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SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

TELECONFERENCE
March 16, 2021
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Donald Hernandez, Chair
Larry Bemis
Calvin Casipit
Michael Douville
Albert Howard
Ian Johnson
Harvey Kitka
Cathy Needham
Harold Robbins
Robert Schroeder
James Slater
Frank Wright

Regional Council Coordinator, DeAnna Perry

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

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(Teleconference - 3/16/2021)

4

5

(On record)

6

7

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thanks DeAnna.

8

Yeah, so I don't know if there's anybody who would like

9

to do an invocation, I haven't heard of anybody but if

10

there is anybody who would like to, now would be the

11

time to volunteer.

12

13

(No comments)

14

15

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I'm not

16

hearing anybody step forward so I'll call the meeting

17

to order. And I will ask our present Secretary who is

18

Frank Wright if you could do the roll call, and Frank

19

do you have the list of all the newly appointed members

20

there before you.

21

22

MR. WRIGHT: Yes, I do.

23

24

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good,

25

if you want to call the roll.

26

27

MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Calvin Casipit.

28

29

(No comments)

30

31

MR. WRIGHT: Cal Casipit.

32

33

MR. CASIPIT: Here. Cal Casipit, I'm

34

here.

35

36

MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

37

38

Michael Douville.

39

40

MR. DOUVILLE: Mike Douville's here.

41

42

MR. WRIGHT: James Slater.

43

44

MR. SLATER: Here. I'm here.

45

46

MR. WRIGHT: Bob Schroeder.

47

48

MR. SCHROEDER: Bob Schroeder's here.

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1 MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

2

3 MR. HOWARD: Albert's here.

4

5 MR. WRIGHT: Don Hernandez.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Here.

8

9 MR. WRIGHT: Harold Robbins.

10

11 MR. ROBBINS: Here.

12

13 MR. WRIGHT: Harvey Kitka.

14

15 MR. KITKA: Here.

16

17 MR. WRIGHT: Larry Bemis.

18

19 MR. BEMIS: Here.

20

21 MR. WRIGHT: Cathy Needham.

22

23 MS. NEEDHAM: Present.

24

25 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chair, you have a

26 quorum.

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,

29

30 Frank.

31

32 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, DeAnna

35

36 MS. PERRY: Thanks. I didn't hear Ian
37 Johnson's name called. I just wanted to check and see
38 if she's online.

39

40 MR. WRIGHT: I forgot about that. Ian

41

42 Johnson.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MR. WRIGHT: I think -- I talked to Ian
47 yesterday and he said he was going to be late, he has
48 some other meeting until about 9:30 or something like
49 that he said.

50

MS. PERRY: Okay, thanks, Frank.

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, so
2 thank you, Frank for that. We do have a quorum. So we
3 can get the meeting started. Thank you all for being
4 able to attend another teleconference meeting.
5 Unfortunately we have to do this again but appreciate
6 everybody being available.

7
8 We'll start the meeting with some
9 introductions. I don't know if anybody has a welcome
10 prepared seeing's how we're meeting over the phones
11 this time. DeAnna, do we have anybody that wants to do
12 a welcome to start the meeting or should we go into
13 introductions?

14
15 MS. PERRY: I would just check to see
16 if Regional Forester and Federal Subsistence Board
17 Member Dave Schmid has joined us yet.

18
19 MR. SCHMID: Yes, hi, good morning,
20 DeAnna. Hi, Mr. Chairman. I am on until 10:30 so
21 looking forward to at least catching the very front end
22 of the meeting, thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Great. Thank you,
25 Dave. We'll be hearing from you right after we get
26 through the initial introductions. So, yeah, good to
27 hear you on. So let's just, you know, briefly, see who
28 is on the line and at the meeting. We can't see
29 everybody but we will get introductions from Staff and
30 find out who's here and then the Council members can
31 each maybe introduce themselves. For the Council
32 members, especially the folks that are new to the
33 meetings, we'll just do kind of a brief introduction,
34 you know, saying who you are, where you live, any
35 information about yourself and then later on, shortly
36 this morning, we'll get into Council member's reports
37 and that's the opportunity for you to tell us all
38 what's going on in your communities and regions.

39
40 So we'll start with the introductions
41 of -- maybe we'll do the Federal Staff that are with us
42 first, and we can't really go around the room in this
43 venue, so I guess I'll just have to ask people to kind
44 of start shouting out and tell us who's online and what
45 you do and we'll get everybody accounted for.

46
47 So if somebody wants to.....

48
49 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, this is DeAnna.

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: start us off
2 that'd be great.

3
4 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, DeAnna.

7
8 MS. PERRY: Would it be easier to just
9 take a roll call of Staff and those that I might have
10 missed can speak up instead of several people speaking
11 at once?

12
13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: If you have a list
14 there, that'd be great, DeAnna.

15
16 MS. PERRY: Okay. I think I have a
17 partial list anyway. So I've kind of captured a list
18 of Staff and if you could just let me know you're on
19 we're preserving this, again, for our administrative
20 record.

21
22 Do we have Wayne Owen on the phone.

23
24 MR. OWEN: Yes, you do, and good
25 morning to the RAC.

26
27 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Wayne.

28
29 Brie Darr.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MS. PERRY: Greg Risdahl.

34
35 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, DeAnna.
36 Members of the Council. Glad to be here.

37
38 MS. PERRY: Good morning.

39
40 Scott Shuler.

41
42 MR. SHULER: Yes, DeAnna, Scott
43 Shuler's here. District Ranger, Prince of Wales Island
44 and thank you for having me today.

45
46 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Scott.

47
48 Delilah Brigham.

49
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1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. PERRY: Terry Suminski.

4

5 MR. SUMINSKI: Good morning everyone.

6 This is Terry Suminski. I'm the Subsistence Program
7 Manager for the Tongass National Forest. And welcome
8 to the new Council members and some good friends. So
9 thank you.

10

11 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Terry.

12

13 Rob Cross.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MS. PERRY: Jake Musslewhite.

18

19 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah, yeah, good
20 morning, folks. It's Jake Musslewhite, Fish Biologist
21 up in Juneau.

22

23 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Jake.

24

25 Susan Oehlers.

26

27 MS. OEHLERS: Yes, good morning. This
28 is Susan Oehlers in Yakutat.

29

30 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Susan.

31

32 And Justin Koller.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MS. PERRY: Gregory Dunn.

37

38 MR. DUNN: Here -- oh, good morning,
39 everybody, this is Greg Dunn, Sitka.

40

41 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Greg. Greg is
42 actually running all of the Teams behind the scenes, so
43 really grateful to Greg for making time in his next
44 three days to do that for us.

45

46 Kyle Rosendale.

47

48 (No comments)

49

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1 MS. PERRY: Okay. Those were all folks
2 from the Forest Service and you'll be hearing from most
3 of those later on during our meeting. I'll now go out
4 to OSM Staff.

5
6 Sue Detwiler.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 MS. PERRY: Katya Wessels.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MS. PERRY: Brent Vickers.

15
16 MR. VICKERS: Yes, good morning. This
17 is Brent Vickers. I am the new Cultural
18 Anthropologist. I'll be representing the leadership
19 team today. Good morning to everyone on the Council,
20 the public, and Federal servants.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Brent.

25
26 Pippa Kenner.

27
28 MS. KENNER: Good morning.

29
30 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Pippa. Our
31 Anthropologist at OSM. George Pappas.

32
33 MR. PAPPAS: Hey, good morning. I'm
34 currently the Acting Fisheries Division lead for a
35 detail here until mid-summer, and still the liaison to
36 the State. Good morning.

37
38 MS. PERRY: Good morning, George.

39
40 Steve Fadden.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MS. PERRY: Tom Kron.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MS. PERRY: Okay. Those are the folks
49 I had for possible Office of Subsistence Management.

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1 Joshua Ream with the National Park
2 Service will be joining us on Wednesday and Thursday.

3
4 Pat Petrivelli from Bureau of Indian
5 Affairs, Pat, are you on?

6
7 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yes, I am, good
8 morning. And I'm the Anthropologist for Bureau of
9 Indian Affairs and I work out of Anchorage.

10
11 MS. PERRY: Good morning, thanks, Pat.
12 And is there any other Office of Subsistence Management
13 Staff that I did not call.

14
15 MR. LIND: (In Native) Good morning,
16 everybody, Chair, Council members. This is Orville
17 Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of Subsistence
18 Management.

19
20 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Orville.

21
22 MR. LIND: Good morning.

23
24 MR. FOLEY: Good morning, DeAnna.
25 Members of the Council. This is Kevin Foley, Office of
26 Subsistence Management.

27
28 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Kevin.

29
30 Okay, I'll move on to the State. Do we
31 have Ben Mulligan online with us today.

32
33 MR. MULLIGAN: Yes, ma'am. Ben
34 Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

35
36 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Ben. Glad
37 you could join us.

38
39 How about Mark Burch.

40
41 MR. BURCH: Good morning. Mark Burch,
42 Department of Fish and Game.

43
44 MS. PERRY: Good morning.

45
46 Tom Schumacher.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

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1 MS. PERRY: Ryan Scott.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MS. PERRY: Troy Thynes.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MS. PERRY: David Harris.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MS. PERRY: Grant Hagerman.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MS. PERRY: Andrew Olson.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MS. PERRY: Robbin Dublin.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MS. PERRY: Robert Chadwick.

26

27 MR. CHADWICK: Yes, this is -- good
28 morning. Robert Chadwick, Sportfish Division.
29 Regional Management Coordinator. I'll be available for
30 questions at 1:00 o'clock is my understanding.

31

32 MS. PERRY: Yes, thanks, Robert. I do
33 have -- let's see folks from the Alaska Department of
34 Fish and Game on for 1:00 o'clock, but I know at one of
35 my last meetings folks were on a little early so I just
36 wanted to see if you were on yet. But, yeah, we do
37 have you slated for 1:00 o'clock.

38

39 MR. CHADWICK: No, thank you. I just
40 wanted to make sure my audio was okay. Am I coming
41 through loud and clear?

42

43 MS. PERRY: You are, Robert, thank you.

44

45 MR. CHADWICK: Again, thank you, and
46 good morning.

47

48 MS. PERRY: Good morning.

49

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0010

1 And Lauren Sill, I think I see you on
2 Teams, you've joined us today?

3
4 MS. SILL: I have, good morning.

5
6 MS. PERRY: Good morning. Okay, as far
7 as Staff, Federal or State Staff, is there anyone who I
8 didn't call. Again, we're just capturing all the names
9 for our administrative record.

10
11 MS. CELLARIUS: Hi, DeAnna. This is
12 Barbara Cellarius with Wrangell-St.Elias National Park
13 and Preserve. I'm the Subsistence Coordinator. Good
14 morning, Council members.

15
16 MS. PERRY: Hi, Barbara.

17
18 MS. FLOREY: Hi. This is Victoria
19 Florey, National Park Service here in Anchorage.

20
21 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Victoria.

22
23 MR. DURMISH: Good morning. This is
24 Adam Durmish with Glacier Bay National Preserve. I'm
25 in Yakutat.

26
27 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Adam.

28
29 (Pause)

30
31 MS. PERRY: Any other Staff members.

32
33 MR. CROSS: Yeah, good morning. This
34 is Rob Cross. I was dealing with some technical
35 difficulties. But I'm a Fish Biologist with the U.S.
36 Forest Service on the Tongass National Forest. Good
37 morning everybody.

38
39 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Rob.

40
41 Any other Staff.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MS. PERRY: Okay. Next I would like to
46 see if we have members of the public or tribal members
47 with us.

48
49 (Teleconference interference -
50

0011

1 participants not muted)

2

3 MS. PERRY: And if so I'll ask you to
4 go ahead and identify yourself so that, again, we can
5 show that on our public administrative record.

6

7 MS. ANDERSON: Good morning. This is
8 Marina Anderson with the Organized Village of Kasaan.

9

10 MS. PERRY: Good morning.

11

12 MS. RILEY: This is Katie Riley with
13 the Sitka Conservation Society.

14

15 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Katie.

16

17 MR. SANDERSON: Hello. This is Keenan
18 Sanderson. I'm with the Ketchikan Indian Community.
19 I'm the Indigenous Food Sovereignty Coordinator.

20

21 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Keenan.

22

23 MS. SCHLICHTING: This is Sally
24 Schlichting with the Southeast Alaska Conservation
25 Council.

26

27 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Sally.

28

29 MS. EATON: Good morning. This is
30 Judith Eaton, Executive Tribal Secretary from
31 Metlakatla Indian Community with Mayor Atkinson,
32 Reginald M. Atkinson.

33

34 MS. PERRY: Thank you for that Judy --
35 or Judith, rather. I'm glad you guys could join us.

36

37 MS. EATON: Thank you.

38

39 MS. BAUSCHER: Good morning. This is
40 Heather Bauscher with the Sitka Conservation Society.
41 I'm also now the Chair of the Sitka AC. So thanks for
42 the invite to the ACs and attendance as well.

43

44 MS. PERRY: Good to hear from you
45 Heather.

46

47 MR. FELDPACH: Good morning. This is
48 Jeff Feldpach with the Sitka Tribe.

49

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1 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Jeff.

2

3 MR. EDWARDS: Larry Edwards, Sitka
4 Alaska Rainforest Defenders.

5

6 MS. PERRY: I'm sorry, I didn't quite
7 get your name, could you repeat that for me please.

8

9 MR. EDWARDS: Larry Edwards.

10

11 MS. PERRY: Oh, Larry Edwards, okay.
12 And you said Defenders of Wildlife, correct?

13

14 MR. EDWARDS: No. Alaska Rainforest
15 Defenders.

16

17 MS. PERRY: Oh, Alaska Rainforest
18 Defenders, okay. I can't quite write quick enough,
19 thank you.

20

21 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka, Sitka
22 Kaagwaantaan.

23

24 MS. PERRY: Could you repeat your name
25 for me again.

26

27 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka.

28

29 MS. PERRY: Oh, hi, Harvey.

30

31 MR. KITKA: Hi.

32

33 MS. PERRY: And anyone else from the
34 public that has joined us.

35

36 MR. IRWIN: Hi. This is Bruce Irwin,
37 Tanana Chiefs Conference, Hunting and Fishing Gathering
38 Task Force.

39

40 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Bruce.

41

42 MR. IRWIN: Good morning.

43

44 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Bruce, my God.

45

46 MS. PERRY: And anyone else.

47

48 MS. DUBLIN: This is Robbin Dublin from
49 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of

50

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1 Subsistence.

2

3

MS. PERRY: Good morning, Robbin.

4

5

MS. DUBLIN: Good morning, DeAnna.

6

7

MS. PERRY: And any other Staff.

8

9

(No comments)

10

11

(Teleconference interference -

12

participants not muted)

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14

15

MS. PERRY: Okay. Mr. Chair, before I
turn it back I would like to go over a few housekeeping
items.

16

17

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27

Just to remind everybody this is the
Southeast Regional Advisory Council meeting. If you
are following along with us, you know, usually we have
these meetings in person and folks can go pick up a
meeting book from the table but in the virtual world,
the next best thing is to go to our website for the
meeting book. The agenda and the meeting materials can
be found at www.doi.gov/subsistence, and then go under
the regions tab into Southeast and you'll be able to
find the meeting book materials there.

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38

We've opened up a videoconference
through Microsoft Teams to help convey information,
again, trying to fill that gap from in-person meetings.
For the link to the videoconference, it has to be
shared by email, it's again a link that you click on.
Please call Office of subsistence Management at 1-800-
478-1456 and they can send that link to you. Again,
there is no audio on the Teams line, we are capturing
all audio for our transcript on our dedicated phone
line.

39

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A request that we make to our folks who
are dialing in or participating in Teams, please do not
place any calls on hold, that's quite disruptive to the
meeting. Sometimes it's music and sometimes it's.....

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

MS. PERRY:other sounds but
nonetheless it's almost impossible for the court

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1 reporter to take down what's being said over it. So if
2 you need to step away, please do so, just go ahead and
3 hang up and call right back in whenever you're ready.
4 Again, please don't put us on hold.

5

6 Some of the lines have become a little
7 unstable recently we've noticed so if you have a bad
8 connection, again, just hang up and try calling back in
9 again. We want to thank everybody in advance for
10 helping us mitigate some of the distractions.

11

12 And I think lastly I would like to
13 remind Staff, as well as the public, if you're
14 participating on Teams, if you could turn your camera
15 on, if you're comfortable with that. We do have some
16 new Council members and it would be nice to put names
17 with faces, and for Staff, especially if you're giving
18 some type of report or addressing the Council, if you
19 could remember, if you're on Teams, to go ahead and put
20 your camera on, that would be wonderful too.

21

22 If you are participating and mostly
23 listening, please remember to mute your phones, and
24 that really goes for everyone. Mute your phones when
25 you're not speaking. If you don't have a mute button,
26 press star six. That will mute your phone. And when
27 you're ready to come off mute, just star six again,
28 that will take you off mute. Again, that helps
29 minimize some of the cross talk and the disruptions in
30 the meeting.

31

32 And I would ask, because we're doing
33 this by visual and we don't have nice printed name
34 plates, that when everybody introduces themselves or
35 they're getting ready to speak, if the first time if
36 you could make sure that you identify yourself and
37 spell your name, that would greatly help out the court
38 reporter.

39

40 So I just wanted to go over a few of
41 those housekeeping items so to speak. I'd also like to
42 welcome back our previous Council members, also our
43 three new Council members and previous Council Member,
44 Harvey Kitka. They'll all be introducing themselves
45 again to you in Council member reports.

46

47 Mr. Chair, I think I've covered the
48 basics and thank you all for your patience. I know this
49 takes a bit of time but it does help in the longrun.

50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, DeAnna.

4 And it sounds like we have a fair number of people from
5 the public calling in this morning. For those folks,
6 I'll let you know that we will be accepting public
7 testimony this morning on any topic related to
8 subsistence, not necessarily on our agenda. We do have
9 to get through our initial business this morning plus
10 we're going to have Regional Forester Dave Schmid talk
11 to us first thing, but after we get through those items
12 we will go to public comment. And for the remainder of
13 the meeting, we start every day at 9:00 o'clock and we
14 open the meeting with public comment so, you know, if
15 you don't want to speak to us this morning, time's
16 available tomorrow and Thursday first thing in the
17 morning and time right after lunch break if that's
18 convenient for people who want to testify.

19

20 DeAnna, a question for you. Normally,
21 when we're meeting in person folks do submit cards
22 saying that they want to testify, I don't know if
23 you've heard from folks and have a list there, or I
24 don't know if the people just need to be available
25 online if they want to testify or should they notify
26 you in advance.

27

28 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do
29 have a few folks that did want to speak under agency
30 reports but as far as those folks who identified
31 themselves this morning, if they would like to let us
32 know if they're going to provide any testimony and,
33 again, that's either during the morning public comment
34 and tribal comment period or if they're testifying on
35 an agenda item, if they'd like to let us know I could
36 start a list that we could work from for the rest of
37 our meeting.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Hopefully
40 that's helpful to everybody. So before we go to Dave
41 Schmid, I think we should go to the Council to just
42 briefly introduce themselves. And as I said just kind
43 of say where you're from, any short information about
44 yourself you want to share, and maybe I'll just go down
45 the list here.

46

47 I will start with Cathy Needham, who is
48 presently our Vice Chair.

49

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1 MS. NEEDHAM: Good morning, everyone.
2 This is Cathy Needham. And I am living back in Juneau.
3 And I spent a lot of time on Prince of Wales over the
4 past year but I am actually happy to be home and
5 looking forward to this meeting for the next few days.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.
10
11 How about our present Secretary, Frank
12 Wright.

13
14 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, good morning,
15 everybody. My name is Frank Wright. I'm a commercial
16 fisherman, subsistence user. Been a commercial
17 fisherman for more than 50 years and subsistence user
18 for all my life, I guess. Anyway I'm from Hoonah. And
19 I can hardly wait to see what's going on in this world,
20 I guess, it's a crazy world we're living in. All
21 right, thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.

24
25 How about Mike Douville.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are you there
30 Mike.

31
32 MR. DOUVILLE: Yeah, you got me now?

33
34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, got you, go
35 ahead.

36
37 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay. Mike Douville. I
38 live in Craig. I'm a member of the -- Council member
39 of the Craig Tribal Association. Commercial fisherman,
40 subsistence user, hunter, gatherer, trapper. It's nice
41 to hear everybody and I'm happy we have a full Council,
42 or nearly full. So good morning, all.

43
44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mike.

45
46 How about Harvey Kitka.

47
48 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Don. This is
49 Harvey Kitka. I live in Sitka, Alaska. I'm a
50

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1 spokesperson for the Sitka Kaagwaantaan. I have a
2 Council seat on Sitka Tribe. Also I'm Chairman of the
3 herring committee. Subsistence user. Retired.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 Good morning, everybody.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good morning,
10 Harvey, and, thank you.

11

12 How about Albert Howard.

13

14 MR. HOWARD: Good morning, Mr.
15 Chairman. My name's Albert Howard. I live in Angoon.
16 I have a commercial salmon license. I've been a
17 subsistence user my entire life. I'm not retired, I'm
18 just tired.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MR. HOWARD: I actually have an office
23 job, first time in years because of Covid, I couldn't
24 be a guide last summer and it doesn't look like I'm
25 going to be this summer either.

26

27 Good morning, everyone.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good morning,
30 Albert.

31

32 How about Bob Schroeder.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are you there,
37 Bob, this morning?

38

39 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes, is this working
40 now?

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, we can hear
43 you.

44

45 MR. SCHROEDER: Okay. This is Bob
46 Schroeder. I'm a Juneau resident. I've had the honor
47 and privilege of working with the Council, first in a
48 professional capacity with years at Fish and Game, and
49 then with the Forestry Science Lab, and then with

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1 Forest Management downtown in our region. I'm
2 presently retired and frankly I'm enjoying being a
3 public member of the Council at least as much as I
4 enjoyed working with the Council in a professional
5 capacity.

6
7 Thank you, much, and I'm very pleased
8 that our appointments came through, we're back
9 together. And, in particular, that Mr. Kitka has been
10 reappointed to our Council.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Bob.

15
16 How about Harold Robbins.

17
18 MR. ROBBINS: This is Harold Robbins
19 here in Yakutat. I've lived in Yakutat for about the
20 last 50 years. Subsistence user, commercial fisherman.
21 We have a little family -- private family processor
22 that we deck market fish, the salmon particularly. I
23 fish halibut and salmon. And we really, really enjoy
24 the area. And we think subsistence is very special, so
25 thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Harold.

28
29 How about Larry Bemis, are you with us
30 Larry.

31
32 MR. BEMIS: Yes, I am, good morning.

33
34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Larry.

35
36 MR. BEMIS: Yes. I'm just spent my
37 winter trolling, it ended yesterday, things were just
38 getting good, of course, when it closes. I wished we'd
39 had a little more time. I'm a gillnetter, troller, and
40 I'm also on the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe as a Councilman.
41 And I've just been recently appointed to CBY City,
42 Borough of Yakutat as an assemblyman. And I'm also
43 currently on the AC Board. And I spend my time
44 commercial fishing. I'm a subsistence hunter/gatherer.
45 And I will start here next month, I'll be chartering
46 April to August as a charter captain for a lodge here.
47 And I am glad to be here this morning. I know I've
48 missed a few meetings but it's usually either fishing
49 or charter related.

50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Larry.

4

5 Okay, now I'll get to our latest new
6 appointments to the Council. These are folks that are
7 joining the Council for the first time. And I'll call
8 on you, Cal Casipit.

9

10 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Can you hear me okay?

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Got you fine, Cal.

14

15 MR. CASIPIT: Okay. Yes, my name is
16 Calvin Casipit. I think most of the folks online on
17 the Council recognize the name. I was Staff for the
18 Council and the Federal Subsistence Board for many
19 years, all the way back to when we first implemented
20 the Katie John Rule back in 1999. Retired in 2015 from
21 the Forest Service. Have been living in Gustavus
22 since, a little community on Icy Straits. Was the
23 Mayor for a couple years, was on the city Council for
24 three years. This last go around I term limited myself
25 out and gives other people in town a chance to take
26 leadership roles in town. And looking forward to
27 working on the Council in a different capacity as a
28 public member. Getting to sit on the other side of the
29 table, now, I guess.

30

31 A little bit about myself. I hunt, I
32 fish, have family -- one of my daughters living here
33 with two of my grandsons so really enjoy living here
34 and I really enjoy the subsistence lifestyle and be
35 looking forward to work on the Council, so thanks.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cal,
38 and welcome to the Council.

39

40 How about James Slater.

41

42 MR. SLATER: Hi everyone. Jim Slater.
43 I go by Jim. I live outside of Pelican with my wife
44 and three children. They attend Pelican school so we
45 take an ocean ride in every morning to bring them to
46 school. We enjoy a subsistence lifestyle out there.
47 And feel very blessed to be living in a special place.
48 I'm a semi-retired engineer. I worked in, I guess, hi-
49 tech for a number of years and then about 20 years ago

50

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1 or so started winding down and still do occasional
2 projects but really try to focus on where I live and
3 doing things around our homestead.

4
5 It's a pleasure to be on the Council
6 and I'm looking forward to trying to contribute and
7 help the whole Southeast community in terms of
8 subsistence issues.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, James
13 -- or Jim, and welcome to the Council.

14
15 How about Ian Johnson, is Ian with us
16 this morning yet.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sounds like Ian is
21 still busy as Frank said he had another commitment this
22 morning but hopefully we'll hear from Ian soon.

23
24 Yeah, and, myself, I guess I'm the last
25 on the list.

26
27 Don Hernandez. I live in Point Baker,
28 which is on Prince of Wales Island. I've lived here
29 for 35 years or so and have been a commercial
30 fishermen, salmon and halibut for the last 40 years or
31 so. Living here in Point Baker, fairly remote
32 community, we're very dependent on subsistence harvest
33 of fish and wildlife and wild plants and everything
34 that's available to us. I guess I've been on the
35 Council for 16 years now.

36
37 So, yeah, I think that wraps up the
38 introductions. Like I said we will come back to the
39 Council members for more detailed reports of what's
40 going on around their communities shortly when we
41 conduct a little more business. But right now, DeAnna,
42 I think you said that Dave Schmid would be available
43 first thing this morning so if we could hold off on the
44 other -- I guess we're going to hold off on the other
45 Council business until after Dave, is that my
46 understanding.

47
48 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair. If Mr.
49 Schmid is still with us and would like to say a few
50

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1 words to the Council to kick off our meeting that would
2 be wonderful.

3

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good.
5 And just kind of reminder to maybe the new Council
6 members, we will have an opportunity to ask Mr. Schmid
7 questions after he gives a presentation, so if you have
8 questions be thinking about that. So, okay, thank you
9 very much DeAnna.

10

11 Dave Schmid, do you want to join us
12 again.

13

14 MR. SCHMID: Hi. Good morning, Mr.
15 Chair, can you hear me okay.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

18

19 MR. SCHMID: All right. Hey, thank you
20 all so much for inviting and accommodating me this
21 morning here this morning here. I just really
22 appreciate the opportunity to dialogue with some of
23 you. And first and foremost want to really welcome new
24 and old members back to the Council. I know that there
25 were some challenges in the last year or so of getting
26 our Councils across the state Staffed, and so I'm glad
27 to see that and glad to see that folks are back
28 together as well.

29

30 And just also really want to thank you
31 all for your service. This is absolutely important
32 work that you do on behalf of all of Alaska, but
33 especially the rural residents here in Southeast
34 Alaska.

35

36 For those of you that I haven't met, I
37 think I've met most of you, some of them have only been
38 by phone here, unfortunately here with Covid, I look
39 forward, as I'm sure you all do to the day, and maybe
40 by next fall we'll be able to meet again face to face.
41 But a little bit of my background as well, I spent
42 early in my career here with the Forest Service. I
43 spent nearly 25 years working and living in rural
44 Alaska. I worked as a fisheries biologist, and then
45 also as a District Ranger in Southeast as well on
46 Prince of Wales Island and so do bring some of that
47 background and history with me. I returned here to
48 serve as the Regional Forester just coming up on three
49 years ago. It's been quite an honor and an opportunity
50

0022

1 and a humbling experience, and challenging at times to
2 serve as your Regional Forester as well as the Federal
3 Subsistence Board member here for the Department of
4 Agriculture.

5
6 I just had a couple of maybe real high
7 level comments here and kind of where we're at today as
8 opposed to maybe the last time I spoke to you and then
9 really open it up for particular questions you might
10 have and so, again, thank you for the opportunity and
11 welcome to the Council.

12
13 I would start out by saying if you
14 haven't realized, I think you all have, we had an
15 election last November and an inauguration in January
16 here and a new Administration. We're in the middle of
17 that Administration, and like often times when we
18 change Administrations some of our priorities shift a
19 little bit. It seems like Alaska, it's more of a
20 pendulum, and it at times swings a little harder than
21 the rest of the country, but in many ways I think good
22 here. There are some things that I would share that I
23 think you probably are aware of as well but let me talk
24 a little bit about that and where I kind of see
25 ourselves.

26
27 As you know the Biden-Harris
28 Administration has laid out four pretty major
29 priorities and making a lot of headway in all of those
30 and just to restate it's certainly around the pandemic,
31 here Covid-19, we're seeing a lot of effort. It is
32 feeling really good about being in Southeast Alaska
33 here and our opportunities to get vaccinated and a lot
34 of emphasis on some of the work we've done around
35 Covid.

36
37 The economy is critically important
38 here and especially in this part of the world. I know
39 many of you all live and practice a subsistence
40 lifestyle.....

41
42 (Line dropped)

43
44 MR. SCHMID:and our landscapes
45 and so we'll be seeing more on those four priorities.

46
47 And with that, as you know, the
48 President has signed several Executive Orders and
49 there's a few of them, I'll just highlight, that really
50

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1 have an affect here on Southeast Alaska, I think, and
2 in Alaska, and with the Forest Service and other
3 Federal lands and how we manage and if you haven't, I
4 won't get into detail, but a 30by30, really looking at
5 how we address that and 30 -- conserving and restoring
6 30 percent of some of our Federal landscapes here by
7 the year 2030. There are Executive Orders around
8 climate and climate change and how we're going to
9 proactively start addressing some of those. And,
10 again, as I spoke before on racial equality and really
11 looking at how we might really focus some of our
12 priorities and our capacity around a lot of our under
13 served populations and under served communities.

14
15 So that's kind of at the national
16 level. And part of that transition we have a new
17 Secretary, he is in the Department of Agriculture,
18 Secretary Vilsack. Secretary Vilsack served for all
19 eight years of the Obama Administration, so while he's
20 new, he's not so new, and he knows the Forest Service
21 and he actually knows Alaska really well. In the
22 Department we -- as an agency rest in the Department of
23 Agriculture.

24
25 And a couple of things that have
26 happened right away. I know last week that there were
27 a number of consultation requests and other petitions
28 that have gone unanswered from Alaska and one of the
29 first actions by Secretary Vilsack was to consult and
30 invite consultation with tribes across the country,
31 nationally and we did that together and he offered that
32 opportunity last week. Again, it was virtual, and
33 through videoconferencing but really opened the door.
34 He's also met with our agency. So that's happening.

35
36 And just a couple more things here.

37
38 I would mention that our program, and
39 without going into a lot of details, as with any change
40 in Administration, typically the Departments and folks
41 will take a look at and do a review of all of the
42 environmental regulation, environmental decisions that
43 were happening right before and right during the
44 transition, and so this Administration has paused for
45 about 60 days all of our environmental decisions and
46 actions that we had coming forward with an opportunity
47 to review. That 60 day review should conclude here
48 about the end of March. And in specific to Southeast
49 and specific to Alaska, in addition to that review
50

0024

1 there was -- by the President, sent out, looking at
2 environmental reviews with each agency and within the
3 Forest Service and actually the Department of Ag, the
4 only big review was the Alaska Roadless Rule. And so
5 they have been taking a very close look at that as
6 well. And so we expect to hear things in the very near
7 future.

8
9 As part of -- I'll speak just a little
10 bit about the Alaska Roadless Rule. I know this is a
11 topic we have discussed together and certainly over the
12 last two and a half years. There was a lawsuit brought
13 forward against that, and currently the judge has
14 stayed that lawsuit so it's essentially in a holding
15 pattern while this review is going on, and with the
16 agreement that there would be no action taken as far as
17 projects that would rely upon the outcome of that
18 ruling. So there are no projects currently being
19 undertaken within the areas that would have been
20 exempted from the 2001 Roadless Rule. I expect to hear
21 decisions on that relatively soon, by the end of the
22 month. I don't know exactly what that's going to look
23 like but we expect to hear that very soon.

24
25 That rule is also subject, some of you
26 that are familiar, it's called the Congressional Review
27 Act, and those are decisions that happen at the very
28 end of one Administration, that Congress has an
29 opportunity to look at and to review and actually make
30 some decisions if they so choose. And so that is also
31 available for Congress to take a look at. But, again,
32 I expect to hear something on that.

33
34 And I also -- I spoke a little bit
35 about some of the consultation, and I know certainly
36 interest here in Southeast, there were two petitions to
37 the Secretary, one was called the Homelands Petition
38 that was put forth, and the other was from the
39 Longliners Association, and I expect while they did not
40 -- they were not acknowledged in the last
41 Administration or responded to in any formal way, I
42 expect that also within the next couple of weeks coming
43 from the Biden-Harris Administration and the Department
44 of Agriculture.

45
46 So I'm going to pause there. I just
47 kind of laid out a whole lot of stuff to folks. I would
48 say, again, thank you for the opportunity to be here.
49 I know some of your questions, if they get real
50

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1 specific, we've got a lot of Staff on for this
2 important Council meeting that can really address
3 things at that very site specific level, but I'll be
4 happy to take on any of your questions here. I've got
5 certainly some time this morning and also, while my
6 calendar's pretty full today, I'm open a lot tomorrow,
7 and I'm hoping to join you for more of the meeting.

8
9 So with that, Mr. Chairman, I'll turn
10 it back, that was a lot real quick, and hopefully we
11 sparked a few questions that you may have.

