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SOUTHEAST ALASKA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

TELECONFERENCE
March 22, 2022
9:05 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Donald Hernandez, Chair
- Calvin Casipit
- Michael Douville
- Albert Howard
- Ian Johnson
- Harvey Kitka
- Cathy Needham
- Patricia Phillips
- Robert Schroeder
- James Slater
- John Smith
- Louie Wagner
- Frank Wright

Regional Council Coordinator, DeAnna Perry

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Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-227-5312/sahile@gci.net

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 03/22/2022)

(On record)

MS. PERRY: Okay, it is 9:00 o'clock on Tuesday March 22nd. Welcome everyone to the Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. My name is DeAnna Perry, I am the Coordinator for this Council and I will call on the Chair, Mr. Chair, if you would like to see if anyone would like to give an invocation before you call the meeting to order, you can do so now.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you, DeAnna. Good morning to everybody. This is something we offer up if anybody on the Council or Staff would like to before we open the meeting. I haven't had anybody that would like to do so but it's your opportunity now if you would like to, go ahead and speak up.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, not hearing anybody so we'll go ahead and do a roll call and if we have our quorum, then at which time we can start the meeting.

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Frank Wright, our Secretary, are you there and have a roll in front of you to call the roll call.

MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, I'm here.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, good morning, Frank.

MR. WRIGHT: Good morning. Roll Call.

Ian Johnson.

MR. JOHNSON: Good morning, Ian is present.

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1 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Cal Casipit.

2

3 MR. CASIPIT: I am here.

4

5 MR. WRIGHT: I heard Cal on.

6

7 MR. CASIPIT: I'm here.

8

9 MR. WRIGHT: All right, thank you, Cal.

10

11 Michael Douville.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: Michael Douville.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MR. WRIGHT: I'll come back.

20

21 James Slater.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MR. WRIGHT: James Slater.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MR. WRIGHT: I'll come back.

30

31 Bob Schroeder.

32

33 MR. SCHROEDER: I'm here Frank.

34

35 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, Bob, thanks.

36

37 (Teleconference interference -

38 participants not muted)

39

40 MR. SLATER: Hi, this is Jim. I

41 just.....

42

43 MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

44

45 MR. HOWARD: Albert is here.

46

47 MR. WRIGHT: Good morning, Albert.

48

49 (Teleconference interference -

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1 participants not muted)

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: Patty Phillips.

4

5 MS. PHILLIPS: (Indiscernible)

6

7 REPORTER: I can't hear Frank. I can't
8 hear Frank doing roll. So after you say you're here
9 mute your line. Go ahead, Frank.

10

11 MR. WRIGHT: All right, Patty. Good to
12 have you back.

13

14 Louie Wagner.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MR. WRIGHT: Louie Wagner.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MR. WRIGHT: Harvey Kitka.

23

24 MR. KITKA: I'm here Frank.

25

26 MR. WRIGHT: Hey Harvey, gotcha.

27

28 John Smith, III.

29

30 MR. SMITH: I'm here.

31

32 MR. WRIGHT: John Smith -- okay, John.

33

34 Cathy Needham.

35

36 MS. NEEDHAM: I'm here, Frank.

37

38 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, Cathy.

39

40 We got nine people, we got a quorum.

41

42 MR. SLATER: Excuse me, Frank. This is
43 Jim, I was muted when you called my name, but I'm here
44 as well, Jim Slater.

45

46 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

47

48 Michael Douville.

49

50

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1 (No comments)

2

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted)

5

6 MR. WRIGHT: Louie Wagner.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MR. WRIGHT: Louie Wagner.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MR. WRIGHT: (Indiscernible)

15

16 (Teleconference interference -
17 participants not muted)

18

19 MS. PERRY: We're still getting a lot
20 of background noise so please check your phones and
21 make sure you're on mute. If you don't have a mute
22 button press star, or the asterisk, and then the number
23 6. We're hearing a lot of background noise and we
24 won't be able to continue with our meeting. So, again,
25 please press star, six, to mute your phone.

26

27 REPORTER: So it sounds like somebody's
28 working outside. This is the reporter, I'm not going
29 to be able to record. This is the administrative
30 record so please take a minute to look at your device,
31 put it on star, six to mute it or use your mute button.
32 I barely could get through that roll, I probably didn't
33 record the whole roll. I really need people to mute
34 their lines please.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Pound six.

39

40 REPORTER: It's star, six.

41

42 MR. WRIGHT: Hello, this is Frank.

43

44 REPORTER: Go ahead, Frank.

45

46 MR. WAGNER: Hello, Louie Wagner, Jr.

47

48 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, Louie -- Mr. Wagner.

49

50

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1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted)

3
4 MR. WRIGHT: Does the recorder need to
5 check people that are off.

6
7 REPORTER: Hi Frank, so this is Tina.
8 No, I'm.....

9
10 MR. WRIGHT: Hi.

11
12 REPORTER: Hi. I'm just going to go
13 with it. So I really can't tell if that's just
14 somebody's bad line that's messing us all up or if
15 there's indeed people that are not muted. I mean it
16 does sound like somebody's working outside is what it
17 sounds like and it's just overriding the speakers. I
18 won't be able to hear Don, that much I know.

19
20 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, Tina.....

21
22 REPORTER: Go ahead, Frank.

23
24 MR. WRIGHT:the whole list that
25 came on was everyone except Michael Douville.

26
27 REPORTER: Thank you, Frank, for that.

28
29 MR. WRIGHT: So we got a quorum.

30
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
32 Frank. So we'll try and proceed and hopefully we can.

33
34 (Teleconference interference -
35 participants not muted)

36
37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So I will call us
38 to order. So before we proceed with any further I
39 would like to acknowledge that Council Member Robbins
40 passed away this winter. I would like to start our
41 meeting with a moment of silence for Harold and I just
42 wanted to say that, you know, I got a chance to get to
43 know Harold in the course of several meetings before we
44 started meeting virtually and found him to be very
45 dedicated to his family and his community and had
46 extensive knowledge of the lands around him and an all
47 around good guy and pleasant to be with and listen to
48 his stories, and, so if we could just have a brief
49 moment of silence and honor and remember Harold
50

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1 Robbins.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. DOUVILLE: This is Mike Douville,
6 can you hear me.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep, can hear you
9 Mike.

10

11 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay. I am here, just
12 having trouble getting my voice across.

13

14 (Moment of Silence)

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you
17 for taking that moment of silence in honor of Harold
18 Robbins. Now, we can proceed. And we will start with
19 welcomes and introductions. At this point, I think
20 what I would.....

21

22 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Frank, go ahead.

25

26 MR. WRIGHT: I believe we need to adopt
27 the agenda.

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I have that a
30 little further down on the agenda, Frank.

31

32 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Okay, gotcha.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So I don't
35 know if everybody's on Teams with their cameras. I
36 thought for the introductions part of this if people
37 would care to turn their cameras on so people could put
38 a face to the names and introduce ourselves, it might
39 help how we're doing this remotely. We probably want
40 to have our cameras off during the course of the
41 meeting but.....

42

43 (Teleconference interference -
44 participants not muted)

45

46 REPORTER: Okay, hold up, Don. If
47 you're going to put your cameras on, you will need to
48 mute that particular device, otherwise we're going to
49 get that feedback. So as soon as you turn your camera
50

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1 on, please mute. Sorry, Don.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So are you saying
4 we can't have the cameras on and the phones unmuted at
5 the same time?

6

7 REPORTER: So you can but you have to
8 have one of them muted. So the problem comes in, is
9 they bounce off of each other. So like if you have
10 devices in the same room and you have both sounds on,
11 then they bounce off each other so you want to have the
12 Teams thing muted and you talk on the phone, that way
13 you can still see each other but you're talking through
14 the phone line. Do you know what I mean?

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I hear you.

17

18 REPORTER: Okay. And, I'm sorry, it --
19 I'm just trying to keep it as clear as possible.

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, and I guess
22 I thought that maybe all of the phones would be muted
23 on the Teams but maybe that's not so, all of the audio
24 muted.

25

26 REPORTER: Right. DeAnna, can you do
27 that, I think I thought the same thing. Sometimes
28 people have other external speakers, everybody has a
29 different set up and sometimes they need to check that
30 part. There's so much technology we don't know how to
31 use it.

32

33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So we'll make that
34 -- I don't know we'll see how it works. If we can have
35 cameras on it might be nice, otherwise we won't bother.

36

37 REPORTER: I get it so we'll just go
38 with it. If it gets too bad I'll say something.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I thought maybe I
41 would start with the Council members and seeing's as
42 how we are meeting remotely and haven't gotten a chance
43 to meet each other, if Council members would care to
44 maybe just give a little brief description of who they
45 are and where they live, what they do, some of their
46 activities might be helpful to some of the new Council
47 members who haven't had a chance to meet us yet. So
48 maybe I will start with -- how about Harvey Kitka.

49

50

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1 MR. KITKA: Can you hear me Don.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Hi, Harvey.

4

5 MR. KITKA: Hi, Don. Harvey Kitka. I
6 live in Sitka, Alaska. Realizing the meeting was
7 supposed to take place here in Sitka but it's very
8 stormy outside and the herring is on two hour notice.
9 They're getting awful close to spawning. And not too
10 sure what's out there. I'm a Sitka resident. I'm
11 retired. Good to be at the meeting.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Harvey.

16

17 How about Frank Wright.

18

19 MR. WRIGHT: Hey, Don. Good morning.
20 Frank Wright. I live in Hoonah. I've been there most
21 of my life. I've been a commercial fisherman and a
22 subsistence user. Glad to be back on here and we'll
23 see what happens in the future.

24

25 All right, thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.

28

29 How about Cathy Needham.

30

31 MS. NEEDHAM: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
32 Don. This is Cathy Needham. I reside in Juneau. I
33 was born and raised in Ketchikan. I'm a life long
34 Alaskan. I currently own and work for an environmental
35 consulting firm that works with rural communities and
36 tribal governments throughout the state. And I've been
37 on the Council since 2009 working with subsistence
38 users, so representing subsistence users in our region.
39 And I think that's good, thanks, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.

42

43 Mike Douville.

44

45 MR. DOUVILLE: Yeah, can you hear me.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MR. DOUVILLE: Hello.

50

0010

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I hear you Mike.

2

3 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay. I don't know -- I

4 didn't mean to interrupt the moment of silence, I was

5 trying to get my phone behave. But I'm Mike Douville,

6 I lived in Craig for the last 73 years. I've been on

7 the RAC for 20-plus years, I guess. I'm a full-time

8 commercial fisherman still. I hunt, I trap, I

9 sportfish, I do subsistence. I'm a member of the Craig

10 Tribal Association, past member of the Craig City

11 Council for many years. That's about it.

12

13 Good morning, all.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mike.

16

17 Albert, hey, there. Albert Howard.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Do you hear me

22 Albert?

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Let's move on to

27 Patty Phillips. New Council member but not new to the

28 Council.

29

30 MS. PHILLIPS: Hello, can you hear me?

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I got you fine,

33 Patty.

34

35 MS. PHILLIPS: Yeah, hi, I'm calling

36 from Pelican. I'm using cellular wifi. I've lived in

37 Pelican for 50 years. I was born in Sitka in the

38 Territory of Alaska. I was recently appointed to the

39 RAC after an absence so I'm glad to be back.

40

41 REPORTER: Hi, Patty.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Patty.

44

45 Albert, are you there now?

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: How about Bob

50

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1 Schroeder.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are you there,

6 Bob?

7

8 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes, can you hear me

9 now?

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, go ahead.

12

13 MR. SCHROEDER: Yeah, I'm Bob

14 Schroeder. I'm retired. I'm a Juneau resident. I

15 spent my life working on subsistence, first for the

16 Division of Subsistence at Fish and Game, and later on

17 with Forest Service, both at their research station and

18 at downtown on the management side. I had the honor of

19 being the Coordinator of our Regional Advisory Council

20 for a number of years before 2007 and I've had the good

21 fortune of learning a lot from people in communities

22 about subsistence and actually they taught this boy who

23 grew up in a city in the midwest pretty much about the

24 importance and how harvesting takes place in Southeast

25 Alaska.

26

27 Happy to be here.

28

29 Thank you, Don.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Bob.

32

33 Cal Casipit.

34

35 MR. CASIPIT: Yes, good morning. My

36 name is Cal Casipit. I retired from the Forest Service

37 in 2015. I live here in Gustavus. Many on the Council

38 and folks listening probably remember me when I was

39 Staff to this Council before I retired. For 20 years,

40 or so I was Staff to this Council. But like I said

41 right now I'm retired so I spend time with my grandkids

42 and hunt and fish and garden and I was the Mayor of

43 Gustavus for a few years before I let somebody else

44 take over, I figured I'd done my time.

45

46 But now I'm happy to be here and

47 looking forward to the meeting.

48

49 Thanks.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cal.

2

3 Ian Johnson.

4

5 MR. JOHNSON: Hey, good morning. My
6 name is Ian. I live in Hoonah. And I actually work
7 for the tribe here, for Hoonah Indian Association, I
8 run the Environmental Department and we engage in a
9 pretty wide spectrum of issues from the coast to the
10 top of the mountains and focus pretty heavily on
11 management of the land and thinking about community
12 forestry and especially some of the co-management type
13 topics that are on the agenda.

14

15 So I'm excited to be here, and thank
16 you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ian.

19

20 James Slater.

21

22 MR. SLATER: Thank you, Don. Hi. Can
23 you guys hear me okay?

24

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Hear you fine.

26

27 MR. SLATER: Okay, great. Yeah, hi, my
28 name is Jim Slater. I live right outside of Pelican in
29 a place called Phonograph Creek Subdivision. And I'm a
30 semi-retired engineer. I'm raising my three kids and
31 live with my wife on a homestead out there and spend as
32 much time as we can hunting, fishing, and foraging. I
33 love the area of alternative energy and using things
34 like hydro and wind and solar to supply all our needs.

35

36 That's about it, thanks.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Maybe we'll go
39 back and see if Albert Howard is with us. Are you
40 there Albert.

41

42 MR. HOWARD: Good morning. I pushed
43 the wrong button and hung up. So I'm Albert Howard. I
44 live in Angoon. I've been on the RAC since 2014.
45 Former Mayor for Angoon. Former President of the
46 tribe. Now, I'm just a cheap consultant in the
47 community for the next generation of leaders. I hold a
48 commercial salmon permit. I also live a subsistence
49 lifestyle here in Angoon. I've been here most of my
50

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1 life, spent four years in the Army.

2

3 So that's all I got.

4

5 Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Robert.

8

9 Our most recent appointees.

10

11 John Smith, III, you want to introduce
12 yourself to the Council and public.

13

14 MR. SMITH: (In Tlingit) Good morning.
15 John Smith, III. My Tlingit name is (In Tlingit) The
16 One Who Watches Over. And I am Kaagwaantaan from the
17 Eagle Nest House and I heard my brothers -- older
18 brother's voice, it's good to hear your voice, Harvey.
19 I'm an auto, diesel, technician, mechanic, welder,
20 fabricator, I live here in Juneau. I'm also an
21 educator. I've been an educator for most of my life.
22 I worked for the Juneau School District. I just
23 retired this year. But I also was part of the Juneau
24 Commission of Sustainability here for three terms.
25 That was very exciting. I was also awarded the
26 Caretaker for Nami and Tlingit and Haida Central
27 Council as supporting and working with families. So
28 since I retired, I stepped away from the Commission and
29 the District to join your team here and see what I
30 could do.

31

32 But I grew up all my life harvesting
33 off the land, air, water, sea. And really wanted to
34 bring the respect to it and responsibility being safe
35 and kind. So I've also been a commercial fisherman
36 most of my life and even today still travel around from
37 many villages in Southeast to harvest our food, just
38 like we did for many many generations.

39

40 So it's really good to hear your voices
41 and, thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, John.

44

45 Louie Wagner, Jr.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are you there

50

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1 Louie.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We'll maybe wait a
6 minute for Louie Wagner, Jr. Hi Louie.

7

8

MR. WAGNER: Hello, can you hear me
9 now?

10

11

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead.

12

13

14

MR. WAGNER: Yes, Louie Wagner, Jr.
I've been married to my wife Cindy for 52 years. I've
15 lived in Metlakatla now for 74 years. I've been a
16 commercial fisherman my whole life. And I've learned
17 to subsist from the old folks from a very early age as
18 soon as you could walk and keep up with them. The
19 first thing they taught as children is to never
20 waste. So they were always -- they were very stern,
21 some people today would probably think they talked real
22 mean, you know, but they were -- they only wanted to
23 tell you once and not have to repeat it because like
24 their smokehouses, you went into the smokehouse and you
25 grabbed a piece of fish to eat, they would tell you
26 only once that if you waste any you're never welcomed
27 back in the smokehouse. So every season is very
28 important to us, you know, starting in the spring with
29 the eulachons, and the seaweed and, you know, so on and
30 so forth. I served on the Council for 15 years, our
31 Council here in Metlakatla.

32

33

So that's about all of it here.

34

35

Thank you, and looking forward to
36 serving on the Council.

37

38

39

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Louie,
and welcome to our new members. I want to say that my
40 name is Don Hernandez. I have been the Chair for the
41 last couple years for the Council. i've served on the
42 Council for 20 years now. I live in Point Baker,
43 population 25, remote, north tip of Prince of Wales of
44 Island. You have to live a pretty self-reliant
45 lifestyle out here. We have no provided services,
46 pretty much have to take care of all that for
47 ourselves, our own power systems, water systems,
48 harvesting our local foods is a good part of living in
49 a community like this and very active doing that.

50

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1 I am a commercial fisherman, a
2 Southeast gillnet permit for, what, 37 years now. I've
3 lived in Point Baker for that same amount of time, 37
4 years. I also have a hand troll permit. I got a
5 little bit of halibut IFQs. I'm involved in a lot of
6 commercial fisheries.

7
8 Being on the Council is one of my
9 primary public service. Do a little bit of community
10 service on the local Council, I hold one board member
11 seat on a local fishing group, but most of my efforts
12 are kind of directed towards working with this Council
13 which has been tremendously satisfying and a pleasant
14 experience.

15
16 So thank you all, Council members, for
17 your introductions, a little chance to get to one
18 another remotely.

19
20 Now, maybe, DeAnna, we need to
21 establish who else is participating in this meeting.
22 We have a lot of Federal Staff, State Staff, tribal
23 representation, and I will leave that to you to let us
24 know who else is participating in the meeting this
25 morning.

26
27 MS. PERRY: Great, thank you, Mr.
28 Chair. Before I call on Staff -- I'll go by agency,
29 but I'd like to back up just a bit and give a few
30 housekeeping announcements.

31
32 Again, this is the Southeast
33 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting and it's
34 being done by teleconference and so we need everybody
35 to hit star, six, and mute your lines if you're not
36 speaking. This will help us with background noise.
37 And I would also like to remind folks to turn down any
38 external speakers you may have on your computer, again,
39 that helps mitigate the feedback. We've had some
40 issues posting the agenda and meeting materials online
41 on the Federal Subsistence Program website. I have
42 distributed a zip file of the documents to my
43 distribution list that I have. I know it was rejected
44 by many of the addresses due to size because it's
45 pretty big. But if you'd like for us to try and send
46 it to you, please send one of our Staff members,
47 Gregory Dunn, an email, he has that zipped file and he
48 can send that out to you. So if you would send an
49 email to gregory.dunn, and that's spelled G-R-E-G-O-R-
50

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1 Y.D-U-N-N at USDA.gov, again, he can try to send that
2 zip file out so that you can follow along.

3
4 We've opened up a videoconference
5 through the Microsoft Teams. If you're listening on
6 the phone and would like a link to that videoconference
7 just contact the Office of Subsistence Management at 1-
8 800-478-1456, they will send you out a link to join us
9 on videoconference. But please note there's no audio
10 on that videoconference, all of that's been muted so
11 that we can use our dedicated phone lines for our
12 administrative record. Again, star, six throughout our
13 meeting. This cycle has been a little difficult, lots
14 of background noise, unstable phone lines, so please
15 just remember to star, six when you're not speaking.
16 When you are speaking, please make sure that you are
17 acknowledged by the Chair. Once he speaks to you go
18 ahead and give us your name, spell that if you would
19 for our administrative record. Again, the court
20 reporter doesn't have a sign-in sheet like she normally
21 have when we're in person so let's help her out by
22 spelling your name when you speak.

23
24 The Council meetings provide an
25 opportunity for the public and tribes to provide oral
26 and written testimony and comments. At the beginning
27 of each day there's an opportunity to provide testimony
28 on non-agenda items and the Council Chair will announce
29 those opportunities each morning.

30
31 Let's see, did I cover everything --
32 yeah, I'd just like to remind folks, Staff, we do have
33 some new Council members on our Council so as we're
34 going through our materials if you would just remember
35 to make reference to tab numbers, because we didn't
36 have our meeting book professionally published we don't
37 have really page numbers throughout the whole book but
38 in the agenda, you'll see the tab numbers, and if I
39 could remind Staff to make reference to that as they go
40 through their presentations that would be helpful as
41 well.

42
43 So I'll go through and make sure that
44 we know what Staff is supporting us today. Again, if
45 you could turn on your cameras during your
46 introductions, some folks have not met you and, yeah, I
47 see that Greg put his email address in the chat box if
48 you're on Teams, again, you can use Greg Dunn's email
49 address for a copy of those meeting documents, so,
50

0017

1 thank you. I know that some people aren't on Teams and
2 some people do not have a camera, so I always say that
3 Teams is sort of a bonus, the most important thing is
4 attached to us through the phone line.

5

6 All right, so I'll start with OSM Staff
7 first. If you'll let me know you're on the line, I'll
8 do a roll call, this seems to go better than just
9 saying who's on the phone and sort of having people
10 speaking all at once.

11

12 Tom Kron, I see you were on camera
13 earlier, I see you're with us.

14

15 MR. KRON: Yes. Yes, DeAnna. Glad to
16 be here, Don. I will be the OSM lead for this meeting.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Tom. And as Staff
21 introduces themselves, go ahead and let us know what
22 title you have, what's your spoke in the wheel so to
23 speak on our Staff.

24

25 Robbin LaVine.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MS. PERRY: Ameer Howard.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MS. PERRY: Sue Detwiler.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MS. PERRY: Orville Lind. I saw you on
38 Teams earlier, are you still with us.

39

40 MR. LIND: Yes, good morning. Good
41 morning, Council Chair and Council members. Orville
42 Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of Subsistence
43 Management. It's good to see you guys on screen and
44 good to hear your voices.

45

46 Quyana. Thank you.

47

48 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Orville.

49

50

0018

1 Scott Ayers.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MS. PERRY: Brent Vickers.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MS. PERRY: Pippa Kenner. I see you
10 Pippa.

11

12 MS. KENNER: Yeah, hi, DeAnna. This is
13 Pippa Kenner. I'm an Anthropologist and I work here in
14 Anchorage for the Office of Subsistence Management.
15 Nice to see you all.

16

17 MS. PERRY: And I believe George Pappas
18 is probably listening in to the Board of Fish meeting
19 which is still going on.

20

21 Jared Stone, have you joined us today.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MS. PERRY: Justin Koller.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MS. PERRY: Justin, are you with us.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MS. PERRY: Okay. Lisa Grediagin.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MS. PERRY: And how about Theo

38 Matuskowitz.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MS. PERRY: Okay. Anybody from OSM
43 that I didn't call.

44

45 MR. ROBERTS: Hi. This is Jason
46 Roberts, Anthropologist with OSM.

47

48 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Jason. Glad
49 you could join us.

50

0019

1 MR. ROBERTS: Uh-huh.

2

3 MS. PERRY: Okay. We'll move on to
4 National Park Service. Kim Jochum, are you with us
5 today.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MS. PERRY: And I believe Barbara
10 Cellarius will be joining us after 2:30.

11

12 We'll move on to the Forest Service.

13

14 MS. FLOREY: Hi, DeAnna, this is
15 Victoria Florey, National Park Service.

16

17 MS. PERRY: Oh, hi, Victoria.

18

19 MS. FLOREY: Hi.

20

21 MS. PERRY: Sorry, I didn't realize you
22 were going to call in today so sorry I didn't call you.
23 Thank you for speaking up.

24

25 MS. FLOREY: You're welcome. I'm
26 filling in for Kim.

27

28 MS. PERRY: Oh, gotcha, all right,
29 great, thank you.

30

31 All right, I know Mr. Stewart will be
32 speaking to us in just a second.

33

34 Greg Risdahl.

35

36 MR. RISDAHL: Thank you, DeAnna. Good
37 morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Council. My
38 name is Greg Risdahl. I'm the Subsistence Program
39 Leader for the Forest Service and the InterAgency Staff
40 Committee member. And I'm especially happy to hear
41 Harvey and Patty's voices back on Teams. Good to see
42 you and good to be here. And that, in the background,
43 by the way is my hunting cabin north of the Tanana
44 River.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MS. PERRY: Which we will all want to
49 escape to, so we expect invitations in the mail, Greg.

50

0020

1 All right.

2

3 Sheila Jacobson, are you joining us
4 today.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MS. PERRY: Okay. And Rob Cross, and
9 I'll just let folks know that Terry Suminski who served
10 this Council for many, many years has decided Funny
11 River was calling him and retired so we wish him the
12 best and Rob Cross will be sitting in for Terry at
13 least for the next 120 days-ish, so we welcome Rob in
14 that role and go ahead, Rob, I'll let you introduce
15 yourself.

16

17 MR. CROSS: Yeah, thanks, DeAnna and
18 good morning everyone. Again, my name is Rob Cross.
19 I'm a Fish and Wildlife Biologist for the Petersburg
20 and Wrangell Ranger District. And then as DeAnna said,
21 I'm also the Acting Forest Subsistence Coordinator on
22 the Tongass National Forest. So, thank you.

23

24 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Rob.

25

26 Greg Dunn.

27

28 MR. DUNN: Good morning everybody. My
29 name is Greg Dunn. I am the Wildlife Planner for the
30 Tongass National Forest and I'm here in Sitka, Alaska,
31 where we have great herring weather.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Greg.

36

37 Susan Oehlers.

38

39 MS. OEHLERS: Yeah, good morning, Mr.
40 Chair. Members of the Council. Susan Oehlers. I'm a
41 Wildlife Biologist with the Yakutat Ranger District.
42 And I've interacting with the Council for a number of
43 years so good to see everyone and at least hear your
44 voices. Good morning.

45

46 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Susan.

47

48 Jake Musslewhite.

49

50

0021

1 MR. MUSSLEWHITE: Yeah, good morning,
2 folks. Jake Musslewhite. I'm a Fisheries Biologist
3 for the Forest Service here in Juneau.

4
5 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Jake.
6

7 Laurent, he is what I call our Teams
8 guru, he's making all the things happen on our Teams
9 platform so I'd like to give Laurent an opportunity to
10 introduce himself if he'd like.

11
12 MR. DEVICHE: Hi, everyone. Yeah, my
13 name is Laurent and I work on the Sitka Ranger District
14 and I'm a Forestry Technician here but in this meeting
15 I'm just the Teams Manager so that's my job and, yeah,
16 I'll try to do it well. Thanks.

17
18 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Laurent. We
19 appreciate you being available to help us out.

20
21 Jennifer Handlin.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MS. PERRY: And I believe Kevin Hood is
26 on leave. Those two folks have joined us -- most
27 people on our Council remember Jennifer Handlin with
28 the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, she spoke to this Council a
29 few times. She is now the new Tongass Tribal Liaison.
30 And Kevin Hood is the new Regional Tribal Relations
31 Specialist. And hopefully we'll hear from both those a
32 little bit later in the meeting.

33
34 Anybody else from the Forest Service,
35 and, Earl, I know we're going to get to you in just a
36 second. Is there anybody from the Forest Service that
37 I didn't call.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MS. PERRY: Okay.

42
43 MS. JOHNSON: This is Marci Johnson --
44 oh, sorry.

45
46 MS. PERRY: Sorry, Marci Johnson.

47
48 MS. JOHNSON: Marci Johnson, Wildlife
49 and Fisheries Biologist in Juneau.

50

0022

1 MS. PERRY: Great. Thanks, Marci. And
2 I know you had an intern, was he able to join us today
3 as well?

4
5 MS. JOHNSON: Yes. Taylor Cunningham
6 is listening.

7
8 MS. PERRY: Great, thank you. Glad you
9 guys could make it.

10
11 Okay. So for Bureau of Indian Affairs.

12
13 Glenn Chen, are you with us?

14
15 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
16 Council members. My name is Glenn Chen, I'm the
17 Subsistence Branch Chief for the Bureau of Indian
18 Affairs.

19
20 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Glenn.

21
22 How about Pat Petrivelli.

23
24 MS. PETRIVELLI: Good morning. This is
25 Pat Petrivelli, the Subsistence Anthropologist for
26 Bureau of Indian Affairs and I work out of Anchorage.

27
28 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Pat. And I believe
29 Rosalie Debenham wasn't able to join us today but just
30 in case she was, Rosalie, are you there?

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MS. PERRY: Okay. I know schedules
35 often change at the last minute. Anybody else from
36 Bureau of Indian Affairs that I didn't call.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MS. PERRY: We'll move on to Bureau of
41 Land Management. Chris McKee.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 (Teleconference interference -
46 participants not muted)

47
48 MS. PERRY: How about Caroline Ketrin.

49
50

0023

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. PERRY: Valerie Lenhartzen.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MS. PERRY: Okay. For Fish and
8 Wildlife Service.

9

10 Jill Klein.

11

12 MS. KLEIN: Good morning, DeAnna and
13 members of the Council. My name is Jill Klein. I'm
14 the Regional Subsistence Coordinator for U.S. Fish and
15 Wildlife Service and I'm based in Anchorage.

16

17 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Jill.

18

19 Anybody else from Fish and Wildlife
20 Service.

21

22 MS. KIRKHAM: Good morning. Amy
23 Kirkham from Fisheries and Ecological Services is
24 listening in today. Thank you, all. I'm in Anchorage
25 as well.

26

27 MS. PERRY: And, Amy, could I ask you
28 to spell your last name for me please.

29

30 MS. KIRKHAM: Yep. It's K-I-R-K-H-A-M.

31

32 MS. PERRY: Thank you. Welcome Amy.

33

34 MS. KIRKHAM: Thanks.

35

36 MS. PERRY: Okay. We'll move on to the
37 State then. Is Ben Mulligan here with us today?

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MS. PERRY: How about Mark Burch.

42

43 MR. BURCH: Good morning. This is Mark
44 Burch. I serve mostly in a coordination role as a
45 Biologist with the Department of Fish and Game between
46 the State and the Federal Subsistence Program.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0024

1 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Mark, glad you
2 could join us. I know with the Board of Fish meeting
3 going on, a lot of Staff are probably engaged with that
4 so thanks for joining us.

5
6 Tom Schumacher.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 MS. PERRY: I think Tom's going to be
11 joining us a little bit later.

12
13 How about Frank Robbins.

