea Island LCC, or landscape
38 conservation cooperative. And I provided a handout
39 that gives you a little bit of an idea of what the
40 landscape conservation cooperative has been up to
41 recently. There are some other steering committee
42 members in the room, several of whom are the founding
43 partners, so Karen Pletnikoff sits on the steering
44 committee as well as Chris Price in Unalaska, and we
45 have several other names that may be familiar to you. I
46 currently co-chair with Rob Taylor, who's with US Fish
47 and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Management, and
48 this is a really wonderful organization for the Aleut
49 Community of St. Paul to be involved in. In particular

50

1 I wanted to -- I was asked to kind of update everyone
2 on this resilience through partnerships and the coastal
3 resilience workshops.

4
5 At the LCC partnership, although all of
6 the LCCs in Alaska have been defunded by the Fish and
7 Wildlife Service, Alaska Conservation Foundation
8 extended an offer to harbor (ph) our coordinator, Aaron
9 Poe, as well as the Western Alaska that is in the
10 process of being hired now, and that -- the Western
11 Alaska LCC includes the Kodiak Region, so we really
12 have two LCCs represented here.

13
14 And so the steering committee decided
15 that the work that was being done was very important,
16 needed to continue, despite being defunded from Fish
17 and Wildlife Service. And so we've been part of
18 projects in the region that include a socio-economic
19 synthesis that you'll hear, hopefully, from Liza Mack,
20 who is there, on. And we've also worked to do some
21 vessel traffic monitoring and work that's on the second
22 page, there's a safe vessel routing and you have a
23 before and after picture on the second page of that
24 handout that kind of shows you an effort you can read
25 about in the paragraph that basically to look at areas
26 to be avoided through the Western Aleutians and those
27 are through important marine mammal habitat. And so
28 that was one.

29
30 The other thing that we're really
31 excited to keep working on is the coastal resilience
32 workshop. And so the Aleutian Life Forum was one of
33 those workshops. We held workshops in Kotzebue and King
34 Salmon and some other locations. And this was really
35 interdisciplinary, it was a way to bring Federal
36 agencies, State agencies, researchers and communities
37 together and ways to get the voices of us on the
38 ground, that are experiencing and seeing these climate
39 changes, dealing with things like invasive species that
40 we just heard about, together with the managers and
41 potential funders of research and mitigation efforts.
42 And the Aleutian Bering Sea Island LCC is now working
43 with the Arctic Domain Awareness Center to -- and a
44 variety of partners that's now looking at geofencing,
45 which is a virtual fence that is drawn around a
46 specific geographical area, it can move in space and
47 time, and it can be used to protect areas, where, say
48 whales are migrating through a corridor, marine mammals
49 are swimming through -- important feeding areas or
50

1 breeding grounds, and we're looking at these geofences
2 as a way to deploy areas to be avoided that can move in
3 space and time and can maybe lessen or eliminate vessel
4 traffic in areas that are very sensitive and very
5 important ecologically to our subsistence resources and
6 aren't static, like some of the other protected areas.

7
8 And so we're looking to grow all of
9 that work through continuing these workshops and I
10 believe there is a similar workshop that'll be held in
11 Kodiak in conjunction with Alaska SeaGrant at some
12 point in this winter or early next spring, and I think
13 that they are trying to align that with the next RAC
14 meeting, the next Kodiak/Aleutians RAC meeting that
15 will be held in Kodiak. And I guess our hope there is
16 that in aligning it with this meeting, that we would be
17 able to entice our Federal partners that might be
18 traveling to Kodiak to request participation in that
19 workshop and gathering and I'm not sure what the formal
20 avenue would be to request participation there for
21 Federal employees, folks like that, in a sense, but we
22 are certainly open to suggestions and help in getting
23 that done.

24
25 And the other thing that I wanted to
26 mention that I was told maybe, and ask for this group,
27 is that in regards to the Coastal resilience work that
28 has been done, this is something that has been a huge
29 collaboration and has been hugely successful and I hope
30 Karen Pletnikoff could speak a little bit more towards
31 it because she was integral in all of these workshops,
32 the products that were delivered and a huge tribute to
33 what these workshops were able to accomplish but we
34 think that these kinds of things are very important,
35 and that asking for maybe a formal letter written to
36 say, to our delegation, that these activities are
37 important and that we, as subsistence users, would like
38 to, you know, call that to our delegation's attention,
39 that, you know, we feel like the Coast resilience work
40 needs to be funded and we would support a delegation,
41 finding ways to kind of earmark things for that would
42 go a long way, something like this Regional Advisory
43 Council body writing something like that.

44
45 So, again, I will plead ignorance, this
46 is my first meeting, I don't know everything that's
47 going on and the right avenues but I would like to put
48 all of that out there.

1 And also say that, although, we've put
2 in an applicant from the tribe that was rejected, we
3 are still looking for those that do qualify from the
4 Pribilofs to submit applications. I spoke with Zach
5 earlier, or I guess last week, and really heard the --
6 he, you know, really advocated for encouraging
7 applicants, encouraging more participation in this
8 process, and so I'm excited to say that we're really
9 trying hard to get some traction in our community to
10 put some applications forward this round, and, if
11 nothing else, I will absolutely be happy to participate
12 in the interim and provide, you know, updates of what's
13 going on in the Pribilofs. I heard this morning all of
14 the updates and I think that we're sharing some of the
15 very similar things, like complete failure of berries
16 on both St. Paul and St. George, and slow halibut
17 fishing for our local fishermen, that had extended
18 seasons in order to catch their quotas and meet their
19 needs. And then we also have things like, you know,
20 our reindeer herds that we're managing, each island has
21 a herd of over 400 that the tribes and regional
22 corporations -- or village corporations are managing
23 very differently and are very healthy, happy herds that
24 we're managing actively as a reliable subsistence
25 resource in a time where a lot of our subsistence
26 resources are declining and disappearing and acting in
27 very unpredictable ways.

28
29 And so while we have a lot of similar
30 kind of experiences as the broader Aleutian/Kodiak
31 region, we also are very unique in some ways and have
32 very different perspectives and subsistence issues and
33 perspectives.

34
35 And so I'm excited to at least listen
36 and participate in that way during this meeting and I
37 hope that we can get stronger participation from the
38 Pribilofs in the future.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
43 Lauren. Are there any comments or questions for Lauren
44 at this time.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

49
50

1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, hi. That's a really
2 good report, Lauren. I was with Fish and Game for a
3 long time, ADF&G and used to go up there and some of
4 the old-timers told me that on occasion that they would
5 get pink salmon spawning in that big lagoon, and I was
6 wondering with the shift of salmon populations down in
7 the Gulf and usually even years in the Central
8 Aleutians was a big year for pinks, I was just
9 wondering if you folks are getting any pink salmon up
10 there or even any kings?

11
12 DR. DIVINE: That's a great question,
13 thank you for that.

14
15 And, yes, you're correct, we do have
16 salmon in our salt lagoon.

17
18 MR. HOLMES: Wow.

19
20 DR. DIVINE: And we have known that
21 salmon have been around for a long time. It's never
22 been, to my knowledge, formally investigated, I have
23 not been able to find any publications or report that
24 have looked at that. So we began last year with
25 internal tribal funding seeing that this is something
26 that was -- something worth investigating. We've known
27 salmon have been around, we didn't know it's species,
28 we didn't know if they were feeding, and then going
29 back out into the ocean and just coming in as an ocean
30 feeding salmon or whether they were spawning, whether
31 they were spawning successfully, we had no idea. And so
32 last year we did see some run of salmon in the salt
33 lagoon. Our salt lagoon is brackish, it has full tidal
34 exchange with the bays and the St. Paul harbor that
35 it's connected to, but there are several fresh water
36 inputs that come from underground aquifers that are
37 completely fresh as we've begun monitoring them
38 starting last year and it's, you know, zero salinity,
39 very fresh water, it's much colder than, you know, of
40 course, now in these very warm years, the salt water
41 that's coming through the water. We did see both ocean
42 and spawning based salmon and we collected chum, pink
43 and reds. We did not -- as of now have not seen any
44 king salmon or caught any king salmon. We have seen or
45 heard reports that fishermen have seen them out in the
46 ocean, which is not surprising that they might be
47 feeding around the island. We do know that we get all
48 five salmon feeding around the island. But last year
49 we were able to collect some salmon that people had
50

1 been just subsistence, you know, harvesting or had
2 caught within the salt lagoon and we were able to get a
3 scale and a fin clip off of those salmon and we have
4 not gotten any of the results back but ADF&G sent us
5 everything that we needed to collect the scales and the
6 fin clips to be able to give it to them for processing.
7 I will say, we ran into a little bit of how to properly
8 store and save all of the samples, and so we're having
9 to kind of go back and clarify and relabel everything
10 and correcting for them, from the initial shipment that
11 they got.

12
13 But we do have salmon and it is
14 something that our community is interested in as a
15 subsistence resource that occurs around the Pribilof
16 and it is something that we're interested in knowing
17 how it's connected to other regions and how it's
18 connected to this region in general.

19
20 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that's really cool.
21 I used to come up and do tank inspections because that
22 would be a slack time for me for Aleutian salmon, and
23 walked around the bluffs there where some of those were
24 and that's certainly a spot where pink salmon and maybe
25 chums, but pinks for sure, and I think when Paul
26 Mercurief was the manager there he had some questions,
27 and I think if you folks wanted to explore fish that
28 were migrating by the island, I heard from Iver
29 Malutin, he's been -- he's a Kodiak elder, he's been
30 dead for a few years, but he had chum up at Point
31 Barrow friend that was gillnetting chinook all the way
32 up around towards Point Barrow. So you might chat with
33 Lisa Fox at the Kodiak office and see if there might be
34 a way where you folks could get a couple of gillnets,
35 you know, maybe progressive sized ones or even, you
36 know, a bigger chinook gillnet, you know, and set them
37 off the sea lion rocks or some -- well, probably away
38 from the sea lions, but anyway that's pretty exciting.

39
40 That's really neat.

41
42 Thank you so much.

43
44 DR. DIVINE: Yeah, thank you for
45 sharing those names. It's something that we are
46 definitely building our inventory to be able to beach
47 seine, fyke net, gillnet, you know, try to catch
48 various phases. We, as of yet, haven't actively seen,
49 you know, reds or caught outmigrating juveniles that
50

1 would presumably be there if they had been successfully
2 spawned the winter prior, but this is something that's
3 new for us and I -- we're interested in talking to
4 anyone that might have help or advice on how to further
5 investigate, right, exactly, what we're getting and why
6 and where they're coming from.

7
8 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, because you could
9 maybe get -- you may have a small local run of pinks
10 and then, you know, there certainly are migrant fish
11 there, back in the days of INPFC, International Pacific
12 Fisheries Commission, they used to publish the tagging
13 data and the Japanese used to do their high seas
14 gillnetting and so they had quite a distribution of
15 chinook salmon and other species up around your neck of
16 the woods at times. So it hopefully might make a good
17 subsistence resource for you.

18
19 Wish you luck.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 DR. DIVINE: Excellent.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Bye.

26
27 DR. DIVINE: Thank you. Thank you for
28 sharing that.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
31 comments.

32
33 Chris.

34
35 MR. PRICE: Lauren, quick question.
36 How are your fur seal populations doing, have they --
37 are they continuing to decline or are they rebounding?