12
13 So, Don, back to you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,
16 Dave. Yeah, that was quite extensive. We're going to
17 see changes I think here in the next few years. So
18 appreciate you filling us in on what's in the works.
19 Probably will have questions from Council members.

20
21 One thing I did want to ask first, do
22 we have any major changes in the upper levels of the
23 Forest Service back in D.C., or are people pretty much
24 in place from the previous Administration?

25
26 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, that's a good
27 question, Don. You know I talked about Secretary
28 Vilsack as well. In the last Administration we used to
29 be housed, it's called the Natural Resource and
30 Environment, that's a sub-cabinet of the Department of
31 Ag, we were in there with the Natural Resource
32 Conservation Service NRCS, and they were split out.
33 They moved over to join in another. So the Forest
34 Service is the only agency within the Natural Resources
35 and Environment. And our former, and will be returning
36 Deputy Chief, Chris French, I know some of you have
37 met, he's no stranger to Southeast, he's been serving
38 in that capacity at the Department as the Acting Under
39 Secretary, and he's been reporting to Robert Bonnie,
40 who is also in the Department who was the -- not --
41 also very familiar with Alaska, Robert was the Under
42 Secretary during the last Administration. All of the
43 other Forest Service, our Chief is a career senior
44 executive position, it's not a politically appointed
45 position, and so all of the rest of our senior leaders
46 are still in place. So Chief Vicky Christianson
47 remains the Chief, and Angela Coleman is our Associate
48 Chief, and I'm also career so I'm still here as the
49 Regional Forester.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, great, thank
2 you for that Dave. So questions from other Council
3 members. I'll just ask for a shout out, if anybody is
4 ready to go.

5
6 MR. KITKA: Don, this is Harvey Kitka.

7
8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Harvey.

9
10 MR. KITKA: I have a question.
11 Basically it has to do, not with subsistence or
12 anything like that, it has to do with -- maybe a little
13 bit of it, being a Veteran, a Vietnam Veteran, we just
14 became eligible for lands in Alaska but the Forest
15 Service says that we can't take anything in the
16 National Forest in Southeast Alaska, which covers
17 almost all of Southeast.

18
19 MR. SCHMID: Uh-huh.

20
21 MR. KITKA: My question would be to,
22 why can't Veterans put in for the land allotments that
23 are open that belonged to our families that were --
24 they're still open on the desk someplace in Washington.
25 Is it possible for somebody to help us get our lands
26 back to our subsistence way of life, because these were
27 our summer homes where we subsisted and gathered our
28 foods for the winter. So that's my question.

29
30 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
31 Kitka, and I was very pleased to see you were
32 reappointed to the Board, you're long history and
33 support here has been amazing.

34
35 So it was not the Forest Service that
36 said no, or objected, when Congress passed the bill
37 that provided for that opportunity, and, again, these
38 were folks that -- tribal folks certainly that were
39 serving in Vietnam when the opportunities to get land
40 and their homestead sites available and when Congress
41 specifically exempted the Forest Service in the last
42 bill that provided for that, and so that was not
43 currently an option. I heard Mr. Kitka, from you and
44 certainly from many other leaders and tribal members in
45 Southeast that they felt that that was not appropriate
46 that they were excluded from Forest Service lands. I
47 know that our Delegation and Senator Murkowski has been
48 working on that and that's the place that we would need
49 to get that decision changed. That was not an agency
50

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1 level decision, Mr. Kitka, or an administrative, that
2 was part of the bipartisan effort to pass that bill.
3 And for whatever reasons the Forest Service was not
4 included on that, both the Chugach and the Tongass. So
5 I certainly understand your interest and others
6 concerns and that's something that would need to be
7 solved and likely with the leadership with our Alaska
8 Delegation in Congress.

9

10 MR. KITKA: Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Harvey.
13 Any other Council members want to ask Dave questions.

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman.

16

17 MR. KITKA: One more question, Don.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I hear Frank, go
20 ahead, Frank, and then somebody else as well. Frank.

21

22 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. I was just
23 wondering what exactly does -- you mentioned something
24 about tribal consultation with the tribes so I'm just
25 curious of what kind of consultation does the Forest
26 Service do.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, thank you as well.
31 And so the Forest Service, we have certainly as a
32 Federal agency, trust responsibilities and consultation
33 with tribes is different than how we interact with
34 other partners, folks, stakeholders, the agency, and so
35 -- and so tribes, and we certainly consider are
36 sovereign nations, and so as we make decisions and
37 before we make decisions in the agency we have an
38 obligation and a responsibility to consult with the
39 tribal -- the Federally-recognized tribes, and in
40 Alaska corporations as well, that before we make that
41 decision, an opportunity to listen and hear what the
42 interests are and move forward. And so we have a whole
43 -- how should I say, policies around Federal and tribal
44 consultation. What I was speaking to specifically was
45 that typically that consultation occurs where the
46 decisions are being made, at the level, and so the
47 Forest Service here in Southeast Alaska, we have
48 several District Rangers, they're called a line
49 officer, but they're a decisionmaker on a piece of

50

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1 landscape and often times the tribes will be working
2 and consulting with that District Ranger. At the
3 Forest level, those decisions, Earl might be on here
4 today, he's currently -- Earl Stewart's the Forest
5 Supervisor on the Tongass. And then I am the Regional
6 Forester.

7

8 And so most of the things that happen
9 in the region would occur here.

10

11 There were decisions that were being
12 made at the Secretary level, the rulemaking decision
13 around the Alaska Roadless Rule, and so the tribes had
14 requested that. There was some consultation with the
15 Under Secretary who represents the Secretary as well
16 here, but that certainly didn't, at least in the eyes
17 of many tribes and -- felt like it met the intent
18 around formal consultation.

19

20 So, again, back, it's an opportunity to
21 work as we would with State governments but other
22 nations as Federally-recognized tribes. And so we do
23 that, we consult with the -- also with the Councils and
24 the Federal Subsistence Board. Orville's on here, he
25 could certainly speak to that if there are more
26 questions, maybe even a bit more eloquently than I can,
27 but we do offer consultation ahead of any Board
28 decisions as well that would be affecting tribes.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MS. HERNANDEZ: Hey, Dave, this is
33 Melinda, do you mind if I jump in real quick, do you
34 mind?

35

36 MR. SCHMID: Please do, Melinda.

37

38 MS. HERNANDEZ: Hi. Hi everybody, this
39 is Melinda Hernandez Burke, Tribal Relations Specialist
40 for Region 10 U.S. Forest Service. Just wanted to do a
41 quick follow up there.

42

43 The consultation that took place last
44 week was at the Department level invited by Secretary
45 Vilsack's office of tribal relations, and my
46 understanding was that because of the amount of folks
47 that signed up that there was going to be a followup
48 session. So President Wright, if there was not an
49 opportunity for your tribe to participate or if there's

50

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1 request for followup, as soon as I find out the details
2 I'll be sending those to all tribes here in Alaska.

3
4 Gunalcheesh, thank you.

5
6 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, thanks, Melinda.

7
8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Melinda good to
9 hear from you this morning. Frank, any followup.

10
11 MR. WRIGHT: No, I got it. Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thanks,
14 Frank. I heard somebody else with a question earlier,
15 so anybody else go ahead.

16
17 MR. KITKA: Don, do you hear me?

18
19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep, go ahead.

20
21 MR. KITKA: Yeah, this is Harvey Kitka
22 again. I had a followup on that consultation.
23 Realizing what I see as consultation, it seems to be
24 not what the Federal government sees as consultation
25 most of the time, or even any other governments. To
26 have a real true consultation is when projects are
27 given to the Forest Service to look at, they should
28 actually be given to the tribe at the same time and
29 then we can have a two-way conversation on it. When it
30 goes to the Forest Service and then it comes to the
31 tribe later, then it's not really true consultation.
32 They have basically things that are already set in
33 place and starting to work on the process. I think
34 that if we could have really true consultation where
35 it's face to face and talk, and started right at the
36 start of the projects, instead of after the projects
37 already in place and starting, it seems like we're
38 always following up on something that's already started
39 and it makes it tough for us to -- it's kind of like an
40 uphill climb.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
45 Kitka, again, I couldn't agree more. And I would say
46 that we have been remiss at times and we -- looking as
47 a learning organization, this is something that we are
48 really trying to improve. You're absolutely right it
49 needs to be predecisional, and at times we seem to be
50

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1 behind the curve. But been working with our Rangers,
2 working with folks here as well and myself included to
3 do just as you've requested and I agree consultation is
4 -- it is predecisional, it's at the very beginning,
5 it's how you form that. So I hope and pledge to do
6 better here as we move forward, Mr. Kitka, because
7 you're right.

8
9 MR. KITKA: Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Harvey.
12 Other Council members with a question.

13
14 MR. HOWARD: This is Albert Howard, Mr.
15 Chairman.

16
17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Albert.

18
19 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 My concern is with Greens Creek and the last tailings
21 expansion we dealt with the Forest Service through, or
22 what they called consulting with the tribe and it was a
23 teleconference and the feeling I got, being a part of
24 that process, was that it didn't matter what I said,
25 that the person that's representing the Forest Service
26 on the phone always referred back to Greens Creek like
27 he was an employee of Greens Creek.

28
29 MR. SCHMID: Hmm.

30
31 MR. HOWARD: And so I had asked for a
32 recording of that meeting and I received an email that
33 stated that the recording was too long, they couldn't
34 send it to me and they'll find a way to send it to me
35 through the mail or on a jump drive. I would like to
36 encourage someone higher up in the Forest Service to
37 actually take a listen to that meeting and decide for
38 yourself what you see and what you hear.

39
40 A lot of consulting and consultation
41 with the tribe over Greens Creek over the past several
42 years, and I'm the former President of the tribe so I
43 kind of understand it and the impact of what they're
44 doing has on our subsistence. And we're not asking to
45 close the mine, we're just asking to mine responsibly.

46
47 MR. SCHMID: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

48
49 MR. HOWARD: And not to have an impact
50

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1 on our way of life here in Angoon. I do a lot of
2 research, probably enough to drive my family crazy
3 because they'd rather see me out fishing and hunting
4 with them but they're old enough to do it on their own
5 now so I have more time to read. They didn't want to
6 do the Section .810, they said they weren't required to
7 do it, when, in fact, they were moving the power lines
8 from one part of the tailings pond to the other and
9 asking for an additional five acres. To me, in my
10 mind, that qualifies as needing a Section .810, and
11 they were also moving the road to the other side of the
12 tailings pile. I think it's important for -- I know
13 there was a report given that all of Southeast Alaska
14 salmon goes by Greens Creek, what happens when our
15 salmon fry go by there, when they hit that mixing zone.
16 Do they perish. I don't think anybody has an answer.
17 What about the adult salmon when they come back from
18 the ocean and hit Hawk Inlet and go north and south,
19 what happens to them then. These are -- this impacts
20 everyone, this just isn't Angoon.

21
22 MR. SCHMID: Uh-huh.

23
24 MR. HOWARD: And I can't help wonder if
25 that's what's happening to all our salmon. So I'd like
26 to encourage you to find the recording of that and ask
27 yourself, is this true consultation, or is this
28 someone's interpretation of consultation and they're
29 going to go ahead and allow the tailings expansion
30 anyway. It's hard for me to sit here and look out the
31 window and remember as a teenager what used to be out
32 here in Chatham Straits isn't here anymore.

33
34 MR. SCHMID: Uh-huh.

35
36 MR. HOWARD: So I have to ask myself,
37 am I going to sit here and allow that to happen or am I
38 going to continue pushing this rock up the hill.

39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 MR. SCHMID: Thank you for that
43 comment. I will have to look into that and I will, as
44 well, in terms of the consultation and whatever was
45 recorded and whether that meets what our expectations
46 would be around that as well. So I'll have -- I will
47 look into that and follow up with you all directly.

48
49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Dave.
50

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1 Any other Council members with a question for Mr.
2 Schmid.

3

4 MR. CASIPIT: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
5 Calvin Casipit. I just had a quick -- I just have a
6 quick observation and quick question for Mr. Schmid.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cal.

9

10 MR. CASIPIT: You know I've heard the
11 last couple speakers about, you know, the consultation
12 process and what's expected and kind of expectations of
13 the tribes and that consultation and what happens,
14 that's real similar to an experience as I had as Mayor
15 in my little community here when we started talking
16 about the Roadless Rule. First of all I wanted to say
17 that Gustavus is an important community for the
18 Tongass, we do do quite a bit of subsistence on the
19 Tongass National Forest even though most people
20 associate us with Glacier Bay National Park, most of us
21 do our food gathering on the Forest. So I just want to
22 make that abundantly clear that we are a community of
23 the Tongass and the Tongass is important to us. And
24 some of those public -- .810 and the public hearing we
25 had here in town a couple years ago, I didn't really
26 feel like that had been incorporated into the thinking
27 of the people that were here talking to us. It's
28 almost like we were a border community and that we, you
29 know, anyway that's the feeling I got.

30

31 The other thing, too, you know, and I
32 agree -- I kind of understand why this happened because
33 of the nature of where the decision was being held,
34 back in D.C., the decisionmaker was the Secretary of
35 Agriculture so I understand that. But it's like our
36 comments, our concerns and our issues, and I bet you
37 this goes to every subsistence community in Southeast,
38 we were pretty much ignored. There was no addressing
39 of the comments that came from the community to that
40 proposed rule. I'm really glad that our tribal
41 partners sued and I'm really glad that, you know, this
42 is under review, but, my gosh, and this goes back to
43 where I started from, when you have a consultation,
44 when you have a public meeting, when you have a .810
45 hearing in these communities, people expect that you're
46 going to at least listen and there's going to be at
47 least something at the end that says we heard this, we
48 considered this and this is why we didn't go that way,
49 or something like it. Some sort of explanation. And I

50

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1 just don't see that a lot, and I think that contributes
2 to this mistrust, this missed expectations -- these
3 missed expectations, both with tribes and communities
4 like Gustavus that don't have a tribe.

5

6 But, anyway, that's all I had. It's
7 more of an observation than a question.

8

9 You know, I would hope that with the
10 new Administration, will approve that level of
11 coordination, communication and even though the
12 decisionmaker might not go the way the tribe wants or
13 the community wants, at least there's a discussion of
14 why they didn't go that way.

15

16 Anyway, that's all I had.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any response,
19 Dave, or.....

20

21 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, I guess I didn't
22 hear a question there but I would try and put some of
23 that -- thanks, Cal, I appreciate your comments, and
24 believe me I heard many of that loud and clear. I
25 guess I would like to start with folks here on the call
26 and places to, one, understand, that, you know, as an
27 agency and I know Cal and many others here, you know,
28 worked for a variety of Administrations with different
29 priorities, the Forest Service was directed to move
30 forward with a rulemaking effort in Southeast and that
31 the Staff here in the region, and the folks that came
32 out did listen to folks, they did incorporate folks'
33 comments and folks' concerns into the analysis and at
34 the end of the day, one, I would say that the folks
35 here, and the Staff are highly regarded civil servants
36 and like you all serving on a Council, they have been
37 serving members here as well. There are political
38 decisions. Mr. Kitka talked about the, you know, the
39 opportunity for Southeast Veterans, those are made in
40 Congress. The decisions for the Roadless Rule were
41 made at the Administration level at the President's
42 desk and at the level of the Secretary. And in looking
43 back and in looking forward, you know, I know that some
44 of those decisions were made that certainly the
45 Administration looked at the four highest elected
46 officials in Alaska, our Delegation and our Governor
47 that represent the people and maybe not clearly
48 represent the interests of all of us on the phone here
49 but that was a decision that was made and I would

50

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1 actually just try to reassure folks that the Federal
2 Forest Service employees that were out conducting .810
3 hearings and public meetings and listening had the
4 highest integrity and did take that information, and
5 that information was available to the folks that made a
6 decision.

7
8 And so I hope I don't sound defensive,
9 it's not a place that I think was helpful when we began
10 the rulemaking effort here in Alaska, but, believe me,
11 the Forest Service and, I, personally, have heard from
12 all of the voices in Southeast Alaska that were
13 affected by that and those were also articulated to the
14 people that made that decision. So appreciate the
15 comment, I appreciate the concern and certainly,
16 hopefully didn't sound defensive and I do want to make
17 it very clear where that level and that decision and
18 that effort was being made.

19
20 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman.

21
22 MR. SCHROEDER: Don, can I grab you
23 next.

24
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I hear Frank and I
26 think I heard Bob Schroeder. Frank, why don't you go
27 ahead first.

28
29 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. You know I was
30 around when the Hammond v Barton was around and I
31 watched one of Murkowski's people come in to talk, to
32 listen to the community and he was just sitting there
33 with his legs crossed and I asked him, well, what can
34 you -- what are you taking back with you and he said,
35 oh, I got a good memory and I says, well, what did this
36 old man say and he had no answer for that. Then I went
37 to several meetings about the Forest Service and this
38 Roadless Rule and pretty much everyone was against the
39 change in the Roadless Rule. There were basically
40 thousands of testimonies that were against it but it
41 was kind of like we were just -- we were just being,
42 you know, we went and had testimony and that was it,
43 you know, so that's one of the reasons why a lot of the
44 people don't trust that, you know, consultation should
45 start the day, even talking about it, you know, so, you
46 know, I've been around long enough to see that we go
47 and we try but they say they hear us but they don't
48 hear us.

49
50

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1 So, thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.
4 Bob, you had a question.

5

6 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes. And thanks very
7 much for spending time with us Dave so we can grill
8 you.

9

10 MR. SCHMID: Yep.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MR. SCHROEDER: But I think our last,
15 just following up on what Mr. Wright was saying, some
16 of us testified at the last -- our last input on
17 Roadless from the Council that I remember was an OMB
18 review.

19

20 MR. SCHMID: Uh-huh.

21

22 MR. SCHROEDER: And you were on that
23 one. And I think those of us who testified there were
24 really clear that we much preferred having decisions
25 made in the region, and not that we'll always agree and
26 certainly not that we'll always win but we think that
27 things should go that way.

28

29 I was thinking, you know, there's kind
30 of a theme to some of the questions that have come
31 before you and our Federal Subsistence Program has been
32 a little bit of a test tube for certain things. We've
33 had very many cooperative projects with tribes and
34 communities throughout Southeast Alaska in the
35 technical field of doing fisheries research and
36 definitely most of the subsistence research that's been
37 done in Southeast Alaska has been done with full
38 cooperation and with tribes and communities, and these
39 have been really successful. We also have, you know,
40 kind of a longer standing example of some of the land
41 management stuff that goes out in Admiralty, the
42 National Monument, with Angoon, I think perhaps even
43 Albert would agree with me, has been way better than
44 not having Angoon intimately involved in management.

45

46 I think that our political situation
47 right now may give us an opportunity in so many realms
48 to think big. I also think that we have the
49 opportunity to think big coming through the pandemic,

50

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1 which completely roiled our society and turned things
2 upside down. Things don't have to be the way they were
3 yesterday. We don't have to go for some minor,
4 incremental change that means that we have a slightly
5 better meeting transcript or a slightly better
6 procedure.

7
8 So I'm working -- you're probably
9 wondering what my question here is, I'm going to get to
10 it.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MR. SCHROEDER: And I'm really
15 wondering -- I'm really hoping that the opportunity is
16 seized to really move to very serious co-management and
17 tribal management of Federal lands and resources in
18 Southeast Alaska. I think this is really the wave of
19 the future to overcome the very clear deficits of the
20 disenfranchisement, particularly of indigenous people
21 in Southeast Alaska, in all of Alaska, and for that
22 matter throughout our country.

23
24 I think some of the signs are there.

25
26 Appointing Deb Haaland as Interior
27 Secretary is a completely amazing, particularly if you
28 know that the proudest moment for Laguna Pueblo, her
29 home community, is the part they played in the Pueblo
30 revolt that completely removed the colonial government,
31 at that time the Spanish Colonial Government, from the
32 face of the earth in their territory.

33
34 So my question isn't about the Laguna
35 Pueblo, it has to do with the direction Forest Service
36 may be going to institute complete -- institute sharing
37 of management responsibility with tribes and
38 communities and to foster genuine comanagement and
39 tribal communities. This obviously has major economic
40 import for our region and could ultimately result in, I
41 think, much better management of our land and
42 resources.

43
44 And then I'll have a followup comment,
45 thank you.

46
47 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
48 Schroeder. Well, I agree. I think there are areas
49 that we are moving in whether we call it comanagement,
50

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1 shared stewardship of these lands, but that effort is
2 important. We have been doing a lot of cooperative
3 work here in Southeast Alaska with some -- certainly
4 with some tribal partners as well. I think our last
5 big step in that direction, which is a very positive
6 step, was signing an agreement with Central Council
7 here, with Tlingit-Haida Council and the Forest
8 Guardians, Indigenous Guardians effort to look just at
9 that. We've begun to hire Staff. And really looking
10 at, and, again, it's setting -- it's shared
11 decisionmaking on the landscape, it's shared
12 prioritization of efforts and projects and I continue
13 to see us on that path, and I also, as you mentioned, I
14 think there is with -- as I began my opening remarks
15 around some of the current priorities that I see us
16 embarking us on and Executive Orders that will help
17 guide some of these efforts is that the door is open
18 for really enhancing that type of management in
19 relationship, especially in Southeast Alaska.

20
21 MR. SCHROEDER: And just a quick more
22 of a followup comment. We really look forward to
23 working with you. As you know the Council was very
24 strong on the Roadless Rule and we put a huge amount of
25 energy into that and we do appreciate that Staff came
26 to the Council repeatedly throughout the process. We
27 didn't win. But -- and I think we beat up Staff pretty
28 thoroughly, I hope we did, but we look forward to
29 working with you on reinstating the Roadless Rule,
30 which I believe is inevitable. And if it doesn't get
31 reinstated, we may have a Pueblo Revolt in Southeast
32 Alaska.

33
34 I also am really hoping that Forest
35 Service takes seriously, as we do, two main comments in
36 our Roadless Rule in addition to the protection of
37 subsistence comments, that we really see the Tongass as
38 that the highest and best use of the Tongass, in
39 addition, and relate -- and along with subsistence is
40 sequestration of carbon. We think that this is a
41 national necessity. And we also called for a focus on
42 restoring and rehabilitating the Tongass to its natural
43 state.

44
45 And that's what I've got, thank you, so
46 much.

47
48 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
49 Schroeder. And I believe that the planets are lining
50

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1 up to move many of the things you've talked about
2 forward here. So I welcome that opportunity.

3

4 Mr. Chair, I do have to jump over to
5 another call right now but I certainly, if there are
6 things that come up during the meeting that you'd like
7 me to address, I do have quite a bit of time tomorrow
8 that's flexible on my calendar and the next day I would
9 be happy to come back and try and pick up if you've got
10 a question or two that comes out of some your
11 discussions and deliberations this week.

12

13 But I really thank you for the
14 opportunity, Mr. Hernandez.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Dave, yeah,
17 thank you very much. I did have one specific question
18 for you, I don't know if you've got a couple minutes
19 now or if you want to come back to us tomorrow.

20

21 MR. SCHMID: Let's try it right now,
22 Don.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I'm going
25 to put you on the spot.

26

27 MR. SCHMID: Yep.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: You know in this
30 review process, I don't know what level this review is
31 happening, you could maybe inform us about that but I
32 do want to make a specific request that all of the
33 testimony and comments that the Council submitted in
34 the previous rulemaking process is all put before
35 whoever is involved in this review process. We want to
36 make sure that all of our comments are available for
37 them.....

38

39 MR. SCHMID: Uh-huh.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:in this
42 review and I'd like your assurance that that could
43 happen.

44

45 MR. SCHMID: Uh-huh. I can do more
46 than assurance. I know that they have all of those,
47 Mr. Chair. And that review is happening as we speak.
48 I've had input into it as well. But that's happening
49 at the Department level with our Under Secretary --

50

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1 Acting Under Secretary as well, and like I said they
2 have heard loud and clear and some of those directly
3 from -- in fact I believe that our Acting Under
4 Secretary, he did attend a couple of those public
5 meetings and the RAC meeting in Ketchikan as well. And
6 so that -- I can more than assure you that the comments
7 that were transmitted officially as well as the
8 information that was summarized out of the .810
9 hearings and the other comments are all part of that
10 record that is being reviewed.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good, thank
13 you, Dave. I was fairly sure that would be your answer
14 but I just wanted to make sure. So we really
15 appreciate you taking the time to answer all of our
16 questions and inform us on what's going on and I think
17 we're kind of hearing from the Council members that
18 we're optimistic that these next few years will be good
19 for the rural residents of Southeast Alaska.

20

21 So thank you once again, appreciate
22 your time.

23

24 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. I'm a glass is
25 half full person so I think it's more than half full
26 now looking forward. So thank you all and I'll be back
27 with you tomorrow a bit just to eavesdrop, so, thanks.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good.
30 Thanks. Thanks, Dave. Okay. So as far as the agenda
31 goes here, I think this might be a good opportunity to
32 take a 15 minute break and when we come back we have
33 our normal business to attend to of just, you know,
34 reviewing and adopting the agenda, this is an election
35 cycle so we have an election for officers, just review
36 our previous minutes and approve those, and then we'll
37 go to Council and Chair reports. And then there will
38 be an opportunity for public comments if anybody from
39 the public is still around at that time.

40

41 So let's take a 15 minute break, come
42 back at 10:45 and DeAnna, I don't know if you have
43 anything to add to that. I'm assuming we keep our
44 lines open while we're on short breaks.

45

46 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good.
49 We will reconvene at 10:45.

50

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1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: It's 10:45, just
6 checking to see if Council members and Staff are
7 getting back online here.

8

9 (Pause)

10

11 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, do you want me
12 to take a quick roll of Council members.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That'd probably be
15 a good idea DeAnna.

16

17 MS. PERRY: Okay. Frank Wright, are
18 you back on.

19

20 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, I'm here.

21

22 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

23

24 Cal Casipit.

25

26 MR. CASIPIT: Here.

27

28 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Cal.

29

30 Mike Douville.

31

32 MR. DOUVILLE: Mike Douville's here.

33

34 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Mike.

35

36 Jim Slater.

37

38 MR. SLATER: Jim Slater's here.

39

40 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

41

42 Robert Schroeder.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MS. PERRY: Albert Howard.

47

48 MR. HOWARD: Albert's here.

49

50

0041

1 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Albert.

2

3 Don Hernandez, I heard you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Here.

6

7 MS. PERRY: Harold Robbins.

8

9 MR. ROBBINS: I'm here.

10

11 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Harold.

12

13 Harvey Kitka.

14

15 MR. KITKA: (In Tlingit)

16

17 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Harvey.

18

19 Larry Bemis, Jr.

20

21 MR. BEMIS: Here.

22

23 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Larry.

24

25 Cathy Needham.

26

27 MS. NEEDHAM: I'm here.

28

29 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Cathy.

30

31 Ann Johnson, were you able to join us

32 yet.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MS. PERRY: Okay.

37

38 And, Bob Schroeder, have you rejoined

39 us.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MS. PERRY: Okay, Mr. Chair, you have
44 10 of your 12 members participating at this time.

45

46 MR. SCHROEDER: Bob Schroeder is here.

47

48 MS. PERRY: Oh, thanks, Bob.

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So 11 of the 12,
2 okay.

3
4 MS. PERRY: 11 of the 12.

5
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good, thank
7 you, DeAnna. We have a little business to take care of
8 before we go into the Council reports.

9
10 First item is to review and adopt the
11 agenda. And we would need a motion to do that and I'll
12 remind Council members that we would be adopting this
13 agenda as a guide, it's subject to minor changes as we
14 go through the process, but we need a motion.

15
16 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, I do have a few
17 changes to suggest before you hear a motion if you'd
18 like.

19
20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good idea, go
21 ahead, DeAnna.

22
23 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. These
24 were items that came up since the agenda had been
25 printed in the meeting book. It looks as though a
26 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program information
27 update is available so we would like to add that to
28 11E. 11E.

29
30 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman.

31
32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Frank.

33
34 MR. WRIGHT: I think we need a motion
35 and then we add on to the agenda before we adopt it.

36
37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, that might
38 be appropriate Frank, yeah, put it on the table and
39 then we'll make amendments.

40
41 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

42
43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

44
45 MR. WRIGHT: I make a motion to adopt
46 the agenda.

47
48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Do we have a
49 second.

50

0043

1 MR. KITKA: Second.

2

3 MS. NEEDHAM: Second by Cathy.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cathy seconds.

6 Okay, thank you, both. Yeah, now we can go ahead and
7 make any changes or amendments, go ahead DeAnna.

8

9 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10 Thank you Member Frank Wright. 11E, so that would be
11 under new business, adding FRMP.

12

13 Also under agency reports for USDA
14 Forest Service we would like to add C, a tribal
15 relations report from Melinda Hernandez Burke. Again,
16 that's under agency reports, agenda Item 12.

17

18 And then just of note, there's a time
19 certain for Forest Supervisor Earl Stewart to give his
20 agency report. Usually we have those on the last day,
21 he will be available Wednesday from 1:30 to 2:30 to
22 give us an update on those projects that are listed
23 under USDA Forest Service and agency reports.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,
28 DeAnna. So if Council members have made note of those
29 additions to the agenda, call for the question.

30

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MR. KITKA: Question.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Maybe on this one
37 did -- did I hear for a call for the question.

38

39 MR. KITKA: Question. Harvey.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
42 Harvey. I think for this maybe I could just call for a
43 shout out vote. All in favor of adopting the agenda as
44 a guide say aye.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Is
49 there anybody opposed.

50

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1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Hearing none, our
4 agenda is set for the meeting. Next up is.....

5

6 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

9

10 MR. KITKA: This is Harvey Kitka.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
13 Harvey.

14

15 MR. KITKA: I just wanted to welcome
16 you guys all to Sitka since this is where it's supposed
17 to be.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We were -- and I'm
22 sure we're all wishing we were there Harvey, it's one
23 of our favorite places to be for our spring meeting.
24 It's just a great time to be in Sitka with the herring
25 starting to show up and all the activity that goes on
26 around there. Yeah, we really wanted to be there so
27 thank you for the thoughts.

28

29 MR. KITKA: Okay, let's get started.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
32 Harvey. So we do have an election of officers at this
33 meeting. And, DeAnna, as our designated Federal
34 officer, you take over for the first start of the
35 process here.

36

37 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair. Just to
38 hold nominations for the Chair. And I'd just like to
39 take a moment to remind everybody to go ahead and star
40 six and mute your phone, we're hearing some tapping and
41 typing over some folks so if you could just take a
42 moment to look and make sure you're on mute that would
43 be great.

44

45 We will now hold elections for officers
46 for the Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory
47 Council. And are there any nominations for the Chair
48 position.

49

50

0045

1 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair.

2

3 MS. PERRY: Mr. Douville.

4

5 MR. DOUVILLE: Yeah, Mike Douville
6 here. I would like to nominate Don Hernandez for the
7 position of Chair.

8

9 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Douville.
10 Any other nominations.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MR. WRIGHT: Move to close.

15

16 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Frank. We have
17 a nomination for Donald Hernandez for Chair of the
18 Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. I'll
19 declare the nominations closed and I'll ask for
20 unanimous consent. Is there any opposed for Don
21 Hernandez as Chair of the Southeast Subsistence
22 Regional Advisory Council.

23

24 (No opposition)

25

26 MS. PERRY: Okay, Mr. Chair, Don
27 Hernandez, you are reelected as the Chair and the floor
28 is now yours to lead nominations for Vice Chair and the
29 Secretary positions on the Council.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
32 DeAnna. Thank you, Council Members for the vote of
33 confidence. A little over a week ago I didn't even
34 think I was going to be on the Council and now here I
35 am Chair again for another year so I'm happy to do it.
36 I kind of enjoy it. So I appreciate the vote.

37

38 So now we need a.....

39

40 MR. KITKA: Congratulations Don.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Thank
43 you. So now we need nominations for a Vice Chair.

44

45 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, is that
48 Albert.

49

50

0046

1 MR. DOUVILLE: No, it's Mike Douville.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, hi, Mike,
4 yeah.

5

6 MR. DOUVILLE: Congratulations on your
7 election. I would like to nominate Cathy Needham for
8 Vice Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
11 A nomination for Cathy. Any other nominations.

12

13 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is
14 Albert.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Albert.

17

18 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 I'd like to nominate Harvey Kitka.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
22 Albert. Any other nominations.

23

24 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chair, move to close.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.
27 So we have two nominations. I guess, DeAnna, doing
28 this over the phone, do you have a suggestion on what's
29 the best way to go about taking a vote here on this.

30

31 MS. PERRY: We normally would do this
32 by ballot if there are more than one nominations.

33

34 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. How do we
37 do that over the phone.

38

39 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, Harvey Kitka.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, Harvey, yeah,
42 go ahead Harvey.

43

44 MR. KITKA: I respectfully decline the
45 Vice Chair. I'm just -- my plate is pretty full at the
46 moment but I really thank Albert for nominating me but
47 I don't think I quite have the qualifications for Vice
48 Chair but thank you anyway.

49

50

0047

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, I think we'd
2 disagree with your qualifications Harvey but we know
3 you are a very involved person over there in Sitka and
4 understand your time commitments there as well. So
5 thank you. So I guess we can proceed with the vote
6 with just Cathy Needham as being nominated.

7

8 So all in favor of Cathy Needham for
9 Vice Chair say aye.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is there anybody
14 opposed to Cathy Needham as Vice Chair, say, no.

15

16 (No opposing votes)

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Cathy,
19 sounds like you're Vice Chair again. Any comments.

20

21 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and
22 Members of the Council. I look forward to continuing
23 to serve this Council in that capacity.

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good.

26

27 MR. DOUVILLE: Congratulations Cathy.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: And, Cathy, I just
30 want to acknowledge that for the past several months
31 you have been the Acting Chair and doing a very
32 excellent job of keeping up with all the business. I
33 know you weren't expecting to have to do all that but
34 you stepped right up and took care of everything that
35 needed doing for the Council. So I just want the rest
36 of the Council to know that they should appreciate you
37 being able to step in and do all that while some of us
38 were waiting for our reappointments. So once again
39 appreciate it very much and I think all the Council
40 does.

41

42 How about nominations for Secretary.

43

44 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cathy.