14
15 MR. ROBBINS: Good morning everyone,
16 this is Frank Robbins, R-O-B-B-I-N-S. I'm the Area
17 Biologist in Petersburg, Alaska Department of Fish and
18 Game. Thanks.

19
20 MS. PERRY: Thanks for joining us,
21 Frank.

22
23 Anybody else from the State, Lauren
24 Sill, I'm thinking she might be in the Board of Fish
25 meeting, but Lauren, are you with us today.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MS. PERRY: Okay. And I think we'll
30 probably hear from Lauren perhaps on Thursday as well
31 as Flip Pryor. Just checking, Flip, were you able to
32 join us today?

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MS. PERRY: Anybody else from the State
37 I didn't call.

38
39 (Teleconference interference -
40 participants not muted)

41
42 MS. PERRY: Okay. So that's the
43 supporting Staff. And before we move on, again, this
44 is a lot easier when we're all in person, we have a
45 sign-in sheet when everybody comes in the front door
46 and we all just kind of sign-in and I don't have to
47 take the time to do this but since we're in a virtual
48 world and we do have a FACA requirement for an
49 administrative record and who attends I do need to take
50

0025

1 the time to check on the phone.

2

3 So now I would like to see what tribal
4 members, or public members we have joining us. And so
5 that everybody's not speaking at once, how about we
6 kind of do this alphabetically. So if your last name
7 starts with A through G, if you could go ahead and
8 introduce yourself, go ahead and spell your name as
9 well, if you would, and let us know what community or
10 organization you represent.

11

12 Again, anyone whose last name begins
13 with an A through G.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MS. PERRY: Okay. How about anybody
18 whose last name starts H through M, as in Mary.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MS. PERRY: Okay. How about N, as in
23 Nancy through R.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MS. PERRY: Okay. And anybody S
28 through Z.

29

30 MS. PHILLIPS: DeAnna.

31

32 MS. PERRY: Yes.

33

34 MR. PHILLIPS: James Phillips from
35 Pelican.

36

37 MS. PERRY: Okay. It was broken up on
38 my end but I believe that was James Phillips from
39 Pelican.

40

41 MR. PHILLIPS: Good morning.

42

43 MS. PERRY: Good morning. Okay. Any
44 other public or tribal members with us. I know there's
45 a little bit of a delay when everybody's getting off of
46 mute.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0026

1 MS. PERRY: All right, well, thank you
2 all for your patience so that we could try and make
3 sure our administrative record is as complete as
4 possible.

5
6 Mr. Chair, I'll turn it back over to
7 you to introduce Mr. Earl Stewart. Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
10 DeAnna. Before I introduce Mr. Stewart, I just want to
11 reiterate something DeAnna said. We do offer public
12 testimony on non-agenda items. On Tuesdays -- or
13 excuse me, on Wednesday and Thursday that will be the
14 first item of business on the agenda starting at 9:00
15 o'clock. But this morning we offer public testimony
16 and that will have to occur after we go through some
17 preliminary items on the agenda. So if you wanted to
18 give public testimony this morning you'll have to kind
19 of wait until we finish up the preliminary business.

20
21 So, with that, Mr. Earl Stewart, the
22 Forest Supervisor of the Tongass National Forest, I
23 guess you have a welcome and introduction for us.

24
25 MR. STEWART: Good morning, Mr.
26 Chairman. Can I confirm you can hear me, yes?

27
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I hear you fine,
29 Earl.

30
31 MR. STEWART: Thank you very much, sir.
32 So, Mr. Chairman, members of the Southeast Subsistence
33 Resource Advisory Council. I want to offer my sincere
34 appreciation for allowing me time this morning and I
35 look forward to offering as much as I can on the
36 projects across the Tongass National Forest that are so
37 critical to subsistence users and the community
38 viability across the region.

39
40 I'll start off with the projects that I
41 recognize that probably have some level of interest to
42 the Subsistence RAC, Mr. Chairman, and then if there
43 are other elements I would certainly make myself
44 available for follow up questions or discussions as
45 determined by the RAC or the Chairman.

46
47 I want to lead off first with some
48 mining updates on Kensington Mine. Kensington Mine,
49 the tailings expansion was authorized. That decision
50

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1 occurred about two weeks ago but there will be an
2 expanded tailings capacity at Kensington that will
3 extend the life of the mine for Kensington about 10
4 more years, or slightly longer, depending on what
5 happens in future years.

6
7 We're also undergoing a request from
8 Hecla Greens Creek associated with a tailings expansion
9 for that. We're not in the process too far at this
10 point in time but as we do get towards that stage we
11 will certainly reach out to the communities and to the
12 public at large.

13
14 Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center is
15 also going through an upgrade process. The upgrade
16 process for Mendenhall Glacier is really trying to
17 catch up to the increasing capacity needs of Mendenhall
18 Glacier. In recent years we've seen -- well, during
19 Covid the situation certainly settled down, but prior
20 to that we were seeing a fairly sustained about two
21 percent climb in utilization and participation and in
22 some years it gets above five percent in certain
23 seasons. And so with that recognition, trying to
24 follow up with some proposals and so we are currently
25 in a comment period that'll go until about the 18th or
26 19th of April on Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center
27 improvements. There's aspects from an infrastructure
28 standpoint for a visitor station, and information booth
29 along with increased parking, trails, trail capacity
30 expansion, connectivity aspects associated with that
31 and then some aspects associated with Mendenhall Lake
32 itself.

33
34 Next project I'll try to provide a
35 quick update is -- you'll have an update later in the
36 week on the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy
37 but there are four components of the SASS or, Southeast
38 Alaska Sustainability Strategy. I think you'll get an
39 update on the economic investment side, but there's
40 also a tribal relations side and the Forest management
41 side, and then roadless. I'll cover roadless if that's
42 okay, Mr. Chairman. But for the Forest management
43 aspect of that there's an ending of large scale old
44 growth logging across the Tongass and with that the
45 need to transition rapidly or as productivity as
46 possible into a young growth utilization process and so
47 right now we're undergoing analysis associated with
48 Thomas Bay, so east of Petersburg, in that area, to try
49 to see about the test the market effectively for young
50

0028

1 growth and then the next project that we have online
2 going forward would be associated with Prince of Wales
3 and it's likely to be the area above Thorne Bay, not
4 solid on that yet and certainly have more intell as we
5 go forward. The Forest is continuing to try to meet
6 the sustained interest of small and microsale users and
7 there are certainly small sales still existing over on
8 Prince of Wales but trying to manage that on a rolling
9 average as the Forest Plan indicated of roughly 5
10 million board feet a year.

11

12 Next project I'll offer updates on have
13 to do with infrastructure and facilities. We're
14 currently going through and assessing the utilization
15 of space associated with the Petersburg offices.
16 There's the leased building at the old Post Office in
17 town and then there's the Harris Building outside of
18 town that are currently used for occupancy for Staff
19 and we're trying to work that down to one facility to
20 mitigate the cost of trying to maintain two facilities.
21 And then we're also working our way out of a lease with
22 the State of Alaska and trying to move that utilization
23 back for work center space or for compound space to the
24 current compound inside of the town of Petersburg.

25

26 The next project that we have ahead on
27 those elements would be related to building and
28 building capacity use in Ketchikan and then other
29 locations. I think the first demonstration of that
30 would be those that live or reside or visit Sitka,
31 Alaska, the movement for that out to the warehouse that
32 was rebuilt and reconstructed for use.

33

34 Road use and with your familiarity
35 across the Tongass on massive rain systems over
36 previous years, there's been a lot of damage to the
37 roads, a lot of landslide issues and damage to roads.
38 We did get emergency funding for the north zone for
39 starting work on road repairs. That work's been going
40 on for about a year but there's probably another years
41 worth of work in that. We haven't been funded at this
42 point in time for emergency funds on the south zone and
43 so we're having to take those road repairs on the south
44 Tongass as best we can with the funding that we can
45 come up with or can make available. Still trying to
46 focus on the needs of public users to get in and out of
47 town for subsistence uses in the various communities
48 across the Tongass and just have to openly apologize
49 that we can't get everything done and all the road

50

0029

1 systems up to par at the same time.

2

3

4 Other rec -- I mentioned Mendenhall
5 Glacier, there's other work going on for developments
6 associated with the other recreation sites. There's
7 work going on north of -- north Prince of Wales at the
8 ElCap Recreational Area, also over at Wrangell at Anan,
9 a bear viewing site, and in Ketchikan Ward Lake. Each
10 of those are at different stages with Ward Lake being
11 the largest scale project and probably the furthest
12 out. And Anan is currently on point of having to
13 change the platform for visitation and visitor use and
14 shifting that over to a new system.

14

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Several different projects within
communities. I don't want to -- I certainly can go
into deeper detail if needed by the Committee -- or
Council, or the Chair, but ongoing Hoonah Native Forest
Partnership, the Kwaan or Kake Community Forest
Partnership and then a lot watershed work for watershed
streams, fisheries, ecology associated with Kuiu
Island, Sheehen*, Cube Cove, and restoration work at
Margaret Creek. That's just a quick run through of
projects from a restoration and aquatic standpoint.

I mentioned the Southeast Alaska
Sustainability Strategy has a Roadless Rule as a
component to that. I will offer that on the Roadless
Rule the comment period closed on January 24th so about
two months ago. At this point in time we estimate
about 110,000 responses to -- of those, there's about
9,000 that are unique submissions, meaning they have
specifically unique information and that will all have
to be collected together and assessed over time. There
were 14 petitions that were submitted. Those 14
petitions have about 130,000 signatures on them so
several petitions with hundreds of thousands of
engagement points associated with the Alaska Roadless
Rule. The team is currently in the initial assessment
stage. I would offer that if you looked at it
generally, generally speaking the vast majority support
restoring the Roadless Rule protections to the Tongass.
They haven't completed the complete review of comments
at this point in time so it's still in the analysis
stage but they'll go through those and try to determine
what the themes that they're hearing or identify
concerns or elements associated with that, and then
that package will be supplied up to the Secretary of
Agriculture who will make the final decision on whether

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1 he wants to restore the protections of the Alaska --
2 the Roadless Rule to the Tongass National Forest. I'm
3 expecting that that decision is probably several months
4 out and more than likely next fall or by the end of the
5 year.

6
7 With that, Mr. Chairman, that's a quick
8 run through of projects at the Tongass. I would
9 certainly standby and respond to questions, if needed,
10 and make myself available to the Southeast Subsistence
11 RAC and appreciate your time this morning.

12
13 Thank you, sir.

14
15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Earl.
16 Appreciate your time, that was a very good rundown of
17 what's going on on the Tongass. Council members, if
18 you do have a question speak up now. Unmute your mic
19 and go ahead and identify yourself and ask a question
20 if you have one.

21
22 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman.

23
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Frank.

25
26 MR. WRIGHT: Has the Forest Service
27 been approached on landless (ph) communities? You know
28 there's some communities that weren't awarded any land
29 when the land claims came, known as the landless
30 communities. I know they were petitioning around
31 Hoonah that there was -- but has the Forest Service
32 been approached?

33
34 MR. STEWART: Through the Chair. I
35 will offer back to you, sir, the Agency is aware of the
36 -- I think it's referred to something like unrecognized
37 (ph) tribes legislation, we're not aware of what the
38 current status is. The Agency has not taken any
39 position on it but we are aware of the mapped parcels
40 associated with that. (Indiscernible - breaking up)
41 roughly about 123,000 acres total by those five
42 communities recognizing the unrecognized tribes or
43 communities. And I hope that's sufficient, sir, I
44 don't have a whole lot more detail.

45
46 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you. I just wonde
47 -- this is Frank again. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I was
48 just wondering about that because I know they came to
49 Hoonah, so, thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Frank.
2 Any other Council members with a question for Mr.
3 Stewart.

4
5 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, this is Ian.

6
7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Ian.

8
9 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Stewart.
10 I was wondering on the Roadless process, will there be
11 another community -- or sorry, public comment period.
12 I'm just thinking back to the original, you know, where
13 we were three years ago and I think there was two open
14 periods to comment on like the -- like the next EIS and
15 other things to come out of it so just curious if there
16 will be any more public feedback opportunities?

17
18 MR. STEWART: So in response, through
19 the Chair, to the member from Hoonah. (Indiscernible)
20 following, so I'm not able to provide any specificity
21 to that. Generally speaking, once the comments come in
22 they have a chance to assess those comments and then
23 there'll be a determination made as to what's needed or
24 warranted for additional engagement, clarity around the
25 comments. At this point in time I'm not aware of a
26 future comment period but I would certainly make sure
27 that it gets reported to the Subsistence RAC should
28 that occur, sir.

29
30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Follow up, Ian.

31
32 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. No, thank
33 you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any other Council
36 members with a question.

37
38 MS. PHILLIPS: This is Patricia
39 Phillips.

40
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Patty.

42
43 MS. PHILLIPS: What is the likelihood
44 of increased funding for fisheries monitoring and
45 wildlife monitoring projects?

46
47 MR. STEWART: The opportunity -- or
48 opportunities -- through the Chair. The opportunities
49 for monitoring projects probably are going to continue
50

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1 to be available. I don't have a capacity as to whether
2 the increase is or what valuations those might be but
3 historically it has been really critical to both
4 monitor the systems and to utilize those subsistence
5 funds in multiple ways to be able to fulfill the needs
6 and make sure that the data and the information is
7 available. I'm not aware of specific increases or
8 decreases, but I would expect, generally speaking, with
9 what I'm seeing that they would either remain stable or
10 increase.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anything else,
13 Patty.

14

15 MS. PHILLIPS: No thank you.

16

17 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is
18 Albert.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Albert.

21

22 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 Just to go off of what Patty had asked, along the same
24 lines, I think it's important that we consider adding
25 water quality to the fish monitoring program as well as
26 water temperature, everything that could have an impact
27 on the salmon in the streams after they've already been
28 in the streams. I think those are -- is that something
29 that's possible. The other thing I've become -- I
30 guess I watch a lot of fishing shows on YouTube and
31 something I saw that I thought could be done pretty
32 easily is DNA sampling. I saw a gentleman take a hole
33 punch and take a piece of a salmon tail and did a hole
34 punch on the tail and put the fish back in the water
35 and sent it out for DNA sampling to see where the fish
36 came from. And that kind of struck an idea that that
37 could be done here in Angoon somehow, and I'm going to
38 talk with the tribe about it but I'd like to see this
39 all become a part of the program where we have DNA
40 sampling in all the streams in Southeast Alaska and
41 we'd have a good idea where all the fish are coming and
42 going through. Especially with king salmon, I, for
43 one, would like to be able to do a DNA sample on king
44 salmon caught around Angoon and see if, in fact, it is
45 British Columbia, but that's a different conversation.

46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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49 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair, John Smith.

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(Pause)

MS. NEEDHAM: Members of the Council, this is Cathy, the Vice Chair. It sounds like maybe Don Hernandez has dropped off so I will continue discussions until he comes back with us. So you have the floor Mr. Smith.

MR. SMITH: Yeah, (In Tlingit) please forgive me, my intentions, I'm the new person so, you know, my interest really about the old growth and the respect to the tree people, us Kwaan, I grew up logging in Hoonah with Whitestone Logging, Bud Stewart, Keith Walker, Mike O'Brien, Wes Tyler, but also the respect to the corporations and even Chris Butke and the Forest Service, you know, them coming out and talking to the community to understand more of -- but, anyway, I just wanted to understand a lot more about that and their process and procedures, if they're working on changing those and updating how they take care of the garden that's out there. That would be my interest of seeing how they've logged and just left it there and not done anything with it. So concerns to that but not sure if this is time to share any of that.

Happy Day. Thank you.

MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Smith. I'm not sure if that warrants a response by Mr. Stewart but if you'd like to make comments, please do.

MR. STEWART: Through the Vice Chair. I can offer a couple of comments. In recent years the acknowledgement and recognition for the value of specific trees, say those that are more for ceremonial and traditional needs has really resonated and come forward. We have a couple of smaller projects right now with a couple of communities under a memorandum of understanding, or agreement to try to come up with a better process, maybe, for recognizing those needs so that they can be fulfilled more productively. The two communities we're working with right now, we've developed a process of going out and recognizing trees that we've been trained to recognize based on certain physical characteristics or species types and conditions that can help add value to are they the right trees or not, and now that training has basically gone from tribal members to the Forest Service Staff in open meetings, and then in those conversations then the

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1 recognition of if the Staff come across a tree they
2 document it and they record certain data associated
3 with it, then the data sets go back to the tribes so
4 the tribe can assess, are those trees of interest
5 specifically for such traditional or cultural use and
6 then we schedule how do we handle that going forward.
7

8 As to the process right now, it's still
9 in its infancy. The agreement was only signed
10 basically a month or so ago and so we've really only
11 had a couple of the training sessions but they've
12 already collected a large number of trees that would
13 fit the criteria and many of which the local tribes
14 have actually accepted and confirmed that they do match
15 that. With those data sets continuing to develop we
16 see that as a model to try to expand across Southeast
17 Alaska and try to work at a much broader, multi-tribal
18 entity level utilizing that process once it's more
19 defined.
20

21 I will say that Sealaska has engaged
22 also with us on that, recognizing that although the
23 Forest Service can work to find the trees and help
24 confirm those trees are suitable for such uses, still
25 we don't have -- we don't have the capability as
26 Federal agencies to either take the trees down,
27 transport the trees or deliver the trees, and so
28 Sealaska has kindly offered to -- once we get a batch
29 of trees that work and are capable to work with us to
30 help with that aspect of delivery and transport. With
31 that, it's still in the infancy. We've only had a
32 couple of seasons to actually look at it and collect
33 data but it does look very promising and we do look
34 forward at actually taking that model and expanding it
35 across the Tongass to work to be beneficial for other
36 communities.
37

38 And I hope that's helpful, sir, thank
39 you.
40

41 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Stewart.
42 Are there any other questions from the Council.
43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cathy, are you
45 hearing me now? Do you hear me Cathy?
46

47 MS. NEEDHAM: And, Don, you have -- is
48 that Don, if it is, you have the floor.
49
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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, yeah, I
2 don't know what happened to my phone there but I guess
3 I'm being heard okay now.

4
5 MS. NEEDHAM: You are, and I'll turn
6 the Chair back over to you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
9 Cathy. Thanks for taking over there.

10
11 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chair, this is Frank.

12
13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
14 Frank.

15
16 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr.
17 Stewart, does the logging that is being proposed, does
18 that depend on the market or does it -- you know,
19 because I don't see why we would log if we don't have a
20 market.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 MR. STEWART: So through the Chair, I'm
25 assuming the question that you're asking, sir, has to
26 do with the young growth development, can you clarify
27 for young growth or old growth you're referring to sir.

28
29 MR. WRIGHT: I think that either one
30 would depend on -- the market would depend on either
31 old growth or the young growth and, you know, what
32 would make a difference is in prices, you know, would
33 be cutting, or are we going to make a profit or is it
34 just to cut. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 MR. STEWART: Thank you very much for
37 the clarification, and, in return, through the Chair.
38 I would offer it is a little bit different, while
39 recognizing that the old growth markets are well
40 developed and everything. There's also a continued
41 interest in trying to moderate that side from public
42 lands or from Forest Service land leased over recent
43 years down to what is necessary and try to refocus that
44 energy and that effort toward the marketing associated
45 with young growth. That one is a much bigger question
46 because it's not one that's well developed and it's not
47 one that's got a really good market system built in and
48 so I think that one's going to -- the young growth side
49 of it is going to take more time and probably it'd be
50

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1 more challenging to determine the marketability or the
2 offerability of young growth sales.

3

4

5 Concurrently, with that, we're also
6 still trying to work so that along with any treatment,
7 whether it's old growth or young growth, that we try to
8 bring in restoration type actions. That could be
9 aquatic organism passage, it could be other work
10 associated with tending the stands themselves or other
11 fisheries work or terrestrial work. But trying to do
12 it with not just simply the timber harvest but actually
13 elevating the focus and the impact of terrestrial and
14 aquatic organism work along with those timber sales.
15 But young growth is the bigger question, sir, and I
16 appreciate you recognizing and acknowledging that.

16

17

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Earl.
Any follow up, Frank.

21

22

MR. WRIGHT: No. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

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26

MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair, John Smith.

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, John.

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MR. SMITH: Yeah, I just wanted to
share a perspective of, you know, I grew up years
logging and watching where they'd go in and log a unit
and not take care of that -- that garden, where they
would leave it and it would grow and all the little
small trees would crowd each other and they never came
in to take care of that or looking at a process -- a
different process of logging instead of clear-cutting.
I like the idea of removing the old growth because they
stop producing oxygen but you take a tree and you drop
it and it just sits there it still has an issue to the
carbon, unless it gets buried or it starts to decay.
So leaving that, we're actually leaving this good
resource, why not drop the tree, haul the whole tree to
the landing, take the solid piece and then recycle the
rest of it. You know through the years of watching how
they're taking care of the garden is -- I'd like to see
or hear more about regulations and rules of people
going in and cutting in big clear-cuts and leaving it
and not doing anything with it. There should be rules

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1 and respect to that because of the issue of carbon.

2

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Thank you, sir.

4

5

MR. STEWART: If I may, through the
6 Chair, I'll offer a couple of thoughts. Appreciate the
7 acknowledgement and recognition of the challenge of
8 working through this. There's a lot more effort today
9 going forward on trying to determine what are the civil
10 cultural prescriptions as you indicated that are
11 opportune and beneficial depending on the stand
12 criteria and conditions. Concurrently with that as the
13 stand -- new stand grows up they do tend to over
14 develop and over crowd and the need to do some type of
15 thinning, at this point in time, the Agenc -- the
16 Tongass National Forest is able to do, I'm guessing
17 something on the range of about 4,000 acres of thinning
18 a year. That number probably needs to be up above six
19 or 7,000 to actually catch up. And the thinning that
20 we're looking at right now in those younger stands
21 actually is seeking to shift the stand over towards
22 spruce or to cedar because they're typically
23 overwhelmed by hemlock. So that situation also
24 warrants additional awareness and engagement and I
25 think it's ultimately a question for the publics that
26 actually own the land on how best to do that.

27

28

And, with that, I'll yield back, sir.

29

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
Earl. Any other Council members with a question for
Mr. Stewart.

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

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Albert.

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MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
I have a quick question, just out of curiosity mostly.
I see a lot of trees around here that are just dying of
natural causes and they're still standing, I mean a lot
of them. You could -- I first noticed it when I was
out in the boat and looked up on the mountainside and
you could see all the trees that were dying and I'm not
sure what caused that but I guess I'm wondering what
the plan is, if there even is one for them, or do you
just let them stand until they fall.

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1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted)

3
4 MR. HOWARD: I'm not sure what that was
5 but some.....

6
7 (Teleconference interference -
8 participants not muted)

9
10 MR. HOWARD: It seems like from Marble
11 Bluff all the way down to Gardner there's just a bunch
12 of trees, it looks like mostly spruce, I'm not sure if
13 there's a plan for those or if we just let those fall
14 over and die, I guess I don't know.

15
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 MR. STEWART: In response, through the
19 Chair. I appreciate the acknowledgement and
20 recognition. I think that it does display that the
21 current conditions are changing. We've seen that with
22 yellow cedar, we are seeing it with spruce
23 intermittently. My technological knowledge is too
24 small to actually be productive in this conversation,
25 yet, we could certainly welcome any thoughts from the
26 Subsistence RAC members or Chairman and try to take
27 that to our Forest health task and ask the specialists
28 that are much more knowledgeable than I. But do
29 recognize it is an issue and do recognize that there's
30 not a single answer, there's probably multiple answers
31 on how to handle it and it's probably going to be
32 depending on the pest or the issue that's causing the
33 mortality to the tree specifically. And I apologize I
34 can't go more deeper because I don't more.

35
36 So with that I yield back, sir.

37
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

39
40 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chair, a lot of that
41 is old growth stuff so it's kind of a shame to see it
42 just sitting there and go to waste. So thank you, Mr.
43 Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.
46 Any other Council members with a question.

47
48 (No comments)

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I do have one
2 issue myself, Earl. Recently for the Central Tongass
3 you came out with an invasive management plan. That
4 plan included the use of herbicides, which I know was
5 very controversial and there was a lot of concerns
6 raised about the use of herbicides in that. I guess my
7 question is I know that was something that was
8 determined for the Central Tongass, I don't know if the
9 Forest Service has made some kind of a determination
10 that, you know, policy-wise, herbicides are going to be
11 appropriate in all cases for invasive plant management
12 or are you looking at specific areas where they can be
13 used. I don't know if you have any comments on that.

14
15 MR. STEWART: Mr. Chair, I do
16 appreciate the awareness of the question. I apologize
17 I do not have the specific information right now. When
18 I did a check in with Staff, what I learned effectively
19 was that it is a very localized situation associated
20 with a certain species of invasive plant that's
21 particularly challenging and the treatment from
22 herbicide is probably the best answer to actually
23 control or contain that. The locations and the
24 species, I don't know enough about and I just
25 apologize, I don't have a more detailed answer at this
26 point in time. However, I will submit to the Southeast
27 Subsistence RAC, through the Chair, a more official and
28 complete answer to this question, sir.

29
30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
31 Earl, we appreciate that. Is there any other Council
32 members with a question.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Not hearing
37 any.....

38
39 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, sorry, I do
40 have just one quick one.

41
42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Ian.

43
44 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Mr. Stewart,
45 I think it's just a little bit of a follow up from what
46 Patty was asking and Albert was alluding to on
47 monitoring and I've heard rumors that the SASS
48 opportunity may have a second pulse of funding, do you
49 have any insight on if that's going to be true or not?
50

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1 MR. STEWART: So there's many elements
2 to the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy within
3 some aspects of that and I think Forest management was
4 probably the one area there was a recognition for
5 additional need and (indiscernible - cuts out) for
6 Program needs. And so through the Chair I would offer
7 back in response that there are opportunities for that,
8 it may not be a specifically oriented with Southeast
9 Alaska Sustainability Strategy but it may be more for
10 internal awareness and knowledge on how to focus
11 funding or funding needs going forward. At this point
12 in time there is not an outcome from that that I'm
13 aware of but we certainly could see additional funding
14 opportunities and recognize that there are additional
15 requests and categorical needs for such monitoring and
16 for future projects. I just don't have an outcome at
17 this point.

18
19 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

20
21 MS. NEEDHAM: Is Don dropped off of the
22 line again.

23
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I don't know, can
25 you hear me okay Cathy, I'm not muted.

26
27 MS. NEEDHAM: Okay, I can hear you now.

28
29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I don't
30 know, it might be a little glitchy on my phone line out
31 here, you know how it is out here sometimes. Okay
32 thank you very much Stewart. You covered a lot of
33 topics today, very informative, thanks for taking the
34 questions from the Council, we look forward to maybe
35 hearing more from your Staff as the meeting progresses.
36 So once again thank you very much.

37
38 MR. STEWART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 And to all of the RAC -- or the Council members. My
40 continued appreciation for the value that you add to
41 the communities in Southeast Alaska. Your work on this
42 Council is absolutely critical for many across
43 Southeast and I value the engagement opportunity to
44 recognize those needs. I look forward, as a public
45 servant, to try to continue to do the best that I can
46 and I'm closing with, Chairman -- thank you, Mr.
47 Chairman for this morning, I look forward to future
48 engagement, and I will get back with a more formal
49 response associated with the invasives and the
50

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1 herbicide questions you offered. If there are other
2 questions please let me know and I'll certainly respond
3 more fully or more productively going forward.

4
5 Thank you, again, and I yield back to
6 the Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you again.
9 There may be questions that arise during the course of
10 the meeting. Thank you once again, and goodbye.

11
12 So next up on the agenda is we do need
13 to review and adopt this agenda.

14
15 REPORTER: So Don this is Tina, the
16 court reporter.

17
18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Tina.

19
20 REPORTER: I'm just going to say before
21 you start doing this stuff where -- I just want to make
22 a quick comment to the Council. I know most of your
23 voices but there are new members, if you're going to
24 make a motion or a second or call the question, can you
25 just please state your name afterwards, you know, just
26 your first name is fine, just so I know who it is.

27
28 Okay, thank you, Don. Go ahead.

29
30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Tina.
31 Yeah, all Council members should keep that in mind,
32 Tina does have to keep a record of who does what and so
33 names would be helpful.

34
35 Okay, we do need a motion to adopt this
36 agenda as a working guide for our meeting.

37
38 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair, this is Cathy.

39
40 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, this is Harvey
41 Kitka.

42
43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Harvey.

44
45 MR. KITKA: I move that we adopt this
46 agenda as a working guide for our meeting. Thank you.

47
48 MR. SLATER: This is Jim, I second
49 that.

50

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1 MS. NEEDHAM: Okay. It has been moved
2 and seconded to adopt the agenda as a guide, are there
3 any Council comments.

4
5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We do need to add
6 two items to the agenda.

7
8 MR. CASIPIT: This is Cal.

9
10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: DeAnna, could
11 you.....

12
13 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, can you hear me
14 now?

15
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I hear you DeAnna,
17 I don't know if you can hear me.

18
19 MS. PERRY: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Yes, the Office of Subsistence Management wanted all of
21 the Regional Advisory Councils to get a quick overview
22 of the 2021 Council charter changes so if we could add
23 that under old business, 10E, I could give that update.
24 And then I just wanted to remind you we did promise a
25 few time certain for 11F, the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC
26 appointments, Barbara Cellarius will join us at 2:30
27 today for that. And under Agenda Item 12C, ADF&G, the
28 subsistence report and kelp farming presentation, we
29 promised to get to that at 2:00 on Thursday.

30
31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
34 DeAnna. So if Council members would take note of one
35 additional item to be added to the agenda and unless
36 there's anything else I'll call for the question to
37 adopt this agenda as a guide.

38
39 All in favor say aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 (Teleconference interference -
44 participants not muted)

45
46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody with a nay
47 vote.

48
49 (No opposing votes)

50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, hearing
2 none, the.....

3
4 (Pause)

5
6 MS. NEEDHAM: DeAnna, this is Cathy.

7
8 MS. PERRY: Yes, Cathy.

9
10 MS. NEEDHAM: DeAnna, I'm getting a lot
11 of cut out from Don and I'm unsure if it's my phone or
12 his phone and to proceed I just need to know when the
13 Chair needs to be turned over to me.

14
15 MS. PERRY: Okay. Yeah, I'm getting
16 the same thing, it seems like he's in and out. I know
17 we've got some weather in the area and some of these
18 lines are unstable. So yeah if -- Don, we'll just
19 check one last time, if Don is on the line. Don, have
20 you joined us again.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 REPORTER: And, DeAnna, this is Tina.
25 I'm also going to say after that last vote when
26 everybody did vote, you know, so you unmuted your
27 lines, did your vote, please check and make sure you
28 went back on mute because there is a few open lines.
29 So if everybody, the Council, can please check and make
30 sure that you went back on mute by either star, six or
31 the mute button. And I am getting the same thing with
32 Don, it is in and out so I'm not always sure if he's
33 really off or if it's just cutting out.

