

EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Pike's Waterfront Lodge
Fairbanks, AK
October 5-6, 2022

Invocation:

Linda Evans provided an invocation.

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Quorum Establishment:

The meeting was called to order Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at 9:02am. Council members Sue Entsminger, Donald Woodruff, Jody Potts-Joseph, Linda Evans, Robert Wright, Charlie Jagow, and Andrew Bassich were present in person. Will Koehler was present via teleconference. William Glanz and Nicholas Henry were not present and were not excused. With 8 out of 10 seated Council members present, the quorum was established.

Attendees:

* Denotes attended telephonically

- Office of Subsistence Management (OSM): Brooke McDavid, Katya Wessels, Dr. Brent Vickers, Tom Plank, Liz Williams, Cory Graham, Orville Lind*, Scott Ayers*, Dr. Jason Roberts*, George Pappas*, Justin Koller*
- National Park Service: Regional Office – Dr. Kim Jochum, Maija Lukin, Andee Sears, Dylan Patterson*; Yukon-Charley Rivers NPP - Mark Dowdle, Jeff Rasic, Kyle Joly, Marcy Okada, Matt Cameron, Matt Sorum; Wrangell-St. Elias NPP – Dr. Barbara Cellarius, Kyle Cutting, Dave Sarafin; Denali NPP - Pat Owen, Amy Craver
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Fisheries & Ecological Services - Holly Carroll, Gerald Maschmann, Keith Ivy, and Randy Brown; Yukon Flats NWR - Jimmy Fox; Arctic NWR - Nathan Hawkaluk
- Bureau of Land Management: Eastern Interior Field Office - Jim Herriges; Regional Office - Chris McKee*
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game: Wildlife Conservation - Mark Burch*, Todd Rinaldi*, Tom Seaton; Commercial Fisheries - Deena Jallen*, Sam Decker*, Shane Ransbury*; Sport Fisheries - Lisa Stuby*, Andy Gyska*; Subsistence - Jesse Coleman
- Other Organizations: Tanana Chiefs Conference - Nicole Farnham, Dr. Jim Simon; Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association - Catherine Moncrieff, Serena Fitka, and Gabe Canfield; Resident Hunter of Alaska - Mark Richards; Fairbanks Advisory Council - Gale Vick, Virgil Umphenour

- Public: Al Barrette, Jan Woodruff, Amanda Pope*, Sonya Fields*, Bruce Ervin*, Rochelle Adams*

Review and Adopt Agenda:

- Motion by Member Woodruff, seconded by Member Bassich, to adopt the agenda as read.

The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Motion by Member Bassich, seconded by Member Woodruff, to approve the Winter 2022 Meeting minutes as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Motion by Member Bassich, seconded by Vice Chair Wright, to approve the March 16, 2022 Joint Southcentral-Eastern Interior Council Meeting minutes as presented.

The motion passed unanimously.

Council Member and Chair Reports:

Charlie Jagow of Porcupine River reported that the summer started hot and dry with fires in Porcupine River region. It started to get colder in July and some rains helped to put out fires. Water levels were very low at the start of fall, which surprised him due to heavy snow during previous winter. Around September 10th, intense rains caused flash floods on the Colleen and Sheenjek rivers. A couple days later, the Porcupine River rose to the highest water levels he's ever seen in the area. This made it very difficult for moose hunters because all gravel bars were covered, and water was up in the trees. He also reported that fishers in his region were having a difficult time just like the rest of the Yukon River drainage, a continuing trend over the last few years. He recently spoke to folks who have been living up on the Sheenjek River for 15 years, and they reported they'd seen only three spawned out salmon so far this fall in an area where you can normally see the dead fish all along the gravel bars in a normal year. Unlike the Porcupine, the Sheenjek ecosystem is very salmon dependent and there's just not much out there anymore without the big fish runs. The lack of salmon is a drastic change in a short period of time.