47

48 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 I'd like to nominate Frank Wright, Jr., for Secretary.

50

0048

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Frank
2 Wright's been nominated.

3
4 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chair, this is Albert.

5
6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Albert.

7
8 MR. HOWARD: I move to close
9 nominations.

10
11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We have a
12 motion to close, do we have a second on that.

13
14 MR. DOUVILLE: Mike Douville, I'll
15 second.

16
17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
18 So we now have Frank Wright, Jr., nominated for
19 Secretary. Once again, voice vote, all in favor of
20 Frank say aye.

21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is there anybody
25 opposed.

26
27 (No opposing votes)

28
29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay,
30 congratulations Frank. Appreciate you taking the
31 position and while we were short on Council members we
32 were kind of asking you to kind of increase your roll a
33 little bit as Secretary and you stepped up as well so
34 we all appreciate that. But now we are up to full
35 strength and full speed ahead. So let's get going
36 here.

37
38 One more item of business before we get
39 into our Council member reports and that would be to
40 review and approve the previous meeting minutes. So,
41 once again we need a motion and a second to do that.

42
43 MR. KITKA: So moved. Harvey Kitka.

44
45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Harvey.
46 And a second, please.

47
48 MR. CASIPIT: This is Cal, I second.

49
50

0049

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cal.
2 If the Council members just want to take a couple
3 minutes, if you haven't already, to look over the
4 previous minutes and make sure everything's proper.
5 I'd like to point out, you know, that Council members
6 maybe take a close look at your previous Council member
7 community reports, those are kind of summarizations of
8 what you reported to us, you might want to check and
9 make sure that you feel that that's accurately reflects
10 what your report said.

11

12 So we'll take a couple minutes here and
13 then we'll have the vote to approve.

14

15 (Pause)

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: If at any time any
18 Council member has something they want to bring to our
19 attention that brings amending go ahead and chime in.

20

21 MR. BEMIS: Mr. Chair, this is Larry.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Larry.

24

25 MR. BEMIS: In my testimony, I forgot
26 to put in that I've been here for 66 years as a
27 resident in Yakutat. Born in Sitka, raised in Yakutat.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
30 Larry. We'll have DeAnna reflect that in the minutes.

31

32 MR. BEMIS: Okay, thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody else on
35 the Council see anything that needs amending to the
36 previous minutes.

37

38 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, Harvey Kitka
39 here.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Harvey.

42

43 MR. KITKA: I'm not sure how I'd vote
44 on this because I haven't been to a few minutes so I'll
45 probably have to abstain for voting on it.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good point,
48 Harvey.

49

50

0050

1 MR. SLATER: Likewise, Mr. Chair, this
2 is Jim Slater. For us new appointees we wouldn't
3 qualify for a vote as well.

4
5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right.

6
7 (Pause)

8
9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So whenever
10 anybody's ready to call for the question.

11
12 MS. NEEDHAM: Question.

13
14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,
15 Cathy. For this one, maybe, Frank, could I ask you to
16 do the roll and I guess take note that persons who were
17 not seated last fall probably wouldn't be voting on
18 this so.

19
20 MR. WRIGHT: All right. Michael
21 Douville.

22
23 MR. DOUVILLE: Mike Douville votes yes.

24
25 MR. WRIGHT: Bob Schroeder.

26
27 MR. SCHROEDER: Bob Schroeder votes
28 yes.

29
30 MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

31
32 MR. HOWARD: Yes.

33
34 MR. WRIGHT: Don Hernandez.

35
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

37
38 MR. WRIGHT: Harold Robbins.

39
40 MR. ROBBINS: Yes.

41
42 MR. WRIGHT: Larry Bemis.

43
44 MR. BEMIS: Yes.

45
46 MR. WRIGHT: Cathy Needham.

47
48 MS. NEEDHAM: Cathy votes yes.

49
50

0051

1 MR. WRIGHT: That's everyone, Mr.
2 Chair.

3
4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: How about
5 yourself, Frank.

6
7 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

8
9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good,
14 so minutes approved. So let's get to our Council
15 member's reports. And I'll just make a note here that
16 for the Chair's report I've asked Cathy to give that
17 because she did have to conduct most of the business
18 and attended the Board meeting in my absence as not
19 being reappointed, so Cathy will be doing that.

20
21 So Council member reports, Harvey, I'm
22 going to give you the honor of leading us off. As you
23 mentioned this meeting was supposed to take place in
24 Sitka and we all are very sorry that we can't be there.
25 I also would like to point out that you're a recent
26 appointee but not a new appointee by any means. You
27 served on the Council for many years before not getting
28 appointed in that previous round. And with your
29 absence from the Council we have not had a
30 representative from Sitka, which is the largest rural
31 community in Southeast Alaska and we kind of lost out
32 on a lot of information from what's going on over in
33 your area. So Harvey if you want to start out with
34 your Council report we would be honored.

35
36 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Don. I'm just
37 wondering, does the Council, I forgot, do we go through
38 a swearing in ceremony or anything through that before
39 we can even be a part of the Council?

40
41 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, this is DeAnna.

42
43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, DeAnna.

44
45 MS. PERRY: Yeah, I can answer that.
46 Harvey, no, we do not. Once you're elected that's all
47 you need as far as being an officer -- as far as being
48 a member, you received an appointment letter from the
49 Secretary so there's no swearing in, you're
50

0052

1 automatically appointed with that letter.

2

3 MR. KITKA: Okay, thank you. Well, the
4 Sitka reports. We've got a few things that are on the
5 table.

6

7 We got some issues with our subsistence
8 on sockeye. So many places have the return of the
9 sockeyes is declining and we'd like to show that we are
10 concerned about that. Some of the places that we used
11 to harvest quite a bit was kind of been declining the
12 last few years and in some places there's not enough
13 there to even subsist.

14

15 We do still have concerns about
16 regulations on the shrimping and how they figured out
17 the amount necessary for subsistence and how they put
18 upon that it was subsistence that was causing the
19 problem. We found that it was more the charter boaters
20 and the personal use permits.

21

22 We still have some concerns with sea
23 otter but not near as many.

24

25 The harvesters seem like they've got a
26 handle on how to be able to keep harvesting and still
27 allow us to get some of our subsistence foods that we
28 compete for.

29

30 Hunting, there's still some concerns
31 over the goat.

32

33 Our deer population seems to be doing
34 fine. The mild climate seems to have helped
35 considerably.

36

37 We have some -- still ongoing concern
38 with the herring fishery even though this year it looks
39 like there might be more herring out there but the
40 herring are small and there might be not as many
41 spawners as they think. I know that our elders tell us
42 that the three year olds don't spawn near the quality
43 of eggs that would be needed. The more quality eggs
44 came.....

45

46 MS. NEEDHAM: Hello.

47

48 MS. PERRY: We seemed to have lost
49 Harvey. Harvey, are you still on with us.

50

0053

1 (No comments)

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(No comments)

MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, I believe Mr.

Harvey's line has gotten dropped. We may need to come back to him.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I was

wondering what happened there, I thought it was maybe my line. But okay. Well hopefully he'll get reconnected and pick up where he left off. Okay, let's see, let's go to Mike Douville.

MR. DOUVILLE: Okay, Mike Douville's

here. We do have a few things of concern on Prince of Wales.

We've had some discussion on the

Roadless, which, hopefully that can be resolved in a positive fashion for us.

Old growth logging and stem exclusion

is, we believe, causing a down turn in the deer population, as well as wolf. I think both are nature factors. Stem exclusion is becoming greater and greater on Prince of Wales, so there's certainly less land for good deer habitat.

Climate change is really rearing its

ugly head here, you know, we've had the worst winter I can ever remember for winds and rain. Rain coming at a time when we -- we believe that it's washed a lot of the salmon eggs out of the streams, just really violent flood waters.

The deer hunting success rate, it

appears to be continuing to drop.

We do have wolf issues also, we believe

the population is healthy however we are faced with a ESA which, I think good science here will prevail and we'll hopefully be okay.

That's all I have for now, thank you.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,

Mike. How about, Frank Wright, what's going on up in Hoonah.

(No comments)

0054

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are you there
2 Frank?

3
4 MR. WRIGHT: Oh, you called me, this is
5 Frank.

6
7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
8 Frank.

9
10 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, this year, I don't
11 know if it's environmental or whatever, but anyway went
12 crabbing this year, it was the first time I've ever
13 gotten dungeness 50 fathom down, usually you don't
14 catch any dungeness until about 10, 15 fathoms, but
15 this year got a lot of dungeness at about 50 fathoms
16 and that's unusual for tanner fishing. So that's -- I
17 don't know, I don't know what the deal is. But then
18 even where I regularly fish there was hardly anything.
19 Usually I get a lot of females but that -- even those
20 were gone. We used to have sort through them but we
21 didn't even have to sort this year and there was less
22 crab. The crabber -- the tanner crabber in the 90s and
23 80s and 90 fathoms, so that was another environmental
24 thing.

25
26 I remember -- I don't know if you guys
27 remember last -- a couple years ago I reported that
28 there was caterpillar crawling around on the cement
29 down there in the park down there in January and this
30 last year the first time I haven't ever seen swallows
31 around, you know, I was in Hoonah most of the year
32 because seining was pretty bad last year but this last
33 year there was no swallows and that was kind of weird.

34
35 This is the most we've had in years but
36 it still hasn't piled up like when I was a kid.
37 Haven't had a -- we haven't even had a foot of snow in
38 front of my yard, you know, the kids used to be able to
39 jump off the side of the road and tumble down and get
40 buried in it and now you can't do that, it's really
41 strange.

42
43 The ferry system is pretty tough on the
44 smaller communities, too, because, you know, we don't
45 get as many as before and I'm sure Angoon is really
46 suffering because of it too because the ferry system is
47 pretty much built for tourists now. As soon as summer
48 comes around they'll start increasing their ferry
49 system. So I think that something has to be done about
50

0055

1 that.

2

3

4 You know, something that benefits the
5 young people a lot here in Hoonah, both basketball,
6 volleyball, but because of that invading the world,
7 they just started volleyball and then basketball is
8 supposed to be on right now but that hasn't even
9 started, you know, so you know the mental health of the
10 young people are suffering because of it. You know a
11 lot of them look forward to it every year and even in
12 school, the kids are pretty sporadic, you know, so
13 doing a lot of virtual learning.

14

15 The city has been doing pretty good on
16 this virus thing. You know they test everybody that
17 comes into town, on a plane, they have someone out
18 there at the airport testing and they go to the ferry,
19 they test, so they're trying to keep the community
20 pretty clean of this bug and so they've been pretty
21 successful in doing that. So I think that, you know,
22 we're keeping up. But, you know, like anything else
23 there are people that doubt it, you know, and not
24 wearing mask or not social distancing and like I got
25 one of my crew member and I jumped on him, his wife
26 works at a place that doesn't believe in it.

27

28 But anyway, another thing is the rain
29 last year it was -- it was amazing. I mean like Mr.
30 Douville said, you know, the river was so full, it was
31 unbelievable. I mean you couldn't even -- you know, so
32 you know the salmon eggs have been pretty much washed
33 out. I don't know, you know, the rivers that we've
34 gone to, they've -- I mean you wouldn't believe it it's
35 just so -- and then I was worried about some of the
36 hills around here having landslides because of, you
37 know, some people thinking of cutting trees down is a
38 good thing but, you know, when you take the root system
39 out then that's it.

40

41 Commercial fishing prices this coming
42 year for long-lining has gone up for black cod and not
43 too much for halibut but not as -- not as much as it
44 used to be so we're going to be struggling again.

45

46 And so that's about all I have, thank
47 you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,
50 Frank. How about if we move up to Yakutat now and call

0056

1 on Harold Robbins, are you ready Harold.

2

3 MR. ROBBINS: Thank you. Yes, we're
4 experiencing a real winter here for a change. We've
5 got three to five feet on the ground and snowing hard
6 as we speak. But it looks like it might be a real
7 concern but the thing wears on on how the moose are
8 going to survive and the deer. Once this sets up a
9 little bit and the wolves can walk on top the moose are
10 pretty much an easy target. So that's kind of a
11 concern I see.

12

13 Been pretty good trolling in the bay
14 here which helped out economically here in town. My
15 son and a friend flew to East River down towards Cape
16 Fairweather and back on the 8th of March and observed a
17 considerable amount of eulachon and a lot of predators
18 all along the coast up to about the Dangerous River but
19 nothing was clear on into river at the Situk or around
20 town. Akwe was the most plentiful and, of course, it
21 gathered up the most sea lions and seals and birds, so
22 -- but there were signs all up and down the coast that
23 there was good numbers of eulachon so that was pretty
24 positive.

25

26 And the Fish and Game local biologist
27 reported, when I was visiting with him, about how
28 things were going he had reported back that they had
29 gotten the DNA samples from the king -- commercial king
30 opening, the spring opening in May of '19 and I think
31 he plans on reporting what they found that way but it
32 looks like there was a reasonable percentage of Situk
33 and Alsek fish in that king fishery and a percentage of
34 Southeast kings also. So it will bring some issues
35 there I'm sure, the troll opening that coincides with
36 the spring troll opening, elsewhere throughout the
37 area.

38

39 And the moose hunt, as far as the East
40 of the Dangerous, the 5A east, it turned out where only
41 34 percent of the local subsistence -- the local -- 34
42 percent of the moose were taken by local subsistence
43 users and the rest -- the other 21 moose were taken by
44 other people from outside the area. So it's kind of an
45 interesting twist there and see how things really go
46 but maybe moving the subsistence portion of the moose
47 season as far as East River and then on the east side
48 of the Dangerous, in turn -- you know, moving it into a
49 time slot that wasn't very convenient for the

50

0057

1 subsistence users because they're still busy trying to
2 make a dollar commercial fishing. So that might not be
3 such a great idea, maybe we need to figure that out a
4 little later on.

5

6 So anyways that's pretty much all I
7 have at this point.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good.
12 Thank you, Harold. How about Albert Howard.

13

14 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Weather here is been kind of interesting. I'm looking
16 at snow on the mountains like three-quarters of the way
17 down the mountain across the other -- it's been that
18 way for the whole month of February, it snows and then
19 it'd rain, snow.

20

21 The deer season wasn't what it used to
22 be. I'm not sure why that is. Because I went out
23 trolling last weekend and there was deer everywhere. I
24 don't know if they have their own calendars or what's
25 happening. They're definitely around. The usual's
26 been happening and I -- and Robert knows this because I
27 don't always agree with him but I'm starting to think
28 that somehow we need to put together a comanagement
29 plan where we work with the State to co-manage the
30 resource because it seems like every part of the
31 resource is diminishing. Good example is Hoonah Sound
32 shrimp. That closed to subsistence, sportfish users
33 and commercial. You allow one subsistence user to take
34 a full tote out of there, a full tote's going to be all
35 that's taken out of there. And when you add in a
36 commercial fishery and now they're taking boat loads
37 out and with no answers to why that is. I think if
38 there was a comanagement in place it would be managed
39 like the State Constitution says it should be, managed
40 for abundance.

41

42 I believe in my first meeting ever my
43 interpretation of managing for abundance is like when
44 our elders or when I was a teenager you could walk
45 across the salmon stream and you'd always step on a
46 salmon, accidentally, of course, and now you walk
47 across a stream you're lucky to see a salmon.
48 Something has to change and I believe maybe
49 comanagement may be the answer. There's a lot of
50

0058

1 instances where that does work. With the diminishing
2 funds with the State has to manage the resource, it
3 would be easier to call Albert and say, hey, how are
4 the salmon at Bear Creek (ph) or Favorite Bay, or
5 Basket Bay or Hanus Bay and chances are you would get
6 an accurate answer besides the fish count. There needs
7 to be something done different.

8

9 And I think that Cathy may offer some
10 ideas to how we can get all the resources in the same
11 standing as they have in Prince of Wales where -- and
12 it's interesting to hear the fish biologists talking to
13 tribes and asking their opinion on different things but
14 not really wanting to talk to Angoon on how we think
15 Chatham should be managed. A good example is there's
16 three bays we fish crab, there's (In Native) Bay and
17 Minto Bay -- well, four -- one of them is hard to get
18 into, the other three any commercial boat can get in
19 there and they do so we'll enjoy crab all the way up
20 until crab season opens, the commercial crab season,
21 and then you get mostly females or under sized crab
22 after that.

23

24 So I wonder -- I mean if you have the
25 numbers supporting what's happening to the resource it
26 seems like there's no mechanism to say, well, we'll
27 have to close this area as a conservation concern.
28 Every year it's the same. You give the same report and
29 nothing is done.

30

31 So hopefully we can work together and
32 figure out how to get from A to B.

33

34 I'm sure there's more, I mean I could
35 talk about Greens Creek but I see it's on the agenda so
36 I'll save that for then.

37

38 Oh, that's what I was going to talk
39 about, the crab. When we have the bear hunters coming
40 in to -- I'll say exactly where, too, (In Native), we
41 caught them actually pulling our pots. Now, having
42 worked for a lodge, Fish and Game always comes out and
43 checks their freezers to make sure you're not feeding
44 your clients sportfish, sport caught crab or anything,
45 you have to buy it from a vendor that bought it from a
46 commercially licensed vessel. We can't feed them
47 something you just pulled out of the water. When we
48 catch someone pulling our pots and they're a bear
49 guide, aren't they feeding their clients these sport

50

0059

1 caught crab and what is the difference, I mean so
2 that's something we need to look at and figure out and
3 maybe I'll have questions for the State later on that
4 whole thing.

5
6 There's a lot of unintended
7 consequences we're paying here in Angoon for decisions
8 that are made somewhere else and it's affecting our way
9 of life.

10
11 My dad said once you shoot a deer and
12 you missed, you're never going to see that deer again.
13 And we're starting to see that more and more, and I
14 kind of get the feeling it's either the fact that
15 they're allowing bear hunters to shoot at deer in the
16 fall, is that the reason why we're not seeing them
17 anymore. You used to be able to drive up to a deer,
18 get out of the boat, within reasonable range and take
19 the deer. Now, you have to stop four or 500 yards
20 away, get out of the boat and take a shot.

21
22 So I'm sure I have more but that's all
23 I have for now.

24
25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.
28 How about Larry Bemis.

29
30 MR. BEMIS: Yes. Yeah, this has been
31 some kind of a year with this pandemic, just all the
32 different changes of all the things that are going on
33 and the economy and luckily we're able to keep our
34 fishing -- the cannery had their workers in place
35 before they locked everything down so the cannery was
36 able to stay open and proceed with the halibut first
37 and then the salmon. And the halibut's been extended,
38 I guess, March 6th it started this year all the way
39 through November sometime, so they got quite a fishing.
40 And they increased the halibut by 27 percent in Area
41 3A, which is quite a bit higher than 9 percent that was
42 last year so everybody scrambled to get out there but
43 they're sitting waiting out the weather. It's just
44 been horrific about the weather. I've been trolling
45 most of the winter and most of the time I'm lucky just
46 to get 10 minutes from the harbor to be able to fish
47 and usually our good fishing grounds are a good 20
48 minutes to a half hour out. So the price held up good.

49
50

0060

1 Good to see that we got the low end
2 escapement on our king salmon on both the Situk and I
3 guess on the Alsek.

4
5 I would like to -- I think we got
6 crossed with that Fish and Game, that Harold said, I
7 think that 19 genetic testing was during a commercial
8 netting opening, it wasn't during a troll opening. It
9 was -- because the fish were coming across the dock and
10 they don't think any of that was troll because none of
11 the king salmon are around for the Situk until the
12 latter part of May. So we don't even get the Situk
13 fish -- subsistence fishing until the latter part. So
14 I'm thinking gillnetting opens on the 1st of June and
15 we got the bycatch of the Situk king and also the Alsek
16 king. I don't think we caught any of the -- I don't
17 think the trollers caught any of the king salmon that
18 were strained for Situk and the Alsek.

19
20 So I might be wrong there, but it
21 seemed like I talked to him about it and that's when
22 they got the testing, the genetic sampling and he told
23 me how many king salmon were being caught.

24
25 So the other thing is that we are
26 giving up a lot of fishing time for the sockeye to get
27 our king escaped when it's not really a king salmon
28 river. So the blunt of the fishery for sockeyes has
29 been dwindling. We've had tremendous escapements on
30 the Situk River that have just barely squeaked by
31 escaping now. So I'm thinking maybe an over escapement
32 of fish for several years might have messed up what --
33 because we're just squeaking by, we don't get any extra
34 fishing time, we've actually been cut back but once the
35 kings are through they usually extend the fisheries for
36 the sockeyes providing that they're in abundance.

37
38 And we were able to have some sportfish
39 that people came up and did, and did quarantines and
40 what not, and I'm hoping that this year that with
41 getting the vaccine and better placement of testing and
42 stuff that there'll be a few more people getting a
43 chance to get out and -- we're like the rest of Alaska,
44 we depend on tourism as a part of our -- our mainstay
45 is commercial fishing but tourism is playing a big part
46 of our economy.

47
48 And as far as the winter here, I don't
49 think I've seen it -- so many storms back to back,
50

0061

1 raining one day, freezing, snowing the next day,
2 warming up, getting cold, I mean what a swing in
3 temperatures. One day you've got snow and very warm
4 out and the next day it's froze and 10 to 15 degrees
5 difference, it's just unbelievable the temperature
6 swings that we have.

7

8 Looking forward to having the snow,
9 though, because we do need it for the distance of the
10 water for the streams and also for the berries and
11 stuff. I notice when we don't have very much snow we
12 wind up drying up pretty good so hopefully we don't
13 have -- the heat has a lot to do with it, if we got
14 high temperatures then it don't matter how much snow
15 you got, you wind up losing your water.

16

17 I'm looking forward to this season and
18 I'm glad to be here with the meeting today and that's
19 what I have.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thanks,
22 Larry. Bob Schroeder, what do you got.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: You there, Bob.

27

28 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes, yes, I am, Don.
29 Thanks so much. I'd like to welcome the new Council
30 members to, hopefully their long careers with the
31 Southeast Regional Advisory Council. I was thinking
32 this morning how grateful I am to -- so many people,
33 many of whom are no longer with us that worked with the
34 Council for so many years and really are very
35 instrumental in why and how we've been able to do a
36 really good job of protecting subsistence over these
37 many years.

38

39 Kind of a local report. I'm in Juneau
40 and as noted, you know, we haven't had our tourist
41 season, which of course has a lot of economic effects
42 on a community. Our whales were roaming around without
43 being looked at so they were off -- I think they're all
44 on unemployment insurance because the whale watching
45 groups aren't there.

46

47 No tourists also means that we had good
48 pulses of king salmon come through. My own extended
49 family here we had really a lot of king salmon, we had

50

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1 so many that I could actually make king strips which I
2 have very rarely have been able to do in Juneau. I
3 think my daughter-in-law was the champ but in any case,
4 something like 30 or 40 kings showed up.

5

6 Deer were a bit harder this year. Just
7 kind of seconding what Albert said, we're not quite
8 exactly sure why because while there do seem to be deer
9 around but somehow hunting was a bit more difficult,
10 although my family did okay.

11

12 And we've been down on coho.

13

14 I think I'm -- I'm kind of into the big
15 picture right now and when we were talking with -- or
16 interrogating the Forest Supervisor, we note that, you
17 know, there are really major changes afoot. And I'd
18 urge our Council to take this opportunity to think big,
19 not only because of the political changes but because
20 what we seen in this last year of lockdown, that huge
21 social changes are possible. The pandemic ones weren't
22 ones that we wanted, but somehow we've been able to
23 adapt. So I think we can do more than nibble around
24 the edges of making -- providing more and more
25 subsistence protection in this coming year. So I urge
26 to think big.

27

28 I also put in an initial pitch for
29 seeing if this Council sometime in our meeting talks
30 about Forest policy and possibly forms a Forest policy
31 group to write up the way we see it. We've spent an
32 enormous amount of time on Forest management and Forest
33 management, subsistence related issues, over the past
34 years, and I think we might do really well if we put
35 our thoughts together and came up with what we
36 considered to be a SERAC Forest Management Policy. So
37 perhaps we'll get a chance to talk about that more in
38 the course of this meeting.

39

40 My personal schedule will only have me
41 in morning sessions during these next two days.

42

43 Thank you, so much. And it's really
44 great -- oh, I had one other thing to say, which is, I
45 am so impressed with how our Council is able to
46 function remotely and how we've been able to weather
47 the absurdity of having excellent members just booted
48 off and fortunately, Mr. Kitka, is back representing
49 the Kitka contribution to our Council. I so fondly

50

0063

1 remember his father Herman Kitka on the Council so
2 many years ago. I think our secret is that we know
3 each other pretty well, those of us who have been on
4 the Council, and we've learned to respect each other
5 even though we don't come from exactly the same places.

6
7 Thank you, so much, and it's great to
8 be with you guys.

9
10 Bye now.

11
12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,
13 Bob. Maybe we'll go to our most recent Council
14 appointees now and get the reports from them, and Cal
15 Casipit, I'll call on you first.

16
17 MR. CASIPIT: Okay, thank you, Mr.
18 Chair. Again, this is Cal Casipit. I live in
19 Gustavus, and I think this is the first time that
20 there's ever been a representative from Gustavus on the
21 Advisory Council. So I take that honor pretty darn
22 seriously and I'm grateful to participate with you all
23 here today and hopefully into the future.

24
25 I did want to start off with covid-19
26 and that I just feel like need to start off with that
27 because as Mayor that's pretty much what I dealt with
28 for over -- for a year now -- for a year before I
29 retired from Mayor, and that's something that ate a
30 bunch of my time. But in Gustavus we had nine cases --
31 well, up to today -- well, as far as up to today we've
32 had nine cases of Covid in 10, 8 of those being non-
33 residents coming in with the sport charter fleet. We
34 only had one local resident come down with Covid here.
35 So I think that we've been pretty successful in keeping
36 the bug out of town. And we've been really good with
37 our vaccine program here as well, thanks to SEARHC for
38 doing that for us here in Gustavus. In fact, the
39 vaccine, we have a vaccine program here today that I
40 got to take my wife to after lunch so if I'm a little
41 late getting back it's because we're getting
42 vaccinations. So I just wanted to beg some indulgence
43 from the Council on that if I get back a little bit
44 late this afternoon.

45
46 The other -- one other thing I wanted
47 to mention also and it doesn't really relate to Federal
48 subsistence because the moose season that happens here
49 happens on private and State lands so it's outside of
50

0064

1 our jurisdiction, outside of the exterior boundary in
2 fact. But we did have a good moose season this year.
3 One of the things that I say whether it's good or not
4 is the number of illegal bulls that get shot and we
5 only had one or two illegal bulls shot last fall so
6 that, in my opinion, is good. I was able to take a
7 legal bull so I was happy. So anyway we had a fairly
8 good moose season.

9
10 Our deer season was pretty good. We
11 got a good dump of snow just at the perfect time. It
12 melted right afterwards, but the hunters that I heard
13 from and the folks that went out to hunt deer, they had
14 very good success rates and I think it had to do with
15 that big dump of snow we got right at the right time,
16 that pre-rut snow that really, really helped our
17 hunters out. And like I said, that snow went away and
18 for most of December we didn't have any snow. I think
19 I heard the gentleman from Yakutat talking about the
20 weird weather and the change in temperatures and that's
21 pretty much the same here. Like just now we got a big
22 dump but now it's all melted. So it's been that way
23 all winter long.

24
25 As far as the fishing goes. I did make
26 one trip to Neva Creek this year. I have to say that I
27 was a little disappointed. I wasn't successful in
28 getting anything with my net and I went to -- we went
29 to the dock there near the hatchery store and tied up
30 there and went up to the store to get some snacks and
31 then as we pulled in and was tying up to the dock, two
32 of those salt guided skiffs from Doc Warners pulled in,
33 each with four guys in it, they all jump out with
34 coolers and fly rods and walk up to Neva -- to South
35 Creek there and they all went sportfishing, which I
36 thought there was a closure to non-Federally-qualified
37 users there. I wasn't sure where they were fishing, I
38 didn't really track them down and do any investigation
39 so I wasn't sure if they were fishing in Federal
40 jurisdiction or not, but they did come back later and
41 just before we left -- they did come back later and all
42 reported they all limited out and there was eight of
43 them. So I was really disappointed in seeing that.
44 Especially since there's supposed to be a closure to
45 non-Federally-qualified users there.

46
47 Anyway so that was my experience from
48 Neva Creek this year.

49
50

0065

1 As far as the coho fishing. I thought
2 it was pretty good. I think the fact that we didn't
3 have a whole lot of the sport charter activity here
4 probably contributed to better fishing. My wife and I
5 caught all the cohos we needed in a day and a half of
6 trolling so we did good. And it was pretty -- we had
7 some good fishing, so the coho fishing was good and I
8 think it had a lot to do with just reduced effort from
9 the sport charter fleet around here.

10

11 I also wanted to report that due to the
12 Covid situation we did -- the community of Gustavus,
13 the City of Gustavus, we did apply for and we fished --
14 a community harvest permit for halibut from NOAA and
15 that was our first time ever doing that this fall and
16 it was really successful and I think a lot of people in
17 town got the halibut they needed through that community
18 harvest permit that we got through the city.

19

20 Anyway that's all I have. And be
21 looking forward to continuing work. Thanks.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
24 Cal. How about if we go to Jim Slater.

25

26 MR. SLATER: Sure. Thank you, Mr.
27 Chair. Since maybe you guys haven't heard anything
28 from Pelican for a year or two I thought I'd start out
29 and give a general overview of the economy and then
30 move into some of the subsistence issues and so on.

31

32 So as you guys may know Pelican is in a
33 transition from a company town without a company to one
34 that has a small but growing base in both tourism and
35 fish processing.

36

37 Concerning fish processing, we've got
38 one fish processor and two buying operations in
39 Pelican. The processor, which is called Yakobi
40 Fisheries is doing quite well. They've grown
41 dramatically over the last five years and currently
42 employ about 30 people in the summertime and four to
43 five year-round. The other buying stations are kind of
44 smaller operations and they employ just a few people
45 during the summer. But in talking to the owners it's
46 estimated that about 500,000 pounds of fish will go
47 through Pelican annually this year and last year.

48

49 Concerning the charter businesses. We

50

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1 have several charter businesses in Pelican but they're
2 dominated by just a few. There's one in particular
3 that's quite large and has, I think close to eight
4 boats. Traditionally, or over the last decade or so
5 there's been, by city code, no sales tax, to the
6 charter fleet and we took note of that this year as in
7 light of the fact that Pelican was going through some
8 financial hardship, something I'll talk about later, we
9 took note of the fact that the charter businesses which
10 have grown significantly over the last five to 10 years
11 don't contribute anything in the form of sales tax and
12 that sales tax exemption was removed this year and so
13 they'll start paying sales tax in 2022.

14
15 This year -- we received notice last
16 year but things were cancelled because of Covid, but
17 Alaska Dream Cruises has announced they'll be visiting
18 Pelican this year, Pelican and Lisianski Inlet and
19 somewhere in the range of two to four ships a week.
20 The Pelican City Council is reacting to that. Actually
21 I'm on the City Council as well and we're having a
22 series of meetings over the next couple weeks to
23 address how to position, or determine the town's
24 position on how we -- how we interface with the cruise
25 ships.

26
27 Moving on, the school has traditionally
28 been right at kind of the cusp of staying open. We've
29 had -- over the last couple years we've kind of had an
30 abundance of kids, we've had up to 15 or 16 kids,
31 however we lost a couple families in the last two years
32 and so now we're down to slightly below the count so
33 that'll be an upcoming challenge for this next year.

34
35 Our ferry service is back. You guys
36 may have heard on the radio that we had no ferry
37 service for almost a year, which is rather a hardship
38 for people trying to keep supplies in during the
39 winter, especially during the pandemic, but we're back
40 to one a month in the winter and two a month this
41 summer, is what the forecasted schedule is.

42
43 Pelican had some poor luck with regard
44 to its utilities. Last year its hydroelectric plant
45 went down and so for the last year it's been run by
46 diesel and the good news is that we're currently
47 installing the refurbished turbine that had some work
48 done on it, in the next week or two so we should be
49 back on water power fairly soon.

50

0067

1 On the political stage, we're looking
2 at some significant changes. The current Mayor, Walt
3 Weller resigned effective this May and an interim Mayor
4 will be appointed until we have an election in October,
5 that's a year early. So there's a little bit of
6 transition in politics right now.

7

8 We have a new VPSO and they're head of
9 the volunteer Fire and Rescue, of which we have about
10 10 members, 10 active members, so that's a positive
11 note on there.

12

13 So that kind of wraps up the general
14 happenings around Pelican.

15

16 Now, I'll talk about some of the
17 subsistence issues.

18

19 Deer was -- it was a very poor deer
20 year last year and there's been a lot of talk about it.
21 Almost everyone we talked to had trouble, either didn't
22 get a deer or had trouble getting enough deer for what
23 they felt their needs were. And a lot of discussions
24 revolved around causes, and the general consensus was
25 it was a combination of increased hunting pressure. We
26 saw quite an increase in the number of hunters in the
27 Inlet this year. There's been talk about increased
28 brown bear predation. And then also the weather. As
29 everyone's been -- has taken note, the weathers been
30 quite unusual where we had a few early snowfalls but
31 for the most part it was very minimal snowfall and when
32 it happened it melted off quickly. So there may be
33 more deer than meets the eye but they might just not
34 being seen.

35

36 Fishing over the last few years is kind
37 of consistent. It hasn't been that -- so it was
38 available, there was some kings available in the Inlet
39 but one thing to note and I'm not sure if you guys are
40 aware of it, but fishing in Lisianski Inlet, in
41 general, has been significantly worse over the last --
42 it's decreased over the last decade or two. This has
43 been for both salmon and halibut. It used to be pretty
44 easy to go out in the Inlet and catch king salmon, now
45 it's kind of hit or miss in the peak of the season.
46 And for us with subsistence skates for halibut it --
47 like I said it used to be you set once or twice and you
48 have your halibut for the year, now you can go out four
49 or five times before you even catch a halibut.

50

0068

1 The sockeye runs. I went to Hoktaheen
2 this year and we had very minimal luck but other
3 community members hit the right days and they did okay
4 so I would say that it seems to be somewhat average.