34
35 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Tina. Yeah,
36 again, if everybody can hit star, six, it did sound
37 like someone's line was open, maybe they just forgot to
38 go back on mute after this last vote. Cathy, if you
39 would like to step into the Chair role we could go
40 ahead and do election of officers until Don joins us or
41 if you'd like to wait we could.....

42
43 (Teleconference interference -
44 participants not muted)

45
46 MS. NEEDHAM: I think I would like for
47 us to take a five minute break while we try to figure
48 this out. Because I feel like each time I jump in to
49 assume the Chairmanship he is actually there, and we're
50

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1 just not hearing him, and so I want to make sure he has
2 a stable line, or is able to participate so that the
3 Vice Chair knows when they should be taking over. So
4 if we could have Council members take a five minute
5 break while we get the rest of that sorted out I think
6 that would be a good idea at this point.

7
8 REPORTER: And also whoever is driving
9 right now, could you check your phone and mute it,
10 because somebody is driving and their phone is not
11 muted. Thank you.

12
13 MS. NEEDHAM: So let's reconvene at
14 10:35.

15
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, that sounds
17 good to me Cathy.

18
19 (Off record)

20
21 (On record)

22
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We'll reconvene
24 now and we were getting ready to do election of
25 officers and to start us off I'll turn the meeting back
26 over to DeAnna.

27
28 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
29 the record this is DeAnna Perry. I'm the Council
30 Coordinator for the Southeast Subsistence Regional
31 Advisory Council. In accordance with the Council
32 charter, Council members, annually elect a Chair, Vice
33 Chair and Secretary for a one year term.

34
35 I would now like to open the floor for
36 nominations of Council Chair. The nominations do not
37 need to be seconded.

38
39 Are there any nominations for the Chair
40 position.

41
42 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair, Mike
43 Douville.

44
45 MS. NEEDHAM: Madame Chair, this is
46 Cathy Needham.

47
48 MS. PERRY: I heard Mike first, go
49 ahead, Mike.

50

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1 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair, I nominate
2 Don Hernandez for Chair.

3
4 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mike. Any
5 further nominations for Chair.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MS. PERRY: Okay, if there are no
10 further nominations, I will declare the nominations
11 closed. So we have a nomination of Don Hernandez for
12 the Chair position for the Southeast Subsistence
13 Regional Advisory Council. I'll ask for unanimous
14 consent to Don Hernandez being elected as Chair of this
15 Council. Is there anyone opposed.

16
17 (No opposing votes)

18
19 MS. PERRY: All right, Mr. Don
20 Hernandez, you've been elected as the Council's Chair
21 so I'll pass the gavel back to you and the floor is now
22 yours if you would like to lead nominations for Vice
23 Chair and Secretary positions on this Council.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
28 Council members. Continue on as Chair for another
29 year, appreciate the nomination, Mike.

30
31 So now for Vice Chair. Do we have any
32 nominations.

33
34 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair, Mike
35 Douville.

36
37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Mike.

38
39 MR. DOUVILLE: I will nominate Cathy
40 Needham for Vice Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mike.
43 Are there any other nominations for Vice Chair.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Hearing no
48 other.....

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1 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

4

5 MR. DOUVILLE: I would -- excuse me, do
6 you recognize me, it's Mike Douville.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead Mike.

9

10 MR. DOUVILLE: I move t hat nominations
11 closed and we cast a unanimous ballot for Cathy
12 Needham.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: All right, thank
15 you, Mike. Hearing no other nominations for Vice
16 Chair, I'll ask for unanimous consent, or if there's
17 anybody who wishes to vote no please do so now.

18

19 (No opposing votes)

20

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Hearing none,
22 Cathy congratulations, you'll continue on as Vice
23 Chair. And now we need a Secretary. I'll open the
24 floor for nominations for Secretary.

25

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

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cathy.

29

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

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cathy.

33

34 MS. NEEDHAM: I nominate Frank Wright,

35 Jr.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.
38 Frank Wright has been nominated. Are there any other
39 nominations for Secretary.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair, Mike

44 Douville.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Mike.

47

48 MR. DOUVILLE: I move that nominations
49 close and we cast a unanimous ballot for Frank Wright.

50

0047

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you
2 Mike. If there's no other nominations we can ask for
3 unanimous consent, however if there's any no votes for
4 Frank Wright for Secretary.....

5
6 (No opposing votes)

7
8 (Pause)

9
10 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair, this is Cathy.

11
12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cathy.

13
14 MS. NEEDHAM: I'm getting dead air so I
15 was just checking to see if you were there.

16
17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Can you
18 hear me?

19
20 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair, I can hear
21 you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So do we
24 have a motion to approve the.....

25
26 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, this is DeAnna.

27
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, DeAnna.

29
30 MS. PERRY: Mike Douville did ask for
31 unanimous ballot on the nomination for Frank Wright,
32 Jr., and I did not hear any opposition so you could
33 probably declare Frank Wright, Jr., as Secretary at
34 this point.

35
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,
37 DeAnna. I did that. I think my phone line is still
38 cutting out at times but, yes, Frank Wright had a
39 unanimous consent to be Secretary for the record.

40
41 MR. CASIPIT: Mr. Chair, this is Cal.
42 I move that we approve our previous meeting minutes
43 from last fall.

44
45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cal.
46 Do we have a second.

47
48 MR. SMITH: John Smith, a second.

49
50

0048

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, John.
2 So if Council members would take a quick look back at
3 their minutes and see if they made any notations of
4 anything they thought needed to be changed. I always
5 ask Council members to pay particular attention to your
6 Council members reports and see if they were summarized
7 adequately to your words. So let's just take a few
8 minutes to do that if you would.

9
10 (Pause)

11
12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are any Council
13 members seeing anything in the previous minutes that
14 they would like to have reviewed or amended.

15
16 MR. CASIPIT: Mr. Chair, this is Cal.
17 I'll just -- I reviewed all these minutes when I first
18 was mailed this and I took another quick second to look
19 at it to make sure that I'd read it all and got
20 everything, and I didn't have any comments and I
21 believe it's a fair and accurate record of our last
22 meeting and I call for the question.

23
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cal.
25 Question's been called for. I think we can do a voice
26 vote on this as well. All in favor of approving the
27 previous minutes as written say aye.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
32 Is there anybody opposed.

33
34 (No opposing votes)

35
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Hearing none,
37 previous minutes have been approved.

38
39 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Patty.

42
43 MS. PHILLIPS: I don't dispute the
44 minutes but I had a question about the wolves update.
45 It says Mr. Schumacher said there was a delay in the
46 return of DNA data from the laboratory and that an
47 estimate is expected in November, has there been follow
48 up to the Council on that. That's my question. Thank
49 you.
50

0049

1 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, this is DeAnna.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, DeAnna.
4 It was a little broken up for me, I didn't quite hear.

5

6 MS. PERRY: Okay. I believe I heard,
7 it was broken up for me too. Patty was wondering if we
8 had an update from Mr. Schumacher's ADF&G report on
9 wolves and Mr. Schumacher is going to be able to join
10 us a little bit later this afternoon so Patty if you
11 could hold that question for him, he would be the best
12 person to speak to that.

13

14 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
17 Did Mr. Schumacher ask for a specific time to address
18 the Council.

19

20 MS. PERRY: Just in the afternoon, Mr.
21 Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.
24 We'll look forward to hearing that this afternoon then.

25

26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted)

28

29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So questions on
30 the previous minutes.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. The vote
35 was to approve them as written. So we can move on to
36 Council member's reports. And this is just an
37 opportunity for Council members to tell us what's going
38 on in their particular areas and to the public. And
39 maybe I'll go down the list here and call on Council
40 members. I think I'd like to start with Harvey Kitka.
41 I know Harvey probably has a lot to report so, Harvey,
42 if you're there and ready to give a local report from
43 Sitka.

44

45 MR. KITKA: Good morning, Don. Mr.
46 Chair. This is Harvey Kitka. The reports I have are
47 basically not that long but we have things happening in
48 Sitka this last year. Still some of the sockeye runs
49 in some of the places are bad. Some didn't return.

50

0050

1 But Redoubt is doing fine. We have a major bear
2 problem in Sitka right now, some bears are waking up
3 but they seem to be getting awful close to where
4 they're charging people at times. So people have got
5 to be aware when they come to Sitka, some of these
6 bears are getting pretty big.

7
8 We have some issues with -- probably
9 climate changes that are causing a lot of things to
10 change within our area. We've had some issues with the
11 sea otter but they seem -- things seem to be working
12 out pretty well, we're starting to see some gumboots
13 and some of our seafoods coming back though. Maybe we
14 got a handle on that.

15
16 Other than that it's herring time and
17 starting to see big snowflakes and sun and wind and
18 some hail and stuff. So it's getting really close. I
19 have a feeling by the weekend we'll have a fair idea
20 where they're spawning.

21
22 So that's my report.

23
24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Harvey.
25 How about Mike Douville.

26
27 MR. DOUVILLE: Mike Douville, yeah,
28 thank you, Mr. Chair. Nothing's changing too much here.
29 You know there is concern about the wolf ESA, deer
30 numbers on Prince of Wales. The harvest numbers, at
31 least, appear to be still declining some from a
32 estimated population last year of 323 I think. So we
33 should have been able to harvest a hundred but with the
34 season constraints and freezing weather we were able to
35 harvest 64 and I think that's a little short of what
36 was needed to be harvested to maintain the level. But
37 we feel there's plenty of wolves and any sort of
38 listing would be inappropriate. There would be no
39 biological reason.

40
41 But other than that looking forward to
42 herring egg spawn here, hopefully there will be an okay
43 one or I'll have to lean on Harvey.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 MR. DOUVILLE: That's about it, we're
48 just waiting to see what happens with the fishing
49 season. That is totally unpredictable. So looking
50

0051

1 forward to a new summer, or spring.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mike.

6

How about Frank Wright. Frank, are you there.

7

8

MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

Yeah, I'm here, I was just trying to press buttons.

10

11

12

One thing I have to say is, you know, Hoonah boys (indiscernible - cutting out) when the State this year, but they went because a couple of communities couldn't go because one community had Covid and another community had, you know, Covid, too, so -- but I was proud of our boys because, you know, even though they're (indiscernible - cuts out) and Kake ended up with a Covid problem and they couldn't go but they were such a dominant team our region that -- that they couldn't go to State, but our boys -- what I'm proud of at State they had recognized Kake as being the dominant in our region but they couldn't make it and they wore warm up shirts to recognize the Kake team that just because -- you know they did really -- our boys did okay at State, but Kake was so dominate in our region, I believe, that they could have took State and it was unfortunate that Kake didn't go. But anyway I was proud of our boys for doing that so it was pretty cool.

13

14

15

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

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MR. WRIGHT: You know another thing is that, you know, this year the tourists -- I always call them terrorists but the tourists were coming back and I live on Front Street so we're going to be having a parade everyday. There's over 208 boats that's supposed to come into Hoonah so 208 ships so I have a lot of mixed feelings about it but my little town is having a Fourth of July Parade everyday.

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

And otters, same 'ol, same 'ol. They're starting to come in again so we got to do what we can about it.

45

46

47

48

49

50

And the crab -- the tanner crab fishing this year, the prices were enormous, I mean it was unbelievable but that's -- I didn't do too well but the

0052

1 price did us justice, it was 8 bucks a pound, holy
2 smokes, that's crazy so last year we got 3.65\$ or
3 something like that but it sure helped us out a lot.

4

5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted)

7

8 MR. WRIGHT: The snow this year, even
9 as a kid, you know, we were getting snow, and sometimes
10 even snow in December and this year we had snow all the
11 way from November on and the weather was pretty tough,
12 pretty cold and so we had a lot of snow this year and a
13 lot of cold weather and it didn't help on the price of
14 fuel so -- so, yeah, there was talk about -- Department
15 of Fish and Game was talking about on the herring
16 subsistence and I was -- they were trying to put a
17 proposal in but I don't know where that went. I hope
18 that failed because, you know, the communities, small
19 communities that do herring eggs, you know, it's a way
20 of life, it's not a thing that you just say can I go
21 get some, because you're Tlingit, you're a Tlingit.....

22

23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted)

25

26 MR. WRIGHT:you always do things
27 that makes you a Tlingit. So I remember one time we
28 were in school (indiscernible - cuts out, people not
29 muted) non-Native said there's still branches in these
30 eggs and didn't know what to say because, you know, we
31 do things because it's who we are.

32

33 And I think the climate change thing is
34 here. You know so -- and I go to city council -- I've
35 gone to city council meetings and tell them that they
36 need to start recycling, doing something, you know, and
37 for me, I -- I don't use much plastic but whenever I
38 got plastic and then I take it to -- fill up a big bag
39 and then whenever I take my truck to Juneau, I load it
40 up and take it to Juneau and I always just say, I'm
41 just a little raindrop in the storm but eventually
42 enough raindrops will fill up a bucket, you know, so I
43 wish everybody in this world would think about doing
44 their best for this world that we have. So I think
45 that -- I wish the city of Hoonah would break down and
46 figure out some kind of recycling system for -- you
47 know, my wife does aluminum and we were lucky that
48 Alaska Marine Lines does the aluminum cans and aluminum
49 metal because my wife and another lady, they contribute

50

0053

1 that money -- contribute the money that they get from
2 the aluminum to the communities, for little projects
3 for kids and stuff, you know, and I wish we could
4 figure out we can deal with this -- you know,
5 (indiscernible - cuts out)

6
7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
10 Frank. how about Albert Howard from Angoon. Albert.

11
12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted)

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 (Pause)

18
19 REPORTER: So this is Tina, is anybody
20 online.

21
22 MR. CASIPIT: This is Cal, I can hear
23 but I can't hear Mr. Howard.

24
25 REPORTER: Okay, I was just checking.

26
27 MR. DOUVILLE: I can hear you, Tina,
28 this is Mike Douville.

29
30 REPORTER: Hi, Mike. Don, are you
31 still online.

32
33 MR. SCHROEDER: Yeah, Bob Schroeder's
34 here as well.

35
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I don't know if
37 anybody's hearing me but I called on Albert Howard.

38
39 MR. HOWARD: I'm here, Mr. Chairman, I
40 pushed the wrong button.

41
42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, go ahead,
43 Albert.

44
45 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 Well, I guess I could start off by clarifying a
47 statement I made at our last meeting that I supported
48 Mr. Douville and I didn't understand why he didn't
49 support me, at the time. And that statement was taken
50

0054

1 out of contest, though, on social media. But if I may
2 clarify what I meant by that was, is I respect Mr.
3 Douville's knowledge of his area and that's why I
4 supported it and I was expecting the same in regards to
5 what I know about this area. So that's just for that
6 clarification of that so they understand it wasn't
7 horsetrading.

8

9 So immediate concerns here in Angoon
10 are that the closure of the king salmon that's coming
11 up. I think that that's on everyone's mind and you can
12 see it in the effort being put in. And it's taking a
13 different -- it's almost like sockeye now where people
14 are taking chances to go get king salmon before it
15 closes, chances they wouldn't normally take if the
16 season was open full-time.

17

18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted)

20

21 MR. HOWARD: And that concerns me to
22 see people taking off in small boats in any kind of
23 weather. That's one concern.

24

25 Our deer season was pretty good but now
26 we seem to have more pressure than ever. I guess
27 that's the negative fall out of the proposal of closing
28 west Admiralty is now everyone thinks it's probably
29 going to go (indiscernible - interference) so everyone
30 wants to say they hunted here so we had more hunting
31 pressure from -- not just from Juneau residents now but
32 we've -- I've seen boats on the other side from Sitka.

33

34 I talked to one of the guys that was in
35 Chatham, he said they had a bigger boat sitting in
36 Hanus Bay and they were hunting north and south from
37 Hanus Bay into Chatham, so there was even more hunting
38 pressure than previous years. So I'm solution minded
39 more than I am about complaining and I thought I had
40 found a solution but it seems to be having the reverse
41 effect, I guess, and it concerns me for residents when
42 -- this resource is different than people in Juneau
43 because we can't just go to the store and a lot of our
44 food for the store here comes from Juneau and it seems
45 like without ferry service the shelves at the store
46 empty faster. So if we have a ferry once a month, the
47 ferry comes in on a Thursday and Saturday, and by the
48 next Saturday the shelves are back to empty again.

49

50

0055

1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted)

3
4 MR. HOWARD: I'm trying to paint a
5 picture of how important the local resources are to
6 subsistence users.

7
8 I've been trying to figure out how they
9 know -- and also just for, I guess, when the Department
10 does their report on how they know whether or not we're
11 catching (indiscernible - interference) in Angoon, you
12 know.

13
14 We've had a lot of snowfall this past
15 winter, I mean a lot. Even more than I like to shovel
16 but I'm sure it has a purpose for the environment.

17
18 Mr. Wright mentioning to the -- I was
19 listening to the Board of Fish as well and hearing the
20 fact that they wanted us to have permits to do what
21 we've always done, I don't get how that's a solution to
22 the current problem. I don't agree with the permit
23 system because I leave here sometimes in an 18 foot
24 Lund with an outboard on the back and we run from here
25 to Sitka and sometimes if we're lucky it takes us six
26 hours to go to Sitka, through the rough weather of
27 Chatham and the wind towards Hoonah Sound is usually
28 the worst part because it just blows out of there, so,
29 and then camping on the island we almost never see
30 Sitka. I don't think the permit process is a solution
31 to fixing the current herring problem in Sitka. That's
32 just my opinion.

33
34 I've reached out to community members
35 in Kake and they're concerned with crabbers coming in
36 and dumping 350, 300 pots in a day and just wiping out
37 their crab and then leaving them with nothing. They
38 have the same concerns. They think the State should
39 replenish our herring that used to be all over
40 Southeast Alaska and their thought process is the State
41 allowed them to eliminate the herring from Southeast so
42 the State should be responsible for bringing the
43 population back.

44
45 (Teleconference interference -
46 participants not muted)

47
48 MR. HOWARD: I got to go black cod
49 fishing, that was interesting to see these pots at work
50

0056

1 but the thing that bothered me was the fact that I
2 can't go out here and catch a red snapper without
3 getting fined and I only watch a bunch just floating
4 away because it's -- I was as surprised as everyone
5 else to see red snapper, roughey and everything get
6 into them slinky pots but there's -- lingcod get in
7 them and everything. So it was disturbing, I guess, to
8 say all that got just thrown back in the water when I'm
9 not even allowed to catch one.

10

11 I think that's all I have, thank you,
12 Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
15 Albert. Let's go to, let's see, how about Cal Casipit.

16

17 MR. CASIPIT: Okay, thank you, Mr.
18 Chair. This is Cal Casipit from Gustavus. I don't
19 really -- I have a pretty short report. I'm kind of
20 like everybody else, it's been a long tough winter with
21 lots of snow and hopefully we don't get another one or
22 two like it next year and the year after and put us
23 where we were with deer up here in '07 or '08 but, you
24 know, we're hopeful that this won't be repeated again
25 real quick.

26

27 I wanted to mention to folks also about
28 -- you know, we're a subsistence Council, to me that's
29 food security, and I wanted to make sure people knew,
30 and it's only open until the 30th now, but DNR,
31 Department of Natural Resources -- Alaska Department of
32 Natural Resources, their Division of Agriculture has a
33 microgrant program open right now for individuals and
34 organizations, you know, \$5,000 projects for food
35 security and that means, you know, traditional stuff
36 like greenhouses and chicken coops and fences and all
37 that stuff and I actually applied for the chicken
38 stuff. But there's also a line in there for
39 subsistence and it includes stuff like, you know,
40 canning and butchering and that sort of thing and also
41 I think ammo was even included.

42

43 (Teleconference interference -
44 participants not muted)

45

46 MR. CASIPIT: So I just wanted to make
47 folks aware of that. I have the website to go to if
48 you're interested -- you know, you apply on the web,
49 it's basically -- it's DNR.alaska.gov/ag/gg_grants.

50

0057

1 And like I said it's open until the 30th and it's a
2 real simple process and I kind of encourage folks who
3 are concerned about food security in their communities
4 to -- it might be a good opportunity.

5
6 Anyway, that's about all I have and
7 I'll just pass it on and hopefully we can get done
8 before lunch so I'll make sure there's plenty of time
9 for everybody.

10
11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
12 Cal. How about Patty Phillips in Pelican, you there
13 Patty.

14
15 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16
17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Good morning,
18 Patty, go ahead.

19
20 MS. PHILLIPS: This is Patricia
21 Phillips. I'm going to holler into my phone so you
22 guys can hear. I thank Cal for bringing that
23 (indiscernible - breaking up) in our community and for
24 help for applying for that Department of Natural
25 Resources food security grant.

26
27 So as I indicated earlier I'm a 50 year
28 resident of Pelican and I spend a lot of time on the
29 water and I see lot over the years and it's not just
30 the Pelican area that's affected, there's several areas
31 of reduced commercial (indiscernible - breaking up)
32 fisheries. We are seeing a greater (indiscernible -
33 breaking up) in the -- but in the summer of 2021 or
34 June 2021 I observed a super pod of humpbacks between
35 Cape Cross and west (indiscernible - fades out).....

36
37 (Pause)

38
39 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Your screen.

40
41 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Oh, it looks like
42 it went dead.

43
44 (Teleconference interference -
45 participants not muted)

46
47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Patty cut out on
48 my phone, I don't know.

49
50

0058

1 MR. SCHROEDER: I still have
2 connectivity.

3
4 MS. PHILLIPS:on my little
5 iPhone. And also I want to follow up with the bear. I
6 mean I testified before that there's so many bears.....

7
8 UNIDENTIFIED: Okay, there's - hi.

9
10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)

12
13 MS. PHILLIPS:that are
14 (indiscernible - breaking up and interference) this
15 winter but (indiscernible - breaking up and
16 interference) there's no -- they look healthy that, you
17 (indiscernible) know, the winter.

18
19 (Bad connection)

20
21 MS. PHILLIPS:we're seeing
22 changes there.

23
24 (Teleconference interference -
25 participants not muted)

26
27 MS. PHILLIPS:for our local rural
28 residents. That's all I'm going to share for now, Mr.
29 Chair, thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
32 Patty. How about if we go to Bob Schroeder.

33
34 REPORTER: Okay, before we go to the
35 next person everybody take a second and mute your line
36 again. So if you've been speaking, the only person
37 that should be unmuted is Don, and the next speaker.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
42 Tina. Bob, are you there.

43
44 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes, I am, can you hear
45 me.

46
47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

48
49 MR. SCHROEDER: Yeah, well, just it's
50

0059

1 getting pretty tough with all the phones cutting in and
2 out. I'll be really brief today.

3

4 I'd just really like to second Harvey
5 and Albert's concern about herring and.....

6

7 (Teleconference interference -
8 participants not muted)

9

10 MR. SCHROEDER:I'll note with
11 other changes taking place in Southeast Alaska, we're
12 likely to be much more in the business of us supporting
13 conservation and restoration of subsistence -- used for
14 subsistence than we are in allocation issues and, you
15 know, this is just the world that we're facing.
16 Definitely rehabilitating herring stocks should be a
17 real priority for management agencies.

18

19 I'll limit my other comments to the two
20 things that I'm really concerned with and one is the
21 climate catastrophe that we're facing right at this
22 moment and the other is our hopes to develop a policy
23 on indigenous management, or co-management of natural
24 resources.

25

26 I'll leave it at that so we can have
27 time for everyone to speak. And welcome to all the new
28 members of our Council.

29

30 That's it for me, thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
33 Bob. Ian Johnson.

34

35 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Yeah, so
36 Albert alluded to the amount of snow and Gustavus too
37 with Cal, and there was a guy here measuring it last
38 week, we got about 7 feet at 1,000 feet elevation and I
39 know it goes up from there and we had pretty
40 predominate snow at sea level for a long time until the
41 rain came. So, yeah, snow definitely an issue this
42 year and curious to see what it does to the continuing
43 deer numbers, it's like a third winter now where maybe
44 not a devastating winter, but also not real great for
45 the deer.

46

47 We are working on some climate
48 monitoring efforts here in Hoonah, and I guess I'll
49 highlight those for other communities that might be
50

0060

1 interested. A long term stream temp monitoring network
2 just to gather data and allow us to understand what's
3 happening to our stream temperatures. And doing some
4 snow pak monitoring for municipal water supply,
5 thinking about salmon habitat and -- and hydro electric
6 supply as well.

7
8 And I maybe I should have added it to
9 the agenda, I'm not sure, but I do want to talk about
10 the SASS process as it relates to deer. Coming out of
11 the last meeting -- the meeting last fall, I did follow
12 up and submit a proposal to help address some of the
13 concerns around stakeholder engagement, population,
14 understanding, you know, what population of deers
15 around north Chichagof area and potentially western
16 Admiralty. I have had a pretty good chance to connect
17 with members of those communities but we'd be happy to
18 talk about that, maybe especially during the co-
19 management discussions, seems like a good place as any
20 to talk about that more.

21
22 I'm real worried about our pink salmon
23 runs this year. December 2020 was the massive rain on
24 snow event that Earl alluded to in his opening remarks
25 that caused all the land slides around the system. I
26 strongly suspect that extreme scouring of our streams
27 happened too, and so, you know, it's an even year run,
28 it's already a reduced run anyways and this will be the
29 return from that big 2020 event, potential river
30 scouring event so that has a whole trickle down effect
31 on, of course, our bears and commercial fisheries and
32 subsistence fisheries and everything else.

33
34 And then last thing I guess I'll bring
35 up is there's definitely an active online discussion
36 especially about the effective trawling and bycatch on
37 our Southeast communities and linked, you know, king
38 salmon and halibut and everything else. And, so, yeah,
39 definitely spent a fair amount of time talking to
40 community members bout that and exchanging information.
41 So want to bring that issue back up.

42
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ian.
46 And now back to Pelican, James Slater, what do you have
47 to report.

48
49 MR. SLATER: Yeah, hi, thank you, Don.
50

0061

1 I'll just add a few things to what Patty said. As
2 everyone mentioned we had a big year with snow. We had
3 some effect on the community with regard to building
4 collapses. We had two buildings, our school had some
5 damage to it and the cold storage itself. So our kids
6 were going to school in the library for a couple months
7 this winter.

8
9 It's affecting the deer. I could just
10 say locally that I've saw more deer kill-off this
11 winter than I've ever seen, locally, just around where
12 I live. I don't know if it's -- we always have deep
13 snow by our place so I don't know if it's just local to
14 where we're at or that's reflected throughout the
15 Inlet, but it was fairly severe.

16
17 One of the last things was that we -- I
18 reported in the last meeting that there was some
19 interest in really starting a mine in Lisianski Inlet,
20 it's the Apex Real-Apex El Nindo Mine. I did hear, I
21 don't know if it's official but that the person who has
22 the mining lease lost a funding partner, Tour Alaska,
23 who was going to partner with them to restart some
24 effort there and I heard that that was -- the funding
25 was lost, or the funding was -- so that affects our
26 Inlet there, both from the economy and environment-
27 wise.

28
29 That's all I have, thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Jim.

32
33 (Pause)

34
35 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair, this is Cathy.

36
37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cathy.

38
39 (Teleconference interference -
40 participants not muted)

41
42 MS. NEEDHAM: Sorry, there was dead air
43 again, and I was just checking thank you.

44
45 (Pause)

46
47 REPORTER: Don, if you're talking we
48 can't hear you.

49
50

0062

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
2 Cathy.

3
4 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair, this is Cathy.
5 I'm guessing maybe you're calling on me to give my
6 community report, or my Council report.

7
8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That's a roger, go
9 ahead, Cathy.

10
11 MS. NEEDHAM: All right, thank you, Mr.
12 Chair. Good morning everyone. I am fresh off of the
13 Board of Fish meeting out of Anchorage, Alaska. I'm
14 still a little bit trying to get engaged with.....

15
16 (Teleconference interference -
17 participants not muted)

18
19 MS. NEEDHAM: We will have a more
20 official Board of Fish report later in this meeting so
21 I'll hold off on the more comments about our proposals
22 and things until that time. I will mention that the
23 Board of Fish is currently deliberating our first
24 proposal and have been getting some messages from those
25 who are in the room and the Board is actually having a
26 really good long discussion about it.

27
28 (Teleconference interference -
29 participants not muted)

30
31 MS. NEEDHAM: So I look forward to
32 hearing what they decide on that eventually too.

33
34 For just a little bit about what I've
35 been working on since our last Council meeting. As you
36 all know there's a U.S.A. petition for wolves that is
37 being evaluated for -- at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
38 Service. And interestingly, or -- or the U.S. Fish and
39 Wildlife Service actually put out a call for local
40 knowledge about wolves in our area, that they were
41 really making an attempt to integrate local and
42 traditional knowledge into their decisionmaking about
43 endangered species. And so I have been helping or
44 working with a couple of individuals formulate their
45 response to that, and I think that it has been a pretty
46 positive opportunity for weigh-in from a different
47 perspective where the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is
48 not just 100 percent relying on empirical data, that
49 they're really trying to engage with local
50

0063

1 knowledgeable people about wolves.

2

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted)

5

6 MS. NEEDHAM: And it's not just Prince
7 of Wales wolves, it is, you know, Alexander Archipelago
8 wolves of Southeast Alaska, so I just wanted the
9 Council to be aware that that has been going on. I
10 think the comment period has closed awhile ago but like
11 I said this is the sort of things that we've been doing
12 in between meetings.

13

14

15 What won't be in my formal comments
16 regarding the Board of Fish is a couple of things that
17 I'd like to bring up now because they don't have
18 anything to do necessarily with proposals that we tried
19 to push through the system. I think there's an
20 opportunity, this halibut topic, to -- we put in a
21 proposal and it did get sent back to our Coordinator
22 and it was not included in the Board of Fish meeting
23 cycle because it was outside of their jurisdiction,
24 however, there was an AC -- Sitka AC also put in a
25 halibut proposal that was somewhat similar to the
26 proposal that we put in and their proposal did get put
27 in the book and they did go through the process on it
28 and they'll be deliberating that proposal later today
29 and we may find out whether or not they decided there
30 was some jurisdiction or not. But the reason why I
31 bring this to the Council's attention is that there is
32 an opportunity to work with some of the local ACs that
33 are all in agreement that halibut bag limits -- a
34 reduction in halibut bag limits for non-resident spot
35 anglers should be looked at and I think that there's a
36 lot of support from other communities in that. I was
37 asked numerous time whether or not we could collaborate
38 and potent -- whether or not the Regional Advisory
39 Council could collaborate and potentially take a
40 proposal forward to the agency, National Marine
41 Fisheries Service, that does have jurisdiction over
42 halibut. So that might be something that this Council
43 is interesting in doing or individual members are
44 interested in kind of working towards for the future.