Andy Bassich of Eagle reported that declines in salmon, caribou, and moose are impacting peoples' abilities to meet their subsistence needs. He emphasized the importance of fall Chum Salmon to residents of the upper Yukon River because there are no other species of salmon and not enough nonsalmon species that can be used as a replacement when fall Chum Salmon runs fail. He is afraid that continued low fall Chum Salmon runs will "be the nail in the coffin" for the lifestyle of having dog teams. Member Bassich stated that king (Chinook) salmon are smaller and have been carrying less eggs, but management has not increase escapement goals to compensate for it. He requested that fisheries managers set long-term goals

instead of focusing on one year at a time. People in Eagle are not meeting their needs for caribou, the second most relied upon subsistence resource after salmon. He voiced frustration for Fortymile Caribou Herd management decision aimed to drastically reduce the herd because he feels that the herd has been trying to expand its range. He has observed that it is staying warmer longer into the fall, and moose are not going into rut during the open hunting season. Mr. Bassich barely saw any birds of any type this year and stated that it is a major concern that should be monitored. He ended by stating that we need to make subsistence living more viable and attractive for young people, not only to be out on the land but to serve on the Council to help foster their future.

Robert (Charlie) Wright of Rampart reported that the snow has been very deep the last couple of years on the Yukon making it difficult conditions for trapping. The moose population is way down because of predation by wolves that more easily travel in deep snow conditions. He voiced concerns that there have not been moose population surveys near Rampart in a long time. Member Wright emphasized the hardships that lack of salmon on the Yukon has had on residents all along the river. People are crying for salmon and elders say that they do not know what to do. The lack of kings (Chinook) and Chum salmon impacts the entire ecosystem. Climate change is also impacting things. He concurred with Member Bassich's observation of less birds and Member Evans' observation of less berries. Mr. Wright shared that caribou migrated back to Rampart for first time in one hundred years. He said that we have to be very careful with caribou management and not try to control them too much like increasing harvest on the Steese Highway when there are signs of nutritional stress. Caribou will manage themselves as they have for thousands of years. They adapt and move for food. Member Wright later added to his report that in Tanana there were wolves coming into the community and killing chained up dogs. Both Tanana and Rampart awarded hunters and trappers \$500 for each wolf killed to help offset gas money and it seemed to help out some with the wolf numbers.

Jody Potts-Joseph of Eagle Village reported that declines in salmon and caribou have been greatly impacting people's food security in Eagle Village. She is trying to teach her children how to live off the land and pass on traditional cultural practices, but it is increasingly difficult when there are hardly any resources to harvest. Traditional foods are important for wellness, and elders especially need them to maintain their health. Member Potts-Joseph has noticed some impacts from climate change such as massive landslides in the Upper Yukon Valley. For the last three years, the Fortymile Caribou Herd has not come through Eagle during the open hunting season. Her parents and family used to live off caribou. Caribou have come through during July the last few years. She noted, with agreement from Member Woodruff, that is very unusual and not their normal migration timing. This year, her family is going into the winter without salmon, caribou, or moose. They also have no blueberries. Before she moved back to Eagle in the spring, she didn't see any migratory birds down in the Yukon Flats Refuge. She also has not seen any bears this summer while on the river. She only caught a few whitefish, and they were small. She stated that she is concerned about the future and the ability for Indigenous peoples to continue their traditional ways of life.

Don Woodruff of Eagle reported that trapping season was very poor because the hare cycle is low and lynx and martin numbers are also down. He was able to set a whitefish net for 10 days during the summer

and only caught enough to feed his family for those 10 days. Mr. Woodruff feels it may be necessary to consider designating Chinook Salmon as a threatened species to ensure greater protection. He noted that first pulse protection really seemed to help during the years it was used as a management tool, and he feels it is critical to re-implement it whenever runs are large enough again to allow some fishing opportunity. He shared that this summer at Eagle Sonar, they were doing lethal sampling of Chinook Salmon for an *Ichthyophonous* study. They were hoping for a sample size of 160 fish, but the Commissioner of Fisheries and Oceans Canada came down and visited the sonar site and asked them to stop sampling due to the dire condition of the run. They ultimately got 50 samples.