38
39 DR. DIVINE: I do not want to be a
40 buzz-kill, but they're doing terribly. They -- so I
41 can't provide any figures. There's a biennial pup
42 production count that's done every other year, not
43 every year and there are annual bull counts and those
44 are the two measures that are used to estimate the
45 population of fur seals for St. Paul, in particular. A
46 lot of our rookeries this year were reported from the
47 NOAA personnel that were out conducting the pup
48 (indiscernible), that they reported a lot of dead
49 pups and the live pups that were on the rookeries were
50

1 very small, skinny, you know, not putting on weight
2 like healthy pups should be doing. That information
3 should be coming out sometime in the next few months as
4 the stock assessment reports come out, at least by
5 February, so not in the near, near term. But we, you
6 know, community members have been watching the decline
7 for decades and it's something they're very concerned
8 about.

9
10 There's some differences among
11 rookeries. Some rookeries tend to do better than
12 others and some are seeing actually an up tick up pup
13 production, so we're seeing maybe a few more pups
14 surviving. But in general we're very much in a
15 continued decline and it's happening at a pretty
16 alarming rate.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
19 Lauren.

20
21 Any other comments.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you for a
26 very good report. Very appreciative.

27
28 The next item on our agenda is AIA,
29 Liza Mack, Dr. Liza Mack.

30
31 DR. MACK: I have a PowerPoint as well,
32 is that okay, or is it not working.

33
34 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
35 We'll attempt to get that working on the projector.

36
37 (Pause)

38
39 (Teleconference interruption -
40 participants not muted - not an equipment issue)

41
42 (Pause)

43
44 MR. STEVENSON: Folks, if you'd please
45 return to your seats we're going to resume.

46
47 (Pause)

48
49 DR. MACK: Thank you guys for allowing
50

1 me to be here, my name is Liza Mack, I am the Executive
2 Director of Aleut International Association and I
3 wanted to come here today and talk about some of the
4 things that.....

5
6 REPORTER: Hang on. Hang on, hold on.

7
8 DR. MACK:this body.

9
10 REPORTER: Let me fix that for you.

11
12 DR. MACK: Thank you.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 DR. MACK: Good afternoon everybody.
17 My name is Liza Mack, I am the Executive Director for
18 Aleut International Association. Aleut International
19 Association is one of the six permanent participants to
20 the Arctic Council. I did send around some information
21 about what the Arctic Council is. But what I wanted to
22 come here and talk to you guys about today is some of
23 the partnerships that we have with the US Fish and
24 Wildlife Service and also with the Park Service, and
25 how our work with subsistence might be of interest to
26 you guys here.

27
28 So just some background information
29 about one of our projects -- so if you could go to the
30 next page.

31
32 What started with the Bering Sea
33 subnetwork, we did subsistence harvest surveys for five
34 Alaskan and three Russian communities between 2009 and
35 2013 and this actually produced over 7,100 interviews
36 about surveys about subsistence in these areas. And so
37 what came out of this work was a project summary that
38 you can find, the Bering Sea SubNetwork II and then
39 also this information is housed on the AIA's website
40 for Gambell, Katchala, Savoonga and Togiak, and it's
41 also archived with ELOKA, Exchange for Local
42 Observations and Knowledge of the Arctic.

43
44 This was all done in a paper format so
45 people actually filled out paper, did survey work. And
46 so it was the predecessor to CONAS, which is the
47 project that we're currently working on right now.

48
49 CONAS stands for the Community

50

1 Observation Network for Adaptation and Security.

2
3 This is a project that is and has been
4 approved by the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna.
5 If you see on this, on the first paper that I gave you
6 guys, it says Aleut International Association, about
7 the Arctic Council, the CAFF is one of the six working
8 groups of the Arctic Council and for this project to be
9 recognized at that forum is very important. It shows
10 -- what the CAFF working group does is it looks at
11 species and habitat management and also shares
12 information about different management techniques and
13 regulatory regimes and then what it does is it helps to
14 facilitate knowledgeable decisionmaking, which is
15 really what we're hoping some of this CONAS work does
16 and especially this new iteration of CONAS that we
17 have.

18
19 So in previous years it was funded by
20 the North Pacific Research Board and the Alaska Native
21 Fund, and during that time between 2013 and 2017 we
22 shifted from using the paper surveys to developing an
23 electronic app using GIS data and we did this in the
24 villages of Gambell, Sand Point, Savoonga, and Togiak
25 and we surveyed there between December 2016 and August
26 2017.

27
28 So this right here is an example of
29 what you'll find on the AIA's website for the BSSN
30 data. The BSSN data, as you remember, is the paper
31 data. So when we got the surveys in everything, all
32 7,000 interviews were put into this database and what
33 you see here is shape, files and polygons that show you
34 a heat map that represents the harvest area. The
35 darker red and the more polygons that intersect you'll
36 see that's where the greater density of effort is
37 happening. And what's really kind of amazing about
38 this technology and about looking at it in this way is
39 that you could actually filter this by village, you
40 could filter it by time and also by species.

41
42 One of the things that is really
43 important and unique about the CONAS project and about
44 this information that has been shared with us is that
45 it is owned by the communities. So one of the reasons
46 that, for example, there are only several of the
47 villages that are involved, or that are shown on the
48 AIA's website is because the communities have the right
49 to say whether or not their data can be released, who

50

1 it can be released to and how it can be used, which is
2 something that we haven't seen a lot before, and it
3 gives the people in our communities, the knowledge
4 holders, the opportunity to use that in ways -- however
5 they want, really.

6
7 One of the places where we had surveyed
8 before, and a really good example of why this is
9 important, is for, I think the community of Sand Point,
10 we had -- when they first went in and did the BSSN
11 surveys the map area wasn't as vast as the amount of
12 area that Aleut people go and hunt in and so all of
13 that data, I'm pretty sure will never ever be released
14 because they don't ever want that to be like the small
15 picture of what they were actually doing because they
16 don't ever want people to make inferences, say from
17 saying they were only hunting and fishing in this area.
18 And so the ability that we've done with being able to
19 -- this is fine -- being able to develop this digitally
20 is by giving people a larger area to actually survey
21 in.

22
23 So this is a picture of how we've been
24 collecting the data flow. Our GIS professionals have
25 worked with community members to not only decide what
26 species to look at but also the range of the area that
27 they would be hunting and fishing in and then that is
28 actually sent to the cloud, it's brought back down on
29 to tablets and these tablets are sent out to our
30 communities and actually people who are trusted in the
31 communities to collect the data work with high
32 harvester, hunters, fishermen, who are actually out on
33 the landscape and kind of going back to the community
34 -- to why it's important to have the community
35 involved in this process is not only are the
36 communities defining the range, they're defining the
37 species, they're also defining who gets to -- who
38 should be surveyed in this matter. So they're the ones
39 that are identifying the knowledge holders within the
40 community which is very very important.

41
42 Next one, please.

43
44 And so this right here is the picture
45 of the collector app itself. And so if you can see the
46 -- this would be a CRA, a community research assistant,
47 and they have the respondents draw a polygon where that
48 represents where they're harvesting in that area. The
49 quality assurance and kind of quality control

50

1 mechanisms that have been built into this are really
2 what's important, not only they enter the date then
3 they enter what they're actually reporting on and then
4 they enter the time series for when they were hunting
5 and fishing in that area. So what this does is it not
6 only helps to keep all of the data cleaner, it helps to
7 make sure that things aren't mixed up and there's a lot
8 less errors.
9

10 So this right here is an example of
11 what it looks like when we get it back after the GIS
12 analyst looks at it. So this is from Gambell, in the
13 winter of 2016 and 2017, and this is not actually to be
14 released for public use. I mean before anything is
15 looked at and like published, those things do have to
16 be approved by the tribal council and/or people in the
17 village.
18

19 So this brings us to CONAS. And like I
20 said, CONAS is the next step after we switched from
21 paper surveys to actually creating the app that is now
22 collecting this digitally. The past two years through
23 2017 was actually funded by the NPRB, an Alaska Native
24 Fund, and now we have new collaborations with the US
25 Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Park Service for
26 the years 2017 through 2021.
27

28 And we have been working in very close
29 collaboration with the ABSI LCC, which is what Lauren
30 -- Dr. Lauren Divine was just talking about and also
31 with the Beringia Program for the National Park
32 Service. Something that we would like to see happen is
33 taking some of these lifetime harvest datas that we
34 have started collecting and things that we have in the
35 past and kind of building them into a data set that is
36 actually more useful for community members to engage in
37 Federal policy, in State policy and to be -- and
38 figuring out what they need in order to have this
39 information be not only accessible but also for it to
40 be useful for multiple users. One of the other things
41 that this does, this funding, is it's going to add up
42 to five new communities. We've been having
43 conversations in King Cove and Unalaska and also on our
44 Russian side with the villages of Nikolski on the
45 Commander Islands, possibly looking at either Timlant
46 or Kochilan, so -- well, -- Aleut International -- the
47 reason that it's Aleut International is because we
48 represent the Aleut people that live both in Alaska and
49 in Russia. So adding those components to this and kind
50

1 of getting a broader overview of the Beringia area, so
2 around the Bering Sea is really important to us.

3

4

Next.

5

6 So we'll begin collecting data, like I
7 said, from, hopefully Kochilan, Nikolski or Timlant,
8 and one of the reasons that we would like to go back to
9 these places is because we would like to see the
10 differences that we have from when we were collecting
11 this data 10 years ago versus now, and how that's
12 changed because we -- even in just the several years
13 that we were looking, say, around the Togiak area and
14 different areas, we see a range shift. And so these
15 differences and these accelerated changes that we're
16 seeing in the coastal areas is very important to not
17 only just to kind of map but also to understand how
18 those dynamics play out within our communities and what
19 that means for, not only subsistence users, but what
20 that means culturally, what that means locally and what
21 that also means at the Federal level, whether or not
22 we're seeing the policy changes and shifts as they're
23 needed -- as quickly as we might be needing them on the
24 ground.

25

26

So -- go back one more.

27

28

MR. STEVENSON: You bet.

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

And so, yeah, with that, these were
some of the funders that we have and we've been working
with so we'd like to thank them very much. And, yeah,
I guess I'm here to take any questions.

MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

MS. SKINNER: She said, go ahead, Pat.

MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Liza, did we meet

1 you when we were at the King Cove meeting a year or two
2 ago?

3
4 DR. MACK: Yep, that was me.

5
6 MR. HOLMES: Oh, wonderful.

7
8 Well, congratulations on finishing your
9 grad school.

10
11 DR. MACK: Thank you.

12
13 MR. HOLMES: I was really impressed
14 with your talk then and your talk now. And what you've
15 been up to is something I've been campaigning, and
16 others for a long time, is that, having local
17 subsistence surveys and being done by the folks in the
18 communities, you know, to get something like that
19 established. Because as you know there's been some
20 surveys done, I think awhile back they hired a really
21 expensive, really good gal from the States to do a
22 survey at Dutch Harbor and it wasn't comparable data
23 and, you know, sometimes the subsistence surveys spend
24 hundreds of thousands of dollars where, you know, if
25 you just had a mentor that, you know, had the
26 background from Jim Falls' group there at Subsistence
27 Division and a local tribe and local folks, you know, I
28 mean who's going to be lying to a high school kid or
29 whoever is helping put it together, and then you got
30 the instant documentation when you have problems like
31 the sea otters scarfing up all the crab or, you know,
32 no sockeye coming in, you can immediately have that
33 information without having to hire an expensive
34 consultant from somewhere else.