44

45

46 On that note as well we did have a
47 proposal that was about non-resident sport fishing --
48 it's a non-resident sport -- I'm sorry -- unguided non-
49 resident sport fishing change so that we could collect
50 data about that harvest in our region. And I'll be

50

0064

1 able to give a better -- I will be able to give a
2 better situation after they have -- decide -- because
3 the Board is deliberating that probably in the next
4 hour, but aside from that piece of it, I want to also
5 mention that across the board we had AC support for
6 starting to be able to collect data from that sector of
7 salmon harvest, so salmon by unguided non-residents.
8 Something our Council has worked on for a number of
9 years, trying to put a proposal forward on that, and in
10 the past they have not accepted it. I can say at the
11 Board of Fish meeting, when we delivered that proposal
12 to them, the discussion around it was not necessarily
13 that the Board will pass it but they have not yet made
14 their decision, they have not deliberated it but I
15 think that a lot of the ACs, they also came to me at
16 that meeting and they said, maybe what we should think
17 about doing is working on this issue between now and
18 the next Board of Fish cycle and submitting a joint
19 proposal because there is broad support across the
20 region for trying to close that data gap and get some
21 accountability out.

22
23 With that, I want to give a shout out
24 to DeAnna, our Council Coordinator, and George Pappas,
25 our Federal OSM Liaison between the Board of Fish and
26 the Subsistence Program for essentially being on-call
27 while I was at the Board of Fish meeting and answering
28 questions and helping me prep for everything that was
29 needed. I had help from other Staff as well, like
30 Lauren Sill from the Alaska Department of Fish and
31 Game, but, really, DeAnna and George went above and
32 beyond to work through the weekend and be available for
33 me to ask questions, and I want that to be acknowledged
34 that it was really appreciated and extremely helpful in
35 being able to represent this Council at that meeting.

36
37 And, with that, Mr. Chair, I'll turn it
38 back over to you, thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.
41 And thanks for attending that meeting and I'm glad you
42 had some excellent Staff assistance so I'm glad to hear
43 that. And your report from Fish and Game, the Board
44 meeting, is coming up in old business. We may have to
45 delay that a little bit until we get to a full report,
46 maybe later on in the meeting, it sounds like they're
47 still deliberating. So thank you, Cathy.

48
49 (Teleconference interference -
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0065

1 participants not muted)

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Now, our more recent Council members we haven't heard from yet, hopefully Louie and John, you've been listening to the reports from other Council members and have a pretty good idea of how to go about giving us a report from your area. So I'll call on Louie Wagner, we're ready for your report from Metlakatla.

MR. WAGNER: Where's the star.....

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Star, six.

REPORTER: Nope, you're already unmuted, don't hit star, six again because you've been unmuted. I can hear you, Mr. Wagner.

MR. WAGNER: Okay, can you hear me now.

REPORTER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, I can fine.

MR. WAGNER: Oh, okay. I don't know what happened to the phone here but it's Louie Wagner and with the last two years we were able to eat our clams again with no cruise ships. They're allowed to dump their waste right in our waters and not have to go out to the Three Mile limit anymore, which really needs to be done again. It was really nice to be able to -- our people could have their clams.

And our salmon streams on the island, I don't know how many we have, we have a lot of salmon streams and they -- they all did quite well. There's one main stream where I grew up in the fish camp with our old folks, they had the smokehouses over there and the dog salmon, the chum, aren't returning in there anymore. When the hatchery started they put a weir across there so I don't know if that was -- might have been what ruined the stream, I don't know, but the rest are doing -- doing quite well.

And we have a new hatchery manager, for the last two years. They've put out new net pens for this year and so we're looking forward to a good return in the next couple of years here, three years.

1 And I believe we had three or four
2 small herring spawns on the island. One in the
3 traditional spawning area and the other one's in a new
4 spot. We used to have, up through the '80s, two areas
5 that had really big spawns, on the back side of the
6 island, on the east side and on the northwest side.
7 And the one back at Crab Bay on the east side, that one
8 would spawn any time now and the end of the month. And
9 the one on this northwest at Smugglers, they would
10 spawn right around May 9th. And when Ellis Airlines
11 was flying over here at the airport, when the airport
12 was in operation, they would always give a report on
13 it, and Len Lawrence would put it on the air that the
14 herring were spawning there. That was pretty neat.

15
16 Last year, our people were very hopeful
17 that they were going to get their eulachons when
18 District Ranger Shane Walker came over to Metlakatla
19 and he was signed -- he brought all the paperwork and
20 people were able to sign up in our Council chambers and
21 the harvesters, you know, and the harvesters could take
22 one proxy so the harvester was allowed two buckets and,
23 well, the only boat that went up was my boat and my son
24 was with me and my nephew, and they each had a proxy
25 and so we weren't able to bring a whole lot back and we
26 shared with what people we could, especially the elders
27 and -- and they were quite happy but there was a lot of
28 disappointed people. they thought just by signing up
29 they could -- they could give us -- because we're the
30 ones who always go up -- and give us their proxy but it
31 wasn't set up that way. So there needs to be some
32 improvement. The people have been missing out on their
33 fish and it's been coming back really well, you know,
34 and they don't always just go up the Unuk River, they
35 go up to Kluhini, they've gone up to Carol Inlet,
36 George Inlet, the Blossom, up Princess Bay, they'll --
37 why they do this, I don't know, but it's not like we
38 missed them, they just didn't go into the Unuk here we
39 normally get them and the -- the run starts off really
40 slow after three, four days, five days, then the -- the
41 run starts to peak and they leave very quickly. A lot
42 of them, even after they spawn they leave so I spent my
43 life up there on the river there with the eulachon so
44 they sure need to do something. There's too many
45 people passing away and not having their eulachons,
46 especially out of the Unuk River where we've always
47 gone. And we have that -- I guess it's a pictureglyph,
48 it's a sun painted on the bluff down beyond the mean
49 low water and we have another one where we hunt moose
50

0067

1 up in Lake Creek, it's about 15 miles up river and it's
2 -- we've always -- we've never stopped using that
3 river. That -- I started out with my oldest brother
4 and then -- then my next brother between us and myself,
5 and my son, my son's been going up there ever since he
6 was four years old and he's 50 now so looking forward
7 to hopefully.....

8
9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It's traditional.

10
11 MR. WAGNER: Yeah, things will get back
12 to the traditional and customary use up there. It's a
13 big part of starting our spring and they -- the
14 eulachons keep in the freezer all winter so we have
15 them right up to the time we have to go get them again.

16
17 So that's -- that's about it. And I
18 think when I have another report I'll try to talk to
19 our fisheries manager here on our fish and wildlife and
20 get a, brief, but more detailed report on -- on the
21 streams and the herring. They monitor it all very well
22 so.

23
24 Thank you for allowing me to talk, Mr.
25 Chairman.

26
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Louie.
28 I guess before my Chair's report we have John Smith,
29 from Juneau, so if you're ready go ahead John.

30
31 MR. SMITH: Gunalcheesh. Yeah, thank
32 you very much. The air over here is very clear and
33 very well thanks to the snow and the rain, oxygen level
34 is high so very happy. I notice since the Covid and
35 not having very many ships here, I've been part of the
36 Juneau Commission of Sustainability for quite a few
37 terms and my mission was emissions and electrifying the
38 dock and we have, and things have changed for the
39 better, which is good, to see these big ships plugging
40 in here in Juneau and saving the trees and the -- the
41 what we'd say, us Kwaan, the Tree People, and (In
42 Tlingit) the plant people. I want to thank the Queen
43 Princess and them for being so sustainable and
44 recycling everything on their ships, even their water,
45 their brown water on there that when they finish, the
46 water that you're talking that they dump it in the
47 water, you can drink it, that's how clean it is. They
48 actually burn the brown water through the incinerator.
49 So it's very interesting, the -- the technology that's
50

0068

1 here today that we need to bring that here to Juneau.

2

3 As far as the water, it's getting very
4 exciting, I see a lot of our sea lions, and seals and
5 other birds are coming in, our geese have showed up so
6 that's really a positive thing to see those and the --
7 and the cycle on the (In Tlingit), the world has.

8

9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participants not muted)

11

12 MR. SMITH: So I see a lot of good
13 things but I -- I do have concerns and community
14 members. I work with -- I'm an educator so I -- I work
15 with the tribes sometimes and we go on adventures and
16 we do the -- the testing of the clams and the cockles
17 and realizing that -- how high the -- you know, the
18 clams are, but realizing that the cockles -- I was able
19 to harvest cockles all year this year and not have any
20 issues but realizing that the parts per million,
21 depending on where you're harvesting is different, like
22 Fish Creek is right across the way from the garbage
23 dump so I'm noticing over there where there's a lot of
24 shells that are very soft, but then I go to a different
25 beach further away where not any of the elements from
26 the garbage dump is coming that direction, I notice
27 that people are harvesting cockle -- I mean clams in
28 different areas and eating them and not having any
29 issues. So concerns there on -- I'm really glad that
30 our community is keeping on eye on -- that we've lost a
31 lot of people because of so.

32

33 The harvesting of the seal, because of
34 the weather has been really cold and lots of rain and
35 the snow, I'm very happy for that because I worry about
36 our water and our water shed, that's why it's so
37 powerful here in Alaska of our natural medicines and
38 our food is because our powerful watersheds here are --
39 and our blueberries and others so I'm really, you know,
40 listening to some of the information, you know, about
41 the permitting and -- and the reporting of no matter
42 what element of the Earth I think it's very -- I
43 encourage that I keep pushing the issue of data. Data
44 is the key that drives us here and how do we know if
45 people aren't recording that, even if we are Alaska
46 Native, or no matter what ethnicity we are, we are all
47 one, we're all here on Earth together and so I truly
48 believe that data and everybody reporting, even if they
49 report, no, I didn't have time to hunt this year, or,
50

0069

1 no, I went out 10 times and didn't see anything, those
2 kind of things are -- are important, especially if you
3 go to the same place and you hunt the same areas
4 and.....

5

6 (Teleconference interference -
7 participants not muted)

8

9 MR. SMITH:you don't see those
10 things. So even as far as (indiscernible -
11 interference).....

12

13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted)

15

16 MR. SMITH:back home in Hoonah,
17 I'm -- I grew up in Hoonah, Alaska and raised all 11 of
18 my kids. I like what they did, where they slowed down
19 the harvest of the females, it really brought the
20 number up.

21

22 I mean even as far as herring, our
23 herring, we need to look at a different process of
24 making it harder for the fishermen and -- and giving a
25 chance to the herring people to survive.

26

27 (Teleconference interference -
28 participants not muted)

29

30 MR. SMITH: Shorten up the net, make it
31 a challenge. They used to fish with shorter nets, now
32 they got longer ones, you know, shorten that up. Or
33 maybe take a break, I know it's a lot of money and
34 it.....

35

36 (Teleconference interference -
37 participants not muted)

38

39 MR. SMITH:feeds a lot of people
40 but how about we look at letting the fish spawn. Let
41 them go through their process, leave them be, and then
42 after that go ahead and harvest some and then that way
43 we know that our herring have made the -- and did their
44 cycle and that they're surviving, you know, and they're
45 still moving on.

46

47 (Teleconference interference -
48 participants not muted)

49

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0070

1 MR. SMITH: A different process or just
2 even taking a break.

3
4 And as far as the crab, you know, same
5 thing. How many crab pots are they dumping in the
6 water. I know -- I fished with Victor Bean, Paul
7 Rudolph, Dora Sovlon (ph), we were highliners and
8 there's a process of finding them. If you understand
9 the -- and look through the eyes of the king crab and
10 understand the way they live and survive, a fisherman
11 could wipe them out really quick. It's just -- it's
12 all set in the test fish.

13
14 (Teleconference interference -
15 participants not muted)

16
17 MR. SMITH: Where are the male, where
18 are they at and then they find them and when they find
19 them they dump all their pots in one spot and wipe them
20 out. You know, make it a challenge for a couple years
21 for them, cut back the pots that they can use, make
22 them work a little bit for the big money, it's a lot of
23 money. But mainly not to discourage the fishermen, we
24 want to keep the cycle of our food going, but how do we
25 respect it and give a chance to the other Kwaan, the
26 other elements of the Earth, the other living animals.

27
28 So, data, I really feel is important.

29
30 But I have issues over here too, some
31 community families here were talking about their crab,
32 their subsistence, the 13-hook skate where they're
33 being boarded and giving tickets because of they have
34 too much gear on board. Well, if you're a fisherman,
35 you're always going to have extra gear, you know, you
36 might break a line, you might lose a hook, you might
37 break your -- and lose your whole set but you still
38 want to be able to set.

39
40 (Teleconference interference -
41 participants not muted)

42
43 MR. SMITH: So it was issues that were
44 coming up on the table. So I'd just voice that, maybe
45 that we can think about some of those. And, you know,
46 and I think that lies in the hands of the Fish and
47 Game, you know, they -- respect to Bob Starbird and --
48 and Andy Soblan, and Bob Starbird was a relative, I
49 fished with Paul Rudolph who was in-laws and then Andy
50

0071

1 Soblan was a classmate, they were Fish and Game
2 officers. Of course they were very respectful and they
3 did things in a -- in a positive way, you know, and
4 doing of so is -- is a good thing. Like just if you're
5 a Fish and Game officer you would use your strategy.
6 You would wait until they start to pull their gear and
7 go over and then say, hey, mind if we watched you and
8 then you could watch and see for yourself how many
9 hooks are in the water. But that was one of the
10 concerns from the families.

11

12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted)

14

15 MR. SMITH: But other than that the
16 year has been pretty good so far. Plants are getting
17 green, things are growing in the woods and very excited
18 about the harvesting of our herring and our eulachon
19 and -- and we harvested -- my little brother harvested
20 a seal just recently. And we rendered the fat and gave
21 out a lot of the food out to the community because it
22 was my nephew, it was his first seal. Not, but a few
23 days after that I asked him if he reported that he
24 received -- that he reported he shot a seal and he
25 didn't and so I encouraged him, said it's very
26 important that you do this so that we know that you're
27 harvesting that but we want to know where they are and
28 how many. It changes every year to year, even in the
29 spots that I harvest with my family. Sometimes there's
30 lots of them and sometimes there isn't. But it's also
31 good for the community to report, hey, yeah, there was
32 a lot of herring in that -- in that -- that seal and I
33 shot that in December, December 20th and there was tons
34 of herring in the bel -- things like that are very cool
35 to report. So encouraging our -- our community to
36 report as much as they can on their documents really
37 helps our -- our people that are trying to surv -- make
38 it, survive.

39

40 Gunalcheesh. Ah. Ho Ho.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, John.

43

44 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this
45 is DeAnna.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I hear you DeAnna.
48 If you can hear me go ahead.

49

50

0072

1 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Don. Yeah, I'm
2 going to try to maybe help out some of our new Council
3 members who might not be familiar with, you know,
4 having to juggle the phones and all that. I wonder if
5 Mr. Wagner, I -- I think maybe if you pressed star, six
6 when you were done with your report, it might not have
7 connected, so if you will hit star, six, you'll hear a
8 little message that tells you if you're on mute or not.
9 And that just serves as a reminder for everyone. I
10 know this is a new process for many but if you'll just
11 press the little star, the little asterisk, and then
12 the number 6 that will help out. And I know sometimes
13 we are multi-tasking and we forget to do that mute but
14 we're really having some issues with capturing our
15 administrative record this time around because of all
16 the background noise so if we could take a moment to
17 check that I would appreciate it. And, again, I know
18 some of this is new to folks. So thank you.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
23 DeAnna. And can you hear me okay?

24
25 REPORTER: I don't know if DeAnna can,
26 but I can hear you Don.

27
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Can you hear me
29 DeAnna?

30
31 MS. PERRY: I did -- I think there's a
32 delay.

33
34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Tina, did you
35 hear.....

36
37 MS. PERRY: That's another thing, I
38 guess maybe we would mention, as people come on and off
39 mute there might be a little bit of a delay and some
40 dead air, and I do that hear from you Don. You're
41 probably getting off and on mute but there's a
42 significant delay with Don, for sure.

43
44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, well, if you
45 can hear me, I have not been muting at all. I think I
46 just have an issue with the phone. We'll see if we can
47 get it resolved over lunch but hopefully everybody can
48 hear me and I'll give my Chair's report.

49
50

1 Just kind of local observations.

2

3

4 Like everybody else in Southeast it was
5 a very brutal to the winter. Here on Prince of Wales
6 Island we had cold weather like we don't usually get.
7 We probably had more snow than we're accustomed to and
8 that was all through December. Come January we had a
9 complete reversal, heavy rains, took a lot of the snow
10 out. It's been fairly mild ever since. I really hope
11 that the deer did well through that cold period. A
12 little bit of opportunity I had to get out and look
13 around, I could definitely see that deer were
14 concentrated in the old growth timber close to the
15 beaches and conditions in the old growth didn't look
16 all that bad. It was a pretty healthy canopy to keep
17 the heavy snows away and I'm hoping that helped save
18 some of the deer. But, of course, we do have a fairly
19 limited supply of old growth around here so I'm hoping
20 for the best.

20

21 For those that are still experiencing
22 some wintry conditions, our berry bushes leafed out
23 this week, some of them, so spring is on the way.

24

25 As Mike Douville reported, it was not a
26 very successful hunting season for a lot of people here
27 in my area. So we'll see how this winter affects the
28 hunting overall.

29

30 Other observation is have not noticed
31 very many, or any actually herring wintering in our
32 bays this winter. Usually we see some winter herring
33 here, this winter I have really not seen any and king
34 salmon fishing has not been all that good for folks who
35 wanted to get out and get a fresh king salmon.

36

37 And now for my Chair's report. I don't
38 have a report from the Subsistence Board yet. Their
39 meeting is coming up in about three weeks and I plan on
40 attending that remotely and giving our perspective on
41 what's happening here in Southeast and report on our
42 wildlife proposals. It's a wildlife meeting. So that
43 happens in three weeks. I want to, again, thank Cathy
44 for attending the Board of Fish meetings. She did a
45 really excellent job of representing the Council. She
46 told me she took a lot of tough questions from the
47 Board and I'm sure she handled them quite well, and I'm
48 glad that she's willing to attend some of these
49 meetings, we kind of divide up our meeting

50

0074

1 responsibilities here so thanks to Cathy for that.

2

3

4 Other meetings that I've been attending
5 as Chair is throughout the winter we've had several
6 meetings of the Deer Summit Steering Committee, which
7 is a diverse committee of Prince of Wales residents.
8 We have Fish and Game, Forest Service, tribes,
9 conservation groups and myself representing the Council
10 and what we're planning is to put on a -- we're calling
11 a deer summit, that we're hoping to be able to hold
12 next fall on the island. It's an effort to try and
13 bring a lot of people together in one place and just
14 discuss numerous topics related to what's going on with
15 deer hunting, and habitat conditions here on Prince of
16 Wales and see if local residents can't come to some
17 kind of a consensus of what the situation is. Maybe
18 what kind of future we might want to bring about here
19 on the island. So one thing we have done in
20 preparation for that summit is we sent out a deer user
21 assessment to -- it was distributed throughout the
22 island. It's an opportunity for people to fill out a
23 questionnaire answering some questions about their deer
24 hunting activities, but also giving us their opinions
25 on what they feel is happening with the deer population
26 on Prince of Wales and we will be reviewing those
27 questionnaires before the summit and that'll be kind of
28 a basis for a lot of our discussion when we all have a
29 chance to get together. We were hoping to maybe have
30 that summit this spring but with the Pandemic and a lot
31 of Covid mitigation measures still we were uncertain
32 whether that could happen this spring so we are really
33 hoping to be able to do that come the fall.

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The other meeting I've been attending
as Chair have been with our Indigenous Management
Working Group. We've met three times, I believe with
various Council members participating along with other
tribes and Central Council of Tlingit and Haida and
also the Womens Earth Climate Action Network has been
participating. And we'll have a full report on our
work group meetings and we've also -- one of the goals
of that work group -- those work group meetings was to
be able to present to the Council some of the ideas
that came out of that working group and ask the Council
to take a look at those during this meeting and
hopefully the Council will have something that we will
want to move forward and present to various agencies,
maybe Office of Subsistence Management, Forest Service,
Subsistence Board just kind of informing them of what

0075

1 -- what we might like to see moving forward in relation
2 to indigenous co-management.

3

4 So that is what I've been working on as
5 Chair.

6

7 So now I see we're approaching the noon
8 hour and the next thing up on the agenda is public and
9 tribal comments on non-agenda items and I'm quite sure
10 that we're looking forward to a presentation from the
11 Women's Earth and Climate Action Network. I've asked
12 them -- they wanted to give a presentation to the
13 Council and I asked if they'd do that under public
14 testimony. I guess we'll find out here if they're
15 ready to go after lunch, but in the meantime is there
16 anybody -- any tribal or public members who are
17 listening now, when we reconvene at 1:00 o'clock if
18 there is testimony that you would like to give to the
19 Council, that will be the opportunity to do that and I
20 also remind any other tribal or public members
21 listening that we will begin our meeting tomorrow and
22 Thursday at 9:00 a.m., with an opportunity for public
23 testimony for any other individuals, tribes or groups
24 who want to do that. It's a little different on our
25 opening day, we have to get through a lot of initial
26 business first. The other days of our meetings, that
27 is how we start our meeting.

28

29 So we can adjourn for lunch and come
30 back at 1:00 o'clock. So in the meantime, everybody
31 signing off I do want to check in with DeAnna if she
32 could stay on the line, I want to know if Wanda Culp
33 and Women's Earth and Climate Action Network is
34 available at 1:00 o'clock. So.....

35

36 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, this
37 is DeAnna. I can reach out to Wanda -- I'm sorry
38 unless that was just her.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So for everybody
41 else we'll recess until 1:00 o'clock.

42

43 MS. PERRY: And I would encourage
44 everyone to go ahead and disconnect their lines and
45 call back in before 1:00 o'clock, maybe we'll have
46 stabler lines. So, yeah, go ahead and hang up on your
47 phone call and call back in before 1:00.

48

49 Thank you.

50

0076

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 MS. PERRY: If Council members could
6 remember to just star, six, and take yourselves off of
7 mute so we can do a quick roll call and then once you
8 say that you're present, go ahead and mute yourself
9 again by doing star, six, once more.

10

11 All right.

12

13 Ian Johnson.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MS. PERRY: Frank, I just heard you.

18

19 Cal Casipit.

20

21 MR. CASIPIT: I'm here.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 Mike Douville.

26

27 MR. DOUVILLE: Mike Douville is her.

28

29 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

30

31 Jim Slater.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MS. PERRY: Jim, are you with us.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MS. PERRY: I know that Jim and his
40 family were in Juneau trying to get back to Pelican
41 today so if the weather was going to break he was going
42 to hit the skiff so that might be where he is at.

43

44 Bob Schroeder.

45

46 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes, I'm here, DeAnna.

47 Thank you.

48

49 MS. PERRY: Thanks Bob.

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Albert Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Here.

MS. PERRY: Patty Phillips.

MS. PHILLIPS: I'm here.

MS. PERRY: Thanks, Patty.

Louie Wagner, Jr.

MR. WAGNER: Here.

MS. PERRY: Thanks Louie.

Harvey Kitka.

(No comments)

MS. PERRY: John Smith, III.

(No comments)

MS. PERRY: John, I see you.....

MR. SMITH: Here.

MS. PERRY:on Teams, can you hear
me -- okay, great, thank you. Sorry, there was a
little bit of a delay.

Cathy Needham.

MS. NEEDHAM: I'm here.

MS. PERRY: Thanks, Cathy.

Ian Johnson, did you join us yet.

MR. JOHNSON: Yep, I'm here.

MS. PERRY: Okay, great. Again, for
Jim Slater.

(No comments)

MS. PERRY: And, Harvey, I know Harvey
did have a conflict later this afternoon so I don't

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1 know if he's able to join us. Harvey, are you on with
2 us.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 MS. PERRY: Okay. Mr. Chair, you have
7 10 of your 13 member seated Council participating, you
8 have a quorum.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
11 DeAnna. And I'm glad that everyone sounded fairly
12 clear this afternoon. Patty you sounded much better,
13 hopefully that can continue.

14

15 So we will resume with public
16 testimonies. DeAnna, I will ask you if you've heard
17 from folks that want to testify this afternoon and let
18 us know who those people might be, if you've heard from
19 people.

20

21 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair, Wanda Culp
22 is standing by to give her presentation to the Council.

23

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Have you
25 heard from anybody else.

26

27 MR. KITKA: Don, this is Harvey Kitka.

28

29 MS. PERRY: Hi Harvey.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Harvey, go ahead.

32

33 MR. KITKA: Yeah, I'd like to have a
34 little word sometime.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very good, okay,
37 Harvey.

38

39 MR. KITKA: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So this is where
42 I'd like to say to anybody who is listening on the
43 phone line who would like to testify, if you would
44 please let me know now so we can have an idea how many
45 people would like to testify and then we'll -- I'll
46 call on you as we proceed. So is there anybody who
47 would like to testify at this time?

48

49 (No comments)

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I'm not
2 hearing anybody else. Wanda, I know you might have a
3 fairly lengthy presentation. I don't know what Harvey
4 has for us but maybe I'll ask Harvey if he would go
5 first so, Harvey, if you're ready go ahead.

6
7 MR. KITKA: Yeah, Don, this is Harvey
8 Kitka speaking for the Sitka Kaagwaantaan. I was
9 curious as to what happened with our proposal on extra-
10 territorial jurisdiction.

11
12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Let's see I don't
13 have an answer for you Harvey. I know that at our last
14 meeting we had asked, I believe, for any information on
15 that. I may defer to DeAnna to see if there's anything
16 been done there, I don't know, DeAnna.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, we may have
21 to wait on that Harvey. Is there anything else you
22 wanted to say as far as testimony?

23
24 MR. KITKA: No, at this point I just
25 wanted to know what was happening.

26
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I'll make a
28 note of that and we'll try and get some new information
29 for you during the course of this meeting.

30
31 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, DeAnna.

34
35 MS. PERRY: Sorry, I didn't realize you
36 guys couldn't hear me. I got lost in my star, sixes, I
37 think.

38
39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

40
41 MS. PERRY: Yeah, I think the petition
42 was filed directly and so, I, myself, and I don't know
43 if OSM have been getting notifications. I would assume
44 the Clan would since they're part of the whole action
45 but I'll reach out to some folks and see if we can find
46 out something. But that might be something that Sitka
47 Kaagwaantaan would need to let us know.

48
49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, if
50

0080

1 you could make some inquiries here while we're meeting
2 and maybe we can have an answer for Harvey.

3
4 I know at our last meeting it was
5 brought up and there had been no action on it at that
6 time and I thought maybe we included in a letter or
7 report or something that we wanted to hear progress so
8 if you could refresh our memories on that or find out
9 any new information that would be great.

10
11 MR. KITKA: Don. Don, this is Harvey
12 again.

13
14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Harvey.

15
16 MR. KITKA: I just wanted to make sure
17 they had my mailing address so that they could
18 correspond with me or whether they had my telephone
19 number or box number for mail. I assume they have my
20 -- everything there that they needed but I haven't
21 heard a thing so I was curious.

22
23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right. So I think
24 we'd all be a little curious about what's going on with
25 that Harvey so we'll hopefully have some answers.

26
27 So Wanda Culp, if you're ready to give
28 your presentation in the way of testimony I think the
29 Council is ready to hear you.

30
31 MS. CULP: Oh, good. Can you hear me
32 right now?

33
34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm hearing you
35 loud and clear, yes.

36
37 MS. CULP: All right, thank you. I
38 kept stating that -- when I first called -- I had to
39 call back like four times, it kept flipping off so just
40 to let you know.

41
42 So thank you.

43
44 Wanda Culp, Coordinator for the Tongass
45 Womens Earth and Climate Action Network calling from
46 Juneau right now, and talking about some subsistence
47 food sovereignty. And for the past two years us women
48 have been working with SERAC's Chairman Don Hernandez
49 on indigenous management work group. We have created a
50

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1 guideline for solutions that are Tongass-based. Us
2 women, food first concept, created short documents
3 that, I'm sure people thought were pretty long, but
4 covers wide spances of interests and interest groups.
5 We are in the midst of a systematic change,
6 politically, right now and in the midst of a red alert
7 global crises. This presentation will quickly take us
8 through what this all means as far as what it means.
9 But to save time I'm going to start on Page 10 of the
10 powerpoint I sent up to you folks.

11

12 So I want to say that food first equals
13 sovereign strength needed to feed a nation of people.
14 And the definition of a nation is a stable
15 (indiscernible - muffled) developed community of people
16 with a territory (indiscernible - muffled) life and
17 distinctive cultures and a language in common, which
18 describes a tribe. It is also the United States of
19 America. We are a nation. Food sovereignty is a
20 science-based climate action network, this is an issue
21 of personal and national security. Transitioning from
22 subsistence to food sovereignty will need full
23 immersion involvement into the regulatory planning
24 review opportunity to reinterpret regulations into
25 today's reality from last century's mode of operation
26 and to maximize living incentive advantages of the law
27 and to develop a code of ethics based on indigenous
28 principles and to affirm a Federal, tribal, Alaska
29 Native corporate -- corporation and public
30 relationships based on trust responsibilities.

31

32 With this in mind, enter a new Federal
33 and State cooperative agreement on food first. When
34 you consider that Sealaska Native Corporation has --
35 surrounds all villages, impacts and conducts for profit
36 business operations with shareholders and has already
37 created an atlas of every village townsite, Native
38 allotment and associated sacred sites that we need to
39 know and remember. And this includes water resources,
40 natural resource values are mapped for each diverse
41 landscape in the Tongass Forest and Sealaska has
42 natural resource expertise.

43

44 Now, ANILCA -- the ANILCA law we're
45 proposing to convert to 12 Regional Advisory Councils
46 plus working with the U.S. Forest Service and other
47 Alaska-based agencies and Alaska Native corporations on
48 a cooperative agreement. The Forest Service is the
49 primary Federal agency in the Tongass Forest as we
50

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1 know. Bureau of Land Management has townsite and
2 allotment acreage data history that needs to be
3 identified and brought forward. As important, the
4 National Park Service (indiscernible - muffled) and
5 Monuments and has banned the Hoonah Tlingits out of
6 homelands since 1996 and we need to fix this. The Fish
7 and Wildlife Service monitors wild population stocks on
8 wild land. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has a 1946
9 Goldschmidt and Haas report that establishes customary
10 and traditional use areas, yet, Southeast Tlingit and
11 Haida Central Council can utilize for all the villages.
12 And BIA also is responsible for trespass offenses.
13 Central Council organizes tribal government through
14 this business as Southeast villages.

15

16 (Teleconference interference -
17 participants not muted)

18

19 MS. CULP: Now, if we consider the
20 ANCSA and ANILCA laws they can fix the failed Federal
21 Subsistence Board Management system by redefining
22 budget justifications to include indigenous management,
23 food source, Staff, expertise, travel, per diem,
24 meeting costs, supplies, operations and overhead
25 (indiscernible - muffled) create discussion seeking the
26 best obtainable indigenous and scientific knowledge to
27 build technical capacity, develop a (indiscernible -
28 muffled) performance action guideline based on
29 objectives rather than behavioral expectations.
30 Examine -- then support local economic development and
31 state growth through programs compatible with tribal
32 and Federal laws to eliminate unfair legal
33 uncertainties that lead to litigation.