Linda Evans of Rampart began her report by saying she would like to reiterate what other members said about the lack of resources that we all use and need along the Yukon River. She further noted a lack of berries, seagulls, bears, and salmon. Her family has not been fishing on Yukon for three years now. She said it is her job to teach her nephews and nieces about cultural traditions so they can carry on Native ways of knowing, but that it is very difficult when there are no resources to do that. Her son had to go fishing in Kenai River to get some salmon. They were able to share a little bit of it with others, which she pointed out is also an important traditional practice. She said things are changing so much and people do not know what to do about it.

Will Koehler of Delta Junction/Horsfeld reported that the two resources he sees drying up the most are sheep and young people who want to live a subsistence life in rural Alaska. He has noticed sheep declines over the past three years with the deep snow last winter particularly impacting survival. Member Koehler stated that the most influential parts of his life have been time spent in the bush and expressed appreciation for those experiences. He tries to hire local youth to work as hunting guides and packers, but unfortunately has not had any success the past several years. This has forced him to hire from out of state. He noted that the Council is always looking for young people to get involved and it is getting harder and harder to find interest. If there is no interest, he warned that there is also not going to be much interest in conserving and bringing back compromised resources. The bright side is that there has never been a better time to be out in the bush: with fewer people out there than ever before, it's quiet and nice out there. He followed up by saying he has seen an increase in non-local hunters targeting sheep.

Sue Entsminger of Mentasta Pass reported that this fall she saw double or triple the number of non-local hunters in areas where she usually does not see many people. She suggested that the increase might be attributed to the rise in readily available access information through apps like onX Hunt. The increase in non-local hunters is causing increased competition in her area of the region. She has seen non-locals using Sherp ATVs, which cost more than a pickup, are amphibious, and can probably carry out six moose. Chair Entsminger believes they should be outlawed in Alaska. The heavy snowfall over the last three years has taken an effect on the animals, in particular wiping out older age classes of sheep. There were not many blueberries this year, but the cranberries were amazing. She noted that there are many bears where she is, which has been good for her guiding business. She stated that locals like when they hunt bears and trap wolves because it helps the local moose population. She reiterated what other Council members said about needing more young people to get involved. She ended by saying the most important

thing is that all user groups need to be working together because she thinks we all have the same concern and that is the animals in Alaska.

Service Awards:

Dr. Kim Jochum, Subsistence Program Analyst with the NPS Regional Office and ISC Member, presented three Council members with Service Awards for their time on the Council: Charlie Wright – 5 years; Charlie Jagow – 5 years; and Andy Bassich – 20 years. Chair Entsminger was also presented a Certification of Appreciation at the meeting because she reached her 20-year service milestone during the Covid-19 pandemic and was previously only recognized via teleconference.

Public and Tribal Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

The Council heard public comments from Dr. Jim Simon, Amanda Pope, Michael Peter, Kathleen Demientieff, Sonya Fields, and Rochelle Adams on Day 1 of the meeting. Public comments were given by Virgil Umphenour, Al Barrette, and Karen Linnell on Day 2 of the meeting.

Old Business:

The Council received presentations on the following topics:

- The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) 805(c) Report summary by Brooke McDavid, Council Coordinator
- Board FY2021 Annual Report Reply summary by Ms. McDavid
 - Vice Chair Wright reiterated the low moose numbers in the Tanana, Rampart, and Notwitna areas as mentioned the Council's 2021 Annual Report. Member Bassich expressed that he would like to see more action taken by the Federal Subsistence Management Program to address the concerns raised by the Council in the Annual Reports, such as funding moose surveys when there are observed population declines.
- Council Correspondence update by Ms. McDavid
 - Member Bassich requested information about what groups are organizing efforts to address Area M interception of Yukon River salmon so that the Council could be informed and support those efforts if appropriate. Serena Fitka from YRDEA provided information about their work on that issue. Jim Simon noted that TCC and Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission submitted State Board of Fisheries proposals on the issue. Member Bassich also requested information about what government agency can engage with other Bering Sea nations to address impacts that international hatchery fish have on Yukon River salmon in the Bering Sea but no one in attendance had that information.
- Special Actions update for FSA22-01/02/03/04 by Cory Graham, OSM Fisheries Biologist, and for FSA22-05 by Liz Williams, OSM Anthropologist
- Request for Reconsideration update for RFR22-01 by Dr. Brent Vickers, OSM Anthropology Division Supervisor
- Hunter Ethics Education and Outreach Initiative update by Ms. McDavid