35
36 So my hat's off my old bald head for
37 you and thanks a bunch.

38
39 DR. MACK: Thank you very much. No, and
40 I think you bring up a very good point.

41
42 One of the main, I think, success about
43 this system is that going out and actually developing
44 the survey tool itself with our community members when
45 it's important and, you know, which things to be
46 looking at.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I really hope that
49 we can get something like that going permanently, you

50

1 know, for all of the areas in the Gulf and the
2 Aleutians and the Bering Sea, you know, everywhere. I
3 mean it's just the right thing to do. So you're really
4 taking the lead on a great thing and following in the
5 good tradition of the Mack family.

6
7 DR. MACK: Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
10 Any other comments or questions for Liza.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Dr.
15 Mack. Oh, just a minute, Zach.

16
17 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
18 Liza. I'm curious as the next step, is there a
19 particular ask of this Council regarding how they might
20 support or engage in this type of work. I'm curious of
21 what your view for a next step looks like.

22
23 Thank you, Madame Chair.

24
25 DR. MACK: I guess there's -- thank you
26 for that question. I guess something that we are
27 really interested in, like I said, the -- as Coastal
28 people and as people who are experiencing, you know,
29 the changes that we have with different ranges of
30 species and things, I think that the work that's been
31 done here is really amazing and successful and so I
32 think that if we could continue to see or maybe
33 something in your guys' annual report or whatever,
34 about continuing the Coastal Monitoring Program or how
35 we can just start to keep looking at those things.

36
37 And then specifically, I mean, we
38 appreciate the support that we've already gotten, I
39 guess expanding this and, yeah, looking at it at more
40 of a grassroots level and how we can be doing this kind
41 of monitoring in our communities and what that looks
42 like, I think, would be huge.

43
44 Also emphasizing the importance of
45 traditional knowledge and local and indigenous
46 knowledge and how that looks and how we can engage more
47 of our experts as far as elders and leaders in our
48 communities and incorporating that and giving it as
49 much of a platform as we do to science and encouraging

50

1 those kinds of conversations, I think, is really
2 important.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Liza.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 I'm going to ask for one second here.

9

10 (Pause)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: It's been the
13 practice of the Kodiak/Aleutians that when we receive a
14 request for the public testimony, we normally will go
15 ahead and stop what we're doing and let that person
16 testify, if you don't mind. And in this case, it's
17 Vince Tutiakoff, Sr., from Unalaska and it's in regard
18 to McLees Lake, Unalaska Lake and Summer Bay surveys
19 and he's here to represent his own views plus the
20 Unalaska Native Fishermen's Association. And just on a
21 side note, Vince actually was a member of this Council
22 for many, many years back in the day when we were all
23 young.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So Vince.

28

29 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Good afternoon. Thanks
30 for allowing me to speak. I missed this morning due to
31 board meetings and a funeral so I'm running late here,
32 getting here.

33

34 I don't know if Chris gave an update
35 regarding McLees Lake, Summers Bay or Unalaska. But
36 the funding was not available this year. We had a very
37 bad run compared to earlier years. I think it was like
38 that all over but we did get a few fish. We hired
39 Andrew -- what's his name -- anyway he has a business
40 that flies drones to do surveys.

41

42 MR. PRICE: Diettrich.

43

44 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Diettrich, yeah, Andy
45 Diettrich. And through UNFA and working with the tribe
46 and the city of Unalaska and Unalaska Corporation all
47 got together and said we needed to have a survey done
48 to keep up some kind of information of what was going
49 on. We had a lot of locals, myself included, that -- I

50

1 made six trips to McLees Lake before I got one fish,
2 that's how bad it was, and that's a 15 mile run one
3 way.
4

5 And so most of the people that were
6 going or wanted to go was waiting for people like
7 myself and a couple others that did make the trip and
8 started getting fish, started reporting fish because
9 there was no observers or anybody there, then they -- I
10 think it was late July, in fact, mid-July that the reds
11 finally started showing up and they lasted maybe a week
12 and a half to two weeks. We had a flyover by the local
13 guy who has a small plane, he had tried to do a count
14 with a Fish and Game guy, I don't know how that turned
15 out, I haven't heard anything from them, but I know the
16 survey by the drone was done, it was done in Unalaska
17 Lake, it was done in Summers Bay Lake and we'll be
18 getting that information probably at our next UNFA
19 meeting and after everybody returns back from meetings
20 that they're attending now here in Anchorage. But it
21 won't be until the end of the month, or November that
22 we actually get together.
23

24
25 But I think it's important that we -- I
26 don't know we had 15 or 20 years of information on
27 McLees Lake and one of the worst years to not even have
28 a survey being done out there, or having somebody out
29 there would have been this year so we did make an
30 effort.
31

32 I don't know if you have any questions
33 specifically for me but we'll continue to talk to Fish
34 and Wildlife, and other entities, State of Alaska,
35 whomever, if we have to do it locally I think we could
36 do that but it's going to take a lot more money than
37 what we've been paying before for this project through
38 the tribe.
39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
41

42 Rebecca.
43

44 MS. SKINNER: Hi, thank you for
45 testifying. A couple of weeks ago I was speaking with
46 Frank Kelty from the city of Unalaska about the McLees
47 weir and I was trying to get a sense for the impact of
48 not having a weir on the ability to do subsistence
49 harvesting, so if there was -- if there were reductions
50

1 in harvest ability this summer because there was a lack
2 of a weir, or if there wasn't an impact this year, if
3 that's something that you would anticipate in coming
4 years. Because the less information there is, the more
5 conservatively they tend to open fisheries.

6
7 Is that something that you could speak
8 to?

9
10 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Well, I'll take a guess
11 at it. But I don't think it's going to be a reduction.
12 We've increased users in McLees Lake from 15 to 20
13 years ago from 10 or 15 households to over, let's say
14 300, at least, and most of them, you know, qualify for
15 subsistence permit because they've been in the
16 community for -- or in the state of Alaska for 30 days
17 and I've always said that a majority of -- from -- from
18 what I've seen over the years these fish taken as
19 "subsistence" are shipped out of the state and that has
20 hurt our rivers and streams immensely, especially in
21 Summers Bay and Unalaska where it's easy to get to.
22 I've seen 50, 60 people snagging off the beaches in
23 Summers Bay and in the lake and in the stream, without
24 any kind of -- you know we have one State Trooper and
25 we did have one brown shirt there for a period of time
26 but he's gone now and this year it was -- because there
27 was a lack of fish was the only reason they didn't fish
28 as much this year on the beaches.

29
30 It's a local effort between the tribe,
31 the city and the Unalaska Fish and Game Advisory Board,
32 to try and get the word out that they need to stay out
33 of these areas and allow the fish to go up or there
34 won't be any left. And I feel for the people that want
35 to get this fish but they're not utilizing it in the
36 community, they're sending it out and that's going to
37 be a problem, I mean it always has been and I continue
38 to support the local people by going out and getting
39 their share of the fish for them, either elders or
40 people that can't get out who don't have a boat.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
43 comments or questions for vince.

44
45 Chris.

46
47 MR. PRICE: Hi, Vince. Thanks for
48 testifying today. I just want the Board here to
49 understand how important it is, people like Vince to be

50

1 out there on a year like this when we didn't have
2 coverage and getting that information. And also the
3 ground work that UNFA did to get the aerial surveys
4 going and make the attempts to also communicate about
5 what's going on in Unalaska Bay. He mentioned Summers
6 Bay and just our local rivers in Unalaska Bay and how
7 they are impacted and if people can't get fish at
8 McLees, they're going to put pressure on these local
9 streams that are already under a lot of pressure.

10

11 So appreciate you testifying today,
12 Vince.

13

14 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yep, thanks.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
17 other comments or questions.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you very
22 much Vince.

23

24 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We've been
27 tracking along.....

28

29 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Pat.

30

31 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Oh, Pat.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

34

35 MR. HOLMES: Hey, Vince, that's a good
36 report. That sounds -- that's the most frightening
37 thing I've heard about from Unalaska in years, starting
38 all the way back in the early '60s, that's just
39 incredible that you had to make six trips to McLees to
40 get a sockeye and not having them show up and then when
41 they did they were only there for a week or two.
42 That's just terrible.

43

44 We are still arguing for funding for
45 McLees. I don't know exactly what happened but that
46 was judged not as acceptable as doing something else
47 for our region and so we're going to continue to argue
48 and fight to get that to happen. And I think your
49 wisdom here on getting aerial surveys with a drone,

50

1 having done some of those surveys with a Grumman Goose,
2 I mean that makes kind of Star Wars whimp, so I have
3 to commend you folks for doing what you can and you
4 know your AC could make a request to the Board of Fish
5 to close snagging in saltwater because Summers Bay
6 there, that's just a tiny system and I can really share
7 your strong feelings and empathy for the situation, and
8 I think our Council's going to try and do everything we
9 can. We're going to keep working on it.

10

11 So, anyway, best of everything to you
12 there, Vince, and thanks for all the things you do.

13

14 Bye.

15

16 MR. TUTIAKOFF: Yeah, thanks Pat.

17 Also, you know, I'd like to mention that we did go to a
18 system of limited fish on the front beach. A couple of
19 years ago, we had like 15, 20 gillnets; 10 years ago
20 there might have been one or two. So it got to the
21 point where there was no escapement, and this is the
22 year to do it and we did it and people got their, I
23 believe it was 10 per whole season and if you wanted
24 more you'd have to go to -- have somebody like me or
25 get out there and fall overboard trying to catch some
26 reds in that area, but, yeah.

27

28 Okay, well, thanks Pat, and good to see
29 you guys. Some of you I don't.....

30

31 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I had.....

32

33 MR. KOSO: Hey, Vince.

34

35 MR. HOLMES:one more question for
36 you, Vince, I understand you folks -- there was some
37 effort to try to get a community harvest permit for
38 McLees Lake, did that shake out or not, because that
39 would be a good way to help the elders, but I don't
40 know what the results of that was.

41

42 MR. TUTIAKOFF: I'll refer that to the
43 tribe. I think that's where it came from originally,
44 was because of the low salmon turnout there, I did
45 bring in -- I think it was 30 and I gave all of those
46 away, on the very last trip.

47

48 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, man after my heart.
49 Thank you.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Vince, if
2 you'll just hold a second.

3
4 Rick.

5
6 MR. KOSO: Yeah, thanks, Vince, for
7 your testimony there.

8
9 I know I talked to Lisa Fox this summer
10 about getting, you know, some surveys done in Adak and
11 I know they mentioned that they were going to Dutch
12 Harbor to do some surveys so I don't know if they ever
13 made it out there or what. But hopefully they'll have
14 a report on Dutch Harbor here, they'll be coming up
15 here shortly so we'll be able to ask them that.

16
17 Thank you, Vince.

18
19 MR. TUTIAKOFF: All right, thanks.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And, Vince, if
22 you could just hold one second.

23
24 Scott or Robbin, were you able to get
25 any information as to why the McLees, the weir was not
26 funded. We talked a little bit about that this
27 morning.