34

35 (Teleconference interference -
36 participants not muted)

37

38 MS. CULP: Indigenous management, food
39 first means the redesigning of the ANILCA, Title VIII
40 subsistence management by creating 12 ANCSA (ph -
41 muffled) Regional Advisory Councils compatible with
42 food sovereignty, associated regions away from the
43 Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (indiscernible -
44 muffled) currently under dual management and create an
45 adaptation of food priority use committee, protection
46 of a healthy environment -- environmental habitat,
47 water shed, beaches, coast lines, fresh and salt water
48 resources and the air, communitively, (indiscernible -
49 muffled) and by utilizing best practices, best
50

0083

1 scientific methodology, and equality to manage in
2 conservation of land, water and air values just
3 holistically.

4
5 Already Tlingit and Haida Central
6 Council Indigenous Guardian Network that empowers every
7 Southeast village and community into a unique
8 partnership between village, tribal, self-determination
9 governance, Federal agencies, Alaska Native
10 corporations, all local environmental groups and
11 individuals committed to public education, networking,
12 and participation and monitoring wildlife and fish
13 populations and conditions communitively -- communitive
14 cost-sharing responsibilities for sustainability into
15 the future. Proguarding potential is creation of long-
16 term adaptive planning assessments and monitoring
17 capacity for heritage and sacred life resources
18 inclusion to ensure diverse perspectives
19 interactivities and shared stewardship. To full
20 participate in this indigenous food source replacement
21 of subsistence management through the concept of food
22 sovereignty, solutions must include incentives to
23 village and rural participants, reorganize law -- law
24 enforcement resources such as VPSO, Federal officers,
25 State Troopers, food sovereignty priority protection.
26 Central Council already has a climate change adaption
27 plan in place that recognizes categories from climate
28 change and conditions to human health using processes
29 of action networking through A, conferences and work
30 shops; B research, outreach and data organization; C
31 vulnerability ranking; and, D prioritizing key areas of
32 concerns.

33
34 Sealaska has 20 goals.

35
36 No. 1. Economic prosperity. And No. 1
37 environmental protection of equal process and pride to
38 improve our air and water quality to have the carbon
39 (indiscernible - muffled) to protect fisheries through
40 the companies -- the companies through sustainable
41 fishing practices plus innovation -- innovative
42 practices equal, additional value to our fish and to
43 repair and improve the healthy streams of our water
44 ways. Environmental service companies already test the
45 water quality for Sealaska and Sealaska also
46 (indiscernible - muffled) complex hydrology challenges.
47 For instance the waters near Hoonah on Sealaska land
48 where the (indiscernible - muffled) salmon bearing
49 streams and they did a good job. Also Sealaska just
50

1 announced expanding of a program beyond Prince of Wales
2 to extend to Southeast a private -- a tribal private
3 business work force development program, one year, that
4 provides incentives, which is challenging the hiring of
5 workers to fill local jobs, which is really needed.
6 The Tongass Forest is rich with people who care through
7 conservation council. In the 1970s, Southeast Alaska
8 Conservation Council respect Tlingit and Haida
9 Tsimshian Nations as original stewards of the Southeast
10 region and they currently have three priority programs
11 in place that are important to us; the Tongass Forest
12 which helped us with the Roadless Rule comment period
13 recently be so successful, Inside Passage waters
14 Program, which I believe has to do with the mining in
15 Canada and the quality of water resulting in the
16 Tongass Forest, and they have an climate action
17 campaign with connection to network planning in all
18 areas was very important. The Sitka Conservation
19 Society is another example of grassroots voice for
20 people in communities. Their mission is to protect the
21 natural environment of the Tongass and they use a
22 living wilderness plan to communicate the importance of
23 wilderness to Sitka and the Sitka people. And there
24 are several other community voiced groups that are
25 established already that need to be brought forward and
26 recognized for their efforts and their work.

27
28 Tlingit and Haida describes the next
29 steps as No. 1, prioritize action strategy to identify
30 points of contacts in villages and communities for
31 start up implementation.

32
33 No. 2. Build community climate
34 preparedness.

35
36 No. 3. Include preparedness into
37 tribal government operations and build policies and
38 budgets.

39
40 No. 4. Collaborate monitoring
41 strategies with Alaska Native corporations, villages,
42 communities, individuals, groups and all key
43 stakeholders.

44
45 There's Federal money coming into
46 Alaska through the Southeast Alaska Sustainability
47 Strategy and the build back better, that if we're
48 organized to the best we can, we can utilize these
49 opportunities to the maximum.
50

0085

1 We want to create an indigenous
2 management of the new equitable category and, this, I'm
3 speaking from Slide 7 of earlier -- we don't want any
4 more minimization. We're going to accomplish our new
5 equitable category by intellectually examining
6 understanding between and the (indiscernible - muffled)
7 interest differing viewpoints and by utilizing time
8 tested and acquired knowledge and experience to problem
9 solving and finally during crises situations through
10 the ability to respond quickly and successfully to
11 these situations and create tasks and local jobs
12 committed to the gathering of new on the ground
13 information.

14
15 And I sent out some documents earlier
16 that I'm going to call homework for everybody for the
17 next SERAC Indigenous Management Work Group meeting, I
18 hope you read the five documents I sent on the --
19 regarding the five Federal agencies that make up the
20 Federal Subsistence Board and then more recently I sent
21 out a Federal Subsistence Board decisionmaking
22 resolution process that we should become familiar with
23 because that's what we're working with right now with
24 SERAC.

25
26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted)

28
29 MS. CULP: And since -- so we have one
30 ask, the Tongass Women, and the question is, is it
31 possible that the Federal Subsistence Board SERAC could
32 facilitate a food first conference with Tlingit and
33 Haida Central Council, Sealaska, the Southeast Alaska
34 Conservation Council and all the other key stakeholders
35 as soon as possible to begin brainstorming strategies
36 and create team building to this type of collaboration.
37 I'm saying that we must do this and we can do this.

38
39 Gunalcheesh.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
44 Wanda. We will open up for questions from the Council
45 if you're available to take some questions. I would
46 like to preface that.....

47
48 (Teleconference interference -
49 participants not muted)

50

0086

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:a little bit
2 by saying that Womens Earth Climate Action Network has
3 been an active participant in our working group. A lot
4 of what Wanda just told us was presented at the working
5 group and I think we discussed a lot of the concepts
6 that she's bringing out and tried to incorporate them
7 in to our work. I do have to make note, however, for
8 the Council, that some of -- some of what Wanda has
9 proposed would go beyond the scope of what the Council
10 is empowered to do. In a long range goal, they thought
11 maybe making changes to some of our existing laws,
12 which, of course are out of the purview of the Council,
13 we're advisory only, but it is good to hear their long
14 range goals as well.

15
16 So if other people on the Council have
17 questions or comments about what Wanda just presented,
18 I will open up the floor to the Council.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 (Teleconference interference -
23 participants not muted)

24
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So if you have a
26 question or a comment please speak up, unmute and speak
27 up.

28
29 MS. CULP: Perhaps I could add a little
30 comment myself.

31
32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure, go ahead.

33
34 MS. CULP: We understood, us indigenious
35 women understood from the beginning that what we were
36 bringing to you folks on the SERAC was beyond what you
37 folks do as advisory, which is why we produced so much
38 material to send out to everybody to create the
39 groundwork of this thinking so that we, as people of
40 the Tongass, can begin working towards long range
41 solutions within ourselves. And it's a matter of
42 utilizing every resource we have available to us and,
43 of course, the Federal Subsistence Board and SERAC is a
44 resource that we can use, even to a certain extent but
45 it could help facilitate our long term goal, if that
46 makes any sense.

47
48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep, thank you,
49 Wanda. I think it makes a lot of sense. And a lot of
50

0087

1 what you presented there are things that I think can be
2 acted on, you know, in the near future. And I also
3 would say that a lot of what you present are concepts
4 and they are probably some new concepts to a lot of
5 people, it gives us a lot of things to think about and
6 that's been very helpful. But, yes, I do think that
7 there are some actions that could happen in the near
8 future and we certainly are hearing a lot about
9 opportunities to, you know, further our management
10 expertise and using local knowledge and incorporating
11 that into management plans and actions and then, of
12 course, there's the whole regulatory side of this as
13 well and the regulatory realm, that's what's kind of
14 bound by law. We do have laws in place to deal with
15 how regulations are enacted and implemented and we have
16 to, obviously abide by those laws until such time that
17 they may be changed. So I think there are two
18 important components to management. There's the
19 regulatory component as well as all of the other things
20 that go into management, information gathering,
21 implementing management plans. And I would point out
22 that those involve both uses of the land and the fish
23 and wildlife resources and then there is a lot of
24 monitoring of what happens when you have harvest and
25 incorporating that information into management
26 strategies and setting goals for what you want to see
27 happen with fish and wildlife management and land use
28 management. Those are all areas where I think
29 indigenous groups can have a very important role to
30 play moving on into the future.

31
32 That's what we -- that's what we're
33 going to be looking at, I think.

34
35 So is there anybody else on the Council
36 with a question or comment.

37
38 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is
39 Albert.

40
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Albert.

42
43 MR. HOWARD: I see a lot of good ideas
44 in here but my concern is with the -- almost by meeting
45 with Sealaska and Tlingit and Haida Central Council,
46 you're almost taking the local control away and giving
47 it to them and I think what -- what needs to be a part
48 of this process is each individual tribe has their own
49 sovereign nation and they are chartered with
50

0088

1 representing their own community or tribal members. I
2 don't see that in this document.

3
4 You know it's hard for me to
5 communicate -- I don't remember the last time Sealaska
6 came to Angoon and talked about the resources of
7 Angoon. I see my lifestyle and Sealaska's lifestyle
8 are two different lifestyles so it's hard for them to
9 understand exactly what I'm trying to say, I guess,
10 when it comes to the concerns of the resources. I
11 think if this was a part of what they were trying to
12 accomplish as a for-profit corporation, they would be
13 sitting here in our meeting, and I know T&H has come to
14 our meetings but -- it's just an observation, but I
15 think it's going to be a hard sell in Angoon to have
16 this type of document representing them when they're
17 not even a part of it.

18
19 So thank you, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Albert.
22 Wanda, do you have a response to that.

23
24 MS. CULP: I do. And, you know, it
25 really is sad that we are in this situation that we are
26 in right now because every village in Alaska has been
27 impacted by ANCSA and ANILCA and which is why us women
28 are focusing on those two laws. And thank you again
29 for bringing up that what we're bringing forward is a
30 concept. And the -- the information we have developed
31 and brought forward throughout the last couple years
32 has been very broad based, thinking of every interest,
33 individual group, organization and governing entity
34 that we have in our mix of which we have a lot. We're
35 -- we're just a huge mix of interest groups and
36 everyone is busy doing something. So this is why I
37 brought out what Sealaska is doing, what Tlingit and
38 Haida is doing, what the conservation groups are doing,
39 just as an idea for us to think about how we could
40 organize ourselves in a positive manner.

41
42 I know that throughout the last decade
43 and even up until now it's been, you know, Sealaska's
44 been in their own little box, Tlingit and Haida has
45 been in their own little box, however, now, in history,
46 today, there are so many programs that cannot be just
47 for the tribal members. Sealaska does not direct its
48 attitude and concepts for tribes, they're into
49 business, however we own them, and this is the concept
50

0089

1 changing that we need to think about. Tlingit and
2 Haida belongs to us indigenous people, so does Sealaska
3 and the ANCSA corporations, even though it's been
4 interpreted last century to make us subservient to
5 everybody, that's not so legally. We're -- we're the
6 ones that have a say and there's so many of us that are
7 inter-married to so many different parts of the world,
8 we need to include everybody's voice, interests in this
9 concept. And it's wide open because we want to hear
10 from the villages and the frustrations, that, what is
11 broken, but we don't want to -- I think it's self-
12 indicting what has happened to us through the State of
13 Alaska and through this Federal Subsistence Board
14 process and now we can move forward to how we envision
15 ANCSA and ANILCA to work for us.

16
17 If you check out -- ANCSA spawned
18 ANILCA and ANILCA is the interest of all people on
19 conservation and our voices as tribal members have been
20 absorbed into the public interest voices. This concept
21 will separate -- not separate -- we don't want to
22 separate from anything right now, especially each
23 other, but we want to have a respectful order of
24 operation and for all of Southeast Alaska, our tribal
25 organization of Tlingit and Haida covers all the
26 villages and Sealaska covers, you know, all the
27 communities as well. This is where the thinking of
28 these two entities come in. If they could conform to
29 the village thinking, to the individual and community
30 thinkers who have been enduring last century's way of
31 doing things, we need to change that. We didn't have a
32 say then, now we do have a say, and that's the whole
33 point of this concept, is let's come forward to have
34 our say. Angoon, gosh, you know, we see how you're
35 suffering, I hope you see how Hoonah is suffering.
36 Every village in Southeast Alaska is suffering really
37 bad from -- since ANCSA came upon us.

38
39 (Teleconference interference -
40 participants not muted)

41
42 MS. CULP: But now in this time in
43 history we really have an opportunity to (indiscernible
44 - muffled) laws according to the needs, according to
45 the intent of the law, rather than through politics.
46 And that's the big difference right now from last
47 century to this century, is we've got -- we've got to
48 force politics to be set aside so our voices could be
49 heard and we could create food sovereignty protections
50

0090

1 from the ground up, from the inside out, each one of us
2 to have an important voice and present it to all the
3 authorities like Sealaska, Tlingit and Haida, all the
4 Federal agencies, the State of Alaska; you know what I
5 mean, so that it's all encompassed.

6

7 (Teleconference interference -
8 participants not muted)

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, thank you,
11 Wanda. And just another thought that occurs to me is
12 that kind of what has galvanized some of this
13 discussion, and your group kind of exemplifies that,
14 it's the -- it's the existential threat that, you know,
15 we're facing from climate change and how that could
16 change everything in our thinning and our activities,
17 so I think that's part of the reason why now is such an
18 important time for this conversation and why we need to
19 start looking more holistically and including all
20 players in the situation and try and come together for
21 some better management.

22

23 So anybody else on the Council have a
24 question or a comment about Wanda's presentation.

25

26 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman.

27

28 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I heard Frank, I
31 believe, and then Bob Schroeder.

32

33 MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Frank, why don't
36 you go ahead and go first.

37

38 MR. WRIGHT: Just a comment. The
39 Regional Advisory Council is an organization that is to
40 take care of all the resources and whenever we see
41 something that is not -- not up to -- to taking care of
42 -- then we act accordingly. You know, one of the
43 things that Wanda and her group is doing is putting a
44 voice out there. If we didn't have people that spoke
45 up, you know, we wouldn't act on anything. And right
46 now this little world and Earth is suffering right now
47 and we need to, you know -- we have to grab that straw
48 to try to stay afloat, grab that straw. I think that
49 the group is doing something that needs to be done
50

0091

1 because someone needs to hear and right now it's Wanda
2 and her group who are letting us know what they think
3 and what they think we need to do and I think it's very
4 commendable. Everything we do on the RAC is to protect
5 resources of all the areas. Like we spoke on the
6 Roadless Rule, and the reason why we spoke on the
7 Roadless Rule because we didn't think that what was
8 happening to our Forest was proper so we spoke on it,
9 we spoke on it. Look at Angoon, we spoke on it, on
10 their territorial area. Now we're speaking on Sitka
11 extraterritorial, we may speak on it and see what comes
12 about.

13

14 So I think that what is happening
15 is.....

16

17 (Teleconference interference -
18 participants not muted)

19

20 MR. WRIGHT:in this world has to
21 be spoken about. If Sealaska is going to hear you,
22 there's only one way they're going to hear you and it's
23 if you speak up. For Tlingit and Haida to hear you,
24 there's only one way, and that's to speak up.

25

26 So Gunalcheesh. Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
29 Frank for those comments. Bob Schroeder, you had
30 something to add.

31

32 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes, I wanted to thank
33 Wanda. Thanks much for your presentation and for
34 really following through on these things and putting in
35 a lot of energy over so many years to protect
36 subsistence and to protect our environment as well.

37

38 I'd like to know what you'd like the
39 Council to do at this time. I know you talked about a
40 request for holding some kind of a summit but can you
41 give us an idea of what you'd see coming out in terms
42 of a statement from the Council.

43

44 Thank you, that's it for me.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Wanda, go ahead.

47

48 MS. CULP: Yes, can you hear me?

49

50

0092

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Hear you fine
2 Wanda.

3
4 MS. CULP: Okay. I'm scrambling to
5 grab my notes here. What the -- our request is based
6 upon needing to develop strategies, brainstorming
7 strategies for statistic concept and tactics and
8 comradeship building for -- you know, so that we could
9 share our thinking and develop a plan outline with
10 goals, objectives with the various organizations and
11 groups and individuals into a campaign of some sort,
12 you know, we need a change of policy and operation and
13 we need this change especially because of the climate
14 change going on around us. You know, by including
15 grassroot people, we're getting the voices and the
16 input, the energy that we need for on the ground data
17 on this changing climate. You know anybody that's
18 hunting, fishing and gathering and lives in the
19 Tongass, in the remote areas, we see the climate
20 changes going on, we see and experience how literally
21 creating a less quality food and natural resources than
22 we ever knew before. So this should be a real concern
23 for everybody equally across the board. Food
24 sovereignty is meant to be equalizing in -- in nature.

25
26 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, John Smith.

27
28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, John, go
29 ahead.

30
31 MR. SMITH: Yeah, I'd just like to --
32 to echo out to Wanda and her words, that they're not
33 just floating around, and others too, to respond to the
34 care and the love that comes from your heart.

35
36 (Teleconference interference -
37 participants not muted)

38
39 MR. SMITH: I know that it's been really
40 hard to -- not hard, it's been a challenge to put
41 different entities together as a team, you know,
42 conflict of interest maybe some people believe, but I
43 really like those words of the encouraging all the
44 different entities to come together to support each
45 other because each one of these entities, no matter who
46 you think of, have a piece of the puzzle that it's been
47 shattered and we can put it back together. It's been
48 hard and you can hear it from some of the community
49 members of the culture field but, you know, it's been
50

0093

1 like that always, you know, politics is always there.
2 But like I heard from Wanda that we need to put that
3 aside. I really -- we spend a lot of time with the city
4 writing an energy and action plan, it took us a long
5 time, it was a lot of work but it was a community
6 effort and we got on the radio and many people
7 supported that way too. So I encourage that plan that
8 you're sharing and set a goal and maybe even a
9 committee to run through some of these issues. I truly
10 believe partnerships are successful but they're hard.

11

12 I can share an entity that Darrin
13 Snyder, University of Fairbanks Cooperative Extensions,
14 I'm a team, I'm a cultural specialist. I teamed up
15 with them. We went to Angoon. We teamed up with the
16 Forest Service. But as we got there we realized the
17 city and the tribe and the community weren't all
18 working together. Very quietly and respectfully, we
19 slowly showed by teaching by example. We just went
20 there and -- and worked with whoever would show up and
21 we put the garden together there, we put the community
22 together and finally they started to realize that maybe
23 this entity couldn't use their money for this but the
24 school district was able to support it in this way and
25 maybe the tribal members were able to use their funds
26 to help this and the city shop was able to let us use
27 the excavator and the loader, also to teach the kids,
28 you know, about work, you know. It was a -- a hard go
29 at first, it was a challenge. But today you should see
30 what's happening over there.

31

32 So I encourage that how do we -- just
33 thoughts of how do we make that happen, and I think as
34 tribal members, my big brother, Harvey Kitka, and my
35 (In Tlingit) my relative, Wanda, you know, we're part
36 of the tribe, and others that are part of the tribe,
37 that we go to them and ask them to come and sit with us
38 and come and do introduction and sharing because they
39 are doing really good things, a lot of really good
40 things in all the -- and I thank Wanda for sharing
41 their perspectives and the things that they're doing
42 because they are doing a lot of things, and why aren't
43 they here today, and that really hurts my heart because
44 they're my brothers too. I seen some of the names on
45 there that were to do introductions. So they're clan
46 members, family members. So maybe as a committee
47 member I can encourage my brother to bring some of that
48 to the table.

49

50

0094

1 Thank you very much.

2

3 Gunalcheesh. Ah. Ho Ho. Ho Ho.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,

6 John.

7

8 MR. CASIPIT: Mr. Chairman, this is

9 Albert.

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Albert.

12

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

14 I appreciate all the time and effort put into this
15 document, don't get me wrong, it's just that I got to
16 make sure that Angoon always has a voice at the table
17 and that was the point I was trying to make. So in
18 having said that, then I could see how this would work
19 out -- as an example, Angoon brings their concerns to
20 the table, we're having an issue with people hunting on
21 the island that could go to Costco, or they're hunting
22 on the island because they think it's fun and they want
23 to do it while we're trying to survive off the food
24 here. And it -- so looking at this document in another
25 light, I see an opportunity to presenting that to
26 Central Council and see if they can't help us with
27 that, or presenting it to Sealaska and see if they can
28 help us with that issue, or any issue.

29

30 So I think all concerns should start --
31 should start at a community and work its way up through
32 the ranks. We've done this in Angoon in the past. If
33 the city couldn't solve it then the tribe would, if the
34 tribe couldn't do it, then the school district would,
35 but it was always something of working together so I
36 think my whole point is to make sure that Angoon
37 doesn't lose their voice at any table and that we're
38 allowed to speak for ourselves. Because there's
39 incidences in the past where people I've never met
40 before speaking for Angoon and that was surprising to
41 me when they were way off base and still speaking for
42 Angoon, and that concerns me in that regard. I don't
43 -- I'm hoping this isn't trying to change laws that
44 exist because something that I learned in my capacity
45 as being the Mayor and President of the tribe, when you
46 go to change the law somebody's going to jump in there
47 with a pile of money and change it for their own
48 benefit so we have to work within the guidelines of the
49 laws that are there. If we're trying to change them,

50

0095

1 that's when it's concerning because someone with their
2 own personal interest.

3
4 Like I've experienced with trying to
5 address the West Admiralty deer, now I'm dealing with
6 Territorial Sportsmen in Juneau and their opinion.

7
8 So I appreciate all the work that's
9 gone into this document but don't take Angoon's voice
10 from us.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
15 Albert. And one of the things that I'm hearing is
16 that, you know, this is that -- you know, we're talking
17 about a new way forward and a lot of the things that
18 haven't been working very well in the past people want
19 to change. So I think we have to look towards the
20 future and, you know, learn from what's happened in the
21 past and look towards the future and hope for more
22 collaboration and inclusion and make sure that people's
23 voices are heard.

24
25 So is there anybody else on the Council
26 with a question or comment.

27
28 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair, Mike
29 Douville.

30
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Mike.

32
33 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank Wanda for her
34 efforts and her group and those people that worked on
35 it. It does include Sealaska, I have similar feelings
36 as Albert. Tribes were not mentioned. But in any
37 case, it's hard for me to grasp a for-profit
38 corporation turning around and flipping the page in
39 just a matter of months, Sealaska and -- and -- tried
40 to convince them not to log in a couple of places that
41 are cherished hunting -- but in any case it fell on
42 deaf ears. Nobody has been impacted more
43 environmentally than the people on Prince of Wales by
44 Sealaska. They built more roads than the Forest
45 Service. And logged a tremendous amount of land. I'm
46 willing to try to see the other side but I haven't seen
47 it yet but perhaps there is a change. It was just
48 after somebody (indiscernible - cuts out) look the
49 other way. I guess I'll have to be patient and see
50

0096

1 what happens. But we have suffered on Prince of Wales,
2 a considerable amount of negative impact, and nobody
3 was looking out for us.

4
5 Anyway, hopefully things will work down
6 the road.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
11 Mike. Anybody else on the Council with a comment or
12 question relating to Wanda's presentation.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Wanda, I
17 think maybe we've heard from everybody on the Council.
18 I do want to thank you for your presentation. It's an
19 excellent way to start off our meeting with a lot of
20 food for thought for Council members and other people
21 listening. I do want to make note of the fact that we
22 also have a presentation from Tlingit-Haida Central
23 Council. They are a pretty active participant in our
24 working group and they are going to be informing us
25 about a lot of specific efforts that are underway right
26 now in relation to this Guardians Program that's
27 getting started up. There have been some, I think,
28 some positive movement towards more inclusive
29 management including indigenous tribes. So we'll hear
30 more about that later in the meeting.

31
32 Also later in the meeting, the working
33 group has put together a draft of some ideas that.....

34
35 (Teleconference interference -
36 participants not muted)

37
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:we would like
39 to present to the Council and have the Council look
40 those over and see if by the end of the meeting there
41 is a product that we would like to send out to various
42 agencies stating the position of the Council. I think
43 it'd be more in line like a position statement at this
44 point. So we'll call it that. But that will be
45 presented to the Council before the end of the meeting.

46
47 So thank you, again, for your
48 presentation, Wanda. And I will ask if anybody has
49 called in since we started this afternoon that wanted
50

0097

1 to give public testimony not related to an agenda item.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, not hearing
6 anybody so that will conclude our comment period for
7 today. Tomorrow morning at 9:00 o'clock is another
8 opportunity and I think.....

9

10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:we have at
14 least.....

15

16 MR. JACKSON: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

17

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ:one group --
19 yeah, I heard somebody, go ahead.

20

21 MR. JACKSON: Yeah, this is Joel
22 Jackson with the Organized Village of Kake, we were
23 told we would be called on to make a comment on the
24 lottery moose hunt that was brought up last fall but we
25 never.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

28

29 MR. JACKSON:got a call down
30 here.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sorry, Joel, I
33 wasn't aware of that. We are going to review that
34 proposal, that's actually the next item under old
35 business but if you -- let's see.....

36

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

38

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

41

42 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
43 had helped get Joel on the line to actually come back
44 and work with us on the moose proposal and, Joel, just
45 for the -- just to let you know, the only public
46 comments that Don was just closing out, was the public
47 comment period on the non-agenda items. But the moose
48 proposal is an agenda item.

49

50

0098

1 MR. JACKSON: Okay.

2

3 MS. NEEDHAM: And that's what we're
4 going to do next.

5

6 MR. JACKSON: Oh, okay. I got worried
7 when they said they were going to start up at 9:00
8 o'clock in the morning again.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: No, thanks for
11 clarifying that Cathy. And, yes, I was just going to
12 inform you Mr. Jackson, that that review of that
13 proposal is the next item on our agenda and if you are
14 available to comment on that, once we get started, if
15 you standby we'll be calling for your comments in the
16 course of that discussion. S o it'd be better to wait
17 until we get into the discussion instead of giving it
18 to us know, so if you're available for the next little
19 while we'll hear from you then. Does that work for
20 you?

21

22 MR. JACKSON: that works for me. I just
23 got kind of excited there when you said you'd see
24 everybody at 9:00 o'clock in the morning so I thought
25 you were done for the day.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, no, I can
28 understand your interpretation of that but, yeah,
29 right, the open comment period is for items that aren't
30 on the agenda and the moose hunt is on the agenda so,
31 yes, we will be calling on you then.

32

33 MR. JACKSON: Okay. We don't have an
34 agenda in front of us so that's why we're in the blind
35 here.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, I
38 think, yeah, well, we'll see how that works out. I know
39 being virtual like this is, it's sometimes difficult,
40 but we'll try and make the best of it so bear with us.

41

42 So I think that does conclude our
43 comments on non-agenda items.

44

45 Perhaps we can get right into the old
46 business now. And on the agenda the review of Wildlife
47 Proposal 22-06 is the first topic. And we will have a
48 presentation from Rob Cross if he's available, and then
49 we can get started on that.

50

0099

1 REPORTER: So everybody take a minute
2 and star, six or mute.

3
4 MR. CROSS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.

5
6 REPORTER: Hang on. Hang on, Rob.
7 Okay, everybody take a second and mute, or star, six so
8 the only people unmuted should be Mr. Cross and Don.
9 Okay, thank you.

10
11 MR. CROSS: Thank you. Can you hear me
12 okay.

13
14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Rob.
15 Yep, hear you loud and clear.

16
17 MR. CROSS: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 For the record my name is Robert Cross and I'm a
19 Biologist with the U.S. Forest Service on the Tongass
20 National Forest. Proposal 22-06 is in Tab 4A of your
21 meeting materials. The Council is being asked to
22 revisit Wildlife Proposal 22-06 that would establish a
23 Federal draw permit moose hunt, with an any bull
24 harvest limit and a harvest quota of up to 20 bulls on
25 Kupreanof and Kuiu Island in Unit 3.

26
27 The Council is being asked to revisit
28 the proposal to review the OSM amendments necessary to
29 fully implement the proposed regulation, to enter the
30 Wrangell AC public comment into the record and to
31 receive clarification on previous testimony from Mr.
32 Joel Jackson. The President -- I'm sorry, Mr. Joel
33 Jackson, the President of the Organized Village of Kake
34 who's testimony was cut short due to a bad phone
35 connection during the last meeting. Kake is the
36 community most likely affected by this proposal and Mr.
37 Jackson's phone connection was lost while he was
38 fielding clarifying questions from the Council. The
39 Council's justification for supporting the proposal
40 was, in part, based on the testimony from Mr. Jackson.

41
42 And I can read a brief summary of the
43 proposal before reviewing the amended regulation
44 language if the Council would like.

45
46 (Pause)

47
48 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes, please.

49
50

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1 MR. CROSS: Okay, thank you. Wildlife
2 Proposal 22-06 submitted by the Southeast Alaska
3 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council requesting
4 establishment of a Federal draw permit moose hunt with
5 an any bull harvest limit and a harvest quota of up to
6 20 bulls on Kupreanof and Kuiu Islands in Unit 3. The
7 proponent states that it is becoming more challenging
8 for Federally-qualified subsistence users to harvest a
9 sufficient number of moose under the State's antler
10 restriction hunt and that a Federal draw permit hunt
11 allowing the harvest of any bull would provide
12 additional subsistence opportunities.

13
14 The current Unit 3 moose hunt allows
15 for the taking of one bull moose with spike-fork
16 greater than 50-inch spread, three or more brow tines
17 on either antler or two brow tines on both antlers by
18 State registration permit. The proposed Federal draw
19 hunt would allow permit holder one per household to
20 harvest one bull moose on Kupreanof or Kuiu Islands
21 without antler restriction.

22
23 Harvest throughout the unit has
24 steadily increased since 2010 and has been at or above
25 the 11 year average of 67 moose for the last six years.
26 The expansion of the population is likely facilitated
27 by the creation of moose habitat resulting from past
28 timber harvest activity, however, clear-cuts only
29 provide productive habitat for the first 20 to 25 years
30 of the 100 to 150 commercial timber harvest rotation.
31 The apparent reliance of moose on recent timber harvest
32 in Unit 3 leaves uncertainty in the long-term stability
33 of the population.