5

6 Clam population was pretty good. A lot
7 of people hesitated to dig clams because there was kind
8 of talk about the warm year that we had in 2019 might
9 have affected the level of PSP that might be out there
10 and reading some State reports that seemed to be the
11 case so we -- a lot of people didn't dig as many clams
12 this year.

13

14 Berries and mushrooms were a bit below
15 average. We had a lot of -- some the year before but
16 last year, as we know was quite a bit rainy -- or quite
17 rainy and maybe that affected it.

18

19 Shrimping was, I say, okay, in
20 Lisianski Inlet last year. We had a big commercial
21 usage in 2019 but we seemed to have held up under that.

22

23 Other than that, that kind of wraps it
24 up.

25

26 You know, as everyone's made comments
27 on the weather, we've had a very rainy last 2020 and a
28 somewhat mild winter, you know, we had some bouts -- a
29 couple cold snaps, and a couple periods of snow but
30 most of the time they melted off and we saw a lot of
31 rain over the winter.

32

33 That's about it. Anyone have any
34 questions.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thanks, Jim.

37

38 MR. SLATER: Okay, no problem.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good, thank
41 you. Do we have Ian Johnson with us yet.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Apparently not.
46 Harvey, did you get reconnected. We lost you in the
47 middle of your report.

48

49 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Don. I'm not

50

0069

1 exactly sure where I was on the report. But I do know
2 that the herring, there seems to be more herring but
3 they're a lot smaller this year. Not sure what's going
4 on there. But I wanted to say that according to our
5 elders the three year olds are not much of a spawning
6 group. The quality of eggs you get is mostly from the
7 seven year olds and maybe some of the older ones. The
8 best quality comes from the seven year olds. I wanted
9 to mention that.

10

11 I also wanted to mention that the Sitka
12 has taken the State to court several times this year
13 and was kind of a three-pronged lawsuit. The first two
14 parts, Sitka Tribe came out ahead in those cases and
15 were able to get the State of Alaska to look at our
16 subsistence a little differently. The last part went
17 before the judge back in February, I believe, and is
18 not going to rule on it until June or July so that
19 won't come into effect until next year. But right now
20 the State of Alaska, the management has to check with
21 subsistence people on the quality of eggs. I'm not
22 sure how they're going to do that as they've never done
23 that before. The fact is they've only checked with the
24 commercial industry and never even talked to
25 subsistence people. So this is going to be a big
26 change for the State of Alaska. I had maybe one
27 question for later on, maybe public comments on extra-
28 territorial jurisdiction, the Kaagwaantaan has filed
29 from Sitka.

30

31 So I think I'll leave that at the end
32 of my report.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, yeah, thank
37 you, Harvey. If you want to address that petition, you
38 know, under the -- I don't think we have an agenda item
39 but, you know, certainly if you want to represent the
40 Kaagwaantaan, you know, during the public testimony
41 that would be great and then we can take questions on
42 that as well. And, yes, we all will be watching what
43 happens with the Sitka herring this spring for sure.
44 Kind of a different situation.

45

46 Maybe I'll give my local report and
47 then go to Cathy Needham for the Chair's report.

48

49 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

50

0070

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead.

2

3 MS. PERRY: I just wanted to let you
4 know that Ian Johnson is online, he can hear us and he
5 might want to try his audio again just to make sure he
6 has an opportunity to speak if we can hear him before
7 we go further.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, certainly,
10 yeah, I'll hold off. Yeah, Ian, go ahead, try again.

11

12 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, I'm getting a
13 chat from him through Teams that he's trying to talk on
14 the audio line but we're not able to hear him.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

17

18 MS. PERRY: He said he would call in on
19 another line so perhaps we can come back to him later
20 in the meeting.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So for my area
23 report, somewhat mirrors what Mike Douville reported on
24 for Prince of Wales Island.

25

26 It was a very poor deer season for the
27 locals this year. Seeing a lot of deer in general,
28 certainly a lack of bucks. Being out around this
29 winter just seeing not very good sign at all, on the
30 north end of Prince of Wales, like same situation as
31 lower end as well.

32

33 Yeah, we have a lot of erratic weather
34 in Southeast lately. I was quite concerned as some of
35 the other Council members were as well with the
36 torrential rains that we had a couple of times this
37 last fall. October and then again in December, those
38 horrific landslides that we all saw and, yeah, what it
39 must have done to the salmon spawning beds we won't
40 know until the returns start coming out but it could
41 have been damaging for sure.

42

43 And then this winter, for the most part
44 we had a very open winter here on Prince of Wales, very
45 little snow. But also had some very severe cold. When
46 it wasn't warm it was very cold. That also is a
47 concern because without having a snow pack, spawning
48 beds are also more prone to freezing the eggs out. So
49 it could have been a bad year for the salmon streams

50

0071

1 this fall and winter.

2

3 One other thing I would like to report
4 on is I've been kind of active as a Council member, and
5 also when I wasn't on the Council, in putting together
6 this deer summit that the Council was made aware of at
7 our last meeting. Something that's being organized by
8 -- got started by the conservation group, had a lot of
9 support from the local tribes getting involved. And
10 we've also put together a steering committee to, you
11 know, kind of organize this event that will probably be
12 happening next winter now due to all the Covid
13 concerns, it's been put off, but we're pretty confident
14 that by next winter we can put together a big meeting
15 to discuss all kinds of issues related to deer on
16 Prince of Wales Island, maybe come up with some kind of
17 recommendations moving forward. We've had very good
18 support from our local Forest Service, the District
19 Ranger has been involved and also the Department of
20 Fish and Game wildlife Staff have been involved in
21 organizing this. Sounding pretty positive.

22

23 So I think that will do it for my
24 report.

25

26 We'll try once again to see if Ian
27 Johnson's gotten reconnected.

28

29 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, are you able to hear
30 me now?

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, we are, go
33 ahead, Ian.

34

35 MR. JOHNSON: Okay, thank you. I
36 apologize for that, thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah, my
37 name is Ian Johnson. I live in Hoonah. I've been here
38 maybe not as long as others, actually only five years,
39 but since that time, have been involved in a lot of
40 community based here, work force development resource
41 management and other things and feel like I've got a
42 pretty good finger on the pulse in terms of what's
43 happening in town. It's been really great getting a
44 perspective from folks across the region because a lot
45 of what I have to report I guess corroborates and is in
46 line with a lot of what's been reported around
47 Chichagof and Admiralty.

48

49 So, yeah, in regards to the rain

50

0072

1 conditions and landslides, the things that have fallen
2 out from that, Frank talked a lot about the rain, you
3 know, we received 8.75 inches in a 48 hour period and
4 Pelican received even more than that, almost 12 inches.
5 Pretty unprecedented amounts of rain, in fact, record
6 setting in that regard. That triggered -- that was in
7 December, and since then it's just kind of continued to
8 be a high event type of winter and that's actually
9 triggered eight landslides that I know of across our
10 road system which is going to impact, you know, our
11 ability to get out and subsist here until those can be
12 resolved. On top of the landslides there's multiple
13 culvert failures and, you know, the whole road network
14 has been shattered by that. I'm highly concerned about
15 scouring in the rivers. We've seen a lot of change
16 occurring within our river systems, you know, areas
17 that have never had pools traditionally have been
18 carved out, of course it moves a lot of wood and other
19 things, and this is all stacked on what was already a
20 pretty poor run for chum and pink within our systems
21 here. So a lot of concern for a few years down the
22 road and certainly believe we should be looking at our
23 pink populations two years from now.

24
25 We also had a, I think, a pretty tough
26 deer hunting season here. We, like Gustavus, had an
27 early snow that did enable a lot of hunters to pick up
28 a lot of deer on the beach. But I guess thinking back
29 two years ago, I feel like -- so the 2019/2020 winter
30 was severe -- fairly severe and long lasting out here
31 that I think our winter kill was high and haven't heard
32 other members talk about winter kill as potential
33 impact to their deer resource. I don't have any
34 numbers to support that but other than seeing a lot of
35 deer on the beaches here, around Hoonah, but also even
36 out in Cross Sound area, so I just -- I think we do
37 need to think about winter kill, it's an impact on our
38 hunting success.

39
40 Going along the lines of what Jim was
41 talking about in Pelican in regards to clam, PSP,
42 levels. We actually do have some monitoring programs
43 for that here in Hoonah in association with Sitka Tribe
44 and we've detected the highest levels of PSP in our
45 shellfish that we've seen in Hoonah to date in that
46 four years of work we've been doing there. It's not to
47 say that these levels haven't ever happened or occurred
48 in the past but certainly I believe that the warmer
49 temperatures and out flow, nutrient out flow that's
50

0073

1 coming from the rivers is directly linked to some of
2 those numbers we've been seeing.

3

4 It was good to look at escapement
5 numbers and other things that were provided for
6 Hoktaheen, those systems, I guess, corroborating with
7 what was reported from Pelican, it was a pretty tough
8 year for subsistence users out in Hoktaheen, Takanis
9 and Surge Bay. I know it was kind of a feast or famine
10 type of year where folks that were able to connect with
11 fish timing were able to succeed but I talked to users
12 who fished Surge and Takanis out of necessity. There
13 was also kind of like a disjunct between openings,
14 timing openings and when fish were actually there so
15 for instance a lot of the Hoktaheen fish, I think,
16 showed up after the closure was done, when the
17 subsistence season was complete.

18

19 We -- oh, another effect of the rain
20 events is just drastic changes within our estuaries and
21 I'm an avid shellfish user myself, cockles, and our
22 local estuary here where a lot of our users go has been
23 heavily impacted by the amount of sediment and other
24 things coming out of there, you know, 10 inches of mud
25 on top of areas that have always been gravel and
26 cobble, butter clams and cockles getting completely
27 rearranged and dug up, you know, the entire area out
28 there in the estuary was littered with clams that have
29 been yanked up by the high flows. You know, I was
30 doing some skiing on one of our local water sheds last
31 -- two or three weeks ago and was seeing spots where,
32 you know, river levels were far out into the flood
33 planes, eight or maybe even 10 feet above base flows
34 during those max events so just really dramatic stuff.

35

36 I thought reporting on berries was a
37 good addition. So we -- yeah, last year, I think was
38 pretty average for berries but it's, I guess, important
39 to think back even two years ago when, you know, we
40 were in a moderate drought condition here and even
41 steeper drought conditions further south and those
42 conditions really impacted our berries so they did
43 bounce back a little bit. I guess, you know, it really
44 depends on what berry resource you're looking at. We,
45 you know, salmonberries are heavily influenced by the
46 weather here and it seems like they don't really like
47 the strong drought and they didn't do well with the
48 pretty exceptionally rainy summer too. Blueberries
49 seemed to do all right, though.

50

0074

1 Just in general, as a Hoonah update, I
2 guess, we just have a lot going on here right now
3 surrounding stream restoration and kind of landscape
4 improvement working both on private and public lands so
5 through a partnership called the Hoonah Native Force
6 Partnership, so, yeah, just a lot of active projects
7 and work occurring to link directly to community need
8 around subsistence and resource production.

9
10 So, yeah, I think that -- I sketched
11 out a list for myself and I guess that was the list so
12 I appreciate the opportunity to report.

13
14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good.
15 Thank you, Ian. I'm glad you could get connected
16 again. Yeah, excellent reports from all of our new
17 Council members. Oh, last here we'll go to Cathy
18 Needham for her local report and she will give the
19 Chair's report. So, Cathy, go ahead.

20
21 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 This is Cathy. And for a local report I need to say
23 that I did spend -- since the last time that we met I
24 was still living on Prince of William Island. I enjoyed
25 my time there being involved in a lot of activities
26 that are not necessarily always get to partake in when
27 I'm in Juneau such as deer hunting this fall, even
28 though I was unable to get a deer myself, it has more
29 to do probably with skill rather than population.

30
31 I have been spending some time
32 continuously working on the wolf issues on Prince of
33 Wales Island in Unit 2 staying abreast of the concerns
34 about the -- regarding the population. As you know
35 I've been working with Hydaburg Cooperative Association
36 for a number of years now on the wildlife population
37 research in conjunction with the State of Alaska. And
38 I just want to bring that to everyone's attention
39 again. I know that there isn't always 100 percent
40 support for this research in terms of its ability to
41 estimate the number of wolves on POW but it is the
42 current mechanism for obtaining a number that wolf
43 populations can be managed by and that management
44 strategy that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
45 has implemented has been in conjunction with the
46 Federal managers with the U.S. Forest Service and this
47 Council has supported that management strategy in the
48 past, and I know that there's still a lot of
49 discussions that continuously go on with that. And I
50

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1 try to keep abreast of that as much as possible given
2 that we are involved in that research. And I want to
3 point out that that research doesn't have funding for
4 Hydaburg Cooperative Association to continue and we
5 talk about this population trying to manage it in-
6 season previous -- prior to the season and being able
7 to manage we have to have a number to work with and so
8 I think it is important that, you know, our Council has
9 always talked about how we need to fund wildlife
10 projects just like we fund fisheries based projects but
11 we never have funding for wildlife, so I think that is
12 an impact that we're going to be seeing in terms of how
13 the Federal management system interacts with the State
14 management system and being able to gather that
15 information that's needed for management decisions.

16
17 On the heels of the Roadless Rule
18 making process, I've been trying to also track numerous
19 efforts across the region that are more related towards
20 local management ideas, or indigenous management ideas.
21 We have a number of efforts that are coming out of the
22 region. I think Regional Forester Dave Schmid
23 mentioned a couple of them with the Tribal Homelands
24 Petition as well as a petition that came out from the
25 Trollers Association to protect and have more local
26 management with salmon. I know that we're going to
27 hearing from WECAN again this meeting as we did from
28 the last meeting on food security and I just hope that
29 we can -- that this Council can continue to learn more
30 about those efforts and hopefully engage and support
31 the effort to the benefit of our constituent
32 subsistence users in the region.

33
34 I think that I'll end that for my sort
35 of local Council report. And then I'll move into the
36 Chair's report now.

37
38 Before I give a recap of how the work
39 that I was doing as the Acting Chair over the last six
40 months, I just want to make sure that I thank Don
41 Hernandez for spending time while he was not appointed
42 on the Council to help update me and prepare me for
43 representing this Council to the Federal Subsistence
44 Board meeting. You know I've been Vice Chair for a
45 number of years, I have not had the opportunity to
46 attend the Board meeting in the past. Usually when
47 those are made in person the Chair travels to the
48 meetings and the Vice Chair is standing by and
49 fortunate for myself in this position is that we've
50

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1 always had very strong Chairs and, Don, and our
2 previous Chair, Mr. Mike Bangs, were both always able
3 to attend those meetings. So Don did spend a little
4 bit of time in this sort of off period prepping me for
5 that and I really appreciate the time and effort that
6 he put in to do so. So even though he wasn't formally
7 appointed to our Chair -- or appointed to our Council,
8 he definitely continued to work on the behalf of this
9 Council over the last six months and being able to do
10 that for me.

11
12 The Federal Subsistence Board met
13 telephonically January 26th through 29th and that
14 meeting was their regular meeting for handling their
15 regulatory proposals for the region. I'm told that for
16 the Southeast region it was relatively mild for us, we
17 only had one fisheries proposal before the Federal
18 Subsistence Board and it was on the consensus agenda
19 and the Federal Subsistence Board voted to maintain the
20 status quo, which was to maintain closure of all except
21 for Federally-qualified subsistence users in Makhnati
22 Island Federal public waters for herring and herring
23 spawn. So because it was on the consensus agenda
24 obviously it was the position that our Council gave.

25
26 The other action you may recall from
27 our fall meeting that we talked about individual -- or
28 C&T use determinations for individual National Park
29 Service, and our Council -- I was able to represent our
30 Council's opposition to that process that was
31 discussed. It had to do with the application of
32 individual National Park Service permitting and having
33 a delegation of authority for that process. And other
34 Councils from across the state, it was a mixed bag,
35 there were a couple that did support the proposal and
36 there were many who wanted more information before they
37 made a decision so they didn't provide input back and,
38 again, our Council opposed it. The Federal Subsistence
39 Board ended up passing a modified version of the
40 proposal and the modified version did address the
41 concern of delegated authority and did allow for when
42 individual permits are applied, for that, they will
43 seek input from Regional Advisory Councils and
44 Subsistence Resource Committees. And I do believe that
45 we're going to hear more about that in the National
46 Park Service's report to the Council later in our
47 session.

48
49 Our Council report to the Federal
50

0077

1 Subsistence Board also included our disappointment
2 about the lack of Council appointments and the
3 reduction of our Council members from when we went from
4 a 13 member Council to an eight member Council. This
5 was the sentiment across the state. Every Regional
6 Advisory Council expressed their dissatisfaction and
7 how that impacted them as a working Council and their
8 ability to representative regions and I also believe
9 there was a lot of testimony regarding this, not just
10 from Regional Advisory Councils, but across the Board
11 it was to the flavor of the entire Board meeting, if
12 you will so I think the message was heard loud and
13 clear. Many Councils had to still go through their
14 meeting cycle without appointments, since those
15 appointments only just came back this last week. I
16 guess this is the one time that we were fortunate
17 enough to pick our meeting schedule last and get stuck
18 with having to be later in the meeting cycle, because
19 that delay allowed for us to get our Council appointed
20 so that we can have almost a full Council for this
21 meeting cycle.

22
23 During the Federal Board meeting I was
24 also able to highlight work we've done in 2020 which
25 included all our communications with the Forest Service
26 regarding land management activities. We also talked
27 about all of our correspondence so that included
28 communications and support for the Unit 2 deer summit
29 and our after the Roadless Rule making process. We
30 also -- Chairman Hernandez and Bob Schroeder and I were
31 involved in the OMB process for giving testimony for
32 that so we shared that with the Federal Board.

33
34 Chairs are also able to share
35 observations that come from our region and so we
36 highlighted how the pandemic has impacted food security
37 in our region. We talked about the low fish returns
38 for king and sockeye salmon, and how that from our
39 region that we heard from our constituency.

40
41 We -- I spent some time outlining our
42 actions regarding the Alaska Roadless Rule making
43 process.

44
45 There were a lot of comments that we
46 were able to include regarding wolf management in Unit
47 2 and this Council's engagement in those efforts. And
48 how the ANILCA .810 subsistence hearings went for that.

49
50

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1 Also able to highlight issues about
2 deer hunting as well as increased competition of
3 predation by bears in the region and some of the bear
4 issues that Southeast Alaska experienced this last
5 year.

6
7 We highlighted, not issues, but we just
8 reported back on receiving moose management in Yakutat.

9
10 And we also thanked the Board, again,
11 for their actions and they granted the Organized
12 Village of Kake their special action for food security
13 and being able to harvest additional resources out of
14 season during the pandemic.

15
16 And so I think that is pretty inclusive
17 of everything that this Council was able to report back
18 to that meeting and I'll conclude my report at this
19 time.

20
21 Thanks, Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Cathy, thank
24 you very much. And, once, again, I'm sure the rest of
25 the Council appreciates the fact that you are so ably
26 able to step in and take care of the Council's
27 business. Really well done on short notice so thanks
28 again.

29
30 I think we're going to take a break for
31 lunch now. When we come back, check with DeAnna, see
32 if there's any important agenda items we have to
33 address right after lunch, I don't think there are, we
34 can go to public testimony right after.....

35
36 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:lunch so,
39 DeAnna might -- go ahead.

40
41 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Before
42 we break for lunch I know that we have a time certain
43 for the State biologists on our fisheries for 1:00
44 o'clock today. So I know that they are available at
45 1:00 o'clock. We do, as you noted, still have public
46 comment and testimony still to come and we also have
47 Mr. Schumacher and Scott Shuler standing by to discuss
48 wolves. Looking at the availability of those involved,
49 I didn't know if this Council might want to switch
50

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1 around the State proposal discussion with wolves,
2 again, just based on everyone's availability. And it
3 looks as though if we don't get to wolves today there
4 are some time slots tomorrow that we could address
5 that. Just trying to take advantage of the support
6 that we have right now from the State. Just bringing
7 that to the Council's attention to act upon however
8 they'd like to.

9
10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Let me just
11 ask you, I know it was available at 1:00 o'clock, I
12 don't know if they had the rest of the afternoon
13 available after 1:00 o'clock or if a short time period
14 there, so that was one question. I guess the other
15 question is do you have notification from folks that
16 want to testify, public comments, have a list there?

17
18 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair, I have two
19 folks who said they would like to speak on the
20 Traditional Homelands Conservation Rule, and then, of
21 course, Mr. Kitka mentioned that he might want to speak
22 on the extra-territorial jurisdiction on behalf of
23 Sitka Kaagwaantaan.

24
25 MS. PHILLIPS: How do you let them know
26 to testify.

27
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I hear a question.

29
30 MS. PERRY: I've received emails but if
31 you would like to testify, if you can give me your name
32 and what agenda item you'd like to testify on I could
33 take that now.

34
35 MS. PHILLIPS: This is Patricia
36 Phillips.

37
38 MS. PERRY: I'm sorry, Patty, is that
39 you?

40
41 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes, and it's on
42 nonagenda items.

43
44 MS. PERRY: Okay, thanks, Patty. I'm
45 sorry I've got a terrible echo with your phone and I
46 didn't hear your name at first. Good to hear you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, so, DeAnna,
49 I know how important public comments is to the Council
50

0080

1 and I don't really want to have to put people for too
2 long, if the State is available for a time period this
3 afternoon, if we could get to that item of business
4 right after public comment that would be the
5 preference. I don't know if you could check with them
6 on that. It's hard to judge how long public comment
7 might last but I would like to get to that right after
8 lunch if possible.

9

10 MS. PERRY: I can reach out to see how
11 long the State biologists would be available for that
12 discussion. I do realize that Mr. Schumacher has a
13 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., conflict, but he and Mr. Shuler
14 would be available to talk about wolves this afternoon
15 after 4:00. So if you'll just give me a moment I can
16 reach out unless Mark Burch or Ben Mulligan are on the
17 phone and could let us know right now how long we might
18 have the State biologists online this afternoon.

19

20 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair, this is Mark.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
23 Mark.

24

25 MR. BURCH: Yeah, I checked with them
26 and I know they're planning to be available at 1:00 but
27 we really don't know their availability for each of the
28 biologists later this afternoon after that. So we just
29 checked at 1:00 when we understood that you had a time
30 certain for us.

31

32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you for
35 that.

36

37 MR. KITKA: Don, this is Harvey.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
40 Harvey.

41

42 MR. KITKA: There's a couple of people
43 that wanted to make some comments, Tom Gamble and Mike
44 Miller, they're going to come to the conference room
45 probably about 1:00 o'clock. So when public comments
46 come on they want to talk also.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. I know,
49 Harvey, we do like to accommodate the public and if you

50

0081

1 know that people are going to be there expecting to
2 testify this afternoon I would like to give that
3 priority. So, DeAnna, we may have to move the wolf
4 discussion back to later this afternoon.

5

6 MS. PERRY: And, Mr. Schumacher and Mr.
7 Shuler have said that would be fine after 4:00 o'clock,
8 they would be available at that time.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I think we
11 may have to do that, yeah, sometimes the morning's
12 business just kind of runs on. So we'll do that.
13 Maybe we don't need a full hour for lunch. Harvey it
14 sounds like you got people coming at 1:00 o'clock. So
15 maybe we can reconvene at 1:15 if that's okay. That'll
16 give everybody a chance to have a decent lunch.

17

18 MR. KITKA: Can do.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Can do. Okay.

21

22 MR. ROBBINS: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That's where

25 we'll.....

26

27 MR. ROBBINS: Mr. Chair, this is Harold
28 from Yakutat.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, Harold, is
31 that you.

32

33 MR. ROBBINS: Yes. I would like to
34 correct my comments and verify that Larry was right on
35 the king salmon DNA here in Yakutat, it was the gillnet
36 king salmon in Yakutat Bay.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, hopefully
41 our recorder takes note of that and can alter your
42 report. So thank you Harold.

43

44 Any other comments or suggestions from
45 the Council before we take a break.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you

50

0082

1 all very much. Yep, it's really difficult trying to
2 juggle the schedule that meets everybody -- or the
3 agenda to meet everybody's timeframes but like I say I
4 think I'm going to prioritize public comments so we
5 will hear public comment at 1:15 so have a good break
6 everybody.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 (Off record)

11

12 (On record)

13

14 (Teleconference interference -

15 participants not muted)

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: DeAnna, I think I
18 heard some members, maybe we're still missing one,
19 Schroeder, Ian Johnson, are you back.

20

21 REPORTER: Okay, really quick, though,
22 I'm going to have to have you guys mute your phone if
23 you're not talking.

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think I heard
26 Ian was back.

27

28 MR. JOHNSON: That's correct, yep, Ian
29 is here.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, we have the
32 Council back, we have some folks ready to testify. I
33 don't know if the Sitka group is all in one room, or if
34 you're at your homes but if you have -- Harvey, if you
35 have folks through.....

36

37 (Teleconference interference -
38 participants not muted)

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:ready to get
41 started just let us know who will be up and testifying.

42

43 MR. KITKA: Yeah, I don't know if Mike
44 wants to testify right now. He's ready though. You
45 want to testify.

46

47 MR. MILLER: I could give some updates.

48

49 MR. KITKA: Mike Miller would like to

50

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1 talk to the Council.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, go ahead,
4 Mr. Miller.

5

6 MR. MILLER: Yeah, thanks, Mr.
7 Chairman. Mike Miller, Sitka Tribal Council, and do a
8 fair amount of subsistence activities around the state,
9 I guess, a lot of marine mammal work and some others.

10

11 And so I guess I'm not specifically
12 testifying to anything before the group at this point
13 but I did want to just give a couple updates, I think
14 that, you know, have impact on subsistence, and one
15 just dealing with marine mammal work. We recently had
16 a statewide meeting, actually last fall at this point,
17 with all the organized comanagement holders in the
18 state and there'd been a little bit of division between
19 some of the northern Arctic group and some of the
20 southern groups, management planning, but we did come
21 to an agreement between all the Arctic regions and all
22 the members to collectively work together on more
23 regional -- a more regional approach to interpretations
24 of Marine Mammal Protection Act instead of the present
25 language, which is statewide. And it does have down
26 stream implications for harvest management in regions
27 like Southeast. So I think our next step is to circle
28 back and meet with AFN on how to go forward with that
29 and we're in the planning process for that.

30

31 Our statewide organization did submit
32 for funding, we were invited by National Marine
33 Fisheries to submit a proposal to help rebuild a
34 comanagement body for harvest seals across the state,
35 about 70 tribes or so that would be involved. So
36 hopefully that funding will come through.

37

38 And I think lastly, just of note, I
39 think to the group, is that we also kind of came across
40 some potential reauthorization language for Magnuson-
41 Stevens Act which has -- although it came out of a
42 California Congressman's office, they had really strong
43 subsistence language added -- or proposed language
44 added that did -- there was a good resolution that came
45 out of AFN in support of that. And so it would -- if
46 it was passed, it would be adding subsistence
47 definitions in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, along with
48 actually some additional protections for forage fish in
49 Federal waters. So that would be for fisheries that

50

0084

1 aren't already developed but there's some good language
2 for protection of consideration and other factors of
3 forage fish and all the things that live off of them.
4 So that's hopefully positive language. I can get a
5 copy of that resolution to Harvey and he can forward it
6 to you guys.

7

8 So those are just some updates that are
9 working on subsistence.

10

11 So thanks for the time and certainly if
12 there's any questions I'd be happy to answer.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mike.
15 Yeah, you bring up some issues that have been before
16 the Council, and of interest to the Council here in the
17 past. Marine mammals for sure and the forage fish has
18 also come before the Council before. We'd be
19 interested in seeing resolutions regarding those.

20

21 Does anybody on the Council have any
22 questions for Mr. Miller.

23

24 MR. WRIGHT: Hi, this is Frank.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
27 Frank.

28

29 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, what kind of issues
30 that you have with the harvest -- going with the
31 harvest seal, you know, so I was curious about that.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 MR. MILLER: Mr. Chair. Yeah, Frank.
36 It's actually not new issues it's just that there was a
37 comanagement body, several years ago that worked on
38 issues of National Marine Fisheries, and they
39 essentially kind of disbanded and so for an organized
40 group to work with National Marine Fisheries, there
41 really isn't a successor organization and in our
42 statewide group recently rebuilt the comanagement group
43 for polar bears and just coming off the heels of that
44 National Marine Fisheries said, hey, you know, could
45 you -- since you have all the documents could you start
46 restructuring a group that could be representative of a
47 whole mix of folks for comanagement with the National
48 Marine Fisheries. So it would take, you know,
49 Southeast, Southcentral, Kodiak, Aleutians, Bristol Bay
50

0085

1 so there's quite a few tribes to try to pull together.
2 But if we get the funding fully we'll be reaching out
3 to all the tribes, you know, and some organizations.
4 And of course it'll be up to the tribes whether they
5 want to be a part of it or not but that'll be up to
6 each.

7

8 MR. WRIGHT: Followup, Don.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
11 Frank.

12

13 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, I was just wondering
14 because, you know, wondering about the regulation on
15 Natives hunting sea -- harbor seals because, you know,
16 you got to be at least a quarter or something like that
17 and I ran into people that still eat seal meat and
18 stuff but they're not even a quarter and they can't
19 hunt them and so eventually because of assimilation of
20 people, you know, I don't know if this is what you deal
21 with but, you know, I would say some blondes are more
22 Tlingit than Tlingit so it's kind of like, you know,
23 you take something out of the culture, the Native
24 community when you diminish what they do, you know.
25 And I know a person in town that used to take his boys
26 out hunting seal, he couldn't shoot them because he was
27 a 32/nd or something like that but his kids could shoot
28 them, so that's how that went, you know, but he ate
29 seal meat like my ex-brother-in-law did too. So anyway
30 that's just a comment.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MR. MILLER: So, Mr. Chair, if I might.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

37

38 MR. MILLER: So for the restructure it
39 wouldn't be getting into actually any of the harbor
40 seal interpretations or any of the MMPA, it's just
41 strictly creating the structure for the organization.
42 So with the statewide group, when we did the polar
43 bear, we got all the communities together and kind of
44 stood up the group but the group, itself, is dealing
45 with the Department of Interior on polar bear issues.
46 So this is just the very first stage of recreating an
47 organization and who they would end up, you know,
48 housing it under and the issues they would want to take
49 up would be up to the group. It's just facilitating

50

0086

1 getting the group back in place to receive funding from
2 National Marine Fisheries.

3
4 But the issue you bring up, Frank, is
5 absolutely, you know, kind of on the minds of all the
6 groups in the south, actually, you know, that's the way
7 things are and that's why we're having to work with
8 some of the Arctic communities to agree to potentially
9 allow regional interpretations instead of statewide
10 interpretations. Because the way the language is right
11 now if you qualify here in Sitka or Hoonah or wherever
12 you qualify also for polar bear or walrus and some of
13 the groups up there are concerned that that could
14 increase pressure on species that have conservation
15 issues. But they agree that we should be allowing
16 self-determination in the tribal groups, but they just
17 don't want one group defining for them. And if we go
18 the regional approach then that could allow for
19 provisions down here for people to qualify but it
20 wouldn't automatically make them qualify for polar bear
21 or walrus, that'd be up to the groups up there.

22
23 So that's the effort that we're trying
24 to do. And having a good strong comanagement body is
25 really helpful in getting that, to have a venue each
26 year for all the communities to speak their issues.

27
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, any other
29 questions for Mr. Miller.

30
31 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair, Mike
32 Douville.

33
34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Mike.

35
36 MR. DOUVILLE: I think the Alaska
37 Native Harbor Seal Commission was the one he might have
38 been referring to that may not be active anymore. But
39 in 1998 I was a certified biosampling technician for
40 them. I just want to make a comment in relation to
41 what Frank said. Our Native heritage is getting
42 deluded quite rapidly and that we need to see some
43 changes to accommodate these changes.

44
45 The one thing I would like to see is
46 not the 1/4 quarter Native portion of it but to be a
47 tribal member would qualify you. So that's something
48 that we need to pursue in the future and not far in the
49 future but actually pretty soon.

50

0087

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chair, this is Albert.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Did you say

6 Robert?

7

8 MR. HOWARD: This is Albert.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Albert. Oh, hi,

11 Albert.

12

13 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 I'd like to agree with Mr. Douville and Mr. Wright.

15 When you look at Tlingit culture you can look at --

16 I'll use my son as an example. He's my step-son but he

17 grew up as my son so I call him my son. But he doesn't

18 look Native but his mother's Tlingit so in our culture

19 that makes him Tlingit. It doesn't say anything about

20 quarter or half or three-quarters Tlingit, he is

21 Tlingit because his mother is.

22

23 You know I think we're falling into a

24 system that isn't designed or indigenous friendly, I

25 guess. And I think to recognize someone as Tlingit or

26 not should be based on our own way of doing things, the

27 way things have always been done with our people. So

28 maybe that's something we should visit.

29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.

33 Any more questions or comments.

34

35 MR. KITKA: Don, this is HARvey.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Harvey, go ahead.

38

39 MR. KITKA: I just wondered if that

40 question of blood quantum should go back to whoever set

41 it up and see if we could get it changed at that point.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Another issue to

44 work on, I don't know where to begin but.....

45

46 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, this is Ian.

47 I just had one comment kind of just a potential to

48 moving forward. There's an initiative across the

49 region right now called the Guardian's Network. It's

50

0088

1 being modeled off of work being done by First Nations
2 in Canada, it seems like -- so Tlingit/Haida has
3 recently hired a position, it was referenced from the
4 funding that Dave Schmid talked about in his report.
5 Basically that link to the Guardian's Network and think
6 kind of working towards some of the comanagement
7 strategies. But there's a lot of flexibility and kind
8 of talk about what directions that group should take,
9 the Guardian's Network, broadly. But just want to
10 throw that out there as an avenue for folks who aren't
11 familiar with it and they want to become in touch with
12 it.

13
14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right, thank you,
15 Ian. And I guess remind the Council that -- maybe not
16 this exact issue but related issues is on the agenda
17 for later, under the agency reports, we're going to
18 hear more about efforts of comanagement and, yeah,
19 those topics will all become relevant so, yeah, keep
20 those in mind.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 Anybody else on the Council.