28
29 MS. LAVINE: Hi, Madame Chair. Members
30 of the Council.

31
32 The main thing is the review goes to
33 the principal investigator, the final review, and it
34 becomes private information that they -- it is their
35 right to share or not as they see fit, so, again, I
36 think Scott said that it's not that it wasn't a
37 competitive project, it's just that others were --
38 others were graded, based on the five criteria, a
39 little higher and they were more competitive in that
40 way.

41
42 Additionally, there may be
43 opportunities going forward, I don't know if the
44 Technical Review Committee will have the opportunity to
45 look through transcripts or annual reports, but there
46 may be an opportunity for this Council to write a
47 letter that supports a McLees project that can then go
48 before the Technical Review Committee, and you may have
49 an opportunity to work with the principal investigator

50

1 leading up to this call ensuring that your support for
2 that proposal goes forward with the final package.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
5 maybe just on a note, like I recall two years ago when
6 we had our meeting in Unalaska and the amount of public
7 testimony that came forward in regard to this was
8 tremendous and this Council has expressed that time and
9 time again in every one of our meetings, it comes up.
10 And when we go through the process we just did on the
11 FRMP, again, you know, it's a little disheartening, I
12 think, when we have to come -- you know, do this time
13 and time again and I'm thankful Vince was here today to
14 express his concerns because now it's even more dire
15 than it was in the past.

16
17 So I think I'd recommend, this Council,
18 before we leave meeting, that we do discuss a letter
19 supporting McLees Lake and a weir, and the process.

20
21 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I did do a draft
26 note for a request of change of policy for you and I
27 sent it to you and to Zach's email and you'll probably
28 want to change my comments on the review committee and
29 call it the Technical Review Committee as Robbin
30 pointed out, but I think that if we don't find a
31 solution to this that, personally, I'm going to contact
32 Lisa Murkowski and ask for the Freedom of Information
33 Act on this last evaluation because I think that it's a
34 question of making process be more important than the
35 actual needs of the people and I really think that
36 needs to be justified a lot better than what we've
37 gotten.

38
39 Thank you, Madame Chair.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

42
43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Madame
44 Chair. Tom Doolittle, Acting Assistant Regional
45 Director for the Federal Office of Subsistence
46 Management.

47
48 As you might remember last year when we
49 were in Cold Bay, we asked for recommendations from
50

1 this Council relative to the prioritization process and
2 I remember quite well talking about McLees Lake and I
3 know the Council had to make some difficult choices and
4 the recommendation, and -- also last year, when they
5 looked at a variety of different projects.

6
7 One of the realities within the funding
8 is that there was less money in this funding cycle than
9 there had been in previous funding cycles. And so --
10 and this year we still managed to etch out, you know,
11 about \$1.7 million to be able to fund new projects,
12 which I was happy with because it looked like we were
13 going to be about 1.5.

14
15 The other thing that we did this year
16 is that we took year end monies and then with the help
17 of a senior advisor, made sure that projects would go
18 through on a new Interior funding cycle so we could
19 actually have projects approved so we could move money
20 forward fairly quickly. So we ended up having the
21 ability to forward fund about an additional \$700,000
22 into existing projects. But this does, for the future,
23 it provides us a buffer for the next cycle, as long as
24 our funding, you know, stays stable, that we would have
25 more funding potentially in the next funding cycle for
26 the FRMP.

27
28 I watched, in this process, because of
29 the low amount of funds that we had to initially offer,
30 an extremely competitive process. And one of the parts
31 of the competitive process also is that there are --
32 that there is an objective team that's part of the
33 Technical Review Committee, this executive team has
34 agency representatives that are solid representatives
35 in the field of fisheries science and they make an
36 objective decision. Also they have to make sure that
37 what they're doing relative to criteria, is
38 confidential, so -- and everybody has to sign a
39 disclosure agreement that they're not going to tell
40 people exactly what these ranks are. This is done for
41 very good reason because it allows everybody to compete
42 on an equal playing field, and that equal playing field
43 is sometimes a difficult place to be. I work with, you
44 know, some agencies where the Federal agencies, you
45 know, in the past, where they'd see 28 percent of those
46 funds actually go to Federal agencies and then in this
47 last competitive process they only competed to the
48 point of being successful in about six percent of the
49 process, so that was a huge hit to some of the Federal

50

1 agencies that competed as well.

2

3 So what I'm trying to look at and
4 explain is that I truly believe there's a better future
5 to the Program, and that the more comments, and I
6 encourage the Council on McLees Lake to, you know, as
7 you've stated to write that letter and put that report
8 forward because that does add strength to the proposals
9 and it adds strength to the process.

10

11 There also will be an evaluation that
12 will be going to the Federal Subsistence Board of the
13 FRMP process that has been submitted -- that will be
14 submitted by the Technical Review Committee for the
15 FRMP and I'm sure those copies will be available to the
16 respective Regional Advisory Councils as well because
17 we do, every cycle, and at the request of the Board,
18 review the process of the FRMP. So I think that gives
19 you a real solid and good basis, also something for
20 when you craft a letter and comments in the future for
21 priority information needs on the FRMP process that we
22 -- that those can be taken into account.

23

24 So I just wanted to explain those.

25

26 Thank you, Madame Chair and Council.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Tom.

29

30 Okay. Karen, if you're ready, I think
31 we'll do Karen's report and then go ahead and take a
32 break if that's okay with everyone.

33

34 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Thank you Chair
35 Trumble and the Committee for having us. I don't have
36 too, too much to say that's why I'm inviting up Peter
37 Devine, Jr., the Aleut's region's representative for
38 the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council to give
39 you an update on some of his activities.

40

41 I did want to point out two things on
42 the previous presenters, we heard about the capacity
43 that we have here in the Aleut region and on the
44 Pribilofs to do some very good subsistence monitoring
45 from a local basis and including going beyond just
46 subsistence take numbers, but also understanding the
47 conditions of our changing environment. This is so
48 important right now while we're seeing the shift
49 happening so much faster than our regulatory and in-

50

1 season enforcement can necessarily keep up with and
2 it's going to be even more important that we have the
3 information on when people aren't getting the
4 subsistence foods that they need to maintain their
5 economy, to maintain their communities and a healthy
6 lifestyle.

7
8 I'd like to point out that in the 2016
9 Partners for Fisheries Management Program priorities it
10 did include Aleutian and Alaska Peninsula subsistence
11 concerns and I would just encourage this body to
12 consider pushing the Service to keep those potential
13 subsistence issues at the forefront because, again,
14 through Aleut International Association and the Aleut
15 Community of St. Paul Island and the Beringia Program,
16 there's a lot of subsistence capacity in our region and
17 a lot of interest and concerns about that.

18
19 And I'm going to turn it over to Peter
20 Devine, our representative for AMBCC, the Alaska
21 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council.

22
23 MR. DEVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
24 Board members. Just an update on the emperor goose.

25
26 Right now we're in a three year cycle.
27 This just -- they wanted to kind of feel it out, you
28 know, they thought once they opened the harvest that,
29 you know, we would be killing massive amounts but happy
30 to see that out of the thousand permits that were
31 available there was only 128 birds harvested. And like
32 I said we're in the second year of a three year cycle.
33 You know, this is just a feeler to see how it would go
34 and, you know, so hopefully by the time of the end of
35 the three years is up we can get the harvest up a
36 little more. But during that same time, hopefully we
37 can get it into more in line of when we traditionally
38 hunt these birds.

39
40 Back in 2006, 2007 we already
41 determined hunt periods, we shortened up, you know, we
42 made them aware that we don't hunt the whole 120 days
43 for, you know, eggs, you know, so we tried to split it
44 up to where we could harvest eggs for 30 days and then
45 the other amount of days hunt birds, and they wouldn't
46 allow it, saying that it couldn't happen because it
47 would interfere with the hunt that's already in
48 existence, which is a fall sport hunt. And so we just
49 need to dust off the proposal and get it, you know,

50

1 resubmitted by December and hopefully, you know, it's
2 going to be a couple year process, but hopefully we'll
3 get a fall and winter hunt out of this. Not only are
4 we pushing for it but Kodiak region and up north is
5 also in support of a -- more of a winter hunt instead
6 of a spring and summer.

7
8 And I heard you mention break so I'll
9 cut it off at that.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are there any
14 questions or comments for Karen or Peter.

15
16 Chris.

17
18 MR. PRICE: I got a question on the
19 emperor goose hunts. Are there other methods out there
20 other than rifles, like for example a lot of times we
21 get the birds in town, near the road, but we can't hunt
22 with a rifle in town, any comments on that.

23
24 MR. DEVINE: Well, most of the methods
25 and means are restrictive. I mean I have a problem
26 with that also, you know, because in the methods and
27 means, four of the ways that I was taught are
28 prohibited, you know, so I mean in the past, you know,
29 our people have used gillnets to get them and, you
30 know, but then the Humane Society come along and said,
31 no, you can't do it like that, so -- but.....

32
33 MR. PRICE: Can you elaborate on those
34 other methods besides the gillnets.

35
36 MR. DEVINE: Gillnet is only one,
37 that's.....

38
39 MR. PRICE: That's the main one.

40
41 MR. DEVINE: Yes.

42
43 MS. SKINNER: Madame Chair.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

46
47 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. Yeah, it's funny
48 because at lunch I was asking Mitch if he'd ever used a
49 bola, you know, the rocks with the strings and he said,
50

1 oh, yeah, I have, and I said well it's hard to use
2 without clunking yourself in the head and he said, oh,
3 no, you just spin it up high.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MS. SKINNER: Which is what my sister
8 just told me how to do that as well.

9
10 So my question is with the proposal for
11 the emperor geese, who's kind of leading that effort
12 and getting that proposal dusted off and resubmitted?

13
14 MR. DEVINE: Well, that's supposed to
15 be our group, Kodiak and Aleutian/Pribilofs, but we
16 just got the transcripts for 16 meetings put on one
17 disk, you know, so it's going to be a little easier
18 than going through all them binders. Like I said I
19 think the timeframe when we did that was 2006 and '07,
20 you know, so if we look at that time period we should
21 find it.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
24 comments or questions for Karen or Peter.

25
26 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, go ahead.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Pete, thanks for
31 your report there. I'm not an AMBCC member but I try
32 and sit in on the Kodiak meetings and always interested
33 to hear what folks are saying. But it seemed to me,
34 and correct me if I'm wrong, Coral, it almost sounded
35 like they'd have to maybe go to change the Treaty in
36 order for us to have a differential harvest period
37 because as you pointed out, Pete, it varies by where
38 you are in the Gulf of Alaska or the Aleutians or
39 Bering Sea, AYK, completely different timing on the
40 bird's availability. Could you maybe give us an idea
41 of what process will have to be gone through to change
42 the dates and like Kodiak be earlier. I don't know
43 what Vince and Chris and the folks out in Unalaska,
44 when the birds are out there, or Adak, but, you know,
45 it's -- I'm glad it's open but it needs to have a
46 little more flexible timing.

47
48 Thank you, sir.

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick.

2

3 MR. KOSO: Yeah, could you explain your
4 process of giving your permits, do you guys and your
5 organization work with the Feds and the State as far as
6 getting permits -- I know you got to go through ADF&G
7 to get the permits on those, but how does that work, do
8 you guys hand it down to the State or to the Federal
9 government to do that permitting portion?