- Motion by Member Bassich, seconded by Member Evans, to request the Board and OSM fully support the Hunter Ethics Education program and help the Council to fully develop it within the Eastern Interior region. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

The Council discussed the importance of fostering good communication and respect between all user groups, especially as populations in the State continue to grow. They consider the Hunter Ethics Education program as a way to reduce conflict. They also spoke to the need to have funding and programmatic support to do outreach about hunting ethics and meat salvage techniques. The Council wants to see the program continue to expand beyond the two current hunter liaison positions.

New Business:

Fisheries Management Reports:

2022 Yukon Salmon Management Update

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Yukon River Manager Holly Carroll provided the Council with a review of the 2022 salmon fishing season. There were no salmon fishing opportunities in 2022 due to the lowest Chinook Salmon runs ever recorded. Summer and fall Chum Salmon runs were also too small to fish. Ms. Carroll also told the Council about an *Ichthyophonus* sampling project aimed to help better understand in-river mortality and about how the USFWS is trying to offer more opportunities for Government-to-Government consultations with Tribes.

Member Bassich suggested that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and USFWS need to have some internal discussions about changing how salmon are managed and moving toward a more long-term, holistic approach as opposed to season by season.

Bering Sea Salmon Research Update

Sabrina Garcia from the ADF&G Salmon Ocean Ecology Program presented an update on Bering Sea salmon research including juvenile salmon abundance estimates and factors impacting marine survival. She stated the most important takeaway from the research is that whatever is causing good or bad future run sizes of Yukon River Chinook Salmon is occurring very early in their life stage, either during the year they spend in the fresh water, their first few months in the ocean, or a combination of those two life stages. She also told the Council that she is working on a habitat model for Chinook Salmon in the Bering Sea as part of her PhD dissertation.

2022 Copper River Fisheries Report

Dave Sarafin, the Fisheries Management Biologist at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, presented a Copper River fisheries update to the Council. He shared that the Copper River salmon run began weak, but then increased in strength as season progressed. Harvest opportunities continued throughout the season and were on track to meet escapement goals. He shared preliminary data about harvest and participation in the new lower Copper River subsistence fishery.

Fisheries Proposals and Closure Reviews:

Regional:

FP23-02 Revise customary and traditional use determination for Yukon River salmon

Motion by Member Bassich, seconded by Vice-Chair Wright, to support fisheries proposal FP23-02 as written.

The Council **supported FP23-02**. The Council noted that these communities have a longstanding customary and traditional practice of utilizing salmon for subsistence. Adoption of this proposal would benefit the subsistence users in these communities and would allow regulations to be applied more fairly across all user groups.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

FCR23-05 Review closure to subsistence harvest of all fish in the Delta River

Motion by Member Bassich, seconded by Member Evans, to defer fisheries closure review FCR23-05 due to the need for more public input and information.

The Council **supported deferring FCR23-05**. The Council stated they need to hear from more local residents that will be affected by rescinding this closure before making a decision, including from the Delta Advisory Committee who had not yet discussed the closure review at the time of the Council meeting. Although the Council supported the notion of increasing subsistence opportunity, they expressed conservation concerns due to a lack of harvest monitoring and potential for overharvest if the closure were lifted with no regulations in place to limit harvest. Because of these conservation concerns, the Council suggested deferring this closure review until such a time that it would align with the fisheries regulatory cycle and a concurrent proposal could be submitted to put harvest restrictions in place. This would also give time for more local residents to weigh in on the issue.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Crossover:

FP23-01 Rescind Jim River nonsalmon closure, institute Arctic Grayling harvest limit

Motion by Member Bassich, seconded by Chair Entsminger, to support FP23-01 to allow harvest of nonsalmon fish in the Jim River drainage by rod and reel with an Arctic grayling harvest and possession limit of 10 per day.