25
26 MR. BEMIS: Yes, this is Larry, can you
27 hear me okay?

28
29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
30 Larry.

31
32 MR. BEMIS: I'm thinking that we need
33 to have each community weigh in on this so that we're
34 not just representing a group of people, maybe a group
35 of people will represent the idea and get full support
36 from the people understanding it rather than us
37 conveying it and then conveying it to a committee and a
38 committee deciding. I'm thinking that maybe this
39 should go to each one of the tribal organizations and
40 also the tribes, self-govern themselves, and get this
41 out there. Because, yes, we are diluting a little bit
42 of the blood line as time goes on, that's just a given.
43 But when it comes to making a decision, this shouldn't
44 be just made by the people representing the idea to go
45 to a committee, I think all the people should weigh in
46 and carry the weight of getting this done. So somehow
47 we need to get this information out to the communities
48 and let them know what's going on and where they stand
49 with this to see how many people are wanting to help
50

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1 out and do this, or the ones that might be against it,
2 and if we get full support then it shouldn't be a
3 problem to get a change.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
8 Larry.

9

10 MR. MILLER: So, Mr. Chair, this is
11 Mike in Sitka.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Mike.

14

15 MR. MILLER: So, yeah, I don't know if
16 I can, you know, stay for the later discussion on
17 comanagement, but, yeah, this issue has been around for
18 a long time. You know there are different
19 interpretations, this is the interpretation of the
20 MMPA, and, you know, certainly communities weighing in
21 is really important. The one thing is that as we've
22 brought this to the Congressional Delegation, the way
23 the MMPA is written, it's got to be, in their eyes,
24 kind of a 100 percent across the state is what they
25 shared with us, to make these changes. There are
26 considerations because a change like that, marine
27 mammals are not governed by states or individual
28 tribes, it's the common property of the United States,
29 so everybody gets to comment and that's something to
30 consider. But the problem that we've run into is that
31 since the MMPA is common for all Natives across the
32 state, there are regions of the state that don't want
33 the change across the board, they want to do it on a
34 regional level. So that's why I think it's important,
35 you know, to have a good comanagement structure to get
36 the views of the community and be able to interact with
37 the agency.

38

39 And Mr. Douville is right, this is the
40 recreation of the Alaska Native Harbor Seal Commission,
41 which unfortunately misspent Federal money, the
42 Executive Director I think is in prison, and they were
43 debarred, the organization eligible to receive funding
44 anymore, they are defunct. So now we're trying to help
45 rebuild a structure so the communities can work
46 together and come up with a common-- so it's good
47 discussion and, you know, hopefully in negotiating with
48 some of the Arctic communities that don't necessarily
49 want a change but they are saying that they would be

50

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1 tentatively okay with a regional approach and so that,
2 you know, groups like Southeast, or Kodiak or
3 Southcentral where it's more of an issue, be able to
4 make changes. But it's, you know, unfortunately, you
5 know, kind of a bigger thing where you need everybody
6 at the table and we're working on it.

7

8 So that's where that stands.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, well,
11 obviously it's of a lot of interest to the Council,
12 Mike, so appreciate you keeping us informed.

13

14 MR. MILLER: Absolutely, yep. And I'll
15 get that other MMPA language to Harvey and he can share
16 it with you guys.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good, thank you.
19 Harvey is there anybody else there with you in Sitka
20 that wants to testify.

21

22 MR. KITKA: Mr. Tom Gamble didn't show
23 up so I'll take my part.

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Harvey.

26

27 MR. KITKA: I'll go back to August of
28 2020, August 31st is actually when we submitted a
29 letter to the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, on
30 extra-territorial jurisdiction of Sitka waters on the
31 issue of herring.

32

33 One of the reasons we did this, we
34 noticed that the herring, after thousands of years of
35 coming back to one spot, just kind of disappeared from
36 that area and that it's controlled basically by the
37 seiners. They have such legends about where they came
38 to spawn and where they traditionally spawned within
39 our Sound and to talk about how much herring there was,
40 when they fished out, what we called our local stock,
41 which was stock that basically stayed within the bays
42 around Sitka Sound year-round, they came out and
43 spawned with the ocean stock that came in. It might
44 have been all part of the same stocks for all we know
45 but we had stocks that stayed within all the bays
46 within our passage ways between (indiscernible) almost
47 no matter where we went there was herring. I know that
48 when talking with my father-in-law and my father about
49 the early hand-trolling days when they used to get

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1 towed off to the different fishing spots and they'd
2 watch for when the herring started bouncing out of the
3 water then they'd all run to their skiffs to go out and
4 start fishing because in between then when the king
5 salmon came back through their first sign is the
6 herring started bouncing out of the water, and we don't
7 see those big areas anymore. Actually we don't see
8 that many king salmon anymore. I know back in 1990
9 (ph) I wrote an article to the Sitka Sentinel, I was
10 getting ready to turn it into the editors on what
11 happened to our Sitka Salmon Derby and why we weren't
12 getting any large pink salmon anymore. We knew there
13 was still herring out in the ocean because the power
14 trollers were catching big ones still, off shore, but
15 it was way out in the 50 fathom area and deeper. But
16 the herring disappeared and with it the king salmon
17 didn't come into their usual spots anymore. So this
18 was -- even though the State doesn't realize that we
19 subsisted on king salmon as well as everybody else that
20 had king salmon in the streams we caught them in the
21 ocean the same way, we caught them off the handlines
22 and stuff.

23
24 The Kaagwaantaan, we wrote a -- we drew
25 up a picture of basically just around Baranof Island
26 where the spawns took place before contact and how big
27 the spawn was knowing that other communities like
28 Craig/Klawock, when their spawn started and it was also
29 as huge as Sitka's maybe even bigger because theirs not
30 only spread from their area but it went up to Chatham
31 Straits all the way to Kake so that whole area on the
32 south end of Baranof Island are probably one of the
33 biggest commercial fishing industries that took place.
34 It had Coronation Island and southern tip of Baranof
35 Island, these were big places for halibut and king
36 salmon, so -- and we don't see those big bodies
37 anymore. We don't see all that herring. So the
38 herring are really dropped, and the last few years we
39 started fishing, started realizing the marketable fish
40 were all the older fish and they started targeting
41 these older herring and now the percentages of the
42 older herring have dropped considerably.

43
44 A couple of years ago the -- I think it
45 was the three year olds were one of the biggest number
46 and all the rest were real tiny percentages of the
47 biomass. Well, now they're five year olds and they're
48 still the biggest numbers. But a year ago the three
49 year olds were only one percent of the biomass. So
50

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1 looking down the street it doesn't look very good for,
2 you know, once these five year olds are gone there
3 might not be any herring out there for anybody.

4

5 So this is one of the things that we
6 wanted to stress in our petition notice.

7

8 My question is, basically, is, do I
9 have to resubmit this again since we got new people in
10 Washington, D.C.

11

12 That's all I got, Don.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,
15 Harvey. You know what I'd like to say is in the amount
16 of knowledge that you have, you know, accumulated, it's
17 just really invaluable. I just -- I don't know I think
18 it's just really a sad commentary that, you know, the
19 existing managers don't seem to pay attention to that,
20 I don't understand it. But such a wealth of knowledge
21 that you have to offer there.

22

23 And as far as the petition goes, there
24 might be other questions from the Council, but I was
25 wondering what kind of response you did get after
26 submitting that letter, I don't think we ever heard?

27

28 MR. KITKA: Well, Don, I got a note
29 that they got it, and I don't know if -- where it
30 disappeared to but I haven't heard a thing since.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Interesting.
33 Okay, I'll open it up to other Council members who
34 might have questions now. So go ahead, anybody else on
35 the Council with a question for Harvey.

36

37 MR. CASIPIT: Mr. Chair, this is Calvin
38 Casipit.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
41 Cal.

42

43 MR. CASIPIT: I'm really interesting in
44 this ETJ petition. It seems like it should have been
45 assigned for Staff work and if it hasn't been, I would
46 suggest, Harvey, that you resubmit it and just say,
47 hey, we submitted this to the last Secretary of
48 Agriculture and we didn't get a response -- well, we
49 got a response, but there doesn't appear to be any

50

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1 action, we're resubmitting it and we would still like
2 you to, you know, consider this and just send it to the
3 new Secretary. I think that's what you're going to
4 have to do because it sounds like it got -- it doesn't
5 sound like anybody's working on it.

6
7 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Cal.

8
9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, any other
10 response Harvey or, other questions from the Council.

11
12 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, this is DeAnna.

17
18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, DeAnna.

19
20 MS. PERRY: Yeah, I wanted to followup
21 with Harvey's question on the status of the ETJ, I've
22 been texting Wayne Owen, and I believe that he can
23 provide an update on that. I think this was not
24 submitted through OSM, I think it was submitted
25 directly to the Secretary so I've been a bit out of the
26 loop but perhaps Wayne can speak to this. He said that
27 he is online and could speak to that if that's
28 appropriate at this time.

29
30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure, if he's
31 available with information, go ahead.

32
33 MR. OWEN: Mr. Chair, Wayne Owen.

34
35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Wayne.

36
37 MR. OWEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With
38 respect to the ETJ petition, where it is right now is
39 the Forest Service Washington Office is putting
40 together packages of unresolved issues for the new
41 Secretary. It is in that pile of stuff. There is not
42 now a schedule or any expectation of when that might
43 happen. You know we don't know that. But the Forest
44 Service, in the Washington Office, is aware it and it
45 is in that pile to go back there.

46
47 Having said that, you know, I'm sure it
48 will be addressed eventually. But I'd like to support
49 Council Member Casipit's suggestion that the
50

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1 Kaagwaantaan consider resubmitting it to Secretary
2 Vilsack. Secretary Vilsack is a known quantity to us.
3 He was Secretary of Agriculture during the last ETJ
4 petition. You know his Administration handled it very
5 well, you know, administratively, I'm not talking about
6 how it came out or anything but, you know, it went
7 through the regular process under the Agriculture
8 Department. So there would be nothing wrong with Mr.
9 Kitka and his clan to resubmit it again. But if you
10 choose not to, please know that the Forest Service has
11 got their handle on it and they will see it eventually,
12 you know, but we don't have a timeline on that.

13

14 So that's everything I know about the
15 herring ETJ right now.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
18 Mr. Owen, that's helpful.

19

20 MR. KITKA: Don, this is Harvey.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead.

23

24 MR. KITKA: Could the information be
25 given to DeAnna so that this could be forwarded on to
26 me so I could have the addresses of where to send this
27 to and who to address it to.

28

29 MR. OWEN: Through the Chair. Mr.
30 Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

33

34 MR. OWEN: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Mr. Kitka, I will work with DeAnna to get you that
36 information.

37

38 MR. KITKA: Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

41

42 MR. OWEN: You're welcome.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: While we're on
45 this subject I have a question that maybe the Staff
46 could answer, maybe before the end of the meeting, it
47 doesn't have to be answered right now. But I would
48 like to know if it would be appropriate for the Council
49 to send a letter, not necessarily expressing any
50

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1 opinion on the petition itself but just to, you know,
2 inform the Secretary that this is an important issue to
3 the Council and we would like to see some action on it.
4 I don't know if that's an appropriate type of letter to
5 write but at some point.....

6
7 MR, OWEN: It is within your
8 jurisdiction and area of responsibility and I would see
9 nothing wrong or contrary to your doing that. So that
10 would be your decision.

11
12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
13 Mr.....

14
15 MR. OWEN: But it is not inappropriate.

16
17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:Owen --
18 that's a quick response. We may consider that before
19 the end of the meeting so thank you. Any other
20 questions for Harvey.

21
22 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman.

23
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Frank.

25
26 MR. WRIGHT: I was wondering if it
27 would appropriate just to make a motion so it'll be a
28 motion made by this Council to get this thing rolling
29 so that we could, you know, kind of put a fire
30 underneath somebody. So if we had a motion from this
31 Council to get this issue it might be a little
32 stronger.

33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,
37 Frank. I think that's probably how we will address it.
38 We'll do that later in the meeting when we usually do
39 have a list of letters that we want to be written and,
40 yeah, having a motion and a vote to that effect is
41 probably what we would want to do. So that'll come
42 later in the meeting, I've taken a note of it. So,
43 thank you for that. Any other questions, comments from
44 the Council.

45
46 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Frank.

49
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1 MR. WRIGHT: Just a question for
2 Harvey. Has the quota jumped up from last year. I
3 don't think they fished last year but I understand the
4 quota went up a little bit so do you have that
5 information?

6
7 MR. KITKA: Yes, the quota went up to,
8 what, 20,000.

9
10 MR. MILLER: 33.

11
12 MR. KITKA: 36.

13
14 MR. MILLER: 33. But they're not going
15 to fish the entire quota.

16
17 MR. KITKA: Yes, Frank, the quota went
18 up to 33,000 tons but all reports are that they're not
19 going to fish that total amount but we'll wait and see,
20 I guess.

21
22 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, well, thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other
25 questions for Harvey.

26
27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you
31 for that information, Harvey. Very interesting. And
32 we will, I'm sure, be taking some action on your
33 behalf. Is Patty Phillips still on the line available
34 for public testimony.

35
36 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
37 Hernandez, I am.

38
39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: It's good to hear
40 you, go ahead.

41
42 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Chairman
43 Hernandez and Regional Advisory Council members.

44
45 Well, I was enjoying the public comment
46 I just heard and I hope there's some sort of an
47 overview at the Department of Interior level that can
48 bring subsistence to the forefront again.

49
50

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1 So this is Patricia Phillips from
2 Pelican, Alaska. I've always advocated for the
3 continuance of our -- you know practice of our
4 traditional ways of harvest and traditional ecological
5 knowledge. And so what I want to discuss is there's
6 some discussion going on in Pelican that our
7 subsistence needs are not being met for deer. And so
8 I'm looking at it from my traditional ecological
9 knowledge viewpoint, which is, you know, looking at it
10 from all points of view, having an open mind somewhat
11 with subsistence being the priority.
12

13 So what comes to mind is that, you
14 know, what are the deer population estimates for our
15 area. You know Pelican, Alaska is out on the remote
16 coast of the West Chichagof, Yakobi Island Wilderness
17 area, we're very hard to get to. But I would say that,
18 you know, it's been harder to see deer lately but does
19 that mean we have less deer in our area. One thing I
20 want to bring up is I was reviewing the minutes to see
21 if my comments from the last meeting made it into the
22 minutes and there's nothing that indicates public
23 comment in the minutes but at the last meeting I called
24 in and said that I was concerned about the bear
25 predation on our deer in the Lisianski Inlet/Lisianski
26 Straits area and I still have that concern. I think
27 we're seeing less deer because of predation. Does that
28 mean that bear are getting a lot of deer, I think they
29 are getting deer but I think also the deer are staying
30 up in the Alpine or up in the uplands away from the
31 deer -- or away from the bear. But the bear,
32 especially with this, you know, low salmon populations
33 or low salmon numbers in the Lisianski Inlet/Lisianski
34 Strait, the bear are hungry so they're looking for
35 anything to eat and -- but they're staying down in the
36 beach fringe for the most part.
37

38 So I mean there's been some discussion
39 about, well, what can we do, there's less deer. Well,
40 I think, you know, it has to do with the environment,
41 you know, there's concern about there's overharvest
42 from non-Federally-qualified users and so we need to
43 reduce those harvest levels. But there's several ways
44 it can be done. One of those ways that's being
45 discussed and I don't know if I necessarily support it
46 but it's just to make Lisianski Inlet/Lisianski Strait
47 a strictly subsistence use area. Well, that's 100
48 miles of coast line. And, you know, Pelican, in the
49 wintertime we're around 90 people and, you know, 10 of
50

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1 those are kids and some of them are elders but, you
2 know, so we're looking at about 70 of us who have, who
3 can go out and harvest but you probably have about 40,
4 50 who are actual deer harvesters who go out and
5 harvest. So the number of non-residents coming in to
6 harvest is -- I don't know if that's the real cause of
7 the deer population diminishing, so what else could we
8 do.

9

10 Well, I was looking at what the RAC has
11 done in other areas, and I really appreciate that you
12 look at it on a case by case basis. But in Unit 2
13 there is, what do you call that, the non-resident -- or
14 the non-Federally-qualified may harvest up to two male
15 deer on Federal public lands in Unit 2. Was that a
16 provision that the RAC endorsed and passed. Because if
17 we can reduce the amount of harvest that non-Federally-
18 qualified can take, you know, that would be a good
19 start, I mean because right now in Lisianski
20 Inlet/Strait, non-Federally-qualified are allowed up to
21 four deer apiece and that means both resident and non-
22 resident of Alaska. And, further, it would probably
23 require a Board of Game proposal to non-residents of
24 Alaska to only take one deer so it would take some sort
25 of coordination. And non-residents are required to
26 have a locking tag and there's a locking fee associated
27 with that or, you know, there's a fee associated with a
28 locking tag which is a \$300 fee.

29

30 So, you know, it's a concern about our
31 deer but is it -- what's it related to. I mean we
32 didn't have snow until -- I mean any amount of snow
33 until now, until March and so, you know, the deer
34 haven't had to come down. I was getting concerned, I'm
35 not seeing any little ones, I'm not seeing any does,
36 I'm really not seeing much deer. But we did get what
37 we needed. But, you know, we have the ability to go to
38 the outer coast and get our deer. And some of the
39 folks here in town they have to hunt the town -- you
40 know just the town watershed. They have to stay close
41 to town and we have a pink salmon, chum salmon stream
42 right in Pelican and so we got bear around so you might
43 see deer but they're very skittish.

44

45 So anyways we are concerned about the
46 number of the deer but there's more than one way to,
47 you know, try to protect a resource without actually
48 cutting people out completely. Because we have people
49 from Juneau that are -- you know, they have a long

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1 pattern of hunting out here. They don't spend a lot of
2 time out here, they come out for -- it's expensive to
3 get out here. So, you know, they'll come, they'll come
4 for a week, maybe two, they'll fly in and ferry out or
5 the other way, you know, but there's some people that
6 have long connections to Pelican and, you know, I just
7 -- by turning us into a subsistence use only zone then
8 those people will lose that historical pattern of use.
9 So I want us to consider other options of reducing
10 harvest from non-Federally-qualified.

11
12 Anyways I also wanted to let you know
13 that I coordinate the U.S. Department of Agriculture's
14 Farmers to Families food box program and we brought in
15 10,000 pounds of food boxes that are distributed within
16 our community and it really is meeting some of the food
17 security needs. And harvesting our resources locally
18 also contributes to that.

19
20 So that's pretty much my remarks and
21 thank you for this opportunity, I'm out.

22
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
24 Patty. You want to take a few questions.

25
26 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay.

27
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I have one
29 response. Your question in Unit 2, yes, we did get a
30 regulation change through the Board that reduced the
31 non-subsistence bag limit from four deer to two deer.
32 It was strongly opposed by Fish and Game. They said it
33 was not something we could do but the Board agreed with
34 us and passed the regulation. So, yes, it is something
35 that's in the tool box now, so if you want to go that
36 route. And of course this is the time period to take
37 wildlife proposals. I think it runs into May, I can't
38 remember the exact date, but there's time to put
39 together a wildlife proposal for the Federal system so
40 I just wanted to pass that along to you.

41
42 And ask if there's any other Council
43 members with any questions for Patty.

44
45 MR. SLATER: This is Jim Slater from
46 Pelican.

47
48 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman, Mike
49 Douville.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think I heard
2 Jim Slater first, and then Mike Douville.

3
4 MR. SLATER: Okay. This is for either
5 Patty or you, Mr. Chair, other -- that's actually a
6 great idea about reducing the bag limit for non-
7 Federally-qualified hunters, are there any other
8 methods that have been used besides that besides just
9 purely limiting it to subsistence only.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, we've
12 actually -- yeah, to answer Jim's question, we've
13 actually done a couple things in Unit 2. We shortened
14 the season for non-subsistence users. We moved their
15 season back into August, I think August 10th, and the
16 subsistence season opens sooner so there's an advantage
17 for subsistence users who want to get out early before
18 -- in Unit 2 there's a big influx of hunters, you know,
19 when the season opens and a lot of them come from
20 elsewhere so it gives the subsistence users a time
21 advantage. Yeah, that's the other -- I guess that's
22 the only other.....

23

24 MR. SLATER: How many days, shorten the
25 season for.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: There's precedent
28 for that. That's done in other hunts in other places,
29 too, giving that priority of a earlier opening
30 essentially.

31

32 MR. SLATER: Okay. All right, well,
33 thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Mike, you
36 have a question or comment.

37

38 MR. DOUVILLE: I have a comment for, I
39 guess, what Patty said. It sounds like the bears have
40 turned to deer predation more so than normal.

41

42 MS. PHILLIPS: Right.

43

44 MR. DOUVILLE: Whenever you have
45 predators it only takes a few of them. As an example
46 on the outside islands here, you take one wolf on one
47 of those islands and the deer do not like to come down
48 to the beach anymore. Where there is no wolf, all of
49 them are gone from there, the deer come down and they

50

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1 lounge and enjoy themselves on the beach eating kelp or
2 whatever, you see them quite often. But it doesn't
3 take much of a predator presence to keep them off the
4 beach and I suspect you might be seeing in Lisianski
5 Inlet because of the -- perhaps the habit of the bears
6 changed somewhat. It sounds like you can go to the
7 outside or go farther and you're more successful, or
8 the deer are more visible. If that is true, there
9 probably is deer there yet but they are avoiding coming
10 out in the open.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 And, thank you, Member Douville. He's absolutely
16 right. I had one hunter who hiked up to the Alpine, up
17 behind Pelican up to what we call Wedge Mountain and he
18 -- in August, and he counted 200 deer up there but we
19 weren't seeing them, we're not seeing them down here.
20 We are starting to see them now because the snow's
21 driving them down. I mean I'm actually seeing herds of
22 deer but not -- not -- you know, I haven't been out to
23 run the beaches like I -- I will, I just haven't had
24 the chance yet. Every spring I usually go out when
25 there's been a big snowfall and count deer. I just
26 looked at my notes and I counted like 63 deer. So I'm
27 usually seeing between 60 and 80 deer on the beaches
28 when I make a run through. So I haven't done it this
29 year so anyways, thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,
32 Patty. I mean those kind of observations are pretty
33 valuable. That's long-term information that's actually
34 pretty relevant, yeah, so thank you for that.

35
36 Any other questions for Patty.

37
38 MR. BEMIS: Yes, this is an
39 observation, Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Larry.

42
43 MR. BEMIS: I have something here in
44 Yakutat that I noticed in the last couple of years when
45 it came to dealing with the bear. Now, most of the
46 time when there's fish in the streams the bear just
47 stay following the streams. If there's a poor run of
48 any certain specie like the pinks, the reds, or -- the
49 silvers are too late in the fall, but the first fish to
50

0102

1 get up the stream, if there's not many, it doesn't take
2 very long for the bears to come down, and we had so
3 many break ins, so many -- I mean they tore up 15 camps
4 and it's unheard of that we ever have bear come down
5 and tear up the fish camps about 10 miles out of town,
6 you can drive there. They just never let up. And you
7 take -- last year we had a pretty decent run, we didn't
8 see any bear, didn't have any break ins. And the other
9 thing is, is well that bear thing that was going on,
10 the deer that we had locally showed up in town. I mean
11 there was deer all over town. I remember one day by the
12 post office there was five deer playing in a ditch and
13 they didn't care about the cars or nothing. You got to
14 pretty much let them walk. They never used to be in
15 town. So now that we've got this logging, it's going
16 to be interesting because they've pretty much logged
17 the last the perimeter of five miles around Yakutat.

18
19 But what I wanted to emphasize it's a
20 definite change and other species, the deer, the moose,
21 everything when the bears do not stay up in the
22 streams. So, yes. And everything seems to disappear.
23 So I wanted to say that as an observation of what's
24 happened here in Yakutat a couple years ago.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Yeah,
29 right, Larry. And then, of course, a lot of that
30 activity depends on what happens in the fish stream so
31 it's all connected.

32
33 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, this is Patty
34 Phillips again.

35
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Patty.

37
38 MS. PHILLIPS: I just want to say that,
39 you know, we had these torrential floodings also this
40 fall and so I'm worried like down stream, or, you know,
41 four years or three years from now with all the eggs
42 washing out, you know, we're going to have more of
43 these sort of events happening and where bear aren't
44 getting their own nutrition needs and then, you know,
45 more of an impact on deer populations as a result.

46
47 Okay, thank you. Sorry to interrupt.

48
49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: One more question.

50

0103

1 Have you noticed the bears changing their hibernations
2 this winter due to lack of food, are they out.

3

4 MS. PHILLIPS: Oh, yes. I had a bear
5 on my porch in January twice. I even got a picture of
6 him on my game cam. It's just unbelievable. Seeing
7 their tracks in the snow you know they're around.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, they're
10 hungry. Yeah, so all indications. So, yeah, affecting
11 us and them. Any other questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you
16 very much Patty. Started a good conversation there.
17 How about Marina Anderson, are you standing by.

18

19 MS. ANDERSON: Hello, this is Marina
20 Anderson with the Organized Village of Kasaan.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Marina.

23

24 MS. ANDERSON: Hi. Thank you guys for
25 making time and giving me time to speak today. First,
26 I want to make sure my audio is okay, can you all hear
27 me well?

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We hear you fine.

30

31 MS. ANDERSON: Okay. Great. Well,
32 thank you again. I have with me Katie Riley, with
33 Sitka Conservation Society and she'll be supporting me,
34 if there's anything that I miss out, as well as helping
35 answer any questions that may come up.

36

37 I want to present a petition that was
38 submitted by 12 tribes in Southeast Alaska to the
39 Department of Agriculture. The petition was submitted
40 by the Organized Village of Kasaan, Organized Village
41 of Kake, Klawock Cooperative Association, Hoonah Indian
42 Association, Ketchikan Indian Community, Organized
43 Village of Saxman, Skagway Traditional Council, Yakutat
44 Tlingit Tribe, Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian
45 Tribes of Alaska, Angoon Community Association, Craig
46 Tribal Association and the Wrangell Cooperative
47 Association. And the petition is requesting a creation
48 of a traditional homelands conservation rule for the
49 long-term management and protection of traditional and
50

0104

1 customary use areas.

2

3

4 This petition is specifically relevant
5 to the Southeast RAC because we're asking for long-term
6 management and protection of the traditional and
7 customary use areas to protect the long-term
8 sustainability of the resources within the areas
9 including critical subsistence resources such as fish,
10 game, cedar (ph), and everything that comes along with
11 it. With a lot of public comment about climate change
12 impacting food resources and scarcity of important
13 resources we need to conserve them and, this petition,
14 like I stated is submitted by 12 tribes and it's a
15 vision for comanagement in the region that has been
16 promoted by the signatories.

16

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So the Organized Village of Kasaan,
it's very relevant for us and very important for us to
be submitting this petition and being part of this
petition because our stewardship of our land is long
overdue. We have a lack of access to our cultural use
wood and traditional resources and our main goal is to
provide protection for the future generations.

The petition has three different asks
in it. One, do an inventory and identify and protect
traditional and customary use sites in areas. As part
of the rulemaking process we're requesting the
development of a methodology to identify the sites of
critical importance to our customary use and the
implementation of Forest-wide conservation measures and
management to protect the uses.

Our second ask is for a new
consultation process to co-identify the areas and to
co-create the conservation measures. The Forest
Service -- we're requesting the Forest Service to
engage in a new and more robust and legitimate
government to government consultation process with the
tribes on the Tongass National Forest under the
principles of mutual concern to identify customary and
traditional use areas and design a Forest-wide
conservation measure to protect them. Of course mutual
concurrence means both parties must be agreeing when
the consultation is happening, not just one party.

And our third ask is for increased use
of existing authorities and cooperative agreements.
We're requesting the expanded utilization of the

0105

1 existing authorities and agreements by the Forest
2 Service and the Department of Agriculture to accomplish
3 the goals in partnership with the sovereign tribal
4 governments in Southeast Alaska.

5

6 The petition came about because of the
7 Alaska Roadless Rule making process. The Forest
8 Service neglected to incorporate value and input,
9 comments and concerns that tribes in Southeast and the
10 RAC raised in the final preferred alternative for a
11 full exemption. This petition is separate from the
12 Roadless Rule process but whatever happens there is
13 going to generally be mirrored and calls for increase
14 in comanagement work that has already started to happen
15 in the region. A good example of that would be the
16 Sitka Tribe's monitoring and management of the Klagg
17 Bay sockeye run.

18

19 Our ultimate goal is to have important
20 subsistence resources inventoried, monitored and
21 managed. The partnerships between the tribes and the
22 current main land owner, which is the United States
23 Forest Service. We want to work with the Forest
24 Service to develop and train local work force to be
25 able to take this on.

26

27 And today we're specifically asking the
28 Southeast RAC for support and to provide a letter of
29 support for our Administrative Procedures Act petition
30 that we have submitted.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
33 Marina. So I haven't seen your petition yet, have you
34 given a copy of that to our Coordinator so that the
35 Council can view the petition.

36

37 MS. ANDERSON: I'm happy to email a
38 copy over. And I think I just heard Katie Riley.

39

40 MS. RILEY: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Katie.

43

44 MS. RILEY: We did email a copy of the
45 petition to DeAnna and I'll request that she forwards
46 that to all of you or if she needs an updated copy I'm
47 happy to send that.

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, the Council

50

0106

1 is definitely going to want to see that. And we can
2 certainly put that as an item that we'll want to
3 discuss, it'll probably be a letter from the Council of
4 some kind of support, is that what you're looking for.

5

6 MS. RILEY: Yes, please.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I'll make
9 note of that for the Council.

10

11 MS. RILEY: If I may, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

14

15 MS. RILEY: I just wanted to say that
16 this petition was submitted to former Secretary of
17 Agriculture.....

18

19 (Teleconference interference -
20 participants not muted - echo)

21

22 MS. RILEY:Sonny Perdue, and has
23 not yet been resubmitted to the new Secretary of
24 Agriculture but it's still waiting at the Department.
25 Secretary Perdue sent a letter back notifying the
26 tribes that he had received the petition and was
27 considering it but we never received anything beyond
28 that note and for all intents and purposes we
29 understand that it is sitting there. Did appreciate
30 Mr. Schmid's notification earlier that he thought that
31 Secretary Vilsack had it on his to do list, reviewing
32 it and sending a response on.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Might get
35 back to some of these issues but first I want to see if
36 there's any other Council members with questions for
37 Katie, it sounds like you're testifying on the same
38 issue perhaps or do you have something else you wanted
39 to weigh in on this afternoon or are you here
40 supporting Marina?

41

42 MS. RILEY: Yes. I am here to support
43 Marina. I supported the development of this petition
44 and primarily have been working to send it out to our
45 Congressional contacts and gather support for it in
46 that way. In addition, the Sitka Conservation Society
47 is working through the Sustainable Southeast
48 Partnership to bring as much of this comanagement work
49 to fruition as we possibly can and definitely
50

0107

1 highlighting the work that is being done through the
2 Hoonah Native Forest Partnership and the (Indiscernible
3 - echo) Kwaan Community Forest Partnership as modeled
4 for how this could work throughout the region.

5

6 So, yes, I'm here with Marina and
7 speaking in full support of this petition.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
10 So Council members, have any questions for either
11 Marina or Katie to answer, go ahead.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Other questions
16 from the Council.

17

18 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cathy.

21

22 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
23 just want to thank Marina for taking some time today
24 and give us a very thorough outline of this petition.
25 I had heard about it and have actually received a copy
26 and read it myself but, Marina, you did an excellent
27 job summing it up and articulating the wishes of the 12
28 tribes that are working together.

29

30 I'm wondering, I know this petition is
31 in the process after it's been submitted. 12 tribes
32 out of 17 in the region is outstanding in terms of
33 organizations coming together to support and work
34 together on a common cause and I wonder if there'll be
35 a little bit of circle back with any of the other
36 tribal organizations that may not have had a chance to
37 participate before the petition was submitted.

38

39 MS. ANDERSON: We haven't circled back
40 with other tribes yet but that is something that we've
41 kind of continuously done and something that we'll most
42 likely do if we submit it again to Secretary Vilsack.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Followup,
45 Cathy.

46

47 MS. NEEDHAM: No. Thanks, I appreciate
48 that answer. Again, a job well done. And thank you
49 for bringing this forward. You know I know that you

50

0108

1 sat through a lot of our morning session and there was
2 a lot of touching -- a lot of different Council members
3 touched on the comanagement of resources on Federal
4 lands in Southeast Alaska. And I think that for the
5 benefit of the rest of the Council I think this
6 petition, because it has strong support with a majority
7 of the Federally-recognized tribes in the region, I
8 think it's a venue that we're all trying to -- trying
9 to find an opportunity to move forward with and I think
10 this is a really good one.

11

12 And on a personal note I would
13 definitely hope that we would put together a support
14 letter for this petition from this group.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.
19 Any other Council members with questions on this.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I'm not
24 hearing any other questions. But I don't think we're
25 done with this issue yet. This is becoming a really
26 important topic here in the region and I think it's
27 something that the Council is going to have to get
28 involved in. You know the issues that your homeland
29 petition brings up, this whole concept of comanagement,
30 where it can lead and later on the agenda we're going
31 to have a presentation from a group WECAN, Womens
32 Action Environmental -- Womens Environmental Climate
33 Action Network, and a lot of what they are proposing
34 ties in to what we're talking about right now.
35 Hopefully Marina and Katie, you'll be listening in when
36 we get to that closer to the end of the meeting.

37

38 But I also think that this issue is
39 going to be a little more involved and a little more
40 complex than some letters of support that can be
41 written during the course of this meeting. You know,
42 this issue moving forward is going to be important and
43 time consuming, I believe. And I want the Council to
44 be thinking ahead here a little bit in the course of
45 this meeting. Something that I was kind of thinking
46 about in the back of my mind was the need to maybe put
47 together some kind of a -- either a working group, or
48 possibly even establish a sub-committee of the Council
49 similar to what we've done in the past, working with

50

0109

1 stakeholder groups and members of the Council on
2 specific issues, any efforts that that group can come
3 together on or brought back before the Council for the
4 Council to take possible action on but just the ability
5 to sort through the complexity of a lot of these
6 issues. It's definitely more than we could do just in
7 the course of a three day meeting.