10

11 MR. DEVINE: No, it's actually a State
12 run and it's on line, you know, so I mean half of us
13 wouldn't know how to do that, including myself.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I ran into those
18 problems this summer with some people that came through
19 Cold Bay trying to get a permit for the emperor goose,
20 we tried for four days, we were unable, because none of
21 us had the right phone to get wifi to get anything. I
22 talked to the ADF&G in Anchorage, I was directed
23 through the Feds in Cold Bay to Izembek and they said
24 they had nothing to do with it and then I got a hold of
25 a guy and he said, oh, yeah, I sent all the permit
26 applications to Peter Pan in Cold Bay and I told him
27 there ain't no Peter Pan in Cold Bay, you know, and he
28 tells me.....

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MR. KOSO:oh, yeah, I sent them,
33 they got to be there because they never got any
34 returned, you know. And, I mean, that's how naive that
35 fellow was, whoever I was talking to, but I didn't want
36 to pursue it too much, it was already too late.

37

38 But, anyway, we never did get a permit
39 so we were never able to hunt the deal. And my
40 brother-in-law's 86 years old, and he wanted to go and
41 get one and we were unable to do that because we
42 couldn't get a permit. And I said why did you send
43 them to the fish plant, fish plants don't deal in that
44 stuff, I said, send it to the tribal or the village
45 corporation or even to the city so that people could
46 pick them up but he said, oh, no, we deal with Peter
47 Pan and I said, that's bullshit -- excuse the language
48 -- you know, that didn't happen, so it was a real
49 problem for us to get it. They said, okay, you could

50

1 go down to the library in Cold Bay, I went down there
2 three times and it was never opened, so I was never
3 able to get a permit because we only had the three days
4 to do it, and it was a weekend, so he lost out on
5 getting an emperor goose this year.
6

7 So there was some problems that went on
8 and it was really bad the way it was set up as far as
9 trying to receive permits.
10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
12

13 Peter.
14

15 MR. DEVINE: Yes, thank you, Madame
16 Chair.
17

18 Pat, back to your question, yes it is
19 going to take an act of Congress. Because the treaties
20 are going to have to be revisited. We do have a guy
21 named Sky Starkey who's helping the AMBCC on this, but,
22 I mean it's going to be quite a process. And at that
23 same time, you know, while we're doing that, we're
24 going to have to address the -- well, we just got
25 allowed to use certain feathers in our art work, well,
26 half of them feathers we don't even eat the birds, you
27 know, so a guy wouldn't even shoot them, but there's 97
28 birds on the list that, you know, also need to be
29 addressed, you know, so we could utilize all the
30 feathers in our subsistence birds.
31

32 Yes, this is just for a winter hunt is
33 going to be an act of Congress.
34

35 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Under the current.....
36

37 MR. HOLMES: Hopefully you can get a
38 little assistance from Lisa Murkowski even though it
39 took forever to get the King Cove road moving again.
40 But I don't know, I think we need to try everything we
41 can because I just look at the whole situation of folks
42 in the Gulf of Alaska have -- and Aleutians have played
43 square for years and not taken any and now they get the
44 hunt opened but not quite at the right time. And so
45 it's like a double penalty.
46

47 But, anyway, glad you're doing what you
48 do, Pete, because I don't have that kind of energy
49 anymore. Good for you.
50

1 MR. DEVINE: Thanks, Pat.

2
3 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Pat, this is Karen
4 Pletnikoff with the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands
5 Association. It will take an act of Congress if we
6 only settle for the current interpretation by the US
7 Fish and Wildlife Service's lawyers. And the fact that
8 the Act specifies that spring and summer are closed
9 gives the inference that the rest of the time is open
10 and then it goes on to say, except we're opening the
11 spring and summer for qualified Alaskan subsistence
12 users. So how can they have it both ways. The whole
13 point of the Act was to open the spring and summer to
14 subsistence, meaning some other portion of the year was
15 open already and isn't mitigated -- or wasn't the
16 reason why they had to have the Act, so it probably
17 will take a significant change in the way the current
18 Fish and Wildlife Service interpretation is.

19
20 As far as the current legal sport hunt,
21 Rick, I think it's really important for us to hear that
22 about not getting a permit in a timely manner. We were
23 trying to push Fish and Game to make them physically
24 available in our communities and they said it was going
25 to be hard for them so they didn't want to do that.

26
27 But that's the kind of information that
28 lets us push back and really encourage them to take the
29 extra step and make them physically available instead
30 of only on line.

31
32 MR. HOLMES: I wonder if with the
33 change in the head office of the Fish and Wildlife
34 Service, if exploring things to the higher level, if
35 that might encourage a reevaluation of the philosophy.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

40
41 Any other comments.

42
43 Chris.

44
45 MR. PRICE: Sorry for my ignorance.
46 But is there another -- there is no other solution
47 other than a Congressional -- there's not a process
48 that's available other than that?

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Nope. It's
2 actually -- it's a treaty that's -- I mean it's a major
3 process, it's not something that's going to happen.
4

5 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Although Canada has
6 done it for their First Nations people so the precedent
7 is there for it to be done and done right. We haven't
8 done it yet.
9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral.
11

12 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, and more on the
13 treaties. We talked about this at the statewide AMBCC
14 meetings and we had a chance to -- we had the treaties
15 available there to look at and the treaties actually do
16 not specify certain times or dates that we must hunt
17 but it has just been reinterpreted in a very generous
18 way the other direction. So it does seem like -- we
19 had talked about what it would take to hire an attorney
20 or a team of attorneys to sort of start the process and
21 that requires funding, and so I think we all kind of
22 went home with the idea to talk to our local
23 organizations about gathering funding to start working
24 on that process.
25

26 So that's kind of where that's at right
27 now.
28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
30 Coral.
31

32 Pete, and Karen, thank both of you.
33 And just on a note, Karen and I have been working on --
34 number 1, happy to have our meeting here, I think we've
35 been trying, as far as the Aleutian side, to try to tie
36 in our regional corporation and API because our region
37 is so spread out, it's sometimes hard to get
38 information to the people that we need to and then
39 getting information from them. So, she, at the Aleut
40 Corporation meeting did ask for a representative from
41 each of the communities to try to be a point person to
42 get information to us as needed. So we're working on
43 some sort of process, and trying to develop a better
44 line of communications in the future, and I thank you
45 very much for that.
46

47 MS. PLETNIKOFF: Thank you.
48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And with that I
50

1 think we will take a 10 minute break, until 3:30.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The next item on
8 the agenda that we'll be starting with is the Kodiak
9 National Wildlife Refuge report.

10

11 (Pause)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So if we're good
14 to go, Michael Brady, are you available, there is the
15 handout also.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, one more
20 time. Is Michael Brady, Tevis Underwood and Bill Pyle,
21 are you available from the Kodiak Island Refuge.

22

23 MR. BRADY: Sorry, this is Mike, I just
24 -- from the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, I hung up
25 when I hit my microphone.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
28 Yes, we're ready to do Kodiak Refuge if you are ready.

29

30 MR. BRADY: Yes, sorry about that. I
31 hit my microphone button, I was on mute.

32

33 So unfortunately -- my name's Mike, I'm
34 the Refuge Manager here at Kodiak National Wildlife
35 Refuge, unfortunately Bill Pyle won't be here today and
36 so I'm going over his report for you, but we welcome
37 the opportunity to share our report for this season.

38

39 I think most of you should have the
40 report in front of you so I'll just start from the top.

41

42 Fisheries on the western side was
43 fairly good for sockeye, over by Karluk and Larsen Bay
44 but it wasn't very good at Litnik and Buskin and we
45 actually had to close those streams this year around
46 June 16th for subsistence reds.

47

48 We are still continuing to do Akalura
49 fish weir, and we do not have the 2018 data yet but we

50

1 did collect it this year, again, as well, and so as
2 soon as we can get that information we will provide
3 that.

4
5 This year we -- for bear, brown bears,
6 we conducted our IAS surveys around the Sturgeon area
7 and you can see those numbers are much lower than the
8 2007 numbers which we had 231 bears and we're
9 estimating, right now, preliminarily, 115 bears per
10 thousand kilometer square. And we did not do any
11 stream surveys this year, unfortunately, so the IAS is
12 more of a density survey whereas the stream survey is
13 more of a composition survey and we didn't -- we
14 weren't able to accomplish that this year.

15
16 We did do berry sampling again this
17 year and you could see a long list of research papers
18 that Bill Laycock and Bill Pyle cooperatively worked on
19 this year.

20
21 We give some sea otter numbers, again,
22 we don't have all the numbers in for 2018.

23
24 And this year the sea bird colony
25 surveys were done up around Afognak, Shuyak Island
26 area, and that's the area we worked on this season. So
27 you can see the numbers for that.

28
29 And we're also working cooperatively
30 with ADF&G and other partners on tern research. It's
31 been ongoing for a few years now and we're working on
32 many sites, not just in Kodiak, but in the surrounding
33 areas wherever Aleutian and Arctic terns reside. So
34 that's going to be ongoing for awhile. We're trying to
35 get a graduate student on to work on that as well so
36 stay tuned for more information on that.

37
38 Subsistence permits. You can see the
39 subsistence permits for the last few years there.
40 Obviously 2018/2019, we're still in the middle of that
41 so we won't have those numbers finalized until the next
42 RAC meeting.

43
44 Then the only other thing we continue
45 to do education and outreach. It does say in this that
46 we only did the three villages, but we actually did all
47 six villages and Long Island to do outreach this year.
48 So that's an error on our part in this report.

1 Unfortunately Bill Laycock, who's our
2 bear biologist since 2006 will be leaving us to go to
3 Fairbanks to work at Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
4 but we will be refilling that position. And the other
5 position that we'll be refilling is the permit
6 position, which was, as some of you might remember,
7 Lecita, she retired, and we will be refilling that
8 permit position as well here in 2018/2019.
9

10 So other than that I'm willing to take
11 any other questions that you might have.
12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Do we have any
14 questions or comments at this time.
15

16 Rebecca.
17

18 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I had a couple of
19 questions about the Staffing. So Bill Laycock is
20 leaving, who is the other person that you said was
21 leaving?
22

23 MR. BRADY: She already left and that's
24 our permits person, so special use permits, any
25 permits, hunting guide permits, fishing guide permits,
26 although she left in the spring and we have not been
27 able to replace that yet and so we've been trying to do
28 the best job that we can in-house taking care of
29 permits. But we hope to be refilling that shortly.
30

31 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you.
32 And then my other question had to do with the role that
33 Tonya Lee used to fill, is that the RI.....
34

35 MR. BRADY: That would be the RIT
36 position.
37

38 MS. SKINNER: Yes.
39

40 MR. BRADY: We have not filled that
41 yet.
42

43 MS. SKINNER: Okay. Are you actively
44 recruiting for it?
45

46 MR. BRADY: Well, you have to be given
47 permission to fill it so we would have to get
48 permission to fill it. We hoped to fill it last year,
49 that didn't happen, we're still hoping to fill it. And
50

1 that's a part-time position, it's not a full-time
2 position and so we'll be trying to fill that one as
3 well this year.
4

5 MS. SKINNER: Okay. So now I'm
6 unclear. Do you have permission to fill that position
7 or no?
8

9 MR. BRADY: Not at this time. But I
10 hope to fill it this year. But, no, we don't have it
11 right now.
12

13 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you.