34
35 The OSM conclusion is to oppose 22-06.
36 Harvest outside of the State management plan has the
37 potential for long-term adverse effects to the moose
38 population on Kuiu and Kupreanof Islands. The
39 population may be susceptible to over harvest due to
40 hunter access both to and on the islands and the
41 reduction in brows as a result of ongoing clear-cut
42 succession. The draw hunt would provide greater
43 subsistence opportunity for up to 20 households of
44 Federally-qualified users in Units 1 through 5 while
45 potentially reducing subsistence opportunity for the
46 remainder of the Federal harvesters. Roughly 75
47 percent of the Unit 3 moose are harvested by residents
48 of Kake, Wrangell and Petersburg which collectively
49 receive an average of 81 percent of the Unit 3 moose
50

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1 permits. Between 2015 and 2020 91 percent of the
2 overall RM038 moose were harvested by Federally-
3 qualified residents of Units 1 through 5. Allowing for
4 the harvest of up to 20 additional bulls from the road
5 system near these communities may limit future harvest
6 opportunities for local residents.

7

8 As for the addendum. The proposed
9 language cannot be implemented as written so the
10 proposed amendment, remove the stipulation that
11 recipients may not receive both the Federal drawing and
12 State permit. The original proposed regulation read:
13 Recipients of a Federal draw permit are not eligible
14 for a State permit. However, OSM cannot legally
15 restrict harvesters from receiving a State permit. The
16 language would also unnecessarily restrict Federally-
17 qualified users by prohibiting the recipient of a
18 Federal draw permit from hunting moose in the remainder
19 of Unit 3 with a State permit. Language was added to
20 the proposed regulation to delegate authority to the
21 Petersburg District Ranger to set the harvest quotas,
22 the number of permits to be issued, close the season
23 and any needed permit conditions. Delegating
24 additional authority to the in-season manager is
25 necessary for effective administration of this hunt.
26 Removing language from unit-specific regulations and
27 putting it in a delegation of authority letter
28 simplifies regulations and is consistent with other
29 Federal hunts that are administered by in-season
30 Federal managers.

31

32 The amended proposed regulation reads:

33

34 Unit 3 moose, one antlered bull with
35 spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or three or more brow
36 tines on either antler or antlers with two brow tines
37 on both sides by State registration permit from
38 September 15 to October 15 or Unit 3 Kupreanof and Kuiu
39 Islands, one bull by Federal drawing permit. Only one
40 moose may be issued -- only one moose permit may be
41 issued per household. Successful hunters are required
42 to send a photo of their moose antlers to ADF&G and a
43 five inch section of lower jaw with front teeth,
44 September 15th to October 15th.

45

46 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I can take any
47 questions or comments on the amended language before
48 continuing to the Wrangell AC comment.

49

50

0102

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I guess
2 this would be the opportunity for Council members to
3 ask questions before we move on.

4
5 MR. CROSS: President Jackson.

6
7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, Joel, if you
8 could just standby we'll call for your comments
9 shortly.

10
11 MR. CROSS: Okay.

12
13 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, Patricia
14 Phillips.

15
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
17 Patty.

18
19 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes, Mr. Chair, I'd like
20 to ask the biologist, can the brow tine antler
21 restrictions be further liberalized. I read in the
22 analysis that it's the most liberal antler restrictions
23 in the state but can they be further liberalized?

24
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are you there,
26 Rob.

27
28 MR. CROSS: Yes, Mr. Chair. Through
29 the Chair, Member Phillips. I would say it's possible.
30 The regulation, or the restriction sounds onerous but
31 it's really only a small subset of the population that
32 don't fall within this antler restriction and so, yeah,
33 it -- it would be possible. I'm not sure what that
34 language would look like.

35
36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: You have a follow
37 up, Patty.

38
39 MS. PHILLIPS: No.

40
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I guess I
42 have a question, Rob. What -- what are the options for
43 the Council at this time. I guess in my mind we could
44 amend this proposal to kind of satisfy the concerns
45 that you've raised with the language, could we also
46 make other changes to the proposal at this time if we
47 wished or are we only being asked to consider the
48 suggested changes.

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0103

1 MR. CROSS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 I would actually defer to Lisa Grediagin, if she's on
3 the line.

4
5 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi, Mr. Chair, this is
6 Lisa, can you hear me.

7
8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, hear you
9 fine.

10
11 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, this is Lisa
12 Grediagin. I'm the Wildlife Division Supervisor with
13 OSM. The Council's welcome to make whatever
14 recommendations they would like on this proposal to the
15 Board but OSM -- the recommendation from OSM is -- let
16 me -- the Council's current recommendation to the Board
17 cannot be implemented for a variety of reasons that is
18 outlined in the analysis addendum, and so the
19 recommendation by OSM that's in the revised analysis is
20 the closest thing to the Council's recommendation that
21 you made in the fall just based on needing to delegate
22 certain authority to the Federal manager in order to
23 administer the hunt effectively and then removing that
24 requirement about not being able to have the Federal
25 and State permits at the same time, and then just
26 clarifying some of the regulatory language so it's a
27 little easier to read.

28
29 So, yeah, one option would certainly be
30 to just go along with the OSM addendum and -- but if --
31 but, again, the Council's welcome to make whatever
32 recommendation to the Board they would like on this.
33 And as Rob stated, another reason OSM wanted to bring
34 this back to the attention of the Council was just to
35 clarify Joel Jackson's testimony and make sure, you
36 know, the difference of the impact of the proposal and
37 the intent of the proposal is clearly understood by all
38 the Council members.

39
40 So, thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
43 Lisa. That was very helpful. So, yeah, I would say,
44 depending on what Mr. Jackson would like to add we
45 probably do have some options here that the present
46 proposal is just not acceptable -- okay, I understand
47 that. Any other questions from Council members for Rob
48 Cross.

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0104

1 (No comments)

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I'm not hearing any.

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

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9

10 go ahead.

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MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm wondering what you meant by this proposal, as drafted, is not acceptable?

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, it sounds like one of the stipulations that we put into the proposal really isn't -- I don't know what the proper term would be, it's not -- I think -- I don't know if I'd say illegal, or it's outside of our authority, maybe, I guess we're asking somebody to do something that they really can't do is, I think, probably the best way to put it. So we can't really ask them to do that. So we do have to make a change if it's going to move forward.

26

27

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MR. CROSS: Yeah, Mr. Chair.....

MR. HOWARD: Okay.

MR. CROSS:this is Rob Cross, I can clarify that a little bit if you'd like.

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Rob.

MR. CROSS: Yeah, thank you. So the issue with the way that the proposal -- or that the way that the regulation is written right now is saying that the Federal government would restrict someone from receiving a State permit and that's not possible for us to do. The other part of it was removing some of the permit stipulations that were in the regulation and adding those to a delegated authority letter for the in-season manager.

45

46

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48

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Is that helpful, Albert.

49

50

MR. HOWARD: Well, that just created

0105

1 another question, why can't you -- it seems like that's
2 our responsibility to make sure the Federal subsistence
3 user has a priority and that seems, to me, that this
4 would -- that's what this proposal represents is a
5 subsistence priority and opportunity to allow a
6 Federally-qualified subsistence user to gain access to
7 a resource that's not even by their back door, it's on
8 their front porch. So I have -- when you're talking
9 about taking a certain user group out of a resource,
10 well, maybe it's the user group that's causing the
11 issue with the resource.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So I think I can
14 address that Albert. It's something that didn't really
15 come up in our previous discussions. But if you would
16 consider this, there is a fair amount of non-Federal
17 lands involved here. All of the -- all the village and
18 village corporation and Sealaska corporation lands are
19 not managed by the Federal Program. Any hunting that
20 would take place on those lands are managed by the
21 State. Whether you are, you know, subsistence-
22 qualified, or non-subsistence-qualified, you are
23 allowed to hunt on those lands and by saying that
24 somebody who wanted to hunt on those lands couldn't get
25 a permit if they got a Federal permit is just not
26 really something we can do. That's State jurisdiction
27 and we can't really tell them what they can and can't
28 do there.

29

30 So there is a jurisdictional question
31 here that we didn't consider.

32

33 MR. CROSS: Mr. Chair, this is Rob
34 Cross again. I can shed a little bit more light on
35 that if you'd like.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

38

39 MR. CROSS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 So actually in a sense what we're doing is liberalizing
41 what would have been a restriction to a Federally-
42 qualified users. So if someone would have gotten this
43 draw permit, it would -- that stipulation would not
44 then allow them to hunt the remainder of Unit 3, or
45 parts of 1C or 1B. So in a sense, if someone got this
46 permit and they have a camp on the Stikine and they're
47 a Federally-qualified user, they wouldn't be able to
48 hunt at their camp, they'd only be able to hunt on
49 Kupreanof or Kuiu Island. So by removing this, we're
50

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0106

1 -- it would allow someone who received this permit to
2 also participate in the State hunt still with only an
3 annual harvest limit of one bull, but it would give
4 them the option to hunt under the State regulations or
5 the Federal regulations to harvest one bull.

6
7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, good
8 point, I -- yeah, I kind of neglected the fact that
9 these permits are also available in Unit 1 as well so,
10 yeah, that's another good point. Thank you for
11 bringing that out.

12
13 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman, Mike
14 Douville.

15
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Mike.

17
18 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay, we went through
19 this process on the Berners Bay moose and it's a much
20 smaller population than we have in Unit 3. And it
21 would be interesting to look at that final regulation
22 from what we advised and the Federal Board did, okay.

23
24 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is
25 Lisa. I can address the Berners Bay question.

26
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Lisa.

28
29 MS. GREDIAGIN: So the difference
30 between this hunt and the Berners Bay moose hunt is
31 that the Berners Bay hunt is a draw permit on the State
32 side as well as the Federal side, whereas in Unit 3
33 it's a registration permit on the State side, that --
34 not just for Unit 3, but also as Rob mentioned, Unit 1
35 and draw permits are, you know, a very limited
36 availability, people have to put their names in ahead
37 of time. And so the way the Berners Bay one is written
38 is that if you receive a State permit, you cannot
39 receive a Federal permit. But since it's a State draw
40 permit, you know, it's, you know, much easier for the
41 Federal managers to know who received those draw
42 permits since they're drawn way ahead of time and
43 there's a limited number of permits available whereas
44 in this case if we -- we'd have to change that around,
45 you know, if you received a State permit you aren't
46 eligible for the Federal permit, but in this case
47 anyone can receive that State registration permit, it's
48 unlimited, you can get it, you know, any time
49 throughout the season so there's not really a way for
50

0107

1 the Federal managers when they're doing the draw permit
2 for this moose hunt to know whether or not someone's
3 going to get a State permit or not.

4
5 So I guess there's two things there.

6
7 You know, we could, on the Federal
8 side, you can't prevent someone from getting a State
9 permit, but you could prevent someone from getting a
10 Federal permit if they already got the State permit.

11
12 But in this case, it's the State
13 registration permit, it's just not really a way for the
14 Federal manager to know who's received those State
15 permits when they're doing the draw selections.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
20 Lisa. Any further questions about that Mike.

21
22 MR. DOUVILLE: No. The question I
23 would have is this proposed regulation, in the darker
24 lettering, is that what we need to do or is that the
25 part that's -- that needs to be corrected?

26
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Can you address
28 that Rob.

29
30 MR. CROSS: Yeah, through the Chair,
31 Member Douville. And Laurent, if you're controlling
32 the screen, if you can cross down to where it's -- it's
33 going to be several pages down but it'll actually say
34 addendum. So that's what you were seeing, is the
35 original language -- and he's still scrolling down --
36 but I can read it as it is now and it should say:

37
38 Unit 3, Kupreanof and Kuiu Islands, one
39 bull by Federal drawing permit. And there's no
40 stipulation that said that you can't receive both the
41 State and Federal permit.

42
43 Okay, right there, Laurent. So this
44 is the new language.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay. Okay, thank you
49 for that.

50

0108

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Anybody
2 else with a question.

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

5
6 MS. PHILLIPS: This is Patty.

7
8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I heard Cathy. Go
9 ahead, Cathy.

10
11 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 And just to acknowledge that Member Phillips also
13 chimed in at the same time if she wants to go next that
14 would be great.

15
16 Just a quick question for Mr. Cross.
17 The way I'm reading it now is that OSM opposes the
18 proposal. They had a justification for opposing it.
19 They recommended some modified language to clarify the
20 regulation that we're proposing. So I guess my
21 question is, if we modify the language -- if we take
22 that into consideration and we modify the proposal
23 language that we did, is OSM still in opposition of the
24 proposal.

25
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27
28 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair, Member
29 Needham.

30
31
32 (Teleconference interference -
33 participants not muted)

34
35 MR. CROSS: That is correct, OSM still
36 is in opposition. But the reason for the clarifying
37 language was to make the regulation -- or make it so
38 they could implement the regulation if it were to pass.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Rob.
43 Thank you, Cathy. Patty, you did have a question I
44 think.

45
46 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 So we now have this new recommended language but we
48 have the proposal with the new recommended language,
49 but on Page -- let's see, they're not numbered -- it
50

0109

1 shows total moose for 2020 at 93. So would under the
2 new proposed language, would you try to keep this
3 within that 90 quota range or would it add an
4 additional 20 on that. That's my question.

5

6 MR. CROSS: Yeah, through the Chair,
7 Member Phillips. You broke up a little bit but I think
8 what you were referring to is that was the reported
9 harvest of moose and in the RM038 moose hunt,
10 registration moose hunt there is no quota. So it's
11 open for the set season September 15 to October 15 to
12 registration permits and the way that the harvest is
13 controlled is by setting aside a subset of bulls -- a
14 subset of remaining bulls using this antler
15 restriction. So that antler restriction is used to
16 avoid any sort of harvest quota. So that 93 was just
17 harvest reported, it's not any sort of goal or quota or
18 anything like that.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any follow up,
23 Patty.

24

25 MS. PHILLIPS: Follow up. So I see
26 from 1995 (indiscernible - breaking up) so that means
27 we've been having an increasing total harvest. So the
28 Council was asking for, in their proposal, an
29 additional 20, is that -- would we get the additional
30 20 or not.

31

32 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair, Member
33 Phillips. Again, there's no harvest quota. So if this
34 were to pass and we issued the maximum amount of
35 permits and they harvested 20 antlerless bulls, it
36 would just go towards whatever the harvest was for that
37 year. It doesn't subtract from any sort of quota or
38 anything like that.

39

40 MS. PHILLIPS: So the modified
41 language, it's any moose -- any bull moose, or any
42 moose.

43

44 MR. CROSS: Through the Chair, Member
45 Phillips. It's any bull moose.

46

47 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay, thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,

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0110

1 Patty. Any other questions.

2

3 MR. CASIPIT: Mr. Chair, this is Cal.
4 I have a quick question, I think it'll clear up a lot
5 of confusion.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cal.

8

9 MR. CASIPIT: Basically what our
10 previous recommendation, had to be -- there was some
11 suggested changes to the language so that if basically
12 -- if the Board does go forth and makes it go into
13 regulation a lot better, so I understand that part.
14 The 20 draw permits that we sat aside in our motion
15 last time, that's basically going to get moved to a
16 delegation of authority to the District Ranger, I think
17 I'm correct on that, right?

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Correct. That's
20 correct.

21

22 MR. CASIPIT: Okay, and that clears up
23 the 20 moose thing. The 20 -- that was the specified
24 number that we had specified in regulation and I think
25 OSM is asking us to basically have that put into the
26 delegation of authority letter to the Petersburg
27 District Ranger, which I'm fine with. I trust the
28 local managers to do the right thing.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Any
31 questions there, Cal.

32

33 MR. CASIPIT: No, that clears it up. I
34 mean I know where all that original language goes to so
35 I'm cool.

36

37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Anybody
38 else with a question.

39

40 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is that Cathy.

43

44 MS. NEEDHAM: Yes, thank you, Mr.
45 Chair. It's Cathy.

46

47 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

48

49 MS. NEEDHAM: So when we deliberated

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0111

1 this proposal and made our recommendations on the
2 proposal, the Council supported it. So this proposal
3 was submitted by the Council and we supported it.
4 However, I remember from discussions a couple of
5 things.

6
7 One, that we had a really good
8 discussion with President Jackson and took his comments
9 in support -- into consideration, however, during the
10 discussion we did talk about how having an any bull
11 harvest for all non-Federally-qualified users could
12 create some localized competition around Kake because
13 that type of hunt would be highly -- it could be a
14 highly prized hunt and all Federally-qualified users
15 through the region would be eligible for it. And so --
16 and I think that we had asked President Jackson whether
17 or not they would still support this proposal is that
18 was actually an affect of the proposal. And so I'd
19 like to kind of touch back in -- I know Mr. Jackson's
20 on the line, I'd like -- he broke up -- his
21 communications with us were broken up enough last year
22 that we didn't capture him on the record so if you go
23 back and read our transcripts it isn't clear,
24 necessarily, whether or not he still supported it and
25 before we go through the trouble of -- before we go
26 through it, I want to know if we should be thinking
27 about whether or not we should reconsider our support
28 and if -- based on whether or not this has potentially
29 competitive impacts to the community of Kake, rather
30 than meeting the intent of trying to provide additional
31 opportunity for Kake.

32
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you,
36 Cathy. And I hope Mr. Jackson is still standing by and
37 listening to all this because we do want to hear his
38 input but, you know, I did have to give the Council
39 opportunity first to clarify questions in their mind
40 before we heard Mr. Jackson. So I don't know if we're
41 at that point yet. I'll ask again if the Council has
42 any more questions.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: And, yes,
47 we'll.....

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49 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, this is
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0112

1 Patty.

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Patty.

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5

MS. PHILLIPS: So on -- just the requirement to send a photo of antlers and section of lower jaw harvested moose to ADF&G requires approval of the Office of Management and Budget, (indiscernible - breaking up) and I asked about what the approval requires and it requires being sent to the Office of Office of Management and Budget and then they have to review it -- I don't know how long that process would take, do you know?

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MR. CROSS: Through the Chair, Member Phillips. So that process can't start until this is approved and then published in the Federal Register. And then at that point we would have to request that that language be accepted by OMB and that process, the estimate is about a year to get approval.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, Rob. Thank you, Patty. Are there any other questions from the Council.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So I mean I'm approaching this as we normally would do in our regulatory process here going through the, you know, the procedure as if it was a new proposal. And now we've heard from OSM and their analysis, we're in the comment phase, so normal procedure is -- I don't know if ADF&G has any additional formal comments on this before I get to Mr. Jackson. Do we have any additional from the State.

MR. ROBBINS: Yeah, for the record this is Frank Robbins. I'm the Area Biologist in Petersburg for Fish and Game. No, we don't have any comments, we're just here to answer any questions that the Board might have.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you. Okay. So I think I can move on to public comments now

0113

1 and that would be Mr. Jackson, and then at some point
2 we'll have to, you know, have a motion from the Council
3 about what we want to do with this proposal. So I'll
4 call on Mr. Jackson and also say that if there's
5 anybody else from the public that wanted to comment on
6 this particular proposal we will listen to you as well.

7

8 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, this is DeAnna.

9

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, DeAnna.

11

12 MS. PERRY: Yeah, I just wanted to
13 remind you, Rob mentioned that there was a comment from
14 Wrangell AC so I just wanted to make sure that we also
15 heard that.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Let's see, okay,
20 yeah, I didn't see that here in the literature so let's
21 hear from Mr. Jackson first. Go ahead, Mr. Jackson.

22

23 MR. JACKSON: Yes, good afternoon to
24 the Chair and the Council. My name is Joel Jackson,
25 President of the Organized Village of Kake.

26

27 No. 1., when I was -- when I first made
28 that first comment where I thought and I should have
29 asked what the -- what the definition of what a Federal
30 subsistence user was and I didn't, and until later on
31 in the meeting I found out that it included everyone,
32 not just Alaska Native, but everyone in Southeast. And
33 that was why when I got cut off, and I couldn't call
34 back in, that's why I made the statement that we were
35 -- that I didn't think that would benefit our
36 community. And listening in earlier to other people
37 talk, you know, we are a Federally-recognized tribe.
38 We are a sovereign nation. And we weren't invited to
39 the table on this discussion. As far as I know -- I
40 asked around at our office and I haven't got a --
41 nobody can remember being asked to be at the table
42 about this proposal.

43

44 So that being said, it's very important
45 that we are at the table on any decision that's made
46 around us, whether it's on Kupreanof Island, Kuiu
47 Island, Baranof Island, Admiralty Island on down to the
48 northern tip of Prince of Wales and over towards Hobart
49 Bay and all the way back around, we have a map that's

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0114

1 been signed by the State of Alaska that's our
2 traditional use area. What's the name of that,
3 customary and traditional use area under Goldschmidt
4 and Haas and it's signed by the State of Alaska back in
5 the '70s, I believe. But, yeah, it's very important
6 that if anything is going to happen around us that
7 we're at the table and we have a say. And we have to
8 see some benefit for our community. We're not here to
9 be a resource for everybody else. The way things are
10 going now and the way things have been going, we're
11 concerned. We are really concerned about our
12 resources. Not only the wildlife on the land, but the
13 fish in the bays and the streams.

14

15 So at this point we're going to have to
16 say, no, we don't support this proposal.

17

18 And I have our roads person, Mike
19 Jackson, and I'll ask him if he has anything to say.

20

21 MR. JACKSON: No, I have no comment.

22

23 MR. JACKSON: Okay. But at this point
24 we have to say no. We don't begrudge anybody food on
25 their table but it's getting down to a point where
26 resources are going to be very valuable. Our people
27 only get an average of 20-some moose a year and all the
28 outlying areas, they get double what we get. So, you
29 know, we've always been concerned about protecting our
30 resources. It's -- like I said it's going to probably
31 become very valuable in the future and very important
32 for us to continue protecting everything that we have
33 in our customary and traditional areas. We wouldn't go
34 over to any other community and hunt because we hunt in
35 our own areas.

36

37 The biggest thing, we weren't invited
38 to the table. So, you know, maybe put that in your
39 back pocket and remember next time to invite us to your
40 meeting if you have a proposal concerning our area.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
45 Mr. Jackson. Any questions from the Council for Mr.
46 Jackson.

47

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

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0115

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, Mr. Douville,
2 go ahead. Mike Douville, go ahead.

3

4 MR. DOUVILLE: Just a comment. Anybody
5 can make these proposals and everybody is invited to
6 the table to comment. Nobody is left out in this
7 process. Virtually anybody can make these proposals
8 and nobody is left out and they have an opportunity to
9 make their comments. I just wanted to make that clear.
10 It's not like we didn't invite the people of Kake to
11 make comments, I mean that opportunity is given to
12 everybody.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

17

18 MR. JACKSON: Well, through our Chair.
19 I have two of our key people here, besides myself, that
20 usually get emails and I asked them if they got
21 anything and they said no.

22

23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted)

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Did I hear
27 somebody else from the Council with a question or was
28 that background.

29

30 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

31

32 (Teleconference interference -
33 participants not muted)

34

35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hey Louie.

36

37 (Teleconference interference -
38 participants not muted)

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh. Anybody else
41 on the Council.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, thank
46 you, Mr. Jackson for clarifying your position. I think
47 it's kind of apparent at our previous meeting we didn't
48 get your full testimony and, you know, that's just kind
49 of one of the consequences of having these meetings

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0116

1 being held via teleconference. We've had our problems.
2 And perhaps we can do better about, you know, notifying
3 communities that are affected by proposals to
4 participate and do everything we can to make those
5 efforts productive. But it sounds like we may have
6 failed a little bit in your case last time. So
7 apologize for that. Appreciate the fact that you were
8 able to come to us today and give us your thoughts and
9 we'll sure take things into consideration in our action
10 here today. So thank you for taking the time this
11 afternoon.

12

13 MR. JACKSON: And thank you for making
14 sure I was on the phone today and you guys have a good
15 day.

16

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm glad to hear
18 we had a good connection today so thank you again.
19 DeAnna, I think you mentioned there was one written
20 public comment in opposition to this proposal.

21

22 MS. PERRY: Yes. And I would defer
23 that to Rob Cross. I think he's standing by ready to
24 provide that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Rob, go ahead.

27

28 MR. CROSS: Yes.

29

30 MS. PERRY: It's at the end of.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

33

34 MS. PERRY: Sorry, go ahead, Rob.

35

36 MR. CROSS: I'll just finish what you
37 were going to say. It's at the end of the proposal in
38 the appendix you can see the full letter. And I'm
39 ready whenever you want Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Rob.

42

43 MR. CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
44 Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee met after the
45 fall RAC meeting and had submitted a comment on WP22-
46 06. Again, the full comment is in the appendix of the
47 proposal in your meeting materials.

48

49 The summary of the Wrangell AC comment

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0117

1 is that it opposes the proposal stating that due to
2 well managed -- due to a well managed herd and mild
3 winter, population of moose has exploded on islands of
4 Unit 3. The Wrangell AC also commented that the intent
5 of the proposal is to increase the opportunity for
6 moose harvest, residents in the unit have never had
7 more moose harvest opportunity and that taking more
8 bulls from the population would be counter-productive
9 and lead to less opportunity for Federally-qualified
10 users.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
15 Rob. I think I found that full letter on the -- yeah,
16 in the next tab behind the proposal, so, thank you.
17 Thanks for the summary. They are opposed to this
18 proposal, and they met after our fall meeting so thank
19 you for that. Is there any other comments relating to
20 this proposal, DeAnna, that you know of.

21

22 MS. PERRY: No, Mr. Chair, the proposal
23 has been through the entire regulatory.....

24

25 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

26

27 MS. PERRY:process. It was just
28 coming back basically for the Council to reconsider,
29 you know, based on the information that you've gotten
30 here. I think the Wrangell AC, like you noted, met
31 after our fall meeting so they didn't get the
32 opportunity to provide their input to the Council, so
33 that's why Rob wanted to make sure that the Council was
34 aware of that at this meeting.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
39 DeAnna. So now it's time for Council action on this.
40 That would require a motion. I think what we would be
41 looking for here would be either a motion to possibly
42 take no action, which would mean that the proposal
43 would go to the Board as written, or a motion to
44 support the proposal, as proposed to be amended by the
45 Staff. And I also want to point out to Council members
46 that we can't make motions in opposition to a proposal,
47 if you would be opposed to this proposal then we need a
48 motion in the affirmative and then, of course, you
49 could vote against it at that time. But I think that's
50

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1 the parameters that we have for a motion on this
2 proposal.

3

4 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair.

5

6 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I think I heard
9 Cathy first and then somebody else.

10

11 MR. SMITH: John.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: John, okay.
14 Cathy, I think I heard you first.

15

16 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 I'm going to put a motion on the floor but I want to
18 explain my rationale for the motion that I'm putting
19 on. I'm going to actually put a motion on the floor
20 that we adopt the original proposal as written so that
21 when we get into deliberation, if we decide we do want
22 to take up the amendment, we can do it there, but we
23 also might want to consider other amendments at this
24 time and so I just want to make sure that we have a
25 clear record of how the proposal is amended if we go
26 the amendment route.

27

28 But in order to get it on the table so
29 that we can discuss it, I would move that we adopt
30 WP20-06 -- I move that we support Proposal WP22-06.

31

32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
35 Cathy. I think that was pretty clear.

36

37 MS. PHILLIPS: I second that.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is there anybody
40 else with a comment.

41

42 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chair, this is Harvey.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I thou --
45 okay, Harvey.

46

47 REPORTER: Wait a second. Did I hear
48 that Patty seconded that, am I right, or not?

49

50

0119

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: No, I think
2 Harvey.....

3
4 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes, I seconded that.

5
6 MR. KITKA: I second it too.

7
8 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes, Tina, I seconded
9 that.

10
11 MR. KITKA: And I third it.

12
13 REPORTER: Okay, thank you.

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 REPORTER: Patty, and Harvey, thank
18 you.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So I think
23 we're all set. We have a motion to adopt the existing
24 proposal as written. So opportunity for Council
25 deliberation. And, Cathy, I think you were pretty
26 clear on your intent there. I don't know if you want
27 to go further in deliberating.

28
29 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 You know, I think, personally -- as a member of this
31 Council, but my personal view is I originally opposed
32 this proposal because I felt like it created an
33 unnecess -- it had the potential to create some
34 unnecessary competition that deviated from our original
35 intent when we submitted the proposal. When we
36 submitted the proposal we were trying to increase
37 opportunity for local residents of Kake, however, the
38 proposal that we wrote could potentially have an
39 unintended consequence of creating competition. And so
40 when we originally deliberated this proposal I opposed
41 it.

42
43 So I'm looking at what we have before
44 us, which is an amendment for it, and I don't think it
45 actually -- whether it's amended or not, there still
46 lies this unintended potential for competition, which
47 took away from our original intent of trying to create
48 more opportunity for Kake and so I -- even if it's
49 amended I still think that I would oppose the proposal
50

0120

1 because of that. And so I just want to make sure that
2 that's put on there and would let the rest of the
3 Council decide whether or not they want to do the
4 amendment or if they want to actually go back and
5 change our support for the proposal to actually be in
6 opposition of the proposal given the potential impact
7 that it may have for Kake and also in light of hearing
8 President Jackson's stance that the Organized Village
9 of Kake had on our proposal.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.
14 So is there anybody else on the Council who would wish
15 to make a motion to amend this proposal.

16

17 MR. CASIPIT: Mr. Chair, this is Cal. I
18 just kind of want to talk before I'm ready to put
19 forward an amendment or anything. I wanted to talk
20 about -- a little bit about the proposal and how it
21 came about and all that. And, you know, I think during
22 deliberations and we did hear from Mr. Jackson, I know
23 I asked the question about Federally-qualified users,
24 and how that might have sounded fine but then folks
25 started thinking about the effects of we can't stop the
26 Federally-qualified users, especially if it was -- you
27 know, all these rural residents so we backed off on
28 that and so we went back to the original and then we
29 were, again, talking to Mr. Jackson about that and then
30 he cut out, and I basically interpreted that to mean
31 that Mr. Jackson did support our action that we took
32 last fall. With his testimony today, I'm not sure I
33 could support it anymore.

34

35 But, anyway, that's kind of where I'm
36 at.

37

38 It's unfortunate that, you know, we've
39 got to do this by teleconference because of the
40 teleconference we had last time but, anyway, that's
41 kind of where I'm at right now.

42

43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thanks, Cal.
44 Like I say, that's perfectly acceptable, we're just
45 deliberating, we're having a discussion. Any other
46 Council members want to weigh in on this.

47

48 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka here.

49

50

0121

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Harvey.

2

3 MR. KITKA: I was just was wondering,
4 when.....

5

6 (Teleconference interference -
7 participants not muted)

8

9 MR. KITKA: There was a tremendous
10 amount of shortages in Kake because of the ferry system
11 and things, they weren't getting their subsistence
12 needs met on anything and having to try to get their
13 food from Juneau or wherever they were getting it and
14 nothing was working.