The Council **supported FP23-01**. The Council noted there is no conservation concern related to the lifting the closure and adopting the proposed regulation that will benefit subsistence needs of people in the area by creating additional harvest opportunity for nonsalmon species. Additionally, they noted that the closure to nonsalmon harvest in the Jim River was a carryover from State regulations when the Federal regulations first came into place.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

FCR23-02 Review closure to subsistence harvest of all fish in the Kanuti River

Motion by Member Bassich, seconded by Member Jagow, to modify the Kanuti River closure (FCR25-02) by rescinding the closure to nonsalmon species only.

The Council voted to **rescind the closure to nonsalmon species only**. The Council was concerned about Yukon River salmon stocks and additional harvest on those stocks but wanted to support nonsalmon subsistence harvest opportunity for local residents since there are no conservation concerns for nonsalmon species in the Kanuti River.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

FCR23-03 Review closure to subsistence harvest of all fish in Bonanza Creek

Motion by Member Bassich, seconded by Member Jagow, to modify the Bonanza Creek closure (FCR25-02) by rescinding the closure to nonsalmon species only.

The Council voted to **rescind the closure to nonsalmon species only**. The Council was concerned about Yukon River salmon stocks and additional harvest on those stocks but wanted to support nonsalmon subsistence harvest opportunity for local residents since there are no conservation concerns for nonsalmon species in the Bonanza Creek.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

FP23-14 Revise customary and traditional use determination for Chitina Subdistrict salmon

The Council **took no action** on this proposal, noting that they were not familiar enough with the specific area involved to deliberate on it.

FP23-15/16 Revise customary and traditional use determination for Chitina Subdistrict salmon

Motion by Member Bassich, seconded by Member Jagow, to support Proposal FP23-15/16 with modification to extend the area under consideration for customary and traditional use determination further along the Alaska Highway to include the community of Dry Creek.

The Council considered the proposal, with modification, to include the community of Dry Creek, which was suggested for inclusion via public comment. The Council **opposed FP23-15/16 as modified**, noting that they were not in favor of recognizing the customary and traditional use of new communities/areas that have not demonstrated the same long-term, traditional subsistence harvest patterns shown those with recognized customary and traditional use determinations. The Council discussed the possibility of increased harvest pressure on the resource if the customary and traditional use determination were expanded. The Council noted that area residents who live in communities or areas without a customary and traditional use determination for salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict have harvest opportunities there under State regulations.

The motion failed with 2 votes in favor and 5 against.

Other

FP23-19 Lower Copper River

The Council decided not to provide a comment to the Board on FP23-19, noting that not enough time had passed since the new subsistence fishery was started to properly evaluate its effects and that the home region would be best suited to review it.

2024 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program (FRMP):

Liz Williams, OSM Anthropologist, provided information to the Council about the upcoming 2024 FRMP funding opportunity. She reviewed the draft list of Yukon Region Priority Information Needs with the Council.

Motion made by Member Bassich, seconded by Vice Chair Wright, to support the PINs outlined in the 2024 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program presentation. The Council thought that all the areas of research listed would produce information beneficial to management.

Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program

Ms. Williams provided information to the Council about the upcoming funding opportunity for the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program.

Harvest of Wildlife for Sport Purposes in National Preserves

Maija Lukin, Alaska Native and Tribal Affairs Program Manager for the Alaska Region, National Park Service, and Andee Sears, Regional Chief Ranger, presented to the Council about a proposed rule regarding the Harvest of Wildlife for Sport Purposes in National Preserves. The proposed rule had not yet been published in the Federal Register for official comment, but they requested feedback from the Council on various issues, such as whether non-Federally qualified users should be allowed to bait bears in National Preserves.