8

9 So I'd like the Council to kind of keep
10 that in mind and maybe before the end of the meeting,
11 if, you know, we hear more, and people get other ideas
12 it might be something to consider.

13

14 I don't know if there's any other
15 comments related to this from members of the Council.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, not hearing
20 any at this time, Marina and Katie, thank you very much
21 for your presentations, and as I said we will be
22 getting back to this issue.

23

24 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you.

25

26 MS. RILEY: Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep.

29

30 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, DeAnna.

33

34 MS. PERRY: I just wanted to let the
35 Council know that I did just send that petition to them
36 by email.

37

38 (Teleconference interference -
39 participants not muted- echo, typing, cars)

40

41 MS. PERRY: And in looking at -- I know
42 I've sent several batches of supplemental materials out
43 since the printing of the meeting book and I believe I
44 owe Ms. Riley and Ms. Anderson apologies because I
45 don't think that made it into the prior batches of
46 supplemental materials. So I do extend my apology for
47 that and I have sent that now. So hopefully we'll have
48 an opportunity to look that over in the next couple of
49 days.

50

0110

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. We'll have
2 our homework ahead of us here this evening so thank
3 you, DeAnna. I need to ask, is there anybody else on
4 the telephone line that called in who wants to give
5 public testimony this afternoon.

6
7 (Teleconference interference -
8 participants not muted - echo, typing, cars)

9
10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Am I hearing
11 somebody.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I thought I heard
16 somebody on the line, I don't know if they wanted to
17 testify or make comment.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Apparently not,
22 okay. Thank you to those that did provide comments.
23 Always very important to the Council that we hear from
24 our fellow residents what's going on in the area and
25 important issues brought forward so thank you again.

26
27 I'm looking at the agenda, okay,
28 DeAnna, did we get a confirmation from Scott Shuler and
29 Tom Schumacher that they'd be available later this
30 afternoon?

31
32 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair, 4:00
33 o'clock.

34
35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I don't
36 think there'll be anything that will get in our way
37 this afternoon so we'll get to that item at 4:00
38 o'clock and I think that could turn into a Council
39 action item. We may have to make a comment to the
40 State Board of Game towards the end of the meeting
41 because there's a comment period open right now and I
42 think it ends the last day of our meeting. So Council
43 members be prepared to submit comments.

44
45 Let's see next up under old business is
46 the eight Board of Fish proposals, another main item of
47 business for our meeting for this week. Do we have the
48 people available that we need to get into that
49 discussion, DeAnna, are you in contact with people.
50

0111

1 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. I know we had a
2 1:00 o'clock commitment from the State. I'm not sure
3 who all is still on with us at this point but we could
4 start discussing comments and I believe Terry Suminski
5 is standing by to help walk us through the road map
6 that we provided. It was basically just taking the
7 language from the State proposals out of the Board of
8 Fisheries proposal book so that everybody didn't have
9 to flip back and forth.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, I
12 know Terry's available. Like I say it might be helpful
13 to have some State folks, if they're available, are we
14 hearing from them seeings how we got started on this a
15 little late.

16

17 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair, this is Mark
18 Burch.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, hi Mark, you
21 got something.

22

23

24 MR. BURCH: I just sent an email to let
25 them know that you're getting to that subject so any of
26 them that aren't on may be able to join us, we'll have
27 to see. I would suggest, I guess, that you go ahead and
28 see who's able to log on here in the next few minutes.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Maybe we'll
33 just take a 10 minute break and Council members can
34 kind of refresh their memories on what's ahead here,
35 take a look at the proposals, and maybe we'll have all
36 the folks that we need to have a good discussion
37 available in about 10 minutes. So how about 2:45.

38

39 MR. CASIPIT: Mr. Chair, this is Member
40 Cal Casipit.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Hi, Cal, go ahead.

43

44 MR. CASIPIT: Hi. As far as the Board
45 of Fish proposals, the State Board of Fisheries
46 proposals, correct me if I'm wrong but I think they
47 postponed all that one year, didn't they?

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: You're correct,

50

0112

1 Cal. They put it off, I think they put their meeting
2 off until next January but I think this might be our
3 best opportunity right now to address the proposals. I
4 don't really envision that much time in the fall as
5 we'll have right now.

6
7 MR. CASIPIT: No, that's fine. I'm
8 totally fine with that. I'm just wondering, we will
9 get an update from somebody about that, you know, I
10 mean I'm not sure everybody knows that the meeting's
11 been postponed a year so anyway.

12
13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, if the folks
14 at the State have any, you know, relevant information,
15 anything that might change between now and then they
16 could pass that along but like I say right now we
17 started at our last meeting making comments on these
18 when we thought the Board of Fish could be meeting this
19 winter but that didn't happen so we've gone through
20 some of these proposals and had some testimony on them
21 so.....

22
23 MR. CASIPIT: Okay.

24
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:I think the
26 prudent thing to do is just wrap it up here if we can.

27
28 MR. CASIPIT: No, I agree. It's just I
29 -- yeah.

30
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah.

32
33 MR. CASIPIT: I just want to make sure
34 everybody knows what's going on, that things got
35 postponed, and I think some of the Board of Game, even
36 some of those decisions got postponed but I'm not sure.
37 I've been seeing so much stuff across my computer, I
38 can't keep track of it all and I'm just hoping that the
39 State will be able to help me out.

40
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm sure they will
42 help us all out.

43
44 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
47 DeAnna.

48
49 MS. PERRY: I just wanted to remind
50

0113

1 folks, before the break, that on Page 17, we've kind of
2 got an example of a letter that the Wrangell-St. Elias
3 Subsistence Resource Commission put together and I
4 would suggest kind of that we use that same format for
5 our comments. And I did want to followup with Cal, the
6 meeting for Board of Fish has been rescheduled to
7 January 4th through the 15th, 2022 and public comments
8 must be received on those proposals by December 22,
9 2021 and I think, Mr. Chair, you covered why we're
10 addressing them at this meeting not knowing how many
11 regulatory proposals we'll have to discuss at our fall
12 meeting. So I did want to throw those dates out there
13 because I do have them in front of me.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, DeAnna.
18 Okay. So I think we can take a 10 minute break, back
19 at 2:45.

20

21 (Off record)

22

23 (On record)

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We're going to
26 continue on with the work that we did last fall --
27 since we're just making comments on proposals and then,
28 you know, the Council does have the opportunity to send
29 a representative to the Board of Fish meeting and we
30 get additional time to, you know, present our comments
31 before the Board and be part of their process and so
32 that's what we're doing.

33

34 MR. KITKA: Yeah, Don, this is Harvey.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
37 Harvey.

38

39 MR. KITKA: I didn't get that road map
40 either or even get to see what you guys were
41 commenting.

42

43 MS. PERRY: Harvey, I sent that to you
44 by email if you've got a way to access email right now.

45

46 MR. KITKA: I'm on email and I don't
47 see it yet.

48

49 (Teleconference interference -

50

0114

1 participants not muted - echo - outside)

2

3 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair, this is Cathy.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
6 Cathy.

7

8 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9 When we left off on this work at our last meeting I had
10 made a commitment to have Hydaburg as the proponent of
11 a couple of these proposals call in and talk about
12 their intent and so I just wanted to let you know that
13 Tony Christianson is doing that here shortly and I'm
14 not sure at what point you'll want to hear from him but
15 he is actually not in Hydaburg, he is in Craig so we
16 might have very limited time in order to do so.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, we're
19 not going to -- I don't see any way that we're going to
20 get through all of these this afternoon. If Tony or
21 any other tribal representative, you know, has
22 proposals of interest to them they want us to discuss
23 this afternoon, if they're here, or tomorrow when we
24 get to them, if they're here this afternoon we'll make
25 sure that they get their opportunity right away if
26 they're available so they need to let us know.

27

28 (Pause)

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So, DeAnna, while
31 some of the Council members -- it sounds like the new
32 appointees may not have gotten this in their packets,
33 which is unfortunate, but if the emails are going out
34 and people have access to it that would be helpful.
35 Meantime while we're back from break, do you want to
36 take a quick roll and make sure we got the rest of the
37 Council here.

38

39 MS. PERRY: Sure. Mike Douville.

40

41 MR. DOUVILLE: Mike Douville is here.

42

43 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Mike.

44

45 Jim Slater.

46

47 MR. SLATER: Jim Slater is here.

48

49 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

50

0115

1

Albert Howard.

2

3

MR. HOWARD: I'm here.

4

5

MS. PERRY: Thanks, Albert.

6

7

Don Hernandez, I just heard you.

8

9

Harold Robbins.

10

11

MR. ROBBINS: I'm here.

12

13

MS. PERRY: All right.

14

15

Harvey Kitka.

16

17

MR. KITKA: I'm here.

18

19

MS. PERRY: Larry Bemis, Jr.

20

21

MR. BEMIS: Here.

22

23

MS. PERRY: Cathy Needham.

24

25

MS. NEEDHAM: I'm here.

26

27

MS. PERRY: Ian Johnson.

28

29

MR. JOHNSON: I am here.

30

31

MS. PERRY: Frank Wright.

32

33

MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, I'm here.

34

35

MS. PERRY: Cal Casipit.

36

37

(No comments)

38

39

40

MS. PERRY: Cal, are you still with us,
I heard you earlier.

41

42

(No comments)

43

44

45

MS. PERRY: And Robert Schroeder, I
believe he still out this afternoon.

46

47

(No comments)

48

49

MS. PERRY: Okay, Mr. Chair, you

50

0116

1 currently have 10 of your 12 seated Council members
2 online, you have a quorum.

3

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, we're
5 not off to a great start on this but we'll proceed
6 nonetheless, it's one of the pieces of business we have
7 to get through.

8

9 First of all I might ask some of these
10 proposals regard to specific areas and I know
11 previously we had some help from local people that
12 wanted to weigh in. I don't know if anybody's out
13 there for this session this afternoon, local Advisory
14 Committee people or tribal members that have proposals
15 of particular interest to them. If they're there now
16 we'll take those up first.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I'm not
21 hearing any. So let's just proceed down the list
22 presented on this road map that's been prepared for us
23 which is very helpful.

24

25 The first one is Proposal 93. King
26 salmon management plan was proposed by the Ketchikan
27 Indian Community. We had Keenan Sanderson available at
28 the last meeting, had a good discussion on this
29 proposal and we voted to support it. I don't know if
30 any new Council members, any additional comments or
31 other Council members that want to review what we did
32 in the fall.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

37

38 MR. JOHNSON: This is Ian, Mr. Chair.
39 I was just curious, do we have any idea how many --
40 like is three sort of an average for what we might
41 expect for a non-resident use, or like I'm just curious
42 if we actually know is this truly a reduction, like
43 will this advance, you know, salmon management, or is
44 it just kind of an average amount for like what a non-
45 resident might take on an annual basis?

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I guess I don't
48 know the specific answer to that, Ian, I don't know if
49 that was part of the discussion, you know, as to what
50

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1 might be typical. But, you know, the idea is to put an
2 annual limit and I think the discussion more centered
3 around what was reasonable. And three fish was
4 proposed, I guess, three kings. I don't know if it was
5 based on any, you know, previous history, but I think
6 it was just judged to be a reasonable take, so that's
7 my recollection.

8
9 MR. SLATER: This is Jim from Pelican.
10 Are there any auxiliary rules that govern whether or
11 not the catch goes on a charter boat or not?

12
13 MR. CHADWICK: This is Bob Chadwick.
14 Is my audio okay?

15
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, Mr.
17 Chadwick, you.....

18
19 MR. CHADWICK: I am the Regional
20 Management Coordinator for Sportfish, and I might be
21 able to help out just a tad.

22
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good, I'm glad
24 you're here. Thanks for.....

25
26 MR. CHADWICK: No, I appreciate.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:joining us,
29 please.....

30
31 MR. CHADWICK:the opportunity.
32 And you just tell me to be quiet when you need me to.

33
34 But, yeah, so this proposal here is
35 seeking to change prescriptions within the king salmon
36 management plan. This king salmon management plan
37 governs what the bag limits, annual limits, and -- or
38 just the management prescriptions for a given year for
39 a regional -- the regional king salmon. Under the plan
40 there's seven tiers, and the Board has established
41 management prescriptions in each of those seven tiers.
42 And for non-residents, part of those management
43 prescriptions are bag limits, you know, a bag limit of
44 one. Under all tiers the bag limit would be one for
45 non-residents, but the annual limit does vary with
46 abundance. It's abundance-based. So at higher
47 abundances, at the higher end of the tier, just keep it
48 simple, the two top ends of the tier, the bag -- the
49 annual limit for non-residents could be four or five.
50

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1 At the lower end of the tier it's three, and then it
2 turns into a harvest limit further down in the plan,
3 which means that the annual limit starts at three, goes
4 to two, and then one in season. So there would be
5 reduction if the higher abundance is under the plan.

6
7 But there are lower annual limits,
8 lower than three under the plan.

9
10 I'll stop there.

11
12 MR. SLATER: Is there any disposition
13 between if it's caught on a charter boat or just caught
14 in a private boat?

15
16 MR. CHADWICK: No, there is not. The
17 prescriptions within the plan are specifically for
18 residents and non-residents.

19
20 MR. SLATER: Okay.

21
22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other
23 questions from the Council.

24
25 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman.

26
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Frank.

28
29 MR. WRIGHT: Does this limit on the
30 commercial trollers is based on the Treaty with Canada
31 so is this going to change if there's a reduction in
32 that fishery?

33
34 MR. CHADWICK: Again, this is Bob
35 Chadwick, AFD&G. Sorry if I was unclear. No, the
36 management plan, the prescriptions for the plan are to
37 stay within our allocation. These bag limits are set
38 to stay within the allocation of our all gear harvest
39 that's set underneath the Treaty.

40
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

42
43 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is
44 Albert.

45
46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Albert.

47
48 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
49 have a question. Was there subsistence users part of
50

0119

1 this Treaty, were they at the table being represented?

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: You got an answer
4 to that Bob?

5

6 MR. CHADWICK: Boy, I don't. I want to
7 say -- yeah, I don't. I don't have a -- I'll get back
8 to you on that one.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, does anybody
11 else have an answer to that, any other Staff?

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, apparently
16 not.

17

18 MR. HOWARD: Well, Mr. Chairman, the
19 reason I ask that is because it seems like decisions,
20 again, are being made that affect the subsistence user
21 without the subsistence user being at the table. A
22 good example is the closure of king salmon. Just when
23 we start figuring out where they're at they close it
24 and we take less than one percent of the king salmon
25 populations.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Albert, I will
28 point out that the next proposal before us on the list
29 is the one that we put forward that kind of deals with
30 that very situation there on establishing a subsistence
31 take for king salmon. So that's going to be up for
32 discussion next. And maybe the answer to your previous
33 question is kind of relevant to that proposal as well.
34 So we may have an answer to that question, hopefully.

35

36 MR. SLATER: Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

39

40 MR. SLATER: Yeah, this is Jim Slater
41 from Pelican. Just a protocol issue, are these
42 proposals, do we evaluate them in their whole and then
43 decide whether or not to support them or not or are
44 they open to edits or what kind of disposition are they
45 in right now?

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right, good
48 question, Jim. No, at this stage these are proposals,
49 you know, from the folks that made the proposal and,

50

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1 no, they're not available for us to make any changes at
2 this point. So we're just commenting in support or
3 non-support, basically.

4
5 MR. SLATER: I understand, thank you,
6 Mr. Chair.

7
8 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chairman.

9
10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, is that
11 Mike.

12
13 MR. SUMINSKI: I'm sorry, this is Terry
14 Suminski.

15
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Terry. Oh, hi,
17 Terry.

18
19 MR. SUMINSKI: Yeah, I just wanted to
20 maybe just back up just a touch and give a little
21 guidance of what this document is and how you might use
22 it, if you choose, which it seems you are.

23
24 What we did, from the last meeting, all
25 the proposals that the Council expressed interest in,
26 and, you know, we put those in a list. And then DeAnna
27 and I went back through all of our notes, all of the
28 transcripts and tried to put everything in this
29 document that Council members may have thought about
30 the proposal.

31
32 So just for example, this first
33 proposal, it shows the proposal straight out of the
34 Board of Fish book. Then it shows the current Federal
35 regulations, there are none in this case. The king
36 salmon in salt water. At the time the Council -- the
37 last meeting, the Council expressed support, so I put
38 that in there. And then the rationale is what we could
39 glean from what the Council discussed.

40
41 In this one, Proposal 143, is the
42 proposal to create a log book, and 145 was the proposal
43 about annual limit.

44
45 So as you go through this, what we
46 would like -- you know, what the plan was, is to, the
47 Council go through it, think about the -- if they've
48 thought of anything more between meetings and, you
49 know, sorry the new Council members are a little behind
50

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1 the curve, I understand that, but we tried to
2 consolidate what was said. Now what we're trying to do
3 is work on that Council position and the rationale.
4 Those are the key things, if the Council wants to beat
5 that up, or change their position, this is your
6 document.

7
8 And then the way I see this working is
9 once we capture all the relevant discussions, we can
10 easily turn this into a letter to the Board of
11 Fisheries.

12
13 This is just the list that, you know,
14 we heard from the last Council meeting. So if there's
15 others that people want to add, we can do that, it'll
16 take a little work on the side but we can do that. So
17 hopefully that helps guide the Council in what we're
18 doing, and we're extremely -- you know, it's great that
19 we have representatives from the Alaska Department of
20 Game, fisheries managers to ask questions, you know,
21 about the proposals.

22
23 So as a Federal biologist, I'm not in a
24 position to comment on how these would affect State
25 management, but if you have comments on how this would
26 -- or questions on how this would affect Federal
27 management, I can certainly talk about that.

28
29 One thing I will let you know right up
30 front, all these proposals would have no direct affect
31 on Federal regulations and management. But these are
32 proposals that the Council is interested in so we're
33 happy to help you, the Staff, to get those comments
34 submitted to the Board of Fisheries.

35
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Terry.
39 That's very helpful. And, right, it's good to point
40 out that the proposals do not affect directly the
41 Federal fisheries, these are strictly fisheries that
42 take place within State jurisdiction. It may in some
43 way affect subsistence users, but in no way related to
44 Federal regulations. So good point to be made.

45
46 All right, also, yeah, this is our
47 opportunity to add to what we'd done last fall, if
48 people have additional thoughts, we have an opportunity
49 to ask the State managers some questions to clarify our
50

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1 thoughts so, yeah.

2

3 So getting back to the first proposal,
4 No. 93, as you can see was proposed by the Ketchikan
5 Indian Community and the Council, at our fall meeting
6 did support it. There's our rationale consistent with
7 Proposals 143 and 145, which assists in reducing
8 competition between non-residents and subsistence
9 users.

10

11 So anybody on the Council want to add
12 to that this would be the opportunity.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Let's move
17 on to Proposal 125.

18

19 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: This was proposed
22 by us, the Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory
23 Council. And this proposal would clarify language for
24 subsistence take of coho and king salmon as follows:

25

26 I'm going to ask you to explain this
27 one. I tell you when I read this, I'm always a little
28 bit confused on what the structure of the language is
29 here and, you know, how these proposals are written. I
30 know some things in the text are things that are added
31 and some things are deleted, so before we get into this
32 proposal, I'm going to ask you to run through it with
33 us so everybody understands. We obviously supported
34 because it's a Council proposal but I think the Council
35 all needs to be clear on exactly what this proposal
36 does, and I think you could explain it better than I
37 could.

38

39 MR. SUMINSKI: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is
40 Terry Suminski with the Forest Service. You're
41 correct, the language is awkward. We tried to use
42 existing language in the State regulations but
43 basically the intent is to allow the Department to
44 issue king salmon permits for subsistence. And maybe
45 there's a better way of doing that with this language
46 but that was the intent and in the comments we could
47 make that clearer.

48

49 Thank you.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. And as
2 Albert kind of brought to our attention earlier,
3 presently there is no subsistence king salmon fishing
4 under State regulation. I believe I'm correct in that,
5 Mr. Chadwick?

6
7 MR. CHADWICK: Yeah, I'm not -- being
8 the sportfish biologist, I think is Troy -- is Troy
9 Thynes on.

10
11 MR. THYNES: Yeah, I'm not sure if you
12 guys can hear me or not, this is Troy Thynes with Fish
13 and Game. I'm the Area Management Coordinator for
14 Southeast here. How am I coming in, I'm getting a real
15 bad echo listening to you all.

16
17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I hear you
18 fine, Troy. You're clear.

19
20 MR. THYNES: Yeah, in response to that
21 question there about a directed subsistence fishery, in
22 Southeast there are no directed subsistence fisheries
23 for king salmon but king salmon are taken in other
24 fisheries in the personal use hatchery fisheries as
25 well as in sportfisheries and as well as for personal
26 use retained from commercial catch. So there is a take
27 of king salmon by residents of Southeast Alaska, or
28 residents of Alaska, that are considered towards the
29 ANS, the amount necessary for subsistence.

30
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. So this
32 proposal, as I understand it, would authorize having a
33 permit for a, I guess you would call it a directed king
34 salmon fishery?

35
36 MR. THYNES: As written -- as the
37 proposal is written it would just clarify language for
38 the incidental take of king and coho salmon while
39 subsistence salmon fishing. But, you know, as Terry
40 pointed out, you know, the intent is to allow the
41 Department the ability to issue permits for the
42 directed subsistence harvest of king salmon.

43
44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you
45 for that clarification. Any questions from the
46 Council.

47
48 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chairman, just very
49 quickly. This is Terry again.

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Terry.

2

3 MR. SUMINSKI: The intent was that this
4 provision would not apply to the Taku or Stikine
5 Rivers.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Would not
8 apply to the Stikine fishery.

9

10 MR. SUMINSKI: Or the Taku. That was
11 the discussion by the Council.

12

13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted - echo)

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, just as a
17 clarification there, under State subsistence fisheries,
18 there are no subsistence fisheries on the Stikine or
19 the Taku, is that correct, I'm pretty sure on the
20 Stikine there are not, I guess I'm not sure about the
21 Taku, but all the subsistence fishing on the Stikine
22 takes place under Federal permit as I recall.

23

24 MR. THYNES: Mr. Chair, you're correct
25 there on the Taku River it's just personal use fishery,
26 there is no C&T findings on the Taku and it's part of
27 the Juneau non-subsistence area. For the Stikine River
28 we defer the subsistence fisheries -- we defer to
29 Federal management under the U.S. Forest Service for
30 that.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right, okay.

33

34 MR. SUMINSKI: And just to add the Taku
35 fishery is closed under Federal regulations.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Taku fishery is
38 closed -- what was that last part?

39

40 MR. SUMINSKI: The Taku is closed to
41 king fishing under Federal regulation.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

44

45 MR. KITKA: Don, this is Harvey Kitka.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Harvey.

48

49 MR. KITKA: I find it strange that our

50

0125

1 people that lived in the Taku area lived on king salmon
2 and this was one of their main fisheries up there so I
3 don't know why there would be no C&T within the State
4 on king salmon fishing.

5

6 MR. THYNES: And to clarify, the Taku
7 is part of the Juneau non-subsistence area. So there's
8 a couple of non-subsistence areas within Southeast and
9 the Juneau non-subsistence area is one and then the
10 Ketchikan non-subsistence area is another area within
11 Southeast.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. So if
14 these rivers fall within that boundary then they're not
15 eligible for subsistence fisheries, that's correct,
16 right?

17

18 MR. THYNES: Correct.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, Harvey,
21 that's just another one of those things that needs
22 addressing at some point but it's not before us here
23 today unfortunately. Also, the fact, I think you were
24 the one who pointed out that, you know, in times past,
25 pre-European contact there were Tlingits harvesting
26 king salmon out in the open ocean, that's never been
27 recognized. So there's some lapses here for sure that
28 could still be addressed, but not what's before us here
29 today.

30

31 MR. CASIPIT: Mr. Chair, this is Calvin
32 Casipit. Basically the only difference -- the only
33 thing I see here is what it does is it takes away the
34 prohibition of -- for the managers to issue permits for
35 king salmon, it doesn't necessarily mean that they will
36 issue them, it just takes away the prohibition from
37 issuing them; is that correct, Terry?

38

39 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa
40 Kenner.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Pippa.

43

44 MS. KENNER: Hi, yes, I was at this
45 meeting and I actually assisted the Council and the
46 working group in developing this proposal. And, yes,
47 the intent of the proposal was to take away the
48 prohibition of receiving a salmon harvest permit to
49 target king salmon, while at the same time, making it

50

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1 clear that king salmon cannot be harvested for
2 subsistence on the Taku or Stikine River drianages.

3

4 Now, I'm seeing what we produced and
5 now I'm just going to look at what's in the book
6 because they might be different -- thank you.

7

8 (Pause)

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
11 Pippa, for that clarification. Any other comments from
12 the Council, we obviously did support this, it's our
13 proposal, but we do all want to be clear about what it
14 does and doesn't do, and our rationale, and we'll be
15 done with this one. So any other comments.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I think
20 we're done with that proposal, it's already been acted
21 upon.

22

23 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

26

27 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
28 this is Cathy. I got a text from Tony Christianson
29 that he might be on the line still. He was on a little
30 bit ago and maybe you might want to check and see if he
31 is still there to talk about the proposals that
32 Hydaburg Cooperative Association put in.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, we'll do
35 that. We'll move right to his proposals if he's
36 available. Are you there Tony?

37

38 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, can you hear me
39 Don.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, yeah, got
42 you fine, go ahead.

43

44 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Cool. Yeah,
45 I just wanted to thank you guys first and foremost for
46 taking the time to support the proposals as we put them
47 forth and taking the time to interject and entertain me
48 getting on and taking time to comment.

49

50

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1 Again, we put two proposals forward to
2 the Board of Fish to consider the closure of the
3 commercial crab fishery and the commercial shrimp
4 fishery in the waters immediately adjacent to the
5 community. You know we did this for multiple reasons
6 as stated in the proposal. We have, you know, a huge
7 predation issue going on with sea otters that we're
8 combatting on a daily basis with hunters. With that
9 with the declining stocks in other areas we have the
10 pressure of the commercialized guys really recognizing
11 the value of crab in that area now and their pots were
12 getting pretty close to the sensitive areas this last
13 year, both shrimp and crab. And in the last few years
14 we've had a drastic die-off on shrimp in the waters
15 that we described. Like we used to shrimp almost
16 extensively for our subsistence take right there
17 immediately within the first two or three miles of
18 Hydaburg and now we're having to take ourselves five,
19 six miles away from the community to make that happen.

20
21 And so those two proposals were to
22 just, you know, start the process of, you know, taking
23 out the biggest user group and then recognizing the
24 local user group as the primary and then our next level
25 is to start developing a local area management plan to
26 try to address the personal subsistence of the area.

27
28 And so just again I want to take the
29 time to say thank you guys and if you have any
30 questions about the proposal I can take them at this
31 time.

32
33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thanks Tony. I'm
34 looking to see if maybe one of the Staff can help me,
35 is that proposal one of the ones that is on this road
36 map or is that a different one?

37
38 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair, this is Cathy.
39 I put the proposals on the road map, they're Proposal
40 No. 177 for the closure for commercial shrimp fisheries
41 and Proposal 210 for the closure of commercial crab
42 fishery. And if you work backwards from the road map
43 since there's no numbers on it, it's about four pages
44 in, the front and back, on that fourth page from the
45 back side.

46
47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right.

48
49 MS. NEEDHAM: I don't know if I made
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1 sense but.

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cathy, hopefully the other Council members have located it, Proposal 177. It appears there's a map. It appears to lay out some pretty specific areas proposed for closure. Let's see, are you looking at -- Tony, I don't know if you have the book in front of you there, but with the proposal there's a map, I'm looking to see.....

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, I'm aware of the map.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. So there's some areas that are kind of outlined in red, are those the specific areas that you're looking to close?

MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, they were the most ones right in the bay area extending out to both north and south pass, you know, running down to Round Point and then extending itself up there into the Sulzer Portage area.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I see it.

MR. CHRISTIANSON: We're just trying to recognize, you know, some of the areas and they are very lucrative for the commercial fishery and you can see we tried to stay south some of that to not utilize the area that -- but the area further north up by Jumbo Island and stuff are really starting to get an impact inside of the island, they're both from -- you know, there was three years of a contracted project in Copper Harbor and Natzuhini Bay as well as to the community and the commercial guys, they like to target that area for the size of the shrimp. It's also the area the State utilizes to set the quota in their shrimp along that whole Hetta Lake shore area and so, you know, we tried to remove that core area because we recognize the commercial value to it but, you know, as we looked at it, it's also the area that recharges the areas that are starting to decline. And -- but, you know, we don't want to be trying to take more than we need but we definitely have to do something because just in the last few years there's been, like I said, a drastic decline in the shrimp in those inlets and then there has been a noticeable decline on the dungeness on -- if you look at the outer edge of that map, the sea otter predation on the dungeness crab has moved all the way

0129

1 into those north and south pass areas and have
2 devastated those stocks. The last couple of years we
3 haven't been able to get our dungeness from any of
4 those north and south arms. But we are still keeping
5 them out of the Natzuhini Bay area but it's almost a
6 weekly hunting trip to continue to (indiscernible -
7 echo) guys out of there because they've really
8 inundated our community.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. Yeah, I
11 mean this proposal reflects, you know, what a lot of
12 the communities have done around them on their shrimp
13 or crab grounds, kind of protecting a local resource.
14 It's right in line with what's happening around the
15 region.

16

17 So other Council members, hopefully
18 you've all located the two proposals and we don't have
19 a comment from the Regional Council yet so this is our
20 opportunity to do that. Anybody else have any
21 questions for Tony Christianson.

22

23 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka, I got a
24 question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Harvey.

27

28 MR. KITKA: Tony, do you have any idea
29 how many commercial fishermen are fishing dungeness and
30 shrimp in your area. It seems like a few years ago
31 there was wasn't that many and weren't having that much
32 of a shortage it seemed like -- and in the Sitka area
33 it seemed like there's an awful lot of commercial guys
34 fishing them when they're not trolling or something
35 like that.

36

37 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, this is Anthony
38 Christianson for the record. The area that we're
39 describing around Hydaburg for the shrimp, the Cordova
40 Bay area, just this week, provided the largest shrimp
41 quota for the commercial fishery fleet. And so we have
42 upwards of 20 to 30, to maybe sometimes 30-plus boats
43 that register for that area. What we're trying to do
44 is just pull a little bit of the area adjacent to the
45 community off of that slate because what we've had is
46 we've had guys come in there and lace the place with
47 100 pots, you know, because they started to get --
48 because it started to dwindle in other areas. You
49 know, and we're not saying that the shrimp numbers in

50

0130

1 the area are at an all time low, we're just saying that
2 in the areas that we're describing there, they have
3 historical lows in those areas but we do support the
4 largest shrimp in Southeast Alaska. What's happening
5 this last three years is those guys who are commercial
6 crabbing on the east side and north side and near Dall
7 Island are starting to not find the crab because of
8 that sea otter predation and they're really localizing
9 their efforts now to critical subsistence areas for
10 Hydaburg which is Sulzer Portage and Natzuhini Bay, and
11 we've put a lot of work into managing those locally to
12 make sure we pull only the male sex out of there, we
13 keep everybody to the cultural practice of maintaining
14 those stocks and we're just trying to make sure we put
15 something on the books that showcases the effort we're
16 making as well as trying to protect so we could rebuild
17 the stock because we're not even fishing in those areas
18 now because of the decline for the shrimp and the crab
19 itself, we've really scaled back on the areas that we
20 could use (indiscernible - cuts out/echo) and
21 commercialization. I think we may have about three to
22 four boats that fish area commercially for crab but one
23 of our main concerns is one of the guys is a local guy
24 who now parks his boat in the community with a stack of
25 commercial pots in the back and he had set right in the
26 zone that (indiscernible - cuts out/echo) and you can
27 see on the map that we provided.

28
29 MR. KITKA: Thank you, Tony. I really
30 think the message that needs to be sent to the State is
31 rebuilding the stocks.

32
33 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Harvey.

34
35 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, this is Ian, I
36 have a question.

37
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
39 Ian.

40
41 MR. JOHNSON: Tony, I was just
42 wondering, do you have any expectations for how long
43 this closure would last. Right now there's nothing
44 specified in there?

45
46 MR. CHRISTIANSON: That's putting for
47 indefinite closure and then like I said, the follow up
48 procedure would be for us to continue to (indiscernible
49 - cuts out - participants not muted - echo) continue to
50

0131

1 bring it before the Advisory Committee based on the
2 program to try to develop a local area management plan
3 that can address all of these critical concerns and
4 could maybe even set some thresholds for ourselves so
5 that we can help to rebuild the stocks.

6
7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Other questions
8 for Tony on this proposal.

9
10 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, I have just
11 kind of a quick followup question, I guess. This is
12 Ian. Like if we were to choose to support this
13 proposal, like can we also advocate for this management
14 plan that Tony's talking about or does that -- since
15 it's not really in the regulation proposal, is that not
16 something we talk about or how does that work?

17
18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I guess my
19 recommendation would be to just stick with the existing
20 proposal for now.

21
22 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, and I guess to
23 answer your question, I would see that those places
24 being closed indefinitely to the commercialization, you
25 know, that -- we rely on those resources way too much
26 to have to (indiscernible - echo) and with the
27 dwindling resources all around, we could go back and
28 forth and we could bring ourselves to the Kasaan
29 situation, we could go ask every island community from
30 Naukati to Coffman Cove to Craig and ask them how their
31 dungeness is doing now. And I'll tell you, they're all
32 telling us the same thing, we have to go out several
33 hundred feet of water now to get a dungeness so we have
34 these areas that we've protected for hundreds of years
35 that we're saying we need just a little bit of
36 assistance in maintaining some level of population so
37 we could continue to have access and provide for our
38 community a priority resource which is dungeness crab,
39 it provides protein on a year-round basis and so we
40 would be advocating for a complete commercial closure
41 of the area.