15

16 So I was wondering if there was any way
17 for it to be amended to show that in times of shortage
18 that they actually shouldn't need a permit. I just was
19 wondering if something could be written to change that.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted)

25

26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you
27 Harvey. You know at this time I would not recommend
28 that. I guess my feeling is that when we -- when we
29 talk about proposals, we have put proposals put before
30 us, you know, sometimes we make amendments to the
31 proposals but the original proposal always has a Staff
32 analysis associated with it and it does get circulated
33 to the public for public comments and if there's
34 amendments to be made, I always feel that they should
35 be made at least within the scope of what was, you
36 know, originally presented, so that everybody kind of
37 has an idea of what that is. And in this case we have,
38 you know, a new analysis on this one aspect of the
39 proposal, if we were to go beyond that now and make
40 further amendments that people haven't really had a
41 chance to look over and discuss, I just don't think
42 that would be a good idea. So that would be something
43 that would probably have to be brought up at the next
44 round of wildlife proposals in my view.

45

46 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman, Mike
47 Douville.

48

49 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,

50

0122

1 Mike.

2

3

4 MR. DOUVILLE: It seems like the
5 opinion is that -- it didn't seem like it to me when
6 this proposal was being deliberated at our last meeting
7 -- but it didn't seem like to me that it was tailored
8 specifically for Kake. It was my impression that it
9 would give rural users in other parts of Southeast that
10 had access to Unit 3 a better opportunity. But maybe
11 I'm incorrect. The only thing I might be interested in
12 is the Kake harvest, does that take place on private
13 land or do we know where those moose came from that the
14 people of Kake harvest.

14

15

Thank you.

16

17

18

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

MS. PERRY: If everybody could check
their phone for us and make sure that you are muted.
We are getting some background noise and I didn't hear
all of what Mr. Douville just said. So, again, please
take a moment to look at your phones and press star,
six to make sure that you're on mute.

26

27

Thank you.

28

29

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

30

31

(Pause)

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

MS. NEEDHAM: In the absence of the
Chair I will take over the meeting until we hear him
come back and we are still in deliberations on Proposal
-- Wildlife Proposal 22-06. Are there any other
Council comments that they would like to make at this
time.

39

40

(No comments)

41

42

43

MS. NEEDHAM: DeAnna, this is Cathy.
Are you hearing me okay.

44

45

46

MS. PERRY: Yes, Cathy, I'm hearing you
good.

47

48

49

50

MS. NEEDHAM: Okay, thank you. It just
got really quiet all of a sudden and so I just want to

0123

1 make sure that we're providing opportunity for Council
2 members to make comments during this deliberation on
3 our moose wildlife proposal.

4

5 MR. JOHNSON: Madame Chair, this is
6 Ian.

7

8 MS. PHILLIPS: This is Patty. Go
9 ahead, Ian.

10

11 MS. NEEDHAM: I'll go Ian and then
12 Patty, thank you.

13

14 MR. JOHNSON: Okay, thanks. Yeah, I
15 just want to give my interpretation of the motion and
16 maybe how my vote is sitting but since it -- it seems
17 like maybe we are getting a close to a vote. And is
18 that, you know, where essentially -- is the motion --
19 the motion is no modification to the current proposal,
20 I think I've got that right. And then in which case
21 if, you know, OSM -- or basically it's an unkind of a
22 law at this point and so a yes vote would essentially
23 -- you know, although you're voting yes it would make
24 it impossible to implement any regulation so that would
25 lean more towards protecting Kake users and a no vote
26 would modify it and make the law actually, you know,
27 enforceable or implementable and would then be more
28 beneficial to a more broader subsistence-based. So I'm
29 leaning more towards a yes vote in this case to just
30 leave the language in tact and I guess maybe
31 effectively kill any ability to adopt it.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MS. NEEDHAM: Okay, thank you, Ian. I
36 think -- my understanding is I put the motion on the
37 floor for the original proposal so we have not actually
38 -- we're not deliberating or talking about any
39 amendment at this time. So if we proceed to a vote, a
40 yes vote would still continue to support this proposal
41 and a no vote would essentially make the Council now in
42 opposition of the proposal before the Federal Board
43 next month during their meeting. So I just wanted to
44 make sure that that was clarified. And if you have
45 questions I'll allow you a follow up, otherwise we'll
46 move to Patty.

47

48 MR. JOHNSON: I don't have a question
49 but thanks for clarifying that. That helps a lot.

50

0124

1 MS. NEEDHAM: Okay, great. Patty.

2

3 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes, thank you, Mr.

4 Chair. (Indiscernible - breaking up) what this
5 proposal does (indiscernible - breaking up) be
6 designated Federal -- a no vote because the regulatory
7 history, the final paragraph says the current RM038
8 permit restriction, spike-fork 50, three or more tines
9 on one antler or two brow tines on both antlers and a
10 month long (indiscernible - breaking up) population
11 size. So, you know, for conservation purposes, in the
12 past we have supported lower, more stringent harvest
13 because we were concerned about that moose population.
14 It is evident that the moose population is expanded but
15 we don't want harvest to exceed sustainability. So I
16 wonder why there wasn't talk about turning that hunt
17 into only residents of Unit 3, Kupreanof and Kuiu --
18 or, you know, that area hunt only, other than I do
19 recognize that hunters from other islands nearby like
20 POW would want to participate but was there any
21 discussion about trying to reduce the number of non-
22 local hunters, or let's see, how do you say that, for
23 that harvest, was there discussion about that?

24

25 MS. NEEDHAM: All right, thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cathy, this is --
28 yeah, Cathy this is Don again. I got bumped off by a
29 big squall came through here but I think I'm back on
30 again.

31

32 MS. NEEDHAM: Okay.

33

34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are you hearing me
35 okay.

36

37 MS. NEEDHAM: I'm hearing you fine.
38 Would you like me to continue or would you like to take
39 the baton?

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, I missed a
42 lot of the discussion, maybe I'll let you continue, go
43 ahead.

44

45 MS. NEEDHAM: Okay, thank you, Mr.
46 Chair. Patty, I want to clarify that you're asking --
47 a follow up to that question and I don't have an exact
48 answer. I do believe we did have a discussion to an
49 extent about it but then it came down to other -- it

50

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1 came down to C&T determinations for moose and so I
2 don't know if there's anyone on Staff that can clarify
3 that or remind us the discussion that we had in answer
4 Patty's question.

5

6 MR. CROSS: Yes, through the Chair,
7 Member Needham. This is Rob Cross for the record.
8 Yeah, I don't believe that in deliberation there was a
9 discussion of limiting it to Kake -- residents of only
10 Kake or residents of Unit 3, only there was discussion
11 about potentially giving Kake a one week earlier season
12 but that was outside of the scope of this proposal.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MS. NEEDHAM: All right, thank you.

17

18 MR. CASIPIT: Madame Chair, this is
19 Cal.

20

21 MS. NEEDHAM: Yeah, Cal, can you hold
22 on a second, I want to make sure that Patty's question
23 -- that that answered her question.

24

25 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes, that did, thank
26 you.

27

28 MS. NEEDHAM: All right, thank you,
29 Patty. And, Cal, you have the floor.

30

31 MR. CASIPIT: It's related to what Rob
32 was talking about. You know during deliberations when
33 we were talking about this, I brought up -- again,
34 brought up the idea of the one week head start and then
35 we talked about the C&T determinations and I'll tell
36 you, I didn't even go to, you know, a loca -- I didn't
37 even think of going to a local hunt, or a Unit 3 only
38 hunt because I knew that was an .804 analysis and I
39 knew that wasn't going to happen with an expanding
40 population. So I thought about it briefly but it
41 doesn't work with the .804 system that we have. But,
42 yeah, anyway, that's kind of what I thought and I guess
43 I haven't changed my mind. I guess I'm still opposed to
44 the original proposal now based on Mr. Jackson's
45 testimony.

46

47 MS. NEEDHAM: All right, thank you,
48 Cal. Are there any other Council members that would
49 like to weigh in on the deliberation of this wildlife
50

0126

1 proposal.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6

MS. NEEDHAM: If there are no other
Council member.....

7

8

MR. WAGNER: This is Louie Wagner.

9

10

MS. NEEDHAM: Yes, Mr. Wagner, please.

11

12

13

14

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16

17

MR. WAGNER: I was curious that how
many hunters on Kake did not -- weren't successful in
getting a moose last year and was it considered at all,
like in Unit 1A, up on the Unuk River we have 10 days
to subsist before the State opens the season. Just
those two questions, two thoughts.

18

19

20

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22

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27

MS. NEEDHAM: All right, thank you, Mr.
Wagner. Are there -- Mr. Wagner, I would ask if you
need information in order to decide how you might want
to vote, I can ask Staff to answer that question for
you, but if you were just, you know, if you want that
information or have that information sent to you
outside of our deliberations we can do that as well.
Do you need that answer right now?

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

MR. WAGNER: I'm just, you know, first
time looking at all this and trying to figure out why
because if several or more than several people in Kake
were not successful in getting a moose, this can really
affect their hunting even more so. So that was just
something. I guess I'm just trying to see the best way
forward as all.

36

37

Thank you.

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

MS. NEEDHAM: All right, thank you, Mr.
Wagner. Are there other Council members that would
like to comment or make or have justification for our
record about how they might vote on this proposal, in
deliberations. I'll remind the Council if we are done
discussing -- or deliberating on this proposal, someone
can call the question and we can go to a vote.

46

47

48

49

50

MR. KITKA: Madame Chair, this is
Harvey Kitka again.

MS. NEEDHAM: Yes, Harvey.

0127

1 MR. KITKA: I was just more curious as
2 to the permits that the State hands out, are they --
3 are they equally available for Kake, or how many
4 permits did Kake get to hunt moose?

5
6 MS. NEEDHAM: All right, is that a
7 question that can be answered?

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MS. NEEDHAM: I'm not hearing anyone
12 that might be able to -- if Staff could get back to
13 Harvey, and like some of these questions that we're
14 asking -- I just want to remind the Council that we're
15 in deliberations and we did have a long period of time
16 with Staff that we could have asked questions and now
17 questions are coming up, and so I want to make sure if
18 you have a question and the outcome of that question is
19 going to sort of weigh in on how you vote on this
20 proposal then we could try to get it answered, but if
21 it's just a general discussion question, then we should
22 probably think about whether or not we should have this
23 proposal go for a vote.

24
25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Cathy, this is
26 Don, if I could.

27
28 MS. NEEDHAM: Yes, Don.

29
30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'd just like to
31 -- like I said, I missed some of the deliberations
32 there but I kind of see where the focus has shifted
33 here. I think at this point I'm probably going to vote
34 against the motion with the intent to have it -- this
35 proposal fail, be taken out of consideration. I know
36 that our original intent of this proposal was to offer
37 more opportunity and as Mr. Douville pointed out, it
38 was meant to offer more opportunity to all subsistence
39 users that hunt that area and there are hunters from,
40 you know, Petersburg, Wrangell, Craig, people from my
41 community as well as the people from Kake all hunt
42 there so it would have been an equal opportunity. I
43 guess our hope was and something we kind of needed to
44 hear more about in the analysis was, well, would, you
45 know, people who from Wrangell who traditionally hunt
46 the Stikine River, would then they go and start hunting
47 on Kupreanof Island to take advantage of this and
48 Petersburg hunters that like to hunt on Mitkof Island
49 and over on the main land, would they change their
50

0128

1 hunting patterns and, you know, all of that discussion
2 and, you know, would it be a big benefit for the people
3 of Kake, who essentially it's in their back yard, would
4 they benefit the most, and like I said we were engaged
5 in that discussion with Mr. Jackson and I guess we
6 never really got to complete that discussion. I know it
7 was, in my mind, still being kicked around about how it
8 would then benefit the people from Kake, and maybe with
9 that incomplete information I kind of made a
10 determination and voted in favor of it last time. But
11 now, of course, you know, we have this regulatory
12 bottleneck that we have to deal with and that gets a
13 little complicated, and we've heard more from the
14 people in Kake and we've heard more from the people in
15 Wrangell and, I don't know, I think with the new
16 information I think I'm prepared to vote no on this
17 motion.

18

19 So that's my feeling, thank you.

20

21 MS. NEEDHAM: All right, thank you,
22 Don. Are there any other Council members that would
23 like to offer comment during this deliberation.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MR. DOUVILLE: Madame Chair.

28

29 MS. NEEDHAM: Hearing none are -- yes,
30 Mr. Douville.

31

32 MR. DOUVILLE: Mike Douville, call the
33 for the question.

34

35 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Douville.
36 The question has been called. As a reminder to the
37 Council, we will now vote -- I think we should probably
38 do a roll call vote and we will vote on Wildlife
39 Proposal 22-06, which requests the establishment of a
40 Federal draw permit moose hunt with an any bull harvest
41 limit and a harvest quota of up to 20 bulls on
42 Kupreanof and Kuiu Islands in Unit 3.

43

44 And as a reminder, if you vote yes on
45 this proposal then you -- a yes on this proposal would
46 continue the Southeast Regional Advisory Council's
47 support for the proposal without the recommended
48 amendment, and if you vote no we would be changing our
49 previous support recommendation to be in opposition
50

0129

1 recommendation for this proposal. So hopefully that is
2 clear.

3

4 At this time I would ask Frank Wright,
5 Jr., if he would conduct a roll call vote.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 (Pause)

10

11 MS. NEEDHAM: Is Mr. Wright on our
12 call?

13

14 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, I am, I just had to
15 press a couple buttons.

16

17 MS. NEEDHAM: Alrighty.

18

19 MR. WRIGHT: I'll start off with Cal
20 Casipit.

21

22 MR. CASIPIT: No.

23

24 MR. WRIGHT: Cal.

25

26 MR. CASIPIT: No.

27

28 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

29

30 Michael Douville.

31

32 MR. DOUVILLE: No.

33

34 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

35

36 MR. DOUVILLE: Mike Douville votes no.

37

38 MR. WRIGHT: James Slater.

39

40 MR. SLATER: Jim Slater votes no.

41

42 MR. WRIGHT: Bob Schroeder.

43

44 MR. SCHROEDER: Bob Schroeder votes no.

45

46 MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

47

48 MR. HOWARD: Albert Howard, I vote no.

49

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0130

1 MR. WRIGHT: Don Hernandez.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I vote no.

4

5 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Don.

6

7 Patricia Phillips.

8

9 MS. PHILLIPS: No.

10

11 MR. WRIGHT: Did you say no?

12

13 MS. PHILLIPS: No.

14

15 MR. PHILLIPS: No, you said no.

16

17 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, thank you.

18

19 Louie Wagner.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MR. WRIGHT: Louie Wagner.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MR. WRIGHT: Harvey Kitka.

28

29 MR. WAGNER: Louie Wagner, no.

30

31 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, thank you.

32

33 Harvey.

34

35 MR. KITKA: Harvey Kitka, no.

36

37 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Harvey.

38

39 John Smith.

40

41 MR. SMITH: Yeah, earlier I wanted to
42 talk to Mr. Jackson and would also encourage that --
43 I'm looking in the book and looking at data, and would
44 like to see more data on just Kake itself in that area,
45 but, because of that information and listening, I
46 really got to say no.

47

48 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, thank you, John.

49

50

0131

1 MR. SMITH: Thank you.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: Ian Johnson.

4

5 MR. JOHNSON: Ian votes no.

6

7 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Ian.

8

9 Frank votes no.

10

11 Cathy Needham.

12

13 MS. NEEDHAM: No.

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, motion failed.

16 Thank you.

17

18 MS. NEEDHAM: All right, thank you, Mr.
19 Wright. And with that I will ask Don, if he's still
20 online, to take back over the Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I am here again,
23 Cathy, thank you for jumping in there again.

24

25 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I don't know what
28 happened.

29

30 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is that DeAnna.

33

34 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair, sorry to
35 interrupt but before you kind of turn the page, I just
36 want to make sure that our record is clear that the
37 vote that just occurred was to provide a new
38 recommendation to the Board at its meeting in April
39 and, in a sense, we are opposing the proposal for all
40 the reasons stated in this discussion but I just want
41 to make sure the record is clear that we are going to
42 be changing our recommendation and we do have time to
43 do that because the Board hasn't acted on it yet but
44 I'm not sure that we made that real clear.

45

46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, DeAnna, that
49 would be our intent, you are correct.

50

0132

1 Okay, what I would like to do now is
2 take a 10 minute break. We have a few more items of
3 old business left, but we'll come back at -- well,
4 let's make it 3:35, resume, and hopefully finish up old
5 business so break until 3:35.

6
7 (Off record)

8
9 (On record)

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: It is a little
12 past 3:35. This is Chairman Don Hernandez, if the
13 Council members are back from their break we can
14 reconvene. We are still in old business after our
15 wildlife proposal review. We have a number of reports
16 dealing with old business to give and then we have the
17 additional item of the overview of the Council charter,
18 that was an addition to the agenda that we made this
19 morning. This morning we had some questions, I think
20 -- I believe it was Mr. Douville maybe had some
21 questions on what happened with the wolf hunting and
22 trapping season this fall after we had our fall
23 meeting. DeAnna has informed me that Tom Schumacher
24 from the Department of Fish and Game is available this
25 afternoon to maybe give a little overview of what
26 happened that season and answer some questions so I
27 thought maybe we'd give Mr. Schumacher an opportunity
28 to go first if he's available and then we'll hear about
29 Alaska Board of Fish and what we're doing in our
30 indigenous management working group and a little word
31 on what's happening with the deer summit.

32

33 So I think we need to find out of the
34 Council is back, do we have a quorum.

35

36 Frank, if you're there maybe we can do
37 a quick rundown of the Council members and make sure we
38 have a quorum.

39

40 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

41

42 Ian Johnson.

43

44 MR. JOHNSON: Ian's here.

45

46 MR. WRIGHT: Cal Casipit.

47

48 MR. CASIPIT: Here.

49

50

0133

1 MR. WRIGHT: Michael Douville.

2

3 MR. DOUVILLE: Here.

4

5 MR. WRIGHT: James Slater.

6

7 MR. SLATER: Jim's here.

8

9 MR. WRIGHT: Bob Schroeder.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MR. WRIGHT: Mr. Schroeder.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MR. WRIGHT: Albert Howard.

18

19 MR. HOWARD: Here.

20

21 MR. WRIGHT: Patricia Phillips.

22

23 MS. PHILLIPS: I'm here. At 3:45 I've
24 got to break away for a little bit so sorry I won't be
25 able to hear part of his analysis.

26

27 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

28

29 MR. SCHROEDER: Excuse me, I was
30 disconnected I'm here, this is Bob. Bob Schroeder.

31

32 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, gotcha.

33

34 Louie Wagner.

35

36 MR. WAGNER: Here.

37

38 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

39

40 Harvey Kitka.

41

42 MR. KITKA: Here.

43

44 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Harvey.

45

46 John Smith.

47

48 MR. SMITH: Here.

49

50

0134

1 MR. WRIGHT: Cathy, I heard you, Don, I
2 heard you. All right, everybody's here.

3
4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you
5 Frank. So do we have Tom Schumacher on the line.

6
7 MR. SCHUMACHER: Hello, Mr. Chairman,
8 can you hear me?

9
10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I hear you
11 fine, Tom.

12
13 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay.

14
15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead and give
16 us an update.

17
18 MR. SCHUMACHER: The question I heard
19 was about wolf harvest on Unit 2.

20
21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That's correct,
22 right.

23
24 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay. The totals on
25 numbers of wolves sealed was 64 this year.

26
27 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. And I don't
28 know, anything else you want to report about the
29 harvest or would you like to just take questions?

30
31 MR. SCHUMACHER: Boy, at this point I
32 don't really have a whole lot more to say about it.

33
34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Well, we
35 may have some questions about how things went so I will
36 open it up to the Council if you have any questions for
37 Mr. Schumacher.

38
39 MS. PHILLIPS: This is Patty Phillips.

40
41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Patty, go ahead.

42
43 MS. PHILLIPS: So we heard from Prince
44 of Wales (indiscernible - cuts out) and I noticed from
45 the harvest record that there's not -- there's quite a
46 bit of -- or from the population estimate there's quite
47 a bit more wolves than previously estimated, like we're
48 at 386, would that contribute to less deer available
49 for harvest?

50

0135

1 MR. SCHUMACHER: I'm afraid I didn't
2 catch some of the -- the opening part of Member
3 Phillips' question but I believe it -- the part I did
4 hear asked is if the high number of wolves would
5 contribute to fewer deer available for harvest by
6 hunters; is that correct?

7
8 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes, thank you.

9
10 MR. SCHUMACHER: It stands to reason
11 that, yes, a higher wolf population would mean fewer
12 deer are available for hunters because wolves, you
13 know, eat deer among other things.

14
15 MS. PHILLIPS: Are you tracking bear
16 populations as well as wolf populations.

17
18 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay. I think the --
19 the question I heard is are we tracking bear
20 populations as well as wolf populations. We're not
21 engaged in any specific effort to monitor the abundance
22 of bears in Unit 2 right now. We can generally do that
23 by looking at hunter success, you know, how many days
24 of hunting it took to harvest a bear, something like
25 that. And we are supporting a graduate student who
26 will begin field work this summer looking at camera-
27 based methods for estimating abundance of -- well,
28 wolves is the target but black bears and deer will be
29 other species that might potentially be harvested -- or
30 not harvested -- monitored using that same method. So
31 we're not doing anything right now but there is
32 potential to be doing that in the future.

33
34 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any more, Patty.

35
36 MS. PHILLIPS: No. Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
39 Patty. Anybody else on the Council with a question.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Tom, I guess I
44 have a question. I think Mike Douville pointed out
45 this morning, with that harvest of 65 wolves it sounds
46 like it's going to put the wolf population, just from
47 what I understand, kind of at the upper end of what
48 your kind of desired wolf population would be, is that
49 -- is that accurate, or would you say you're at the
50

0136

1 upper end of that now?

2

3 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, I think that's
4 accurate.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So I guess
7 a question I had, I think conversations with people --
8 kind of determined that the conditions during the
9 course of this season -- which, could you remind us
10 again how long the season was set this year, I think it
11 was.....

12

13 MR. SCHUMACHER: It was four weeks.

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: It was the full --
16 okay, four weeks.

17

18 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yeah.

19

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: In the course of
21 that month.....

22

23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted)

25

26 MR. SCHROEDER: I'm having so much fun.
27 So nice to see you, it's been months.

28

29 (Teleconference interference -
30 participants not muted)

31

32 REPORTER: Hey Bob. Bob, can you mute
33 your phone please, star, six or mute. Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So would
36 you agree with that, that just maybe a lot of adverse
37 conditions during that month period may have slowed
38 what you might have expected to harvest during that
39 period of time or do you think there were other
40 factors?

41

42 MR. SCHUMACHER: I think that we initi
43 -- we anticipated a higher harvest than that. I was
44 not on the island at that time but our Staff who were
45 operating there, collecting data for the fall 2021
46 estimate reported that deep snow did hinder some of
47 their road access. So road accessing, like it would
48 have been a challenge there probably in the last week
49 or two of the trapping season.

50

0137

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So in your
2 management strategy, was there ever any consideration
3 of, you know, kind of monitoring in-season harvest and,
4 you know, adjusting the season in-season, and kind of a
5 follow up to that question is, I know there was
6 supposed to be a lot of in-season reporting required
7 and I believe the way it worked out this year, we had
8 conflicting regulations between the State and the
9 Federal just due to the fact that the Board of Game met
10 and kind of instituted a reporting requirement that the
11 Federal Board hasn't met yet and wasn't able to
12 institute, so I know -- I think your intention was to
13 get some in-season reporting and I don't know if that
14 happened and like I say if that could have been a
15 factor in possibly extending the season. I don't know
16 if you could comment about any of that.

17
18 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, as you pointed
19 out, State and Federal regulations are not consistent
20 at this point and as I understand it, the seven day
21 reporting requirement that's currently in State
22 regulations was not part of the proposal that would go
23 to the Federal Board. However, a 15 day sealing
24 requirement is among the -- is in the proposal that
25 would go to the Federal Board. So next year the
26 sealing periods will align but the seven day reporting
27 requirement will not be part of the Federal regulation.

28
29 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

30
31 MR. SCHUMACHER: I -- yeah, the
32 reporting was to our area biologist in Ketchikan, Ross
33 Dorendorf, I don't have specific figures in my head. I
34 know he did report, you know, that people were calling
35 in and telling him what they got, which is great.

36
37 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I think, you
38 know, it's kind of a -- a request was kind of made of
39 the trappers that they would, you know, try and report
40 during the course of the season even though it was not
41 a requirement. I think it was kind of suggested that
42 you would like to see that. I was just kind of
43 wondering if you knew how that all turned out, if you
44 got some cooperation there.

45
46 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, we did. Yeah, I
47 can't say, you know, what proportion of people reported
48 but it did -- at least some did.

49
50

0138

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So were
2 there any provisions or was there any thought given to
3 possible in-season management to extend the season due
4 to conditions on the ground?

5
6 MR. SCHUMACHER: We -- we -- the season
7 closed when it closed December 5th or something, and at
8 that point the word was there was so much snow that
9 people were having a hard time getting around. Later
10 in the winter as things started to melt we did get one
11 or two requests to reopen the season and at that point
12 the Commissioner determined that was not a course of
13 action he wanted to follow.

14
15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, yeah, thank
16 you for -- yeah, clarifying those questions, appreciate
17 it. Any other questions from Council members.

18
19 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair, Mike
20 Douville.

21
22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Mike.

23
24 MR. DOUVILLE: My question would be,
25 Tom, after the State sealing deadline at the end of the
26 season, how much more wolves were reported in the
27 window between the State closure and the Federal
28 reporting closure?

29
30 MR. SCHUMACHER: Hey, Mike, I'm sorry,
31 I don't know the answer to that question.

32
33 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay. It would just
34 give some insight as to how much cooperation there was.
35 Just curious to know that. And it wasn't so much that
36 people couldn't get around it's just that snow buried
37 every -- all the gear that you use for taking wolves so
38 that was a bigger problem than getting around.

39
40 But, anyway, thank you.

41
42 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yeah, I can -- I can
43 get you the numbers on, you know, when animals were
44 sealed if you'd like to have that. I'd be happy to
45 provide it through DeAnna.

46
47 MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you. Yeah, that
48 would be -- give some insight as to what might work
49 better on the Federal side, I suppose.

50

0139

1 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay.

2

3 MR. DOUVILLE: All right. That's all I
4 have, thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mike.
7 Any other questions from Council members.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, not hearing
12 any more questions, thank you, Tom, for answering our
13 questions and I guess I'm a little glad to hear that
14 there sounds like there was some cooperation this
15 season on reporting and I think that's probably an
16 improvement of what we've seen in the past so that's
17 encouraging. Overall, it'll probably make for better
18 management in the future so if we can keep that up,
19 working with the local trappers then, yeah, all
20 cooperating. So we still have some work to do on
21 aligning State and Federal regulations on and I guess
22 part of that will happen this April at the Federal
23 Subsistence Board meeting in Anchorage and so we'll see
24 how that goes.

25

26 So, yeah, thank you for your update,
27 appreciate you taking the time this afternoon.

28

29 MR. SCHUMACHER: You're very welcome.
30 And I'd also like to say thanks to the trappers. We
31 had real high compliance providing tissue samples for
32 DNA and that really does contribute to the population
33 estimates.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Very good.
36 Thanks again.

37

38 MR. SCHUMACHER: Okay, I'll sign off.

39

40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Cathy,
41 there's a lot of going on up at the Board of Fish here
42 in the last couple of weeks and it sounds like you were
43 right in the thick of it there for awhile so if you're
44 reading to give us an update on how things went,
45 especially in regards to proposals that this Council
46 submitted and proposals that were submitted by other
47 folks that we supported. If you're ready to do that
48 now we'll hear your report.

49

50

0140

1 MS. NEEDHAM: All right, thank you, Mr.
2 Chair. I am ready because I'm ready to get my mind out
3 of the Board of Fish realm and not have to worry too
4 much about keeping track of things.

5
6 I would like to let Council members
7 know that the Regional Advisory Council spent three of
8 our meetings working on comments to the Board of Fish
9 as well as originally crafting some proposals that we
10 wanted to put before the Board of Fish. Our official
11 Council letter to the Board of Fish that included our
12 comments proposals can be found under Tab No. 5 in your
13 Council meeting materials. That is a letter that goes
14 through and talks about each of the proposals that we
15 felt had an impact, or may have an impact on
16 subsistence users in our region.

17
18 And, unfortunately, our comments are in
19 a little bit different order than the road map that the
20 Board of Fish went through and there's two different
21 pieces of paper and so I'm going to basically give my
22 report out on the road map from the Board of Fisheries
23 on how they handled -- or how they actually voted and
24 considerations that they gave to proposals that were of
25 interest to us. I'd like to say some of these results
26 are hot off of the press but the Board of Fish has been
27 meeting since March 10th and some of these things have,
28 I'm sure, everybody kind of knows about already if
29 they've been keeping track of the process so I hope you
30 can still bear with me as I go through a little bit of
31 that history.

32
33 The Board of Fish did meet in person
34 and the way they structured their meeting was to have
35 three separate sessions. The first session was on
36 proposals dealing with herring. The second session was
37 on subsistence shellfish, commercial and sport shrimp
38 -- oh, I'm sorry, that was a committee as a whole. The
39 second session was on groundfish and all shellfish.
40 And then the third session was on salmon and all other
41 non-ground fish, finfish. And the Council voted to
42 send a representative from the Regional Advisory
43 Council to the meeting, however, a 12 day commitment
44 was not possible, and the Board of Fish did allow for
45 some opportunity for engagement via telephone, and so
46 DeAnna, our Council Coordinator helped craft a way for
47 us to be able to maximize our comments to the Board of
48 Fish in the best way possible and still send a person
49 there to cover the bulk of our comments and to also
50

0141

1 carry the four proposals that the Southeast Regional
2 Advisory Council submitted. And so essentially what
3 that meant was for Sessions 1 and 2, our Council's
4 comments were only read into their record during a
5 public testimony period. However, I know there was at
6 least one other Council member that might be able to
7 speak towards one of the sessions after my report is
8 done if they're -- if he so chooses.

9
10 So, with that, I'll kind of get in and
11 go through what the Board of Fish decided on a lot of
12 our proposals. Again, Session 1 was having to do with
13 herring. The Council chose to comment on one proposal
14 regarding herring so our public testimony was regarding
15 one proposal, which was No. 161, which is a proposal to
16 require a subsistence fishing permit to harvest herring
17 roe on branches in Sitka Sound area. We opposed that
18 proposal and the Board of Fish took no action on that
19 proposal. And after I'm done with my report, if you
20 want to ask Mr. Kitka, I know he was there advocating
21 for a number of Sitka Tribe of Alaska proposals and he
22 could shed more light on that one, if we so desire.