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
15 comments.
16
17

18 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.
19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat, go ahead.
21

22 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, on the RIT position,
23 you said it was only part-time, was that changed?
24 Didn't I -- it seemed to me when it started out it was
25 a full-time spot?
26

27 MR. BRADY: No, Tonya was not full-
28 time, no.
29

30 MR. HOLMES: Well, I certainly don't
31 work there, but it seemed like she was working all the
32 time. Anyway, I have a question for you on harlequins.
33

34 MR. BRADY: Sure.
35

36 MR. HOLMES: My classic one for every
37 single meeting we've had. We, in the past, have had
38 some input and concern from folks in Larsen Bay about
39 the harlequins and other sea duck populations
40 fluctuating and some concerns about some of the sport
41 hunting for those as being a reason for their decline,
42 and I was wondering if you are still looking at the
43 populations there as intensely as Denny Swizelhofer
44 did?
45

46 MR. BRADY: Well, I don't think we're
47 doing it as good a job as Denny did. But I know that
48 you brought this up last time and I think Bill provided
49 some information for you but I'll have to check back in
50

1 with Bill. I'll let him know that you brought it up
2 but I don't know the information that you're
3 requesting.
4

5 MR. HOLMES: Right. Because that's a
6 big concern, you know, with them doing their
7 reproduction over in the Karluk drainage and, you know,
8 they're one of the few sea ducks that tends to be
9 localized and, you know, potential for them to --
10 population to be taken down is there. And although
11 there are -- probably a majority of the guides over
12 there are pretty restrictive on that but that's --
13 again, that's a point of outreach for you, you know, to
14 suggest that they be as conservative as possible on
15 their, you know, use permits for the Refuge because,
16 you know, it's just something that's a traditional
17 species and, you know, folks that seen them go down as
18 the number of hunters coming from Europe are getting
19 their trophies. I know some of the guides will bring
20 the meat in and others don't and I've heard some rumors
21 of some of the lodges doing outfitting and guiding that
22 really shouldn't be doing that, but that's all gossip
23 and I haven't a clue.
24

25 MR. BRADY: Yeah.
26

27 MR. HOLMES: I have another
28 question.....
29

30 MR. BRADY: Sure.
31

32 MR. HOLMES:on the sea otter
33 survey, that's only done every four to five years. One
34 of the points that's of, I think, quite interest,
35 strong interest to the subsistence community is the
36 distribution of the otters and you might ask the otter
37 survey people if they could give you a break down
38 because we've seen quite a shift into Chiniak Bay and
39 Womens Bay and marked decline in the shellfish, not
40 only clams but all the species of crab. Folks in Port
41 Lions and Ouzinkie are starting to see a whole lot more
42 otters in that part of Marmot Bay and seeing their
43 resources decline too. So that's a point that we'd
44 like to get some more specific idea on numbers and
45 distribution, if you could, sir.
46

47 Thank you.
48

49 MR. BRADY: Yeah, they did collect some
50

1 data this summer. They were doing the Afognak, Shuyak
2 area and so they did collect that, sea otter
3 information, and I believe this year the east side will
4 be completed by the biology folks so they will have
5 better data next year on the east side otter
6 distribution.

7
8 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, some of the folks
9 I've been talking to are thinking that it would be good
10 to have annual work and maybe find some way to set up
11 having some skiff surveys done locally by the
12 communities near their towns so they could document
13 those changes. Because every four years, or five years
14 on survey doesn't really do much at all unless you're
15 writing a paper on the total population of otters on
16 the island and, you know, when it comes down to the
17 effects on subsistence. And then we did get assurances
18 from the Federal Board that they'll be helping folks in
19 our area work on some management plans similar to
20 Southeast Alaska so we're hoping to see some
21 developments in that regard, too.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MR. BRADY: Yep, thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Zach, and then
28 Rebecca.

29
30 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. I
31 just wanted to alert the Council that per a request
32 from Member Skinner we have under US Fish and Wildlife
33 Service, agency report, Item No. 11, subsection C, we
34 do have an update, that will be tomorrow, in the
35 morning, the Marine Mammals Management update on sea
36 otters to be delivered by Charlie Hamilton, special
37 assistant and James MacCracken, supervisory wildlife
38 biologist, sea otter and Pacific walrus. So to Member
39 Holmes' point about sea otters, I did want to mention
40 that we will likely hear some additional information on
41 those very subjects tomorrow morning.

42
43 Thank you, Madame Chair.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Zach.
46
47 Rebecca.

48
49 MS. SKINNER: Yeah. I had a question
50

1 on the brown bear section of the report. First, I
2 wanted to make sure I understood there's two paragraphs
3 about surveys, do I read it correctly that there was
4 one successful survey May 22nd to 26, 2018, that did
5 include areas within Southwest Kodiak but that the -- I
6 guess the other regular surveys you normally do were
7 not able to occur, that also covered the Southwest
8 Kodiak region?
9

10 MR. BRADY: Yes, that's correct. So
11 the first paragraph -- so this is the standard one that
12 Bill Pyle turns in every year, so the top part is we
13 did get the IAS completed in the Sturgeon area, which
14 is -- that's a density count so it's actually counting
15 all the bears whereas the second one, the stream survey
16 is composition, so it says like what are the groups
17 like, is it a mom and cub, and things like that, you
18 know, a female with so many cubs so it kind of gives us
19 a better flavor is it a juvenile, adults, so it's a
20 composition survey and those didn't get done this year.
21 Did not.
22

23 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you. And
24 then the density survey in paragraph one, I see that
25 there was -- so in 2018 it found a density of 115
26 independent brown bears and it compares it to 231
27 independent bears in 2007 so about half, half the
28 density, or half the number. Can you talk a little bit
29 more about that. So does that mean there's just less
30 bears or does that mean the bears were in a different
31 location so the density was just lower, or we have no
32 idea what is going on with the bears?
33

34 MR. BRADY: Sure. I wish I could be
35 more articulate about this, unfortunately Bill would
36 be. But it's something that we're seeing overall and
37 they saw it in the Karluk drainage a few years ago and
38 they ran back to back surveys and talking to the bear
39 biologist this morning, Bill Laycock, he said they're
40 probably going to have to run Sturgeon again this year
41 because of the findings from this year, to just make
42 sure that what they found was correct. He does believe
43 it is correct. But, yeah, so there would be a decline
44 about 50 percent -- a little less than 50 percent. We
45 don't really know what it means but from this
46 composition survey and other surveys around the area he
47 does believe that it is correct. I don't really know
48 what it means. But we're going to have to probably run
49 Sturgeon again this year.
50

1 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you. And I
2 think you did answer my underlying question that I
3 didn't really ask, which is, is this concerning so it
4 sounds like if there's a plan to run the survey again
5 it, at least, raised red flags.
6

7 Thank you.
8

9 MR. BRADY: Yeah, and as did Karluk a
10 few years ago, it raised red flags for us. And like I
11 said really a bear biologist or Bill Pyle would have to
12 give you more of the nitty-gritty and unfortunately he
13 can't be here today.
14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
16 other comments. Questions.
17

18 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.
19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.
21

22 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. I was getting back
23 to Becky's question and thinking back to the days of
24 flying stream surveys, not -- and I had planned to ask
25 you the question with the failure of a good portion of
26 the pink runs around the island, some of the year
27 classes of sockeye not showing up, I think that could
28 well be a factor in redistribution of the bears. I
29 know when I used to -- when Frazer was my project we
30 had a weak run there and they'd all move over to
31 O'Malley and Karluk or, you know, go elsewhere. And I
32 always found it quite interesting that when the fish
33 would show up at Frazer, I always tease Bill Pyle about
34 this, if you guys ever did any ESP studies because
35 within 10 hours of when they show up there'll be this
36 practical herd migration from (indiscernible) neck of
37 the woods over to Frazer and, you know, there'd be two
38 bears before and 25 after. So, anyway, that's a
39 difficult critter to work with and hat's off to you for
40 doing it.
41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Any other
43 comments.
44

45 (No comments)
46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
48

49 The next item on the agenda is report
50

1 on Izembek. Just a comment also, Charlie Hamilton is
2 available to do the Marine Mammal Management update
3 after Izembek if everybody wants to go ahead and move
4 on to that following.

5
6 So Diane Granfors, are you available on
7 line.

8
9 MS. GRANFORS: Yes, I am here. And
10 Leticia Melendez is also here, our Deputy Manager and
11 Patrick Fitzmorris, our new biologist. And I am the
12 Acting Manager at Izembek. My detail will be up at the
13 end of the week. And just to fill you in on what's
14 going on there, we expect to have that position
15 advertised in the next couple of weeks. So with any
16 luck we'll have that position permanently filled by
17 next spring, but I think you all know that might be a
18 little bit of wishful thinking but we're hoping.

19
20 So I believe you all have the written
21 report that I put together.

22
23 And first off talks about the Federal
24 subsistence caribou hunt on Unit 9D. There were 154
25 permits allocated last year to four communities. By
26 the close of the season two caribou had been harvested,
27 which is a decrease by five from the previous year.

28
29 The hunt on Unimak that was just
30 approved, I think this was mentioned earlier, that 10
31 permits were allocated, four were issued, and two
32 caribou were harvested as far as we know so far, the
33 hunt ends today so there's the opportunity for one more
34 to be taken.

35
36 The State caribou hunt in Unit 9D, I
37 got these figures from Alaska Department of Fish and
38 Game in 2017, last year, let's see two cows were taken
39 and 47 bulls. They were not able to run their normal
40 fall population count last year but they are expected
41 to be here -- they're hoping to do it this week. I
42 don't know, the weather forecast doesn't look real
43 favorable but we'll see what it brings. But he did
44 provide a nice graphic of the population size, harvest
45 rate and the count that both the Department of Fish and
46 Game have done over the years and the Izembek National
47 Wildlife Refuge winter count. We've not been able to
48 conduct that winter count in the last two years because
49 of lack of Staff. But, hopefully we can get that up

50

1 and running. We believe that, really, the -- probably
2 the better surveys are done in the fall and the
3 parturition survey that I'll talk about next is
4 probably the most important one.
5

6 So those surveys were run last year for
7 the SAP herd in June and they do indicate a good
8 pregnancy rate for the cows, 83 percent, which is
9 encouraging. And then also run -- they ran the surveys
10 on Unimak last year and, let's see, the pregnancy rate
11 was estimated at 69 percent for that population.
12

13 Moving on to waterfowl. Dave Ward and
14 his crew just finished up the Pacific Brant beach ratio
15 survey that they conduct out at Izembek Lagoon. And he
16 also did have a publication where he -- that came out
17 this year that was looking at where -- how the age
18 ratio surveys are varied across the lagoon and they
19 found that the flocks that are closer to shore seem to
20 have a lower age ratio than the ones that are far from
21 shore -- did I get that right -- so they're lower --
22 they're lower off shore than near shore so, yeah, I
23 guess there's more juveniles in flocks that are close
24 to shore.
25

26 The fall aerial population survey was
27 also conducted, just finished up October 9th, and I
28 don't have the results for that yet but, you know, they
29 also are surveying stellers eiders, emperor geese and
30 the cackling geese in that survey.
31