42
43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, that's good
44 clarification, Tony. Thank you. Any other Council.

45
46 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair, this is Cathy.

47
48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cathy.

49
50

0132

1 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Tony, I apologize if you actually just said this, I
3 wasn't quite clear because I'm having a hard time
4 hearing you, but does the community or the local area
5 committee have any plans to apply for a C&T
6 determination for crab and shrimp in this area?

7
8 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I think we are
9 going to try to do that. You know with the Board cycle
10 being put off a year, we're going to try (indiscernible
11 - echo) meetings, I don't know if they'll be
12 entertaining any additional information at those
13 meetings but definitely the long-term plan is to
14 develop a C&T determination for the area, and to
15 develop a local area management plan that really
16 specifies out the use of whether they're personal use
17 or subsistence use or, you know, where the extent of
18 those go. And all we're asking for is a similar
19 situation like Juneau and Ketchikan where they set up
20 sport zones, and economic zones around the community to
21 support what it is that (indiscernible - echo) want to
22 do in those boundaries and what we want to do is we
23 want to protect our resources for our community's
24 consumptive purposes, (indiscernible - echo) and
25 subsistence.

26
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Any
28 followup, Cathy.

29
30 MS. NEEDHAM: No, thank you, Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
33 Any other Council members have questions on this
34 proposal.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I think
39 what we would want to do next is this would have to be
40 a motion to support this proposal and then it comes
41 before the Council for discussion and a vote.

42
43 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is
44 Albert.

45
46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Albert.

47
48 MR. HOWARD: Yeah, I move to support
49 the proposal.

50

0133

1 MS. NEEDHAM: Second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Second. Do we
4 have a second.

5

6 MS. NEEDHAM: Second.

7

8 MR. CASIPIT: This is Cal Casipit, I
9 second it.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, motion by
12 Albert and a second by Cal to -- we'll just deal with
13 Proposal 177 specifically. So we have a motion to
14 support. So maybe I'll just want to clarify a little
15 bit here.

16

17 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: This process, I'd
20 say this is a little different than what we do for
21 Federal proposals. I don't know if we need the same
22 justifications and rationales that we do for a Federal
23 subsistence proposal for the State proposals, I think
24 we just need to have a vote and some kind of a
25 rationale. Would I be correct in that, from the Staff?

26

27 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
30 DeAnna. So comments from the Council on this proposal.

31

32 MR. CASIPIT: This is Cal. I'd like to
33 give a shot at the rationale for supporting this.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, go ahead.

36

37 MR. CASIPIT: First of all, I think
38 looking at the map and then looking at the description
39 of the area, this is a really small area, and in terms
40 of the big areas of the commercial shrimping so I think
41 that, you know, (indiscernible - echo) off limits to
42 commercial users to ensure that Hydaburg can get their
43 subsistence needs for shrimp met. It's a great idea.
44 And it isn't about precedence, I mean there's other
45 similar closures for crab and either -- other shellfish
46 around communities, maybe not as small as Hydaburg but
47 I don't think that really believe people in a small
48 community (indiscernible - echo) that they don't need
49 this kind of protection.

50

0134

1 So I'm totally in support of this. I
2 think it's reasonable, it's a pretty small area
3 compared to the whole area that's open for shrimping
4 and then it's not without precedence, the Board has
5 done this before in other places. So I'm supporting
6 this.

7
8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
9 Cal. I think you've offered up a good rationale in
10 support. Any other Council members want to comment on
11 this.

12
13 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cathy.

16
17 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
18 think that we should also support this proposal. I
19 think Cal did a really good job with the rationale. I
20 would like to add to that rationale that I think that
21 the proponent has spoken towards the fact that the
22 current commercial fishery in there is -- well, first
23 of all that the community is not -- their subsistence
24 needs are not being met so there's not a management for
25 a subsistence priority, and then second, the community
26 has expressed that there is competition for this
27 resource, not just from the commercial fishery but also
28 from sea otters, I know we don't take care of that but
29 it sounds like there's a lot of potential pressure on
30 this population and they are working towards trying to
31 locally manage it. So the rationale, their subsistence
32 needs aren't being met, there's competition from
33 multiple arenas as well as reduction in access to
34 shrimp for the community.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.
39 Any other Council members.

40
41 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman, Mike
42 Douville.

43
44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Mike.

45
46 MR. DOUVILLE: I'm not going to support
47 this. I do not support it. The commercial test
48 records do not indicate that there is any decline in
49 the shrimp. The sizes are maintaining quite well. The
50

0135

1 season is only open for two weeks out of the year. It's
2 an important species for many local people. Otters
3 don't predate on shrimp because their depth is a little
4 bit too deep. It seems like we're talking about 177,
5 the other proposal's a little different. But, you
6 know, I watch FaceBook and it doesn't look like to me
7 from the pictures I see posted on there from people
8 that live in Hydaburg that they're having any
9 difficulty catching shrimp it's just they put the
10 effort into -- into it. So I think that the commercial
11 test records should be reviewed to see if they're --
12 like I already said, doesn't indicate that the resource
13 is under any stress.

14
15 So the Craig AC did not support this
16 proposal.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you for that
21 information, Mike.

22
23 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. Chair, this is
24 Anthony Christianson, may I have the floor.

25
26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, Tony, go
27 ahead.

28
29 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, I just wanted
30 to say that, you know, Mike, that's why we tried to
31 keep the areas as small and localized to inside waters
32 where a majority of the commercial fishermen stay away
33 from and tried to recognize the value for the local
34 fishermen as we do have a commercial fleet ourselves
35 that do fish and so just wanted to make sure that we
36 put that on the record that the areas we did do, you
37 know, the only area in all of that that was probably
38 commercialized is the Sukkwan Strait south of Saltery
39 Point to Round Point where there's very limited
40 commercial fisheries. We're just trying to protect an
41 area in the zone. And then the Jumbo Island insides of
42 the corner up there before the elbow turns to Sulzer is
43 another area that one or two guys from the area like to
44 fish. And so if anybody lost any area in the
45 commercial zone it would be just north of Jumbo Island,
46 which is likely a very limited area to ask for some
47 reprieve. And as we develop a local management plan
48 looking forward, would also looking at probably some
49 restrictions on the local people too to recognize that
50

0136

1 shortage and move our fisheries efforts out further to
2 where there is an abundance. When you look at the
3 pictures on FaceBook, Mike, I'd just like to let you
4 know those are guys that have commercial pots, that
5 pull those gear from commercial boats and they do share
6 that subsistence resource extensively. So as far as
7 the shortage goes, we're not saying, shortage, what
8 we're saying is a lack of population in the areas we
9 described on the map.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Good
12 perspective from two people that know the area probably
13 better than anybody so thank you both. Mike, I'll give
14 you an opportunity for followup if you would like.

15

16 MR. DOUVILLE: I don't know how to
17 respond at this time without looking at a picture with
18 these lines drawn out. I don't have -- at the AC
19 meeting this was -- there was considerable resistance
20 and it was not supported and so going with that I'll
21 support their wishes.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. And yeah
24 thank you for bringing that to our attention, that's
25 pretty relevant. So thank you.

26

27 Anybody else on the Council in the way
28 of deliberation.

29

30 MR. BEMIS: Mr. Chair, this is Larry,
31 before you deliberate.

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

34

35 MR. BEMIS: I got to thinking about a
36 situation where we're in a similar situation here in
37 Yakutat with shrimp.

38

39 We had too many fishermen fishing in
40 the area so at one given time they had 100 pots or 75
41 pots, unlimited fishing time and pretty much in a short
42 time the outside boats came in and they cleaned things
43 up. So we had to put a restriction on the limit per
44 month so it wouldn't be feasible to bring in all the
45 boats to wipe out the shrimp. So over a period of time
46 we wound up putting -- there is commercial fishing and
47 there's only allowable so much a month and there is a
48 winter fishery that fishes one area and there's a
49 summer fishery that fishes another area. So there's no

50

0137

1 areas being fished commercially year-round. And this
2 brought our shrimp in for the people that are fishing,
3 viable, just not to harvest the same area over and over
4 and this gave the subsistence user and the commercial
5 user plenty of shrimp to have. But when you had 75 per
6 boat with -- back then you were allowed two permits on
7 one boat, they don't allow that now, you're looking at
8 150 pots a day and it only took a few boats a year or
9 so before it was just -- there was nobody getting
10 anything.

11

12 So that being said, instead of total
13 restrictions, I think you close an area until it
14 rebounds and the user, you know, you could use it on a
15 subsistence and your commercial would fish somewhere
16 else and then it would come back in later on and be
17 able to fish in an area that you're having a problem
18 with. And that way you're continuously fishing and you
19 rebuild the stocks in the areas that have been depleted
20 instead of just totally wiping out the resource where
21 nobody gets anything.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
26 Larry. Anybody else want to comment on this.

27

28 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is
29 Albert.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Albert.

32

33 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
34 I think this is a well thought out and a well planned
35 plan for their area and I've always been a supporter of
36 people that want to do what's best for their community
37 and their tribal members. This is a good example of
38 it. We've tried to close crabbing around here for
39 years now because once the commercial guys come and
40 dump 300 pots in the bay that bay is done. In the
41 future this will be a good example for Department of
42 Fish and Game to look at as Hydaburg manages the area
43 and see what the resource looks like when you allow a
44 community to manage the resource within their own
45 backyard versus having -- and don't get me wrong, this
46 has got to be -- something has to be done different. I
47 had a real good friend of mine, every time -- I worked
48 on his boat and he said, Albert, that's insane, which
49 means you're doing the same thing over and over and

50

0138

1 expecting a different result and I think that's the
2 management that's being used, and all we're asking for
3 is to change the way of thinking, this isn't working,
4 allowing one commercial boat to come into an area as
5 the one gentleman said, you dump 100 pots, give me 10
6 pots to use, I got to pull them by hand so there's no
7 way I'm going to wipe out a system, as far as shrimp
8 goes. My son and I have tried and we're just not good
9 shrimp fishermen, I guess. But my point being is it'd
10 be a good thing to look at in the future on how this
11 has worked out for them.

12

13 So I think supporting it is not going
14 to hurt the resource, if anything, we're going to help
15 it and be able to see documentation in the future on
16 what happens when you allow a local area management
17 plan.

18

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.
22 Anybody else.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I'd like to
27 say that I would like to support this proposal. I
28 recognize that it's asking for a closed area and
29 anytime anybody proposes a closure it always generates
30 a lot of opposition, commercial users, but in my
31 experience there have been numerous, what I consider to
32 be reasonable closures around communities to protect
33 resources that has been opposed by commercial users,
34 yet usually as it turns out the impacts don't tend to
35 be as catastrophic as what the opposition is afraid of.
36 So I think for the most part they've been reasonable
37 and effective, therefore I would support this proposal
38 as well.

39

40 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Frank.

43

44 MR. WRIGHT: In Hoonah we have a
45 closed off area for commercial crabbing just behind the
46 island here, and then it goes from there then across
47 Game Creek, and it's been pretty successful. It's been
48 keeping the commercial out of there. I don't use pots
49 anymore, every time when commercial opened I used to

50

0139

1 lose pots because they used to borrow, but it seems to
2 be pretty successful for the community to be able to
3 just go around the island here and get their crab.

4
5 I would be in support of this.

6
7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.

10 Anyone else.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are you ready for
15 the question.

16
17 MS. NEEDHAM: Question.

18
19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: The question's
20 been called for. The motion was to support Proposal
21 177 proposed by Anthony Christianson for a area closure
22 to protect shrimp stocks near Hydaburg. So Frank if
23 you want to do a roll call vote on this.

24
25 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

26
27 Ian Johnson.

28
29 MR. JOHNSON: Yes.

30
31 MR. WRIGHT: Cathy Needham.

32
33 MS. NEEDHAM: Yes.

34
35 MR. WRIGHT: Larry Bemis.

36
37 MR. BEMIS: Yes.

38
39 MR. WRIGHT: Harvey Kitka.

40
41 MR. KITKA: Yes.

42
43 MR. WRIGHT: Harold Robbins.

44
45 MR. ROBBINS: Yes.

46
47 MR. WRIGHT: Don Hernandez.

48
49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

50

0140

1 MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

2

3 MR. HOWARD: Yes.

4

5 MR. WRIGHT: Bob Schroeder.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MR. WRIGHT: Bob Schroeder.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MR. WRIGHT: Jim Slater.

14

15 MR. SLATER: Yes.

16

17 MR. WRIGHT: Michael Douville.

18

19 MR. DOUVILLE: No.

20

21 MR. WRIGHT: Cal Casipit.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MR. WRIGHT: Cal.

26

27 MR. CASIPIT: Yeah.

28

29 MR. WRIGHT: Frank Wright votes yes.

30 Motion passes.

31

32 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Thank you guys for
33 your support.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah. So Tony we
36 have kind of a time specific discussion, it's going to
37 be the wolf discussion, I don't know if you were
38 interested in listening in on that one but that's at
39 4:00 o'clock. We're not going to have time to
40 deliberate on your second proposal this afternoon but
41 we've had a pretty good discussion on it, appreciate
42 you being here for that. I do want to ask you, though,
43 I think you brought up those two proposals, were there
44 any other proposals that you wanted to bring before the
45 Council that are of interest to you?

46

47 MR. CHRISTIANSON: I just want to say
48 thank you for your support today and appreciate your
49 guys hard work and I'll do my best to stay on for the
50

0141

1 wolf discussion. Thank you, very much.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, great.

4 Yeah, we're going to go to that next. So we got a

5 little start on our fisheries proposals, that's good.

6 I think the Council kind of sees what we need to do now

7 when we dig back into these tomorrow. So DeAnna, do

8 you have Tom Schumacher.

9

10 MS. PERRY: I believe Mr. Schumacher

11 just joined us. I just admitted him through Teams and

12 I would just doublecheck to make sure that Scott Shuler

13 is also on the line.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right, Shuler as

16 well.

17

18 MR. SHULER: Yes, I'm on the line.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Good. So

21 if somebody could start the next item of business, what

22 it's about and what the Council needs to do today.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, I

27 think I know what the Council needs to do, we need to

28 listen to a presentation from Department of Fish and

29 Game and our District Ranger, on what's going on with

30 the latest wolf harvest and seasons and then we'll have

31 before us a potential comment on a proposal before the

32 State Board of Game dealing with sealing requirements.

33 So.....

34

35 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, this is DeAnna.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, DeAnna.

38

39 MS. PERRY: I just wanted to remind the

40 Council that by email of March 12th I did send out some

41 last minute supplemental items on the wolves and we're

42 basically going to be looking at possibly sending a

43 comment to the Board of Game at their meeting this

44 Thursday. So I know Mr. Schumacher and Mr. Shuler have

45 a lot of information to give us regarding wolves and so

46 I would just remind everybody that there is a current

47 public comment period open and we could put something

48 in prior to their deliberations of the Board of Game on

49 March 18th.

50

0142

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah. So it's
2 4:00 o'clock, we usually like to try and wrap up our
3 meetings by 35:00 but if this gets into a detailed
4 discussion I'd consider going past 5:00 but let's see
5 how we do. So are we ready for the presentation.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MS. PERRY: Mr. Schumacher, are you
10 also on the phone.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 (Teleconference interference -
15 participants not muted - echo - typing)

16
17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sorry, DeAnna, I
18 may have misheard you, I thought you said he was there
19 but maybe not.

20
21 MS. PERRY: He is on Teams, I'm just
22 reminding him to call in on the audio line.

23
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

25
26 MS. PERRY: I see that he's popped into
27 Teams.

28
29 (Pause)

30
31 MS. PERRY: Tom, if you're on Teams I
32 just wanted to remind you you'll need to call into the
33 audio line and I just posted that in the chat box.

34
35 (Pause)

36
37 MS. PERRY: Tom Schumacher, are you
38 with us?

39
40 MR. SCHUMACHER: I'm here but I'm not
41 hear yet on the phone line.

42
43 MS. PERRY: Okay, thanks. Just wanted
44 to make sure that we had you.

45
46 (Teleconference interference -
47 participants not muted - echo)

48
49 (Pause)

50

0143

1 MS. PERRY: Tom, if you've joined us on
2 the phone I think we're ready whenever you are.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, while we're
7 waiting on Mr. Schumacher, I also wanted to note that
8 in the meeting books on Page 14, we do have the news
9 release regarding the wolf harvest season closure date
10 announcement. So there's a couple different resources
11 for this agenda item.

12
13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
14 DeAnna.

15
16 (Pause)

17
18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Maybe this is a
19 good opportunity to maybe stand up, stretch our legs a
20 little bit while we're waiting for Mr. Schumacher.

21
22 (Pause)

23
24 MR. WRIGHT: Hey, DeAnna, my phone went
25 dead and now I got another one so I lost where we're
26 at.

27
28 MS. PERRY: We're just in a holding
29 pattern, Frank, we're waiting for Tom Schumacher to
30 call in. He's on Teams but for some reason he's having
31 an issue getting on the conference line and I know the
32 conference lines have been kind of been crazy for the
33 last couple of days and I can certainly hear the echos
34 today. We haven't quite experienced it to this effect
35 in the past.

36
37 MR. WRIGHT: So what page does it start
38 on, this wolf thing?

39
40 MS. PERRY: It's on Page 14 in your
41 meeting book.

42
43 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

44
45 MS. PERRY: And I also sent some
46 supplemental materials on March 12th by email.

47
48 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, I saw that, thank
49 you.

50

0144

1 (Pause)

2

3 MS. PERRY: Tom, are you on now?

4

5 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yes, it finally
6 accepted my passcode digits.

7

8 MS. PERRY: Great.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, hi, Tom, it
11 can be difficult getting connected sometimes but
12 appreciate you being available this afternoon. Sorry
13 we weren't able to get to you at 1:00 o'clock, but
14 appreciate that you can be here at the end of the day.
15 So the floor is yours.

16

17 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay, thank you, very
18 much, Chairman Hernandez. For the record and for the
19 new members of the Council, my name is Tom Schumacher.
20 I'm the Regional Supervisor for the Division of
21 Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and
22 Game in Southeast Alaska, Game Management Unit 1
23 through 5. I'm going to give an update on wolves but
24 before I do that I want to talk a little bit about
25 deer because you can't really talk about wolves without
26 talking about deer.

27

28 I wanted to kind of hit four main broad
29 topics in my discussion. And I thought it would be
30 good to stop and ask for questions after each topic
31 just so we can get those out of the way and you don't
32 have to remember your questions until the end.

33

34 So we'll talk about deer harvest, and,
35 you know, we have our 2019 harvest data available now;
36 2020 data won't be available until the middle of
37 summer. After that I want to talk about Unit 2 wolf
38 harvest and population status. And then I want to
39 touch on our proposal to the Board of Game for a short
40 sealing period for Unit 2 for wolves. And the last
41 thing I want to talk about is the Endangered Species
42 Act Petition, the Department's participation and what
43 we see as the future course there.

44

45 So to get things started off I'll talk
46 a little bit about 2019 deer harvest. I know we've
47 heard a little bit today from Council members about
48 their experiences and the experiences of their friends
49 this past season. I wish we had more updated data but

50

0145

1 we're still taking in hunter reports. In 2019 in Unit
2 4 we had about 6,000 deer harvested, 75 percent bucks.
3 That's up a little bit over 2017 and '18, and, you
4 know, we don't know of any deer die-offs or major
5 changes in the population going into 2020. In Unit 3
6 2019 both the first year was a five week season on
7 Mitkof Island and the Lindenberg Peninsula Kupreanof
8 Island, and it had been a two week one buck season
9 there for along time. The Board of Game, in 2019
10 approved a proposal to expand that season to five
11 weeks, that includes about a week of the rut in early
12 November. So hunters were pretty excited about that.
13 And we had an increase in harvest in both areas as you
14 might expect. Harvest on Kupreanof Island, Lindenberg
15 Peninsula went up about 70 percent, so from about 131
16 bucks to 223 bucks. Harvests on Mitkof Island grew
17 much more than that about two and a half times over the
18 previous year so it went from 57 bucks to 141 bucks.
19 We're going to monitor this pretty carefully to ensure
20 it's sustainable, you know, with the community of
21 Petersburg on Mitkof Island and an extensive road
22 system, I guess we'll see if that level of harvest and
23 the deer population can, you know, can stand that level
24 of harvest over a five week season or if, you know, we
25 need to amend that. But we won't make any decisions on
26 that until the Board of Game meeting, which our next
27 Board of Game meeting is scheduled for 2022. So
28 January of 2022. Down to Unit 1A around Ketchikan
29 area, we had about 850 bucks harvested, this was the
30 highest in a very long time, probably at least 20
31 years. Gravina Island, which is part of Unit 1A, we
32 had a little bit of an increase there but really the
33 bulk of the increase was on Revillagigedo where it went
34 from an estimated harvest in 2018 just shy of 400 to
35 over 500 in 2019. The number of hunters and the amount
36 of hunting effort was up in both areas over recent
37 years and the effort to harvest deer was down over
38 recent years. We don't know how much of the additional
39 hunting effort is due to people not going to -- from
40 Ketchikan not going over to Prince of Wales due to the
41 curtailment of the bag limit for non-Federally-
42 qualified users. But it is possible some of that due
43 to people trying to stay home and hunt on Revillagigedo
44 rather than go over to Prince of Wales. And then I'll
45 just stop -- or finish up with Unit 2. The reported
46 harvest in 2019 was about the same as 2018, it was
47 about 2,000 bucks. So that's below the State's harvest
48 objective which is about 2,700 bucks, for deer, but
49 that level of harvest 2,000 is not unprecedented, it's
50

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1 similar to a period in the late '90s and early 2000s
2 where harvest was generally similar. The hunter and
3 hunter effort in Unit 2 was lower than in recent years,
4 and, again, that could be due to the people from
5 Ketchikan not going over there. We haven't dug into
6 the data deep enough to really try to figure that out.
7 Hunter effort to harvest a deer was 4.4 days, the long-
8 term average is 4.2 days so hunter effort appears to be
9 about average. Let's see change in harvest and effort,
10 could be due to, you know, fewer people from Ketchikan
11 coming over, we don't -- haven't looked at it to see if
12 there was actually a change among Unit 2 residents or
13 not.

14
15 And that's about what I can tell you
16 about deer, does anybody have any questions.

17
18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good summary, Tom,
19 thank you.

20
21 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay, hearing no
22 questions I'll move on. So Unit 2 wolf harvest and the
23 status of that population. The reported harvest in
24 2020, so just this past fall/winter, was 68 wolves
25 during a three week season and that follows a record
26 harvest of 165 wolves the previous year with an eight
27 week season.

28
29 We're getting used to the new harvest
30 management strategy of managing by season lengths and I
31 think, you know, it's hard to justify a season again
32 after what happened in 2019 but I think overall the
33 harvest strategy is working out pretty well. We have a
34 fall population objective of 150 to 200 wolves. Just
35 the fall 2019 estimate -- population estimate of 316
36 was close to the true number of wolves because we never
37 know the true number of wolves but our population
38 estimate going into the fall 2019 was 316. If you
39 remove 165 from that you end up with about 150 wolves
40 remaining after trapping season. So if you recall the
41 population objective for Unit 2 is 150 to 200 in the
42 fall population so we think we're in pretty good shape
43 moving to the fall 2020, we're likely to be within or
44 perhaps above the population objective. Following a
45 harvest of 68 we think we're probably back in the
46 objective and well positioned to be there again for the
47 coming year. And that's sort of the record that we
48 wanted to build -- I mean prior to establishing this
49 population objective we had no real bar to measure
50

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1 success for management. Now that we have a population
2 objective we can say our management has resulted in the
3 population being within this objective range now,
4 probably two years ago, and hopefully going into the
5 future, and that would be an argument to say the
6 population is being sustainably managed.

7

8 Another indicator of the stability in
9 -- sustainability of the population is our hair board
10 estimates. You know we do roughly -- well, almost
11 exactly the same effort of trying to collect hair
12 during the fall.....

13

14 (Teleconference interference -
15 participants not muted - echo)

16

17 MR. SCHUMACHER:the Department's
18 efforts and the Hydaburg Cooperative Association's
19 efforts, for the last three years, we've gotten about
20 between 575 and 600 hair samples from canines, that's
21 all canines not necessarily wolves, so there may be
22 some dogs in there, but we've collected the same number
23 of hair samples virtually for the last three years,
24 which (indiscernible - disruption) the population is
25 relatively stable.

26

27 So we think we're in a pretty good
28 position there in terms of population management.

29

30 And does anybody have any questions
31 about Unit 2 wolf population status.

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I just maybe have
34 one question, Tom, this is Don. You say the
35 population, you know, seems to be holding stable.....

36

37 (Teleconference interference -
38 participants not muted - overlapping conversations)

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:you have to
41 kind of consider the timeframe, it wasn't that long ago
42 that the population estimate was well below 100 as I
43 recall and then it went to over 300, but -- so it's
44 kind of -- you kind of have to put some context, I
45 guess, on a stable population. I don't know, any
46 comments on that.

47

48 MR. SCHUMACHER: Well, there's a lot of
49 unknowns here. You know wolves are a species with a

50

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1 high reproductive potential and the Unit 2 population
2 appears to be productive so, you know, wolves can
3 change numbers considerably over the course of the year
4 so that's one moving part.

5

6 The population estimate is just that,
7 it's an estimate. It is not the true number of wolves.
8 We provide a measure of error around every estimate
9 and, you know, that says that -- this is incorrect
10 statistically but it helps people understand what
11 (indiscernible - echo) we're roughly 95 percent certain
12 the true population exists in our confidence limits, so
13 for fall of 2019, you know, we had a point estimate of
14 316 wolves, however, given the data collected the
15 number could have been as low as 250 or as high as 398.
16 So as you get farther away of the point estimates the
17 likelihood of any of those numbers being the true
18 population declines dramatically. So given the data
19 collected, and that's always the caveat, we believe the
20 population as around 316, it probably, you know, wasn't
21 exactly 316 but it was roughly within 30 or 40 wolves
22 of that, and that goes with every estimate that we
23 have. You know the estimate is an estimate, we provide
24 a range of possible value, it's more likely that the
25 true number is closer to the middle of the point
26 estimate than the extremes but nobody ever knows the
27 true number and we're doing the best job we can at
28 estimating and so we use the point estimate for
29 management.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Understood.

32

33 MR. SCHUMACHER: We're trying hard,
34 Don. If there are no more questions I'll move on to
35 the seven day sealing proposal.

36

37 MR. SLATER: Hi, this is Jim Slater.

38

39 MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chair, I.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, who was that
42 with a question.

43

44 MR. SLATER: Yeah, I think we were two
45 people but this is Jim Slater from Pelican.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

48

49 MR. SLATER: Just a question, when you

50

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1 reduced the population or when you took the 68 out or
2 when you took the 100 and some out in the previous
3 year, do you pay attention to the distribution across
4 the island or do you assume that the wolves are
5 redistributed and then set new regions?
6

7 MR. SCHUMACHER: Well, during the
8 sealing process trappers are asked to identify the area
9 where they caught the wolf. So we have what trappers
10 report to us. Some are comfortable reporting fairly
11 accurate locations, some would prefer to not disclose
12 locations so, you know, we have a reasonable idea of
13 the distribution of the harvest. In that year, in
14 2019, it was pretty evenly distributed across the
15 island with one area, down around (Indiscernible -
16 echo) where we had a concentration of harvest.
17

18 MR. SLATER: Okay. And do the --
19 accordingly if one area is harder hit than the others,
20 will the territory of one wolf pack shrink and another
21 one grow or will that same wolf pack reproduce and fill
22 out its ranks again quickly?
23

24 MR. SCHUMACHER: Well, we don't know,
25 you know, if entire packs were eliminated, or -- or if
26 only a couple animals were taken out. In many cases,
27 anyway. We really can't answer that question because
28 the locations aren't precise enough, however, let's
29 see, if you have a lot of harvest concentrated in one
30 area then it may take a little while for new wolves to
31 fill in that area. But given that it's a fairly
32 productive population, that doesn't appear to take very
33 long.
34

35 MR. SLATER: Okay, thank you. I was
36 just curious if you take down the population of one
37 pack dramatically, does another pack basically come in
38 and take its territory and kill those wolves or does
39 that one wolf pack hold so it's just a smaller
40 territory and then grow back from there. That was kind
41 of what I was trying to figure out.
42

43 MR. SCHUMACHER: Oh, in terms of wolf
44 behavior.
45

46 MR. SLATER: Yeah.
47

48 MR. SCHUMACHER: I don't know that I
49 can give you an answer to that, you know, in nature
50

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1 just about anything happens at least once. If there
2 are fewer wolves around, like if one pack is untouched
3 and it may bring back -- or greatly reduced, you know,
4 the larger pack may make some inclusions (ph) and take
5 over some of that territory but there's no certainty
6 that that will happen.

7

8 MR. SLATER: Okay, well, thank you.

9

10 MR. SCHROEDER: Do you got room for
11 another question, Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, is this Dennis
14 from Klawock?

15

16 MR. SCHROEDER: This is Bob.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Bob.

19

20 MR. SCHROEDER: This is Bob Schroeder.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, Bob, you're
23 back.

24

25 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes, I was able to get
26 on here. I missed a little bit of your presentation,
27 Tom, and thanks for coming before us. As you know, the
28 SERAC has spent an untold number of hours on the wolf
29 population of Prince of Wales and I'm certain we'll
30 continue to do so in the future.

31

32 We had a long discussion, as you're
33 well aware, in coming together and getting behind the
34 new -- somewhat new management plan, which we thought
35 would alleviate some of the previous problems. One
36 thing that we highlighted -- more than highlighted, it
37 was emphatically emphasized in our comments on the new
38 (indiscernible - muffled - echo) was in light of the
39 obvious (indiscernible - muffled - echo) in coming up
40 with any estimate of wolves on Prince of Wales using
41 the DNA methods, namely the DNA methods produce an
42 estimate of how many wolves may have been on Prince of
43 Wales at least a year before, we more than strongly
44 requested, demanded, suggested, I'm not sure what the
45 word is, the knowledge and experience of people who
46 actually are on Prince of Wales, around (indiscernible)
47 with wolves, looking at wolves, wandering around trying
48 to find wolves, observing wolf behavior would be
49 included. It appears that absolutely none of this has

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1 been done. And from my feeling, the Department is
2 getting further behind in actually getting up to speed
3 on including any indication of comanagement, much less
4 tribal management activities. And I would suggest that
5 had you followed our suggestion and used the
6 methodology that is local knowledge, trapper knowledge
7 in particular, perhaps you wouldn't be in such a
8 position in respect to the suit that is before the
9 Department right now and we wouldn't have to dance
10 around because people who love wolves, above all else,
11 and (indiscernible - muffled - echo) management scheme.
12

13 So I don't know I think that we just,
14 you know, roll forward endlessly, move on on out of
15 date good DNA estimates or are sole estimates for
16 wolves on Prince of Wales; I mean would you do anything
17 different, I mean it's almost like the Department of
18 Fish and Game doesn't acknowledge that there's anyone
19 on Prince of Wales who knows anything about wolves, or
20 uses wolves, or observes wolves regularly and that
21 you're relying exclusively on a good, but
22 (indiscernible - muffled - echo) qualified methodology.
23

24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thanks, Bob. Do
27 you want to comment, Tom, on that.
28

29 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, I'm afraid I
30 couldn't make out all of what Member Schroeder said, he
31 came through a little bit garbled but I think I got the
32 gist of it. I don't know the Department's position on
33 things like comanagement, I'm not -- I haven't been
34 involved in anything like that, I'm not aware of that
35 going on anywhere. The basically explicit
36 mark/recapture models based on DNA that we use is, in
37 fact, a very modern and up to date technique. And, you
38 know, we continue to refine how we apply it. I
39 understand and remember very well Member Schroeder and
40 others urging us to incorporate local knowledge into
41 estimates. We're trying to manage this wolf population
42 at a very fine scale. We're also in a highly
43 contentious environment where method matters. And I
44 don't know how to incorporate observations into what is
45 an objective method, you know, looking at taking
46 observational information which some people would say
47 is biased, in fact, we're getting sued by some of those
48 people right now and trying to incorporate into what is
49 an objective kind of science based estimate, and I
50

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1 don't know how to meld those two things. Because we're
2 trying to manage at such a fine scale, we need numbers,
3 and it's very difficult to include observational
4 information with objective information in those
5 numbers.

6
7 So I really don't know how to do that.

8
9 MR. SCHROEDER: If I could followup
10 through the Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Bob.

13
14 MR. SCHROEDER: Well, Tom, I think, you
15 know, we've talked about this a whole lot and I
16 understand where you're coming from. I will point out
17 that the Marine Mammal Commissions throughout Alaska do
18 not see local knowledge as being some sort of anecdotal
19 unscientific observational data. I will point out that
20 one of the Department's most successful planning
21 efforts concerning Northwest Arctic planning --
22 planning for the Northwest Arctic Caribou Herd, which
23 went on for years and years and may still be
24 continuing, and did incorporate local knowledge and did
25 use local observations. And I frankly feel that we're
26 way behind in Southeast, that this is just kind of a
27 real heavy handed approach, but because you haven't
28 done something, you're not trying. That there's
29 definitely are ways to incorporating local knowledge,
30 you know, we're not talking about anecdotes, we're not
31 talking about what somebody said in a coffee shop,
32 we're talking about developing methodologies, following
33 it and using that knowledge. And I don't know, I think
34 we're going to be doing this forever. The estimates --
35 the estimates produced by DNA, which I'll point out
36 again, through Forest Service support and funding, it
37 may continue through that, and that's really great, I'm
38 amazed that we could do that, they're out of date,
39 they're old. And you keep coming up with things to
40 show that virtually all the wolves have been trapped
41 that exist and we know that isn't true. And we just
42 have to get off this -- so if you could comment on that
43 and, basically, you know, I'm frankly someone who's
44 worked for 30 or 40 years dealing with indigenous,
45 subsistence and knowledge, the idea that somehow
46 there's science, which is something that happens in a
47 laboratory and then there's what local people know
48 which basically they don't know what's going on and
49 they're just biased because they either want to kill
50

0153

1 all the wolves or save all the wolves, that just
2 doesn't watch in 2020. Perhaps it was really good
3 earlier in the Colonial era, that isn't what happened
4 now, this is 2020 and we can go in different
5 directions.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MR. SHULER: Mr. Chair, this is Scott
10 Shuler. I'd like to address if I could.