Member Bassich noted the importance of making sure that rural residents are allowed to continue harvest practices that existed long before the National Park Service had a presence in the State. He voiced concern for increasing human population in the State and the increasing harvest pressure as a result. Additionally, he noted that more liberalized methods and means could attract more people to hunt in rural areas and result in overharvest and reduced resources for Federally qualified subsistence users.

Chair Entsminger voiced concern about the public comment period not aligning with Council meeting dates; therefore, not giving the Councils a chance to provide an official comment on the rule. She also noted that she baits bears and does not see the potential for increased conflict if it is allowed. She

expressed comments from rural Alaskans should be weighted more heavily than comments received in mass via form letters.

Member Potts-Joseph requested that in the future that presenters provide written handouts so that Council members not familiar with such issues have reference materials.

Joint meeting: North American Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate Conference in May 2023

Tom Plank, OSM Wildlife Biologist, presented to the Council about the North American Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate Conference to be held in May 2023 in Anchorage. Mr. Plank requested that the Council provide input into topics and issues that should be discussed during a facilitated discussion about State and Federal ungulate management. Topics suggested included 1) traditional indigenous management practices like letting the lead caribou pass, 2) whether nutritional stress leads to crashes or encourages caribou to expand into peripheral or new territories, 3) hunter ethics issues and poor meat salvage techniques in road accessible caribou hunts, 4) food security, 5) climate impacts on caribou migration and health. Member Potts-Joseph also recommended that the conference planning committee needs to include subsistence users and Indigenous folks. Several Council members suggested that the Conference have a virtual attendance option.

Mr. Plank notified the Council that OSM would pay for one Council member to attend the conference and asked the Council to choose a member to represent them. Member Woodruff volunteered and Mr. Bassich volunteered as an alternate.

Motion by Member Bassich, seconded by Member Jagow, to send Donald Woodruff as a delegate to the North American Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate Conference, with Andy Bassich as an alternate.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Council Member reimbursement for telephonic/internet expenses related to Council teleconference meetings

Ms. McDavid notified Council members that they are able to be reimbursed for telephone and internet expenses for Council meetings attended via teleconference that are in excess of their normal plan charges. Receipts or bills showing excess charges can be submitted to OSM for reimbursement.

Identify Issues for FY2022 Annual Report

- Sheep population declines
- Management of Fortymile Caribou Herd
- Need for updated moose counts along Yukon River corridor
- Continued salmon declines and record low return of Chinook Salmon

- Food insecurity
- Need for hunter ethics education requirement
- Incorporating local and traditional knowledge into management/Co-management
- Climate change impacts
- Experiential subsistence education and culture camps for children and youth

Fall 2022 Council application/nomination open season:

Ms. McDavid notified the Council that the Board is currently accepting applications and nominations to serve on Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils with a deadline of February 21, 2023.

The Council discussed the desire to have a youth seat on the Council to help younger people interested in resource management and hunting and fishing gain experience and better prepare them to get involved in the regulatory process.

Motion by Member Bassich, seconded by Member Potts-Joseph, to write a letter to the Board to ask if there is the ability to incorporate an honorary youth seat on the Council.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Emergency Wildlife Special Action WSA22-03 Summary

Mr. Plank notified the Council that the Board received an emergency special action request. WSA22-03 was submitted by Shawn Bayless, the Refuge Manager at Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, on behalf of the Northway Village Council and Northway Maintenance Corporation and requested that the 2022 moose season in the Federal hunt, FM1203, areas of Unit 12 be extended to September 30th. The Board adopted WSA22-03 with the modification to extend the season until October 10th.

State of Alaska Board of Fisheries proposals:

Proposal 140

Motion by Member Bassich, seconded by Member Woodruff, to support Board of Fisheries Proposal 140, which seeks to amend the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Salmon Management Plan to reduce commercial salmon fishing time.