32 The mid-winter aerial population survey
33 was conducted last winter. There's an estimated 46,000
34 brants that were counted and you can see by the graph
35 that they have been increasing expedientially over the
36 years, the number of wintering brants, although in the
37 more recent years, since 2010 it appears to be leveling
38 off some.
39

40 Ken Richardson, our pilot, was able to
41 run the annual tundra swan survey this June. The
42 numbers were pretty similar to 2017. It looked like
43 the numbers on the flat portion of the survey, the
44 Pavlof Unit were up a little bit and perhaps down a
45 little bit in Izembek but overall pretty similar.
46

47 Also just -- well, still ongoing
48 actually is the Avian influenza studies where they --
49 we've been collecting waterfowl from hunters and swab
50

1 -- swabbing them for influenza and viruses and this
2 year they're going to be starting a new study where
3 they're collecting these samples, putting them in vials
4 and then they're going to submerge them into two lakes
5 to see how well these viruses overwinter, if they're
6 still viable in the spring. So -- and that's part of a
7 nationwide study actually that's going on looking at
8 avian influenza viruses.
9

10 Another new study that's initiating
11 this year, Tuula Hollmen of the Alaska Sea Life Center
12 is going to be looking at changes in Izembek Lagoon and
13 Nelson Lagoon because it appears that there might be a
14 shift in the population of stellers eiders. They've
15 had some low counts of sellers eiders in recent years
16 at Izembek and high counts at Nelson Lagoon, and
17 whether this is a shift in the population. We don't
18 really know or why it would be occurring. We don't
19 really know so she's going to be looking into that.
20

21 Leticia and Ken conducted the bear
22 surveys this year. I don't have the analysis on that
23 yet but there were tentatively 322 bears counted this
24 year which is pretty similar to last year. It's up
25 just a little bit. One thing I did note and I didn't
26 want to put this in writing because I want to make sure
27 that the numbers are correct before putting it down
28 there, but it looked like there was a pretty big
29 increase in the number of single bears and there seemed
30 to be fewer sows with cubs and that sort of thing, so
31 that was the biggest change that I noted there.
32

33 Other studies that are going on.
34

35 We're continuing the water temperature
36 monitoring study. That's being -- was being led by Meg
37 Perdue out of our water resources branch in Anchorage,
38 Pat Fitzmorris will be taking that over in the future.
39

40 The eel grass abundance and
41 productivity monitoring is continuing on Izembek
42 Lagoon.
43

44 And that's all I have. And I thought,
45 Pat, if you're available, if you wanted to say a few
46 words.
47

48 MR. FITZMORRIS: Okay. I just wanted
49 to say that, you know, hello to everyone, and I'm very
50

1 happy to be on the phone with you and hope to meet you
2 in person at the next meeting, and be involved. And
3 also that I'm a big hunter and I believe, you know,
4 wild fish and game is important natural and organic
5 food resource for subsistence hunters and happy to be
6 part of it, so that's about it.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
9 questions or comments at this time from the Council.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

Rick Koso.

MR. KOSO: Yeah, hi, Leticia. I was
just -- on this survey on the brant there, I notice
it's really gone up in the Sanak area, too, do you guys
actually do a winter survey out there to find out just
how many birds that actually winter out there.

MS. MELENDEZ: Good afternoon, Madame
Chair, and the Council members. Hello, how you doing
Rick. To answer your question, the migratory birds do
come through and conduct their surveys and it does
include Sanak, however, they just got done with doing
their surveys and we haven't compiled all the
information at this time.

MR. KOSO: Yeah, okay, thanks on that.
I just was looking at the graph and I see a substantial
increase in the Sanak growth on the brant there so I
was just kind of curious if they're starting to hang
around the islands out there a lot more than they used
to.

MS. MELENDEZ: I believe from past
conversations with Heather Wilson that she indicated
that they had seen some of the brant staging there more
so, so I think that what you're seeing is true and what
you're saying is true and as soon as we get those
numbers from the migratory bird crew we can certainly
share those with you and the Council.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
comments.

Antone.

MR. SHELIKOFF: Yes, Madame Chair,
thank you. I had one question, in Alaska has there been
any reported Avian flu and what species of duck,

1 emperors?

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Did you get the
6 question.

7

8 MS. GRANFORS: I'm sorry, are you
9 asking if there had been like die-offs from Avian
10 influenza or if they are just carriers?

11

12 MR. SHELIKOFF: I'm asking has there
13 been.....

14

15 MS. GRANFORS: Because they tend to
16 carry.....

17

18 MR. SHELIKOFF:any reported Avian
19 flu?

20

21 MS. GRANFORS: Yeah, they are carriers
22 of Avian influenza. I'm not aware of any large die-
23 offs from it but I am not -- you know the migratory
24 bird folks may be able to answer that.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I got
29 Rick and then Chris. And I'm not sure if Antone's
30 question was answered.

31

32 MR. SHELIKOFF: Yes, Madame Chair, it
33 was, thanks.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Rick.

36

37 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I just got a question
38 on the wolves out there. I was surprised when I was
39 getting ready to leave Cold Bay on the ferry in
40 September, right at Trout Creek there was a big
41 brownish grey wolf that just went running across the
42 road. That's one of the first time I ever seen them,
43 you know, that close to town and I was just wondering
44 if you ever did a little survey around there to see how
45 many wolves were in the area.

46

47 MS. GRANFORS: Yeah, I don't think
48 we've done any surveys on -- I did see a wolf at that
49 same area. Leticia was with me as well. And we have

50

1 heard that there are a pair of wolves, or two wolves
2 hanging around in the Frosty area (ph), but to my
3 knowledge we have not done a wolf survey.
4

5 I noticed that Ken, when he did his
6 tundra swan survey didn't see any wolves on that survey
7 in the spring but he wasn't specifically looking for
8 them either.
9

10 MR. FITZMORRIS: If I may add, this is
11 Pat Fitzmorris, the biologist here, and I may add that,
12 yes, it's true we haven't done any formal surveys for
13 wolves but I've been hearing more reports of sightings
14 and myself have seen wolf tracks recently and I know
15 that it's been a topic of conversation that folks have
16 seen more wolves in this area.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Chris.
19

20 MR. PRICE: Along those lines, is there
21 an open hunt for the wolves in that area?
22

23 MS. GRANFORS: Yes, they're open
24 yearround with 10 per day limit, actually, so it's very
25 liberal. But I haven't really heard of anybody
26 actually going out and hunting wolves specifically.
27 But, you know, the season and bag is very liberal.
28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
30

31 I have a couple, this is Della.
32

33 I think the first thing was a concern
34 with the permits not being available for the caribou or
35 the designated hunter until the 18th of August. I did
36 have a discussion with Leticia. I think there may have
37 been a miscommunication somewhere because the Federal
38 and the State hunts for caribou have been aligned so
39 they both open on August 1st. That's the first issue.
40

41 The second issue that was brought to my
42 attention, going through Cold Bay last week, was the
43 concern on the bird season opening on September 1st
44 but, however, there was no enforcement or Troopers
45 there until I think I want to say the 6th of October
46 and then I think, I don't recall her name, was going to
47 be in there last week, maybe toward the end.
48

49 But those are two things, maybe
50

1 somebody could address.

2

3 MS. MELENDEZ: I'll address that Diane.
4 Madame Chair and the Council members. I deeply
5 apologize, it is my fault that those permits did not
6 get to you in time. I don't know why I was on the
7 lines of August the 10th as being part of the permit
8 process as before and with -- I'm not going to even try
9 to make an excuse it was just a lack on my part of
10 getting those out in time so I greatly apologize.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The issue
13 regarding enforcement.

14

15 MS. MELENDEZ: As far as the law
16 enforcement is concerned, Diane, do you want to go
17 ahead and speak to our US Fish and Wildlife law
18 enforcement.

19

20 MS. GRANFORS: Sure. Yeah, we were
21 making our regional office -- as you know we have no
22 full-time law enforcement for Fish and Wildlife Service
23 here at Izembek. And we did have officers lined up
24 starting September 1st, however, they were called away
25 on National emergencies fires in Oregon and then all of
26 the Fish and Wildlife Service, law enforcement
27 officers, are required to do detail on -- for border
28 patrol down in Mexico and so that has really cut --
29 we're already short-handed here in Alaska and that cut
30 into it even more. It's not an excuse, it's just how
31 it is. We do have law enforcement here now and are
32 expecting Kelly to be coming in here, I think today or
33 tomorrow. But, yeah, it definitely hurt here in Cold
34 Bay and we're just trying to do what we can.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
37 Maybe going back to the brant survey, this winter brant
38 survey, I'm looking at the schedule or the chart that's
39 there, and the issue regarding Sanak and the Izembek
40 Complex. You know, I -- over the years recall, Stanley
41 Mack, who has lived in Cold Bay for many, many years
42 and Stanley was born and raised in King Cove and now
43 lives in Sand Point with his family, Stanley kept
44 maintaining that these birds move depending on the
45 weather or the conditions that they're getting their
46 source of food and his question, as always, have you
47 people checked, when you're doing these surveys some of
48 these outlying areas, and if you look at these numbers
49 on this chart and the increase in the populations, I

50

1 give a lot of credit to wildlife, I really do, they go
2 to where the food's at, they don't stay in the same
3 place and if you look at that it's quite apparent that
4 more and more moved and whether it's because of an
5 increase in the population and their food source is
6 what I'm thinking at this time, but I also -- I think
7 the more I think that that was being heard, the more we
8 were asking to have those areas surveyed because people
9 are seeing these birds out -- well, more than one area
10 at a time and I always defer to the fishermen, the guys
11 on the water from our communities because they really
12 do see what's going on and the changes that are there
13 with the environment.

14
15 I think other than that I don't think I
16 have any more comments.

17
18 Anybody else.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
23 Izembek.

24
25 MR. FITZMORRIS: Thank you.

26
27 MS. GRANFORS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If we may at
30 this time go ahead and move on to Marine Mammal
31 Management update on sea otters, Charlie Hamilton.

32
33 MR. HAMILTON: Hi, Madame Chair, and
34 Members of the Board. This is Charlie Hamilton.
35 Sorry, we were down at the Board meeting earlier but
36 for some reason we were thinking it was going to be
37 tomorrow so we did leave. So I apologize for not being
38 there in person. Just a few items to update the Board
39 with in response to some questions.

40
41 The first is that the Service is
42 working on the five year status review for the ESA
43 threatened population of sea otters in Southwest Alaska
44 and we're hoping to have that done by, certainly into
45 2019, perhaps not until the end of 2019.

46
47 The second issue that was asked about
48 was a workshop that the Service is planning for
49 Southeast Alaska, it should be held sometime in
50

1 February or March of next year. And it's going to be a
2 focus on looking at sea otters and fisheries and
3 management and I think if members of the Board would
4 want to attend or something like that, we can keep you
5 apprised. It's going to be an open one day meeting for
6 discussions.

7
8 And, finally, we were asked if there
9 were any proposed changes to the MMPA that we were
10 aware of looking at limiting or advancing harvest of
11 sea otters when they're competing with other locally
12 important fisheries and we're not aware of any changes
13 to the MMPA that are being discussed right now.