11
12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure, go ahead,
13 Scott.

14
15 MR. SHULER: Wow, this is tricky
16 business, right. And I was trying to think through
17 this as I was listening to comments and I thought,
18 well, you know, from my perspective I think that we did
19 make an effort to try and meld the DNA estimates with
20 anecdotal evidence or observational evidence that we
21 heard loud and clear at the public meeting that we had
22 -- the virtual public meeting. What I remember is that
23 after we finally did get the estimate, the population
24 estimate, Tom and I talked at length about what we
25 thought would be a reasonable season length to meet the
26 population objective of between 150 and 200 wolves.
27 And we proposed, based on that conversation, a two week
28 season. So after that proposal we had the public
29 meeting and most definitely heard loud and clear that
30 there were a lot of folks who disagreed with the
31 estimate and felt strongly that there were a number --
32 there were a lot more wolves than the DNA estimate was
33 accounting for. And so in the end, after, again, Tom
34 and I coming to the table and talking about this, we
35 did extend the season a week. Now, that may not be --
36 that extension may not have been as much as some folks
37 would like to have seen but I do remember the
38 conversation basically including, you know, there's a
39 lot of folks on the island that are adamant there are a
40 number of more wolves on the island than the estimate
41 would suggest. And so those observational -- that
42 observational data did give us a higher comfort in
43 extending our initial two week season one additional
44 week.

45
46 So -- and, again, I recognize that the
47 additional week may not have been as long as some folks
48 would like to have seen but I guess my point is that I
49 do believe that we did take into account folks'
50

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1 observations and their experience here on the island
2 and what they expressed during that phone call and we
3 extended the season a week.

4

5 So I just wanted to make that point.

6

7 MR. SCHROEDER: Can I do one followup,
8 Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Bob.

11

12 MR. SCHROEDER: I understand that you
13 made some efforts in this direction, what I'm saying is
14 that what you put before us is that there's science and
15 management on which, I'm not sure how much we spend on
16 that every year, look at wolves on Prince of Wales,
17 it's a whole lot, I wouldn't be surprised if there were
18 a couple of hundred thousand dollars or maybe a quarter
19 of a million dollars in a year where you're doing
20 intense sampling but there -- is there anything that
21 qualifies as research or science in using traditional
22 local knowledge and the knowledge of hunters and
23 trappers. That's way, way different than having a
24 meeting and then incorporating, with good faith, some
25 of the things you heard. There are ways to conduct
26 research on these things, and if you don't know them
27 you got to talk to somebody who does wildlife
28 management because, you know, we can't keep doing
29 things the way they were done in 1950 with DNA
30 psychology added on.

31

32 So I'm just registering that finding
33 out, incorporating local knowledge is not like a public
34 meeting and hearing from people who show up, that's not
35 the be all and end all. But there are research methods
36 to get at that in an organized and sensible way. And
37 it's like stuff gets done all the time and, again,
38 reiterating what I said, that perhaps if you and he had
39 done that, we, the Council, would support that and the
40 Forest Service could be involved, you'd have a way
41 better -- a much more defensible management plan and
42 you'd be less likely to lose in court.

43

44 So perhaps we can consider that.
45 That's my last comment on this.

46

47 Thank you, so much.

48

49 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is

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1 Albert.

2

3

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Albert.

4

5

6 MR. HOWARD: And anybody could answer
7 this question, isn't it 2021 -- okay, I think I
8 answered that myself. But I'm sitting here listening,
9 it's interesting, on the one hand you're not sure how
10 to incorporate traditional knowledge and on the other
11 hand you heard the gentleman just say that they
12 actually have done it before, so my question is what
13 was the result of extending the season an extra week
14 after you've heard enough people say that there's
15 plenty of wolves around, did that harm the wolf
16 population or did that help manage it better, because
17 you've just incorporated the testimony from people
18 saying that there was a lot of wolves around and they
19 didn't have hair boards or any of that stuff, for
20 cameras, they just told you and based on what they told
21 you, the season was extended one week. So what was the
22 result of the extension?

22

23

24

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Can you answer
that Tom?

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MR. SCHUMACHER: Well, we'll find that
out this coming fall when the 2020 population estimate
is done. The signs that are out there suggest not.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Other questions

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1 from Council members on this topic.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Questions or
6 comments.

7

8 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman, I have a
9 question.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
12 Mike.

13

14 MR. DOUVILLE: I guess this would be
15 for the Feds at some level, the District Ranger or
16 higher up, is the Proposal 194, I don't think we have
17 that proposal on a Federal level yet, but I guess my
18 question is this, can a sealing period be modified via
19 the designated authority by the District Ranger or some
20 -- administratively. That would be my question at this
21 point, without having to go through the proposal
22 process.

23

24 MR. SHULER: Mr. Chair, this is Scott
25 Shuler again. If I could address that question.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
28 Scott, it sounds like it's a question for you.

29

30 MR. SHULER: Okay. Yeah, thanks for
31 the question, Mike. And I'll ask Terry Suminski to
32 weigh in here as well if he has additional input. But
33 my understanding is that the delegation of authority
34 that I've been given does not allow for that to occur
35 so there would be -- I would not be able to effectively
36 change the sealing season based on the delegation of
37 authority I've received.

38

39 Terry, would you like to add to that.

40

41 MR. SUMINSKI: Yeah, through the Chair.
42 Mr. Douville. My strict reading of the way the
43 delegation is written does not allow that. It's
44 specific to setting seasons, season lengths, opening
45 and closing, it doesn't mention other methods and
46 means. Unless someone at OSM could correct me, I
47 believe we'd have to go through a Federal proposal
48 process to change the sealing requirements at this
49 point.

50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. Any
4 followup on that Mike.

5

6 MR. DOUVILLE: No. It was just, you
7 know, we lag behind, and I think there's a call for
8 proposals at this time. But I have no more questions
9 at this point.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, okay,
12 thanks, Mike. That's something we're going to have to
13 consider here coming up is the proposal on the sealing
14 requirement. Tom, I guess I have a question, maybe
15 more of a comment, but you might be able to help me out
16 here.

17

18 Regards to, you know, what Bob
19 Schroeder was saying there, I'm kind of getting the
20 impression that you're pretty much constrained right
21 now in what you can do by these Endangered Species
22 Petitions that -- I heard you say that, you know, the
23 level of scrutiny that you're under requires that you
24 follow some pretty strict scientific procedures and be
25 able to justify your management plan, you know, to a
26 higher authority essentially, that's going to be
27 overseeing this whole wolf situation. So I guess
28 that's my impression.

29

30 My question to you is, I'm just kind of
31 wondering, you know, you seem pretty confident in this
32 DNA analysis technique. I know we've heard testimony
33 before, you know, Mr. Douville has brought out some
34 pretty pertinent observations of what he thinks happens
35 over time with these hair boards and DNA sampling
36 techniques, just based on the fact that wolves are
37 pretty intelligent creatures and you keep doing the
38 same thing over and over again, they get wise to it and
39 start avoiding your sampling sites. Seems like a
40 pretty good observation to me. And I just wonder, in
41 your opinion, how do you value the local knowledge that
42 you hear in regards to the wolves, do you feel that
43 it's pretty accurate, do you think it could be
44 incorporated into a management strategy if you weren't
45 so constrained by outside influences? I don't know if
46 you care to comment on that.

47

48 MR. SCHUMACHER: Well, my eventual hope
49 for the new management strategy, which isn't quite as

50

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1 new as it used to be, is to have a relatively stable
2 harvest and stable population where we really only need
3 to do a population estimate every year or two or three,
4 and otherwise we rely more on local observations. I
5 don't know if that's ever going to happen given the
6 level of controversy surrounding this population. You
7 know this one is really in the spotlight.

8
9 I gave a talk in Craig before the 2019
10 season where we first implemented the new strategy and,
11 you know, it's an eight week season. But I encouraged
12 moderation because the population is under such
13 scrutiny, and, you know, I warned people that we'd have
14 another Endangered Species Petition if there was, you
15 know, a whole lot of harvest, which is what people were
16 talking about doing at that meeting. The history kind
17 of bears that out now. Because we're trying to manage
18 what is a closed population, so immigration really
19 isn't an issue on Prince of Wales. You know, Unit 2 is
20 essentially a separate world from other wolf
21 populations in Southeast. We have a population
22 objective which is 50 wolves wide that we're trying to
23 hit. I don't know how observational information can
24 provide the precision and some measure of confidence in
25 the number of wolves that will be accepted by all
26 parties, from people on both sides of the issue. I
27 think that, you know, people have expressed skepticism
28 of this method and these estimates and I think really
29 no one knows the true number of wolves so nobody knows
30 if there are more or fewer than our estimate says
31 really, in a way that anyone who looks at -- you know,
32 other parties will accept as verifiable. So the
33 confidence in our estimate really depends on confidence
34 in the method. I know Mr. Douville and others have
35 raised questions about the method and when we got
36 together last fall in the (indiscernible - echo) garage
37 at the Craig District Office, I promised to put
38 together educational material that would better explain
39 many of the questions because frankly it's an abstract
40 and somewhat complicated process. We are working on
41 that now and I hope to have a draft presentation that
42 should be ready late this month, early next month.
43 Once we have that draft, I'll be in touch with some
44 Unit 2 residents to talk about that and market test it,
45 you know, what do you see as shortcomings, what do you
46 see is missing or things you don't understand, so for
47 me confidence in the estimates is all about confidence
48 in the method.

49
50

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1 And that's kind of where we're going.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right, and I do
4 understand that. I think one of the new -- one of the
5 more relevant pieces of information here is this
6 starting to become more obvious here in the last few
7 years is just how the local observations have been so
8 greatly enhanced by technology. And I'm talking about
9 all the game cameras that are being placed all around
10 the country now by individuals, I mean it's not
11 something I could have foreseen five, 10 years ago but,
12 you know, it's new technology and it's available to
13 anybody and I think it's really enhancing the
14 observability of wildlife. And I know you're probably
15 looking at it, I know those techniques were used on
16 Mitkof Island, in particular, to kind of assess the
17 deer population before you increased the season there
18 and it seemed to be a pretty valuable management tool,
19 so, yeah, I think -- yeah, I guess, I hope moving
20 forward that maybe we can get a little closer to what
21 Mr. Schroeder was proposing and, yeah, it'd be good for
22 everybody involved, for the wolves as well.

23

24 So I don't know, Tom, any last comments
25 on that.

26

27 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman, Mike
28 Douville.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Mike.

31

32 MR. DOUVILLE: Can I go ahead?

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
35 Mike.

36

37 MR. DOUVILLE: So I don't have issue
38 with the DNA samples they are getting, I mean that
39 tells you quite a bit. But to me, knowing wolves and
40 how they react, is that the rub in this unit is most of
41 the people in the know think that there is more wolves
42 than the Department is coming up with with their DNA. I
43 agree with them somewhat, and that's what the issue is
44 really. So I'm confident in the numbers that the
45 Department's coming up with even though I believe
46 they're quite conservative so, you know, I think the
47 type they're using -- they're coming up with a number
48 but everybody here thinks that it's low, including
49 myself. You know, I think there's -- particularly
50

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1 because we have not been able to see how they
2 compensate for wolves that they do not collect DNA off
3 of that are running in the pack, or singly or however.
4 So I know there's significant numbers that do not roll
5 on these hair boards. The ones that you do you can get
6 a solid number off of there's no question about that.
7 But we've been asking for a long time to see the
8 formula as to how many they estimate that do not roll
9 in there to get their population number or do they
10 include any that may not be hitting the hair board.
11 And that's the problem that most of the guys here have
12 issue with.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: An opportunity to
17 comment if you'd like Tom.

18

19 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Yeah, I'm
20 hoping to have some answers to Mike's questions in the
21 next two or three weeks to, like I said, in a market
22 test, and start to explain this. Like I said this is a
23 little bit complicated in that.....

24

25 (Teleconference interference -
26 participants not muted - echo - overlapping
27 conversations)

28

29 MR. SCHUMACHER: You know it's going to
30 take a little bit of effort on behalf of Unit 2
31 residents to learn and, you know, it's taken a
32 considerable effort on our part to come up with ways to
33 teach. But, you know, we're certainly more than
34 willing to make that effort and, you know, there's
35 three people are working on that presentation right now
36 so the goal is to have a short presentation, kind of
37 like a PowerPoint presentation but to also have a
38 number of the individual pages that would serve as
39 stand-alone handouts for people to take home.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
42 Tom, maybe we should move on, you have a portion on --
43 an update on what's going on with the Endangered
44 Species Act, maybe we could move to that now.

45

46 MR. SCHUMACHER: I also have the seven
47 day sealing proposal, would you like me to talk about
48 that as well?

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

2

3 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay. Do you have a
4 preference in order?

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Not really.

7

8 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay. The seven day
9 sealing period is what's up next in my notes so let's
10 go there. After we eliminated the 14 day sealing
11 period in 2019 we realized there's an unforeseen
12 consequence and that is that when wolves are removed
13 from the population is important information for the
14 population estimate. The population model, which is
15 just a mathematical equation, you know, expect wolves
16 to be there to be detected at the other hair board
17 stations unless it's told they're removed. So with a
18 two week season period, every two weeks we could say,
19 well, these wolves were removed. Now, with the current
20 sealing period we can't do that anymore and that
21 affects what's called the probability of detection. So
22 that it actually depresses the possibility of detection
23 and the affect of depressing that is unknown, it could
24 go either way in terms of eventual population
25 estimates. But what we know it does is it takes
26 information away from the model and you want to do the
27 opposite, you want to bring information into a model.

28

29 So following the 2019 trapping season,
30 the Commissioner instructed us to bring a proposal to
31 the Board of Game that would get us the best
32 information possible for the population estimation
33 model. The one area where we could improve on things
34 was the sealing period. So we put together a proposal
35 for a seven day sealing period that will be heard this
36 Thursday at the Board of Game meeting. And the request
37 from the Commissioner was for something that would get
38 us the best information and it's also feasible. We
39 believe seven days is feasible because there are
40 sealers in Craig, Klawock, Thorne Bay and Coffman Cove.
41 But this is -- the Board of Game is a public forum and
42 I think they'd be very receptive to Unit 2 trapper
43 comments on this.

44

45 So I encourage people to tune into the
46 Board of Game meeting on Thursday. I realize Member
47 Douville won't be able to because he'll be in this
48 meeting, but if there are other trappers in Unit 2 you
49 might want to encourage them to call into that meeting
50

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1 and express their views on that proposal.

2

3 So that's essentially where that
4 proposal came from. And it depends on, you know, the
5 Board's opinion on whether, you know, they think seven
6 days is feasible or not and, if not, what is.

7

8 So I encourage people to participate in
9 that public process.

10

11 Beyond looking at just a date the
12 animal is removed, a short sealing period also informs
13 wolf movement. So we mark wolves the first time they
14 roll on a hair board, that's considering marking that
15 wolf because they have very (indiscernible - echo)
16 identification. Population estimates are reliant on
17 recaptures. So after it's marked, catch any --
18 detecting it again with other hair boards or when a
19 trapper harvests the animal. Because the distance the
20 wolves move in that period also informs population
21 estimates and the more the shorter the period to have
22 between checks, between, you know, trapping checks or
23 hair board checks, the more refined information you
24 have on wolf movement. And that's better information
25 to bring into the model. So it's all about improving
26 the output of that population estimation model.

27

28 And I think that's what I had to say
29 about the seven day sealing period proposal. And
30 obviously if -- you know, we will be submitting a
31 proposal to the Board of Game -- or excuse me, to the
32 Southeast Regional Advisory Council and that proposal
33 will be based on whatever the Board of Game adopts.

34

35 Now, if there's any other questions on
36 the seven day sealing proposal I'll be happy to answer
37 them.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any questions from
40 the Council.

41

42 MR. SLATER: Mr. Chair, this is Jim
43 Slater from Pelican.

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Jim.

46

47 MR. SLATER: Excuse me, but I'm new and
48 uninformed on this matter but I'm curious. I've heard
49 the argument for the seven day sealing motion -- or

50

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1 proposal, but I'm not sure, is it just purely a
2 convenience issue for keeping it at 30 days, what is
3 the argument for that, just convenience?
4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I don't know if
6 Tom wants to answer that or a more experienced trapper,
7 Mr. Douville wants to answer that. What would be the
8 argument against the seven day sealing requirement.
9

10 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman, Mike
11 Douville.
12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Mike.
14

15 MR. DOUVILLE: The only way you could
16 know that even if you sealed the wolf and they plucked
17 some hair off of it, it's my understanding that all
18 these samples go in at the same time at the end of the
19 season so it's not like from week to week you're going
20 to be able to compare this hair with a catalog of DNA
21 hair that they have to be able to track these wolves in
22 practically real time. So if all the DNA is going in,
23 you might know what week you caught it in but that's
24 not going to help you in-season at all. Anyway, that's
25 the way I see it. And it's not a problem here if you
26 have a group that has been cooperative, they don't
27 believe in the Department's science so they think that
28 the estimate is way too low. And there's a healthy
29 population because you catch as many in 2019 and then
30 you're catching at the same, if you will, in 2020, so
31 my experience with wolves, once you've trapped them,
32 the next year they're going to be smarter but it seems
33 like guys are doing just as well which indicates that
34 the population is pretty healthy.
35

36 But I don't think -- I would support
37 sealing at the end of the season within seven days but,
38 you know, the sealing sheets go by month, they don't go
39 by days, the same sealing sheets you've used for quite
40 a few years and it goes by month so there's never any
41 request to go by a day in the month, it's just by a
42 month. I wouldn't ask a subsistence user or trapper to
43 do it weekly but I don't think it's unreasonable to ask
44 them to do it within seven days of the end of the
45 season since our seasons are so short, I wouldn't
46 anticipate it being more than three weeks this coming
47 year, or perhaps even less, so I think it's -- in my
48 opinion it looks like a back door effort to try to get
49 a weekly count of how many wolves are taken, which
50

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1 there's nothing wrong with that, but I don't think
2 you're going to get the cooperation you would hope to
3 get. What I would ask of the trappers, or knowing one,
4 some of them would cooperate just as plain and simple
5 is ask them to report when they do catch one. You have
6 a certain that's not going to and they're going to do
7 everything that they can to not play ball, if you will.
8 But some of them are straight up and would be
9 forthcoming and that, to me, would be more valuable
10 than force somebody to do that.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good points, Mike.
13 I don't know, Tom, if you want to comment on that
14 question.

15

16 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yes, I do. I think
17 that Mike brought up some interesting points. The
18 first is, this is not an attempt at in-season
19 monitoring. That's what we used to do under the old
20 harvest management strategy, we're not doing that
21 anymore. If the season's open for three weeks, the
22 season's open for three weeks, we're not going to close
23 it down early, unless I'm told to by the Commissioner
24 or something, but that's really not the goal here. The
25 goal here is to gather information about wolf movement
26 and when wolves are removed from the population.

27

28 Yes, all hair is sent in at the end of
29 the season, however, the sealer can note the day or a
30 period when you caught the wolf at a (indiscernible -
31 echo) finer than a month. If you seal a wolf on a
32 certain day and the regulation is you have to seal
33 within seven days, we assume that wolf was recovered
34 within the previous seven days of the day it was
35 sealed. So that's how we work in the timing factor.

36

37 In terms of DNA measurements, you know,
38 if we know when that individual was harvested and have
39 a general location of where it was harvested and we
40 have, you know, a discreet period, however many days
41 when it was harvested then you can track their
42 movements, but we don't know that until, you know, the
43 next summer when we get our DNA results back so it's
44 not about in-season movement, it's about movements of
45 some wolves in the previous season. This, I hope that
46 we will be able to explain in our presentation and I
47 hope to show to you and some others in the next few
48 weeks to make this understandable. But the goal of a
49 short sealing period here is to get better information

50

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1 for estimates.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Well.....

4

5 MR. SLATER: Thank you to both of you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is there a
8 followup Jim.

9

10 MR. SLATER: No, that's more than
11 enough, thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Any other
14 Council members.

15

16 MR. CASIPIT: Well, this is Cal
17 Casipit. I just wanted to get something -- be real
18 clear about something. Basically the seven day
19 sealing, you know, proposal is to basically
20 (indiscernible - echo) improve the statistical
21 reliability of the DNA estimates through these hair
22 (indiscernible - echo), correct, I mean I'm familiar
23 with mark/recapture studies, but if you don't have
24 enough recaptures or if you -- yeah, basically if you
25 don't have enough recaptures you don't have a good
26 confidence interval among these population estimates so
27 I'm assuming that this helps you get a better
28 confidence interval around that estimate (indiscernible
29 - echo) issue of people think there's a lot more wolves
30 out there than there actually are, correct.

31

32 MR. SCHUMACHER: Member Casipit. Yes,
33 but there's more.

34

35 MR. CASIPIT: Okay.

36

37 MR. SCHUMACHER: We use a
38 mark/recapture technique because that's how you count
39 things you can't see, that's how everybody does it
40 everywhere. What we do is a spatially explicit
41 mark/recapture which is more complicated and advanced
42 and, you know, mark/recapture has been around for many
43 decades, basically explicit mark/recapture is a much
44 more recent development. It takes into account wolf
45 movement, or the movements of whatever animal it is and
46 you're right that, you know, and then, you know, the
47 date that animal is removed from the population
48 affects, like I said before, the detection probability
49 for that individual so -- and the movement help inform

50

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1 the probability of detection because if a wolf is
2 identified at one hair board, it's much more likely to
3 be detected at the neighboring hair board than it is at
4 a hair board far away. And so the model assigns a
5 higher probability of that wolf being detected at those
6 neighboring hair boards than it does of those far away,
7 and that refines the information that's available to
8 the model. Beyond that it gets a little bit
9 complicated for explaining over the phone. But it's
10 important information, no one will never know, we'll
11 never be able to say it improves things by this much,
12 you know, like I said earlier, this is -- confidence in
13 the numbers is based on confidence in the method, and
14 the method, if you provide better information to the
15 method you should get a better result. And that's all
16 we're trying to do here is get a better result.

17

18 MR. CASIPIT: Okay. Thank you for the
19 explanation that helps me a lot.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good.
22 Anybody else on the Council with a question.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good.
27 Tom, you've given us a lot to think about here and what
28 we do, our action, it sounds like we've got to balance
29 what enhances the research capabilities as opposed to
30 what can work best for the people out doing the
31 hunting.

32

33 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman, Mike
34 Douville.

35

36 MR. SCHUMACHER: If I may say, you
37 know, in terms of being defensible because our
38 population estimates really do need to be defensible to
39 in a much larger audience in the endangered species
40 world, the more effort we put into this, the more
41 defensible they are. The higher degree of cooperation,
42 the more defensible. And the reason we're putting this
43 in regulation rather than just asking hunters to report
44 is that just what Member Douville said, some people
45 will cooperate and some won't. If it's in regulation
46 that you have to do it then we're much better able to
47 make the assumption that everyone is doing it. That's
48 a much more defensible assumption.

49

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1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted - echo - overlapping
3 conversations)
4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Points well made,
6 so thank you. Do you have.....
7

8 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman.
9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:an update on
11 the Endangered Species petition for us.
12

13 MR. SCHUMACHER: Sure, we can close out
14 strong with that. All indications are that the
15 petition submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service
16 will be accepted sometime between now and the middle of
17 April. There is virtually no doubt that it will be
18 accepted. That will trigger another 12 month finding
19 which is a process we went through in 2015 where they
20 essentially review all the information about the
21 species, habitat, prey, things like that that's
22 available and probably go through some exercises to
23 look at things projecting the future because this isn't
24 just about what's on the ground now, this is about
25 looking into the future as well.
26

27 When that 12 months findings will begin
28 is unclear at this point, it probably will not begin
29 this year, just it takes time to get people in position
30 to do that so I don't anticipate that starting until
31 next year and who knows it could be even longer than
32 that.
33

34 This petition is designed differently
35 than the one we dealt with last time. This petition
36 first asks the Fish and Wildlife Service to consider
37 wolves in Southeast Alaska a distinct population
38 segment. That means for management purposes separate
39 from the wolves along coastal British Columbia. We
40 believe that will happen. Because the last time it was
41 a very, very close shave on that and this time I got to
42 think -- our people who deal with endangered species
43 stuff all the time say, yeah, they're probably going to
44 do that. So what that does is confine the remainder of
45 the analysis to only wolves in Southeast Alaska. So
46 Yakutat Bay (indiscernible - echo) you know, it's a
47 much smaller of wolves, much less habitat. And it's
48 important to keep in mind that the petition is for
49 wolves throughout Southeast and not just on Prince of
50

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1 Wales. If we have most information and most issues on
2 Prince of Wales that tends to focus the discussion
3 there but this is really about the entire region.
4

5 So the five reasons that a species can
6 be listed as threatened or endangered.
7

8 The first is a threat to habitat.
9 Wolves are kind of habitat generalists, you know, they
10 live all over the Northern Hemisphere in all kinds of
11 different places, so this is really more about habitat
12 for their prey, which in most places are deer.
13

14 We have some vulnerability there.
15 There's been an awful lot of logging, a lot of road
16 building. So that's one reason.
17

18 But of the five reasons you only need
19 one to be listed, but like these species can be listed
20 for more than one as well.
21

22 The next is over utilization. On a
23 region-wide scale we really don't have a lot of
24 information on that so that question is going to focus
25 probably back to Unit 2. You know, we had 165 wolves,
26 a new record by 30 wolves harvested one year, it raised
27 -- there was a lot of public outcry about that. So,
28 yeah, there's -- that's where -- received some
29 scrutiny.
30

31 The next reason is disease or
32 predation. Those aren't known to be issues in
33 Southeast but it does kind of highlight the need to
34 vaccinate pets, particularly dogs against things like
35 parvoviruses and temper, it does get into small
36 populations of wolves or isolated populations like
37 Prince of Wales and, you know, we could have some
38 problems there.
39

40 Reason No. 4 is inadequacy of
41 regulations. I don't know if our sealing period would
42 be considered an inadequate regulation but it's
43 certainly a place where we could improve things.
44 Beyond that I think we have a pretty strong regulatory
45 environment. Part of regulation is also enforcement.
46 The ability to enforce those regulations and that's,
47 you know, where we maybe have some vulnerability. You
48 know we have very few Alaska Wildlife Troopers, we have
49 some big areas, it's hard to get around, and they have
50

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1 a lot of responsibilities, you know, not just wolves.
2 So, you know, that's an argument people could make.

3
4 And the other -- the fifth factor is
5 other natural or man made factors. Now, that's kind of
6 a catch all and I don't know what anybody would point
7 at for that one.

8
9 So there are the five reasons and we do
10 have some vulnerabilities on a couple of them. So
11 that's kind of where I think the debate will focus.

12
13 Most wolves are in Units 1A, 2 and 3
14 and that's probably 70 percent of the wolves, in all of
15 Region 1, through all of Southeast Alaska. Prince of
16 Wales, we think is about 35 to 40 percent of wolves,
17 so, yeah, that's a big chunk of the population there
18 and then, you know, Revillagigedo and the Unit 3
19 islands. That's where most of the logging has also
20 taken place. So this is a time we're meeting our
21 population objectives in Unit 2 so that'll count in our
22 favor.

23
24 The Department, you know, strongly
25 disagrees with the petition. We've made that known in
26 a letter to the Fish and Wildlife Service. We've also
27 provided a bunch of new information that we've been
28 collecting on various studies that primarily addressed
29 information gaps identified in the last Endangered
30 Species process and we've been working on those gaps in
31 the last few years and we provided that information to
32 the Fish and Wildlife Service but they still, we
33 believe, will issue a warranted finding for the
34 petition. Assuming that happens, the Department is
35 going to be vigorously and regularly engaged in this
36 whole process because we see that as a serious threat.
37 So we're going to be very actively engaged in this and
38 we certainly encourage all of you to keep an eye on
39 things as they develop.

40
41 And I just wanted to end by saying that
42 the ESA is separate, with a separate side line
43 management issue for us, you know, our primary focus is
44 our Constitutional mandate for sustainably harvestable
45 populations and, at least, in Unit 2 for our Board of
46 Game specified population objective for wolves. Those
47 are really where we focus our management. The ESA is a
48 little bit of a side line for us.

49
50

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1 And that's what I've got for you on the
2 ESA, does anybody got any questions on that.

3

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, any
5 questions from the Council.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very informative
10 Tom. Any questions.

11 1

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I do have one,
13 Tom. Hearing that this Endangered Species petition is
14 for all of Southeast Alaska and so much of the focus is
15 here on Prince of Wales, but I know there's been some,
16 you know, pretty heavy trapping efforts in other units
17 as well. It seems like 1A has had some pretty
18 extensive effort and Unit 3 as well. Are there any
19 concerns in other areas besides Prince of Wales that
20 could affect this listing?

20

21 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, the habitat
22 issue is widespread so that's going to get some
23 attention. In terms of harvest, Unit 1A, harvest there
24 has been pretty steady over the last 10 years, I don't
25 remember beyond that. Unit 3 there were some high
26 years there over, I think, at least one over 100 in
27 Unit 3, which is a lot, but Unit 3 is also a pretty big
28 land area. Those two places have far less road access
29 than Prince of Wales or Unit 2 as a whole, and not just
30 road access but also access for boating. You know Unit
31 2 has the -- Prince of Wales but also there's a lot of
32 big bays and things that are sheltered for boating
33 access and the archipelago of islands on the west side,
34 (indiscernible - echo) but they do provide some shelter
35 from ocean conditions and, you know, there's better
36 access to some of those islands than elsewhere. So
37 Unit 2, I think, has some things that are, you know,
38 access both road and boat, and logging that are going
39 to be vulnerabilities there but, again, it is a region-
40 wide proposal -- or petition, and so we need to look
41 region-wide and that means the consequences will be
42 region-wide as well.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. Any other
45 Council members got any questions for Tom on the
46 Endangered Species Act petition.

47

48 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman, I don't
49 have a question about the Endangered Species Act but
50

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1 I'd like to ask Tom a question before he leaves.

2

3

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Mike.

4

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MR. DOUVILLE: Okay. For the 2019 season, I guess for my own general information I would like to know how many wolves -- we know how many wolves were harvested, I would like to know how many of those that you have DNA -- previous DNA profile on as opposed to those that you did not for that season?

MR. SCHUMACHER: I'm afraid I don't have that information at my fingertips.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Can you get that.

MR. DOUVILLE: Well, perhaps you could forward it along at some point when you do get your fingers on it.

MR. SCHUMACHER: Yes, I can -- but let me just clarify the question. You want to know how many of the wolves trapped during 2019 were also detected at hair boards, that's all?

MR. DOUVILLE: Yeah.

MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay.

MR. DOUVILLE: I would like to know how many you had a DNA profile on as opposed to those you did not.

MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay. I can get that information for you.

MR. DOUVILLE: Okay, thank you.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Great. Anybody else on the Council with a question for Tom Schumacher.

MR. DOUVILLE: Just a comment, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: A comment, Mr. Douville.

MR. DOUVILLE: I do appreciate the Department's efforts and their scientific portion of

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1 what they're doing. It's the best we got right now and
2 I do support it. Hopefully we can get through all
3 this and I was happy to hear him mention that
4 deforestation is a factor, or it is a factor in the ESA
5 also, so it looks like some hard work ahead but I
6 believe the science will prevail.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you
11 for that, Mike. Tom, I want to thank you for coming
12 before us this afternoon and giving us all this really
13 useful information, and pretty helpful and we do
14 appreciate it.

15

16 MR. SCHUMACHER: It's my pleasure. I
17 really do enjoy these get togethers and, you know, be
18 able to share this information because how else are we
19 going to understand each other.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Just unfortunately
22 we can't all be sitting down somewhere and hash this
23 out a little more -- that day will come.

24

25 MR. SCHUMACHER: Next year.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Next year. And
28 also thank you, Scott Shuler, for joining in and
29 answering some questions. And the Council will
30 probably come to a decision before the end of the
31 meeting on whether or not we want to make comments to
32 the Board of Game or submit a proposal to the
33 Subsistence Board along these lines so Council members
34 keep that in your minds here.

35

36 And we'll recess for the evening, and
37 come back 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning. The first
38 order of business will be if there's any more public
39 comment that people want to make and then after that
40 we'll try and wrap up the Board of Fish proposals and
41 move on to some other very interesting topics.

42

43 So that'll be it.

44

45 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead,
48 Cathy.

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1 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
2 just want to put a reminder out that we meet today,
3 tomorrow and that Board of Fish proposal goes before
4 the -- I'm sorry, Board of Game proposal goes before
5 the Board of Game on Wednesday, so if we do want to
6 make any comments on that proposal from this Council,
7 we probably would have to have that wrapped up close to
8 the end of the meeting day tomorrow in order for it to
9 be considered for the Board of Game's deliberation on
10 the proposal.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, good
13 reminder, Cathy, thank you. Yeah, we'll get to that
14 tomorrow for sure. So don't let me forget.

15

16 MS. NEEDHAM: Okay.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, any
19 other.....

20

21 MR. SCHUMACHER: Mr. Chairman, this is
22 Tom Schumacher. Can I state one more point.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Tom.

25

26 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay, when Member
27 Needham spoke she indicated the Board of Game meeting
28 is on Wednesday, the Board of Game meeting is on
29 Thursday and I think she knew that and just misspoke so
30 it is Thursday.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, we should
33 probably get our comments together, probably be a good
34 idea so.

35

36 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, the sooner the
37 better.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Tom.
40 Okay, DeAnna, do you have any reminders for us before
41 we recess.

42

43 MS. PERRY: No, Cathy covered it so,
44 yeah, looking forward to getting back to the Board of
45 Fish proposals tomorrow and getting through all those,
46 lots of work still to do so get a good night's rest.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Okay,
49 have a good evening everybody and we'll be listening to

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1 you tomorrow.

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(Off record)

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(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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) 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:

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THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 16th
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Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22