The Council supports this proposal because there is a major conservation concern for Yukon River salmon that are intercepted caught in this fishery. As shown by previous genetic sampling projects, this fishery can intercept half of the summer Chum Salmon bound for Western Alaska and the Yukon River. Interception of Yukon River salmon severely impacts the ability of people to meet subsistence needs on the Yukon River and other Western Alaska drainages. Summer Chum Salmon are a primary food source for Yukon River residents, especially for residents of the lower and middle Yukon River. The Yukon has been closed to subsistence fishing for several years, while commercial fishers have been allowed to

harvest the same stock of concern. This does not adhere to the subsistence priority. Management needs to occur across the entire salmon ecosystem and should not ignore what happens in this fishery and its negative impacts on subsistence users in other regions.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Proposal 165

Motion by Member Bassich, seconded by Member Woodruff, to support Board of Fisheries Proposal 165, which seeks to prohibit compensation for guide services in subsistence fisheries.

The Council supports this proposal because using commercial guide services is contrary to what it means to practice subsistence. Subsistence by definition is noncommercial and the Council does not feel guides should profit from it.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Proposal 80

Motion by Member Potts-Joseph, seconded by Member Bassich, to support Board of Fisheries Proposal 80, which seeks to restrict subsistence king salmon harvest in the middle and upper Yukon River.

The Council does not support this proposal and feels that its intentions are divisive, aiming to pit lower river and upper river users against each other. Further, it seeks to place a priority on commercial fishing in the lower river, while restricting subsistence fishing in the upper river. This goes against a subsistence priority. There is no evidence to support the proponent's claims that up to 100,000 Chinook Salmon are being illegally harvested by upper river fishers. The Council feels it is important for all users to work together to conserve salmon and to equally share the burden of doing so.

The motion failed on a unanimous vote.

Council Representation at Upcoming Board of Fisheries Meetings

Motion by Member Bassich, seconded by Member Woodruff, to send a member of the Council to testify at each of the Board of Fisheries meetings where the three proposals the Council made recommendations on will be taken up.

The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Reports:

- *Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association Update* by Serena Fitka, Executive Director, and Catherine Moncrieff, Anthropologist
 - *Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission Update* by Karen Linnell, Executive Director
 - *Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge Update* by Shawn Bayless, Refuge Manager, and Brent Jamison, Wildlife Biologist
 - *Denali National Park and Preserve Update* by Amy Craver, Subsistence Coordinator, and Pat Owen, Wildlife Biologist
- Motion by Member Bassich, seconded by Member Woodruff, to reappoint Vice Chair Charlie Wright to represent the Council on the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission.

The motion passed with unanimous consent.

- *Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Update* by Dr. Barbara Cellarius, Anthropologist, and Matt Cameron, Wildlife Biologist
- *Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve Update* by Mark Dowdle, Superintendent, Matt Cameron, Wildlife Biologist, Matt Sorum, Wildlife Biologist, and Marcy Okada, Subsistence Coordinator
- *BLM Eastern Interior Field Office Update* by Jim Herriges, Wildlife Biologist
- *ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation Update on Nelchina Caribou and Wood Bison* by Todd Rinaldi, Region IV Management Coordinator, and Tom Seaton, Wood Bison Restoration Project Biologist
- *Office of Subsistence Management Update* by Dr. Brent Vickers, Anthropology Division Supervisor

Future Meeting Dates:

The Council confirmed their winter 2023 meeting dates as March 1-2, 2023, in Arctic Village.

The Council confirmed their fall 2023 meeting dates as October 4-5, 2023, in Tok.

signature on file with original copy

Brooke McDavid, Designated Federal Officer
USFWS Office of Subsistence Management

signature on file with original copy

Susan Entsminger, Chair
Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its Winter 2023 meeting in Arctic Village, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes at that meeting.

For a more detailed report of this meeting, copies of the transcript and meeting handouts are available upon request. Call Brooke McDavid, Council Coordinator, at 1-800-478-1456 or 907-891-9181, or email brooke_mcdavid@fws.gov.