14
15 Jim MacCraken, our sea otter lead, was
16 also with me, but unfortunately he had to leave but,
17 hopefully, if I can't answer any questions I can speak
18 with him tomorrow and get any questions you might have
19 back to you before the close of the meeting.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
22 there any questions for Charlie.

23
24 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Madame Chair.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

27
28 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think it would be
29 really interesting to get a representative at that
30 Southeast workshop and with the Federal Board's
31 assurances of helping our region start developing some
32 similar workshop or similar harvest plans and
33 management plans like they have in Southeast. I think
34 that would be really, really important to have
35 participation in that and to -- if nothing else, to
36 have the written materials for that. Maybe Zach could
37 get copies of that for those of us that can't go.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Zach.

40
41 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
42 Pardon me, Mr. Holmes, I was addressing another
43 question and I didn't hear what information you were
44 requesting. Could you repeat that, please.

45
46 Thank you, Madame Chair.

47
48 MR. HOLMES: It's about the Southeast
49 Marine Mammal workshop. And with the Board's response
50

1 to our concerns last year on helping our region work
2 with tribes to develop a management plan for sea
3 otters, I think it would be really good for one of our
4 Council members to go. And also it would be nice to
5 receive any written reports that they have, to get it
6 distributed out to our RAC members, just so they'll
7 know what's going on.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Zach.

10

11 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. And
12 responding to Member Holmes' comments. It'd be helpful
13 to just provide briefly 30 seconds of background
14 context as well as some of the constraints that OSM
15 faces.

16

17 The issue regarding sea otters was
18 raised the week of July 20 when I sent out a call for
19 agenda items for this week's meeting and Member Skinner
20 had expressed some interest in, one, understanding and
21 certainly feel free to interject if you so choose, but
22 understanding better the regulatory framework that
23 exists regarding the issue of sea otters; and, two, how
24 this issue is being addressed and whether there are
25 similarities or differences between the
26 Kodiak/Aleutians region and Southeast Alaskan [sic]
27 region.

28

29 To the first issue, we were fortunate
30 to have Charles -- Charlie Hamilton and his colleagues
31 express a willingness to address some of the work that
32 they're doing. And, presently, the workshop is an
33 example of those efforts. And in querying our
34 colleagues in the Southeast Region, DeAnna Perry, my
35 counterpart, the Council coordinator for both the
36 Southeast and Southcentral regions indicated that --
37 indicated that presently, beyond their annual report,
38 which you have a copy of, there was not much to report
39 on sea otters at this time, other than they, too, are
40 looking for strategies and methods to engage that issue
41 more directly.

42

43 Thirdly, the Office of Subsistence
44 Management does not have jurisdiction over sea otters,
45 it's a marine mammals issue. So to that extent, I am
46 glad that Charlie is with us this afternoon, but I am
47 certainly open to continuing dialogue on this topic but
48 there are those constraints that I am aware of.

49

50

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

4
5 Rebecca.

6
7 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. I don't have any
8 questions on the information that was presented so far
9 but that's mainly because there wasn't that much
10 information presented so far.

11
12 MR. HOLMES: Amen.

13
14 MS. SKINNER: And it is unfortunate
15 that James MacCraken is not available this afternoon.
16 So I'm wondering if it's possible for Charlie Hamilton
17 and James MacCraken to come back tomorrow morning when
18 they thought they were going to be presenting. It's --
19 I think it might be likely that I'd have questions of
20 James MacCraken but I guess I don't want to put --
21 because he's the supervisory wildlife biologist, and I
22 don't want to, I guess, try to put Charlie on the spot.
23 And I think that the dialogue with James would probably
24 be more productive.

25
26 So I guess my request is, if we can
27 kind of hold this item over until tomorrow morning.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Charlie, will
30 James be available in the morning?

31
32 MR. HAMILTON: Yep, he should be. That
33 should be fine. I'm not sure if it'd be helpful to go
34 over some questions now or we could just wait until the
35 morning. Whatever you'd prefer, Madame Chairman.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maybe if --
38 Rebecca has some questions that James can address in
39 the morning that might be helpful.

40
41 MS. SKINNER: Yeah. So Zach just
42 outlined kind of the broader umbrella question, which
43 was -- well, which was I had asked for a presentation
44 of the -- I guess the regulatory scheme that applies to
45 otters so that as a group and the public, as well, we
46 had a clear understanding of what the framework we're
47 dealing with when we're talking about otters, which we
48 didn't hear today.

49
50

1 The other -- I guess I would like to
2 hear more about the ongoing efforts. So I think, Zach,
3 in his number 2 point said that we wanted to better
4 understand the ongoing efforts, or your ongoing work in
5 regards to otters. And so I know you mentioned the
6 conference, the workshop.....

7
8 MR. HAMILTON: Uh-huh.

9
10 MS. SKINNER:but I don't know
11 that much about that, so I guess tomorrow, perhaps, if
12 we could have a longer explanation about what that is.
13 Because, again, I might very well have questions, I
14 just don't have enough information to even know what I
15 want to ask.

16
17 MR. HAMILTON: Okay. Well, as far as
18 the regulatory framework, I mean I'm pretty comfortable
19 in going over that information with you. That wasn't
20 part of the questions that I got, so I wasn't quite
21 sure exactly -- well, I wasn't aware that that was a
22 specific topic or you wanted more information on that.

23
24 As I'm sure everyone is aware, sea
25 otters are a Federally-protected species across all
26 stocks in Alaska, which is the Southeast, Southwest and
27 Southcentral under the Marine Mammal Protection Act,
28 which prohibits the taking or importing of sea otters,
29 and that's been in effect since 1972, The very
30 important special exception to that prohibition is an
31 allowance for Alaska Natives to continue to subsistence
32 harvest sea otters for handicraft or other subsistence
33 needs, and that's been recognized since 1972 also.
34 Under those prohibitions or those exemptions, rather,
35 there is no prohibitions on the harvest of sea otters
36 other than that they not be taken in a wasteful manner.

37
38 So there really is an allowance for the
39 subsistence use by Alaska Natives of sea otters under
40 the MMPA that really hasn't changed. The only
41 requirement the Service has for that is that within 30
42 days of the harvest the hunter is supposed to present
43 the skull and hide for tagging.

44
45 When sea otters were listed as a
46 threatened species in 2005, you know, under the
47 Endangered Species Act, there are very similar
48 prohibitions that already existed under the MMPA.
49 However, at the time of that listing the Service did an
50

1 analysis of, you know, the causes associated with the
2 decline and one of the things that was looked at was
3 subsistence harvest and I believe the numbers were
4 under 100 for the entire Southwest stocks for harvest
5 per year on average so the Service determined that
6 Alaska Native subsistence use of sea otters was not
7 contributing to or did not have an impact on the causes
8 for the decline, nor was it impeding any kind of
9 recovery efforts that might need to be taken so the
10 Service promulgated a special rule under the ESA for
11 threatened species that basically allowed any of the
12 activities that Alaska Natives were doing with sea
13 otters, could continue in the same manner.
14

15 So from a regulatory framework, the two
16 laws that come into play are the MMPA and the ESA, but
17 as far as subsistence use by Alaska Natives, both laws
18 provide for exemptions in their own right and the
19 Service incorporated additionally those extra
20 activities primarily associated with use of regalia in
21 trade with people from Canada and those type of
22 activities to continue. So from a regulatory
23 perspective there really isn't any changes that have
24 happened on sea otters in a very long time.
25

26 The big question that we're looking at
27 now and hopefully we'll have a better answer by the end
28 of next year is the status of the Southwest stock as it
29 pertains to the ESA and like I said, that information
30 is based on habitat, new survey data, that kind of --
31 and also new information that might be available in the
32 literature. The Service is doing that analysis right
33 now with the hope of having it completed by the end of
34 next year, if I understand the timeframe correctly.
35

36 So hopefully that provides you with
37 more of the background on the regulatory framework, but
38 if you have specific questions from that I'd be happy
39 to answer them.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca, and
42 then Zach.
43

44 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. Yeah, so thank
45 you for that description. How do the regional
46 management plans, so we heard about the regional
47 management plans for marine mammals a couple of our
48 meetings ago, how do those fit into the regulatory
49 framework that you just described?
50

1 MR. HAMILTON: Okay. Regional
2 management plans have been discussed and in some areas
3 actually acted upon in Southeast Alaska. I was
4 actually lucky to go to a workshop that I believe was
5 back in 2005 or 2006 in Southeast where they developed
6 regional management plans. And the regional management
7 plans fit in as a locally developed management action.
8 The Service -- I hope I expressed -- the Service
9 doesn't regulate the harvest of sea otters by Alaska
10 Natives, but we respect the intention of local tribal
11 governments to develop management plans in their own
12 regions to effectively manage the population, so we've
13 always been able to provide information and feedback on
14 the management plans that have been developed, and I
15 want to say there have been three that I'm aware of and
16 these were a number of years ago, that were done in
17 Southeast that were primarily looking at areas where
18 the tribal governments -- or the tribal entities had
19 traditionally harvested sea otters with an idea to
20 encourage their local tribal members to harvest animals
21 from specific areas, thus -- with the intent that those
22 areas would have lower sea otter numbers, and, thus,
23 hopefully have less impact on some of their other
24 subsistence foods.

25
26 So those plans are developed by the
27 tribal authorities and they govern how their tribal
28 members would, you know, take sea otters locally.

29
30 But, again, those are not Federally-
31 implemented management plans.

32
33 MS. SKINNER: Thank you. So does the
34 Service have any sort of approval or sign-off on those
35 management plans or are they -- they're just developed
36 by the tribal entities and then they automatically go
37 into effect is question one.

38
39 And then question two, for the, I
40 guess, around the Kodiak area, if there was an effort
41 or desire to develop a management plan, would -- I mean
42 could that even be done now or basically would things
43 need to wait until the results of the surveys would be
44 available.

45
46 MR. HAMILTON: Well, two things to
47 answer your question.

48
49 Again, because these are developed by
50

1 local tribal governments and impact their tribal
2 members, we don't sign off on them formally, what I
3 would say is that we would hope to be, you know, at the
4 table to help provide information that would be useful
5 in the development of a management plan, but we
6 wouldn't have a formal role per se in signing off.
7 That would be something that, if the tribal government
8 wanted our input, we would definitely be available and
9 able to, you know, consult and provide information, but
10 ultimately it would be a tribal government document.

11
12 The second question you had would it be
13 better to start something like that, you know, now or
14 wait until the future, better information, I think that
15 tribal management is something that would be a process
16 that would certainly take a while to implement so I
17 don't see any reason why there would necessarily need
18 to be a delay in starting some kind of process.
19 Certainly, you know, if you wanted -- if a tribal
20 government wanted input from the Service and wanted to
21 get information, those are all kind of things that our
22 Program could certainly work on. I don't know if
23 there'd necessarily be a need to wait a year until the
24 status review is done. I don't see, you know, I don't
25 see a reason that it would have to wait.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is Della,
28 the Chair. We're going to continue this discussion
29 first thing in the morning. We do have to be out of
30 here by 4:30.

31
32 MR. HAMILTON: Okay.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So with that I
35 think we will convene in the morning at 9:00 o'clock.

36
37 (Off record)

38
39 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

1

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through _____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 15th day of October at Anchorage, Alaska;

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 Anchorage, Alaska, this 14th
day of November 2018.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22