23
24 Under Session No. 2. We had proposal
25 -- this was the groundfish and all shellfish section of
26 their meeting. And we had written comments on one
27 proposal, which was No. 210 and our written public --
28 oh, it's going to be more than one, I'm sorry I found
29 my place -- for Proposal No. 210 was to establish
30 waters closed to commercial fishing for dungeness crab
31 in Sukkwan Strait, which is around Hydaburg and we
32 supported that proposal and the Board of Fish passed
33 that proposal as well. And I want to make note that
34 there were a number of other proposals before the Board
35 of Fish that were around small communities that had to
36 do with dungeness crab, communities like Coffman Cove
37 and Wale Pass and Kasaan Bay also put in proposals and
38 even though we did not choose to comment on them, I
39 thought you would be interested in knowing that the
40 Board of Fish passed all of those proposals as well.
41 So their action to close crab fisheries around small
42 communities will allow for more harvest -- or closing
43 it to commercial fishing, so this would potentially
44 allow still a subsistence harvest and they were very
45 supportive of that which was good to see.

46
47 Our next proposal that we commented on
48 was Proposal 170, which was to establish a customary
49 and traditional use finding for shellfish and plants
50

0142

1 for all intertidal areas in Southeast Alaska and
2 Yakutat and our Council supported this proposal, and
3 the Board of Fish ended up opposing it, 0-6, and --
4 however, during their deliberations they did put a lot
5 of things into record asking the Department to collect
6 and be able to deliver some additional information and
7 I think the general feeling in the room was that the
8 Board of Fish probably could have, or should have taken
9 no action on this proposal rather than opposing, but
10 they had already put the opposition motion on the -- or
11 they had already basically voted before they figured
12 that part out. So I expect at the next cycle there
13 will be more on potentially establishing a positive
14 customary and traditional use finding for shellfish in
15 Southeast Alaska.

16

17 The next proposal was Proposal 177,
18 which was to establish closed waters in the Hydaburg
19 area of Section 3A and the Council supported this
20 proposal and the Board of Fish opposed the proposal, or
21 the proposal failed, 0-6. I did have a discussion with
22 one of the Board members afterwards who said that the
23 proposal likely would have gotten more support if
24 Hydaburg had a C&T determination for shrimp -- oh, I'm
25 sorry, I should have mentioned -- this was established
26 close water for shrimp in the Hydaburg area -- but
27 because they didn't have a C&T determination for
28 shrimp, it was difficult for the Board of Fish to pass
29 that. So they will -- Hydaburg might want to work on
30 that aspect of things.

31

32 All right, that concludes Session 2.

33

34 Our Council, again, on 1 and 2 only
35 gave public testimony. Now, we move into Session 3,
36 which is salmon and all other non-groundfish, finfish,
37 and this is where a bulk of the Council's comments came
38 into play and therefore per the Council's wishes, I
39 traveled up to Anchorage to not only give public
40 testimony on these proposals but to also work in the
41 committee as a whole for the proposals for --
42 anticipated in the committee as a whole for each of the
43 proposals.

44

45 I would like to -- before I get into
46 our proposals that we did, there was one proposal that
47 the Board of Fish was really deliberating on --
48 actually I shouldn't say they spent much time
49 deliberating, but there was a group -- a committee of
50

0143

1 the whole group for king salmon, they had 16 proposals
2 before them, and it was two days of back and forth in a
3 committee as a whole, between trollers and
4 sportfishermen, they were trying to condense and change
5 the allocation in the king salmon management plan which
6 was currently 80 percent commercial and 20 percent
7 sportfishing, however, the Board of Fish was trying to
8 consider giving a 75/25 split and there was a lot of
9 opposition and controversy over that and a big portion
10 of the time that I was up there was spent waiting for
11 people to negotiate that out and figure out what it was
12 going to look like. And what the Board of Fish ended
13 up doing was they ended up passing Proposal No. 83 and
14 that was to amend the Alaska King Salmon Management
15 Plan to manage for an average sport harvest of 20
16 percent of the sport troll allocation with commiserate
17 regulation addressing sportfishery overages in the
18 commercial troll fish and a part of that -- the reason
19 why I wanted to bring that particular proposal to your
20 attention was because a part of that proposal was to
21 establish a non-resident limit, an annual limit on non-
22 residents of three kings -- king salmon. So that leads
23 us to Proposal No. 93, which we supported, which was
24 amend the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan
25 by reducing the maximum non-resident annual limit to
26 three king salmon, we supported that concept, the Board
27 of Fish voted this -- or they took no action on that
28 proposal because they had already established that
29 limit in Proposal 83 when they were negotiating that
30 piece of it out between the trollers and the sport
31 fishermen.

32
33 All right, now moving into the
34 subsistence committee as a whole, section, where we had
35 a lot of comments on proposals as well as all four
36 proposals that we submitted were in.

37
38 So for subsistence personal use and
39 sport there was Proposal No. 125, which was our
40 proposal that we submitted to the Board of Fish.
41 Proposal 125 was to clarify language for the
42 subsistence take of coho and king and you may remember
43 that this was the proposal that basically took the
44 regulation that previously prohibited issuing a
45 subsistence permit for king salmon, it was one sentence
46 in a regulation, this proposal was to remove that one
47 line out of regulation. Our justification for this
48 proposal was that we had a -- that there is a customary
49 and traditional use -- the State recognized a customary
50

1 and traditional use determination, a positive finding
2 for all salmon and that king salmon are -- are salmon
3 so they are recognized as that C&T, however, because of
4 that one line in regulation king salmon could not be
5 issued a subsistence permit. And so I'm pleased to
6 report that the Board of Fish passed this proposal
7 unanimously. And it was -- I did not think they were
8 going to do it, there was a lot of conversation about
9 the fact that it was way too broad of an action and it
10 was unclear what the Regional Advisory Council wanted
11 in terms of subsistence take for king salmon, however,
12 I did remind the Board member -- when we were on the
13 record when that question came to me, I did remind them
14 that, you know, really we're trying to do a small baby
15 step here and that the actual regulations would come
16 later, like in terms of what a subsistence take would
17 look like. And so I was pleased to find out that they
18 did actually pass that one. It sounds like we had an
19 advocate on the Board of Fish in Member Peyton, who
20 helped carry this along with weigh in from the
21 Department lawyers that that one prohibitive line item
22 in that regulation about not being able to issue a king
23 salmon subsistence permit had been on the books
24 arbitrarily since 1978 and so for Southeast Alaska it
25 will now be struck off.

26
27 The next proposal is one that the
28 Council provided comment on which was Proposal 127.
29 This proposal was to appeal the net tending
30 requirements in Yakutat Bay and that proposal failed
31 but it failed because Proposal No. 126 was essentially
32 the same proposal and so they actually passed the first
33 proposal one that we did not weigh in on, they passed
34 that, 6-0. So even though they didn't support the one
35 that we did comment on, the effect was still the same.

36
37 Proposal No. 128 was also a Southeast
38 Alaska Regional Advisory Council proposal. It was a
39 proposal to allow the use of set gillnets in all
40 Southeast Alaska area subsistence salmon fisheries.
41 This proposal failed, 0-6. The short justification for
42 failure was that there was reasonable opportunities for
43 subsistence through other gear types and so the Board
44 did not support opening up for a new gear type, which
45 was the set gillnet that we proposed. The other
46 comment was that if there are other places where it
47 makes sense for set gillnets on a smaller scale then a
48 proposal like that might get more consideration rather
49 than having such a broad, across all Southeast Alaska
50

0145

1 additional gear type.

2

3

4 The next proposal was Proposal No. 129
5 which was to modify closed waters and renew coho salmon
6 annual limit for the Klawock River. Our Council
7 supported this proposal but with modification and the
8 Board of Fish voted the proposal down, 0-6.

8

9

10 And next proposal was Proposal 130.
11 This proposal was to modify fishing times and locations
12 for subsistence salmon fishery in the Klawock River and
13 Lake and the Regional Advisory Council opposed this
14 proposal and the Board of Fish also opposed this
15 proposal, and I am told that when they opposed this
16 Proposal, 0-6, they actually used the Regional Advisory
17 Council's justification in their justification for
18 opposing -- so they used our work to -- they referenced
19 our work in their reasoning for turning that proposal
20 down.

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21 The next proposal is No. 131 which was
22 to modify the fishing area and add hand purse seine as
23 a legal gear for Redoubt Bay and lake subsistence
24 salmon fishery and our Council supported this proposal
25 and the Board of Fish supported this proposal with an
26 amendment. They supported it 0-6, and the amendment
27 was, rather than restricting harvest within 300 feet of
28 the falls that they changed it to 150, so they
29 shortened the amount of area where the restriction
30 would take place.

32 The next one is Proposal 133. 133 was
33 to allow the use of seine and gillnet gear in the
34 waters of Redoubt Bay that are open to commercial
35 salmon fishing. The Regional Advisory Council
36 supported this proposal and the Board of Fish passed
37 this proposal, 6-0.

39 The next one is Proposal 134, which was
40 prohibiting obstructing more than half of the stream,
41 creek or river when personal use fishing. This was --
42 the Regional Advisory Council opposed this proposal and
43 the Board of Fish passed that proposal, 6-0.

45 I also want to mention that there was
46 another proposal that the Regional Advisory Council did
47 not actually comment on but is in line with some of the
48 other work that we did and that was Proposal No. 135.
49 Proposal No. 135 was to allow permits to be used to be

0146

1 issued for personal use of taking of king salmon and
2 coho salmon. This one -- this particular proposal was
3 along the same lines as Proposal 125 that we put in
4 when we had the salmon subsistence permit -- or sorry
5 -- yeah, the prohibition of king salmon subsistence
6 permit on there. The difference between Proposal 135
7 and 125 was that our proposal, 125, was for subsistence
8 uses and 135 was for personal use, and the Board of
9 Fish -- that proposal failed the Board of Fish, 0-6,
10 the one for personal use. But, again, we didn't
11 comment on that, it's just sort of likened to another
12 proposal that we had put in.

13

14 All right, the next proposal is No.
15 142, this was also a -- no, this was not a proposal
16 that we put in. No. 142 was to establish bag and
17 possession limits and lawful gear for smelt fishing in
18 the Ketchikan area and this proposal was supported by
19 the Regional Advisory Council and the Board of Fish
20 passed Proposal No. 142, however, they did amend it and
21 for Member Wagner, because I know he is listening and
22 if he hasn't already been on top of this action, I'm
23 told that there was an RC submitted at the last minute
24 and that the language in there clarifies a number of
25 things but that the posse -- the annual -- the bag and
26 possession limits for smelt fishing in the Ketchikan
27 area would be an annual limit of 50 pounds for harvest
28 and that was the result of that proposal.

29

30 The next proposal is No. 143. No. 143
31 was a Regional Advisory Council proposal and it was a
32 proposal to require in-season reporting of non-resident
33 sportfish harvest. This is something that we have
34 worked on for a number of years of trying to get
35 improved data on un-guided, non-resident sport harvest
36 of salmon. So of course we supported this proposal.
37 There was a lot of interaction on this proposal, there
38 was a lot of opposition on this proposal and the
39 proposal did fail, 0-5. However, there was another
40 proposal on the books, which was No. 144, which was
41 submitted by the Sitka AC, and our Council also
42 provided comments on that proposal, we supported it,
43 and the Sitka AC proposal, and the Sitka AC proposal
44 was to establish a log book program for rental vessels
45 used in Southeast Alaska sport fisheries and so they
46 wanted to basically -- our proposal, which was the
47 proposal before that basically wanted accountability
48 for all unguided non-residents, but the Sitka AC
49 crafted their proposal that was more specific to having
50

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1 a log book program for rented vessels so that non-
2 residents that renting boats would have accountability
3 towards their harvest, and the Board of Fish took no
4 action on that. But the reason why I bring it to your
5 attention is that by taking no action, they decided
6 they are going to wait because the Alaska Department of
7 Fish and Game may almost be ready to roll out an
8 electronic reporting system for non-resident unguided
9 harvest so it might not be the log book that was asked
10 for but there is a tool that is almost going to be
11 released for rented vessels unguided, non-resident
12 harvest. I would also like to add that on Proposal
13 143, the one that we put in, some of the discussion and
14 feedback on that proposal was that the Fish and Game
15 has new tools for estimating non-resident effort that
16 they feel gives us a decent accurate, even though
17 they're a sub-sample -- so they have the krill survey
18 as well as the -- the mail out that they do to get
19 information back on sportfishing and then they feel
20 that those methods are statistically valid methods for
21 estimating the amount of harvest by non-resident and so
22 that was one of the reasons why 143 failed, was that
23 there already is decent accounting for non-residents in
24 what they do and they did not feel that they needed to
25 impose a more stringent reporting system on non-
26 residents -- unguided non-resident harvest.

27
28 And the next proposal is Proposal No.
29 145, which was also a Regional Advisory Council
30 proposal. The proposal was to establish a non-resident
31 bag possession and annual limits for coho and sockeye
32 salmon in fresh and saltwaters in Southeast Alaska.
33 This proposal failed the Board of Fish, -05, and I just
34 need to look real quick -- the reason why they opposed
35 it -- or the recommendation that came out of them
36 failing this proposal was that what the -- what we
37 needed to look at is the regulation that would allocate
38 fish away from the bigger user group, commfish, if
39 subsistence users want more fish. I don't exactly --
40 obviously I was in our Council meeting so I don't know
41 the exact -- exactly, necessarily what that means but
42 that was their justification for failing that proposal
43 that we did submit.

44
45 There was another proposal that we did
46 not comment on that was very similar. Our proposal was
47 for coho and sockeye salmon, the other proposal was for
48 coho, sockeye, chum and pink salmon, and the Board of
49 Fish chose to take no action on that proposal as well.
50

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1 So that concludes the work that was
2 done at the Board of Fish that is still actually
3 currently meeting as we -- they're still finishing up
4 their business up there in Anchorage. I did want to
5 make another additional comment.

6
7 If you'll notice on Page 4 of our
8 Council comments to the Board of Fish, we also had some
9 miscellaneous statewide sport shellfish proposals that
10 we commented on and those proposals were not taken --
11 or not being taken up by the Board of Fish at this
12 meeting because they will have another meeting to
13 handle statewide proposals, I think it's in two or
14 three weeks, I haven't had a chance to look up the
15 dates yet. However, we did provide our public -- we
16 did -- we submitted this letter to the Board of Fish
17 and then during one of the public testimony sessions
18 that I gave, I also made sure that the Board of Fish
19 was reminded that these other comments were put in
20 because some of the proposals -- Proposal 234 is also
21 about requiring in-season reporting for non-resident
22 sportfish harvest so there is an additional proposal
23 before them that's on a statewide basis regarding that.
24 I do not know if that meeting is going to allow for
25 public testimony or committee as a whole work, but I
26 just wanted the Council members to know that that
27 business with the Board of Fish was not covered in this
28 current meeting.

29
30 And then in my Council report I had
31 also mentioned the halibut proposal that we put forward
32 and, of course, there's nothing to report back on that
33 or Board of Fish actions taken on that since they did
34 not consider it because they did not feel they had
35 jurisdiction, but could be a potential discussion item
36 for our Council at this meeting about whether or not we
37 want to think about moving forward with taking that
38 message to the entity that does have jurisdiction which
39 I believe is National Marine Fisheries Service.

40
41 So thank you for bearing with me
42 through that really long report but really it was your
43 guys' work, I was just the messenger and I felt like it
44 was important to provide as much detail back to you
45 because you guys spent -- we all spent three whole
46 meetings working on Boar of Fish and I know it might
47 feel a little discouraging that we put four proposals
48 in and only got one passed but I was highly encouraged
49 by the one that we did get passed and so kudos to all
50

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1 of us for opening that door for future proposals.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah,
6 Cathy, I agree that any success at the Board of Fish
7 levels is probably good for subsistence users and also
8 some of the other proposals that we supported were
9 passed as well so that's encouraging.

10

11 Anybody on the Council have a question
12 for Cathy about proposals.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, that was a
17 pretty complete report, Cathy, maybe didn't leave much
18 room for questions, you covered it pretty well.

19

20 MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Hernandez.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, is that
23 Patty.

24

25 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes. I don't have a
26 question, I have a compliment to the entire Southeast
27 Regional Advisory Council, you know, kudos to you, you
28 did an excellent job putting this together. I was
29 there for part of Cathy's testimon (indiscernible -
30 breaking up) I sat through (indiscernible - breaking
31 up) I was there as the Chair of Fish and Game for
32 Pelican and observed her and I was at another Board of
33 Fish, like in a different three year cycle so we are,
34 as a Subsistence Council (indiscernible - breaking up)
35 and you're building a good administrative record, and
36 that's what Cathy had to, you know, testify about and a
37 Board member asked her, well, where are you getting
38 this information from and she told them, well we build
39 an administrative record. Members of the public come
40 before us and tell us their concerns. And so I just
41 want to compliment all you Council members for your
42 advocacy.

43

44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you
45 for that Patty. Anybody else with a question on the
46 Council.

47

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

49

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Albert.

2

3 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 Just for Board Member Needham, I know those -- going to
5 those meetings are pretty long and tiring and so I just
6 want to express my appreciation to her for doing that.
7 Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
10 Albert. Anybody else with a question on the Board of
11 Fish proceedings.

12

13 MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman, Mike
14 Douville.

15

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Mike.

17

18 MR. DOUVILLE: My question would -- I
19 guess was on the troll/sportfish one, or troll/charter
20 one. I believe they're asking for 25/75 and if I heard
21 her correctly that the Board of Fish went with the
22 20/80; is that correct?

23

24 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair. Mr. Douville.
25 That is my understanding of it. It was a big crazy
26 thing to watch but -- and I actually was not there for
27 the deliberation of Proposal No. 83 but I understand
28 that is the one that they passed and in conversation
29 with the members of the trolling group is that they
30 went with 80/20.

31

32 MR. DOUVILLE: Okay, thank you, Cathy.
33 And thank you for your excellent report and you did a
34 great job. Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Anybody
37 else with a question.

38

39 MR. KITKA: Don, this is Harvey Kitka.

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Harvey.

42

43 MR. KITKA: I wanted to thank Cathy for
44 her report. I know how difficult it is to sit through
45 all of the things and try to get things done. It's
46 quite a cumbersome event. Having opposition for most
47 everything that you present creates kind of a problem,
48 it's almost political when you get to that point, and
49 when you start talking subsistence and big money, it's
50

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1 a difficult situation.

2

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Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Harvey. And, Harvey, I know that you were up there as well. I believe you were representing the Sitka Tribe up there, or yourself?

MR. KITKA: Thank you, Don. I went up there to represent basically Sitka Kaagwaantaan to start with, I was just going to represent them. And Herring Protectors paid my way up and -- and so in the process Sitka Tribe asked me to talk for them, so I talked for them. I talked on Proposals 156 through 158. And those things counteracted the commercial industry's 159 through 161. So the tribe fortunately got together and so maybe they got something done but I -- I did get their attention for awhile, I just -- they were kind of shocked that -- that I started going over data 10 years old, from 1951 and I told them that I saw the herring spawn before statehood and then after statehood and really took their -- their first size of the spawn was nowhere near what it was back then, and it still isn't and we're competing in a much smaller area to harvest our eggs and -- than what we used to. I told them back then everybody had their own places to set their branches and we never had to worry and were able to get the eggs, the quality eggs that they needed. Besides that they had -- I told them at times there was people from all over Southeast Alaska used to come to Sitka to harvest eggs so did that.

I didn't get down to the 162, which is equal shares, which it has a scary clause in it about when the -- when they couldn't harvest all the herring that for the -- the eggs, and they wanted to go and harvest the rest for other uses, which meant that this year they could have harvested 45 percent which is almost half the stock which is really scary and I opposed that but I -- I supported the increase on the take of kelp for subsistence.

So that was the length of time they allowed me to stay up there. They only allowed me to stay through the herring part so that's what I did. Hopefully that what -- hopefully it opened the door for more discussion with the Board. The Board was more receptive this time to what we said than in years past

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1 and there were -- they commented that Sitka Tribe's
2 proposal were all conservation measures and all
3 commercial industries was non-conservation measures.
4 So made them look at it a little different.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Harvey.
9 I know that you kind of made quite an impression with
10 the Board with your testimony. I heard about it on the
11 statewide news and, yeah, it sounds like they did pay
12 attention to what you had to say. But bottom line,
13 maybe you can inform us -- as far as I know the Board
14 hasn't supported anything that would really change the
15 present management plan moving forward; is that
16 correct? Did they make some changes?

17

18 MR. KITKA: No, they did not.
19 Everything is going to stay status quo for another
20 year. Just everybody is waiting to see what is going
21 to happen this year. So -- but it's kind of -- I don't
22 know if you heard, a tugboat hit a beach here in Beaver
23 Straits and now it's leaking diesel oil and as the tide
24 runs through there, you know, it runs pretty fast both
25 directions, so they're kind of concerned as to how far
26 that will spread. So -- but we opened the door, at
27 least, the commercial industry came to us to talk to us
28 about it. So hopefully these things will get better,
29 but we don't know yet.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, I
32 heard about that tugboat this morning. Yeah, that
33 throws a little wrinkle into the situation. I also
34 heard it's going on two hours notice as of this morning
35 but, boy, it sure didn't sound like they were seeing
36 much herring appearing over there yet so we will
37 definitely all be kind of watching and waiting to see
38 what happens this year.

39

40 MR. KITKA: Yes, Don. And also they --
41 I don't think they really wanted to try to fish with
42 that wind blowing almost 55 miles an out there where
43 the herring are right now so nobody wants to end up on
44 a beach.

45

46 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, right.
47 Well, like I say, we will all be watching, a lot of
48 interest in what happens over there. Let's see, are
49 there any.....

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1 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, who is that.

4

5 MS. NEEDHAM: Mr. Chair, it's Cathy.

6

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cathy.

8

9 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
10 just wanted to make a couple of more comments that are
11 not part of the official report.

12

13 But the -- I think there's a lot of
14 opportunity right now for the Regional Advisory Council
15 and some of the local Fish and Game Advisory Committees
16 to work together. My impression with talking with a
17 number of the local AC Chairs that were up at the
18 meeting, that we have some common ground in some pretty
19 important areas, not just the halibut area but, you
20 know, regarding this non-resident piece -- non-resident
21 harvest and limits and things like that. There was a
22 lot of support in the audience for some of the things
23 that we were trying to do even though the Board of Fish
24 didn't do that and I don't -- I don't know how we can
25 collaborate better with them but they continuously ask
26 me how could we better collaborate and so I just want
27 to put that out there as a comment to the Regional
28 Advisory Council members, if, in your communities --
29 if you're working with a local AC and there's a way for
30 us to support one another's work, I think we could get
31 a lot farther. It was suggested that a couple of our
32 proposals, that the local ACs did support, if we put
33 them in as a joint proposal at the next round, they
34 might get a lot farther along and the traction that
35 they're starting to generate. Because we put the
36 proposal in didn't necessarily mean that they were
37 going to pass it, and regardless of whether or not the
38 AC supported it, but if there was a joint submission on
39 proposals, it's something to look at as a tactic down
40 the line, I believe.

41

42 Also, you know, a person -- two people
43 who were very integral in our process. One was Heather
44 Bauscher, she won an award at the Board of Fish and her
45 AC did so much work, and she's the Chair of that and
46 she has participated in our meetings before and she is
47 not only advocating for the working together and
48 teaming up when we have common grounds but I just
49 wanted to kind of recognize her on the record because
50

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1 she has been so involved in our process that she
2 understood, you know, how to kind of make that mind set
3 shift. The Board of Fish is a different -- completely
4 game in a lot of respects, and she was really
5 encouraging and helpful along the way.

6
7 And the other one was Keenan Sanderson
8 from Ketchikan Indian Community. You guys may remember
9 that he worked with us when we were formulating
10 comments to the Board of Fish. He brought a lot of
11 proposals that we commented on to our attention. And
12 Keenan was up at the Board of Fish meetings as well and
13 he -- the Board of Fish is really impressed with him.
14 They really like him. He did a great job commenting
15 before them. He has been engaged with them since the
16 very first day that they started meeting and he really
17 is emerging as a young leader. I think that he deserves
18 a little bit of recognition as well because he
19 participated in our process and helped us as well as,
20 you know, going up there and just -- it was -- it was
21 stellar to watch two young people that we have worked
22 through and with us do such a great job. They really
23 truly were role models.

24
25 And then, again, just our work that we
26 have done made it a better delivery to me. If we did
27 not have our administrative record, I couldn't have
28 gone through the transcripts -- you know we put our
29 comments in two years ago so to prepare for that
30 meeting I just went, you know, went back to the
31 transcripts to read what our conversations were like
32 and I was able to interject those kinds of things in
33 our committee as the whole work and I think, you know,
34 that in some cases it made -- it made the Board of Fish
35 folks listen, I think. They asked questions and I
36 think that was good. And even though they didn't
37 support us at least they were engaging. So thank you
38 for building that record so clearly so that we could
39 deliver our message.

40
41 And then, you know, I think finally the
42 last thing I'll say is, is I don't think we could do
43 the work that we did and have it be accepted as well as
44 it was accepted up there, if you don't vote to have
45 somebody take the message and be at the meetings on
46 behalf of the Council. If you're not there in person
47 then you don't get to participate in the committee as a
48 whole and you can't have the important conversations
49 about collaborative efforts and you can't have
50

0155

1 conversations, you know, with Board members to get your
2 -- to get their questions answered and the intent
3 through. And so if we're going to continue to put
4 proposals forward on behalf of subsistence users in our
5 region, we absolutely have to have somebody in the room
6 and I'm pretty sure it was Member Howard who advocated
7 the most for that at our meetings in the past. And so
8 I think that he's right in that aspect you really need
9 somebody there. But I'm not raising my hand.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, we're glad
16 you were able to go there, Cathy. Yeah, it was much
17 appreciated and all your comments you just made, yeah,
18 we should definitely keep those in mind because even
19 though it's not our jurisdiction we do have a voice and
20 we do speak for subsistence users throughout the region
21 so we should be as effective as possible in doing that.
22 So it's kind of a new thing for us to be so involved,
23 and collaborating with other entities that are up
24 there, those are all good suggestions. We'll keep
25 those in mind for three years from now, I guess. Maybe
26 it'll only be two years, I don't know they're so out of
27 cycle with everything else -- we'll keep those in mind.

28

29 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Is that DeAnna.

32

33 MS. PERRY: Yes, this is DeAnna,
34 thanks. I just wanted to give hat's off to Cathy, she
35 was a rock star at the meeting. I think a lot of people
36 don't realize what a time commitment something like
37 this was, everything from, you know, having to read
38 mitigation plans and having to put in paperwork because
39 of Covid to, you know, making sure you're going to be
40 available a certain week and then the meeting got
41 rescheduled, and then it was let's, you know, make
42 other commitments and then, of course, like Cathy said
43 lots of hours rubbing shoulders, talking to people,
44 looking through the transcripts, it -- I think she did
45 great. She operates well under pressure, but it was a
46 joy working with her and I would definitely, you know,
47 just want to give her lots of kudos because it was
48 quite a personal commitment on her end and I just
49 wanted that to be said.

50

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1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, DeAnna.
5 And as Cathy pointed out you also kind of went above
6 and beyond, you and George Pappas, working through the
7 weekends and probably after hours and, yeah, all in
8 support and much appreciated. We all must remember,
9 Cathy, like everybody else on this Council is a
10 volunteer, is not compensated for her work. So just
11 can't appreciate that enough so thanks again.

11

12

13 If that concludes the Board of Fish
14 report we can recess here shortly. I do have one
15 question, DeAnna, I believe we had one request for a
16 time certain presentation for this afternoon from the
17 National Park Service, do you know if anybody's
18 available from the Park Service here to do that this
19 afternoon.

19

20

21 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair, I actually
22 just checked in with Barbara Cellarius, we were talking
23 about her availability tomorrow but if you'd like to
24 try to take care of that today we can see if she's
25 prepared to do that. Barbara, are you on, are you
26 still on I should say.

26

27

28 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair, I am on the
29 phone and I could do this agenda item now. I don't
30 think it will take too long, or I sent DeAnna my
31 schedule for tomorrow. I'm just taking a class during
32 some chunks of the day so, yeah, we could either do it
33 now or do it tomorrow afternoon after 2:30.

33

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, I don't see
36 anything else that we could probably do very quickly
37 right now so let's hear what you have to say so we can
38 cross that off the agenda seeing's how you're'
39 available. So go ahead.

39

40

41 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay. That would be --
42 for the record my name is Barbara Cellarius and I'm the
43 Cultural Anthropologist and Subsistence Coordinator for
44 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

44

45

46 And what I want to talk to you about is
47 an appointment that the Southeast RAC Makes to the
48 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource
49 Commission. There is a handout in your meeting
50 materials. I am not sure what page it is, maybe DeAnna

50

0157

1 can help me with that.

2

3 MS. PERRY: Yes, Barbara it's behind
4 Tab No. 9 in the Council meeting books.

5

6 MS. CELLARIUS: Thanks, DeAnna.

7

8 MS. PERRY: You bet.

9

10 MS. CELLARIUS: So the Wrangell-
11 St.Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission
12 is similar to the RAC, a citizen advisory committee but
13 in this case it's specific to Wrangell-St. Elias
14 National Park. And as I said under the provisions of
15 ANILCA, the Regional Advisory Council -- the Southeast
16 Alaska Regional Advisory Council appoints one member to
17 the Wrangell-St.Elias to the SRC. The current
18 appointments expire in March of this year and so I had
19 initially planned to come to you for this appointment.
20 Currently there are two appointments by the RAC to the
21 SRC, one is for the primarily representative and then a
22 second option appointment of an alternate.

23

24 I need to explain that there are some
25 very specific eligibility requirements for these
26 appointments. The RAC appointees to the SRC must be a
27 member of either of either the RAC or a local AC in the
28 region and also engage in subsistence uses within the
29 Park. And in order to engage in subsistence uses in
30 Wrangell-St. Elias in Southeast Alaska, someone would
31 need to be a resident of Yakutat.

32

33 So are there any questions about my
34 explanation of what the SRC is and what the RACs role
35 is, or who's eligible for the appointment?

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MS. CELLARIUS: So hearing none I'm
40 just going to move on to say that the current appointee
41 as the primary representative has decided that he is
42 not going to seek reappointment, that was Sam Demmert
43 of Yakutat. And I have not -- I have been trying to
44 identify an alternate candidate and I have not yet done
45 so. The current alternate is Larry Bemis and although
46 he's no longer on the RAC he is a member of the Yakutat
47 AC and as such he would be eligible for reappointment
48 as the alternate. He does not want -- he's not
49 interested as serving as the primary member.

50

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1 So if the Council wishes, you could
2 take action on reappointing Larry as the alternate.

3
4 The other option would be for me to
5 continue my efforts to identify a candidate for the
6 primary seat. I'm planning to go to Yakutat this
7 spring or summer and I'm hoping to talk to some folks
8 in person. I think that's probably more effective
9 than.....

10

11

12 (Teleconference interference -

13 participants not muted)

14

15 MS. CELLARIUS: And then I could come
16 to you in the fall. So it's up to you whether you want
17 to take action on the alternate or just wait until the
18 fall and take care of both of them then.

19

20 Hopefully that makes sense.

21

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, yeah,
23 thank you Barb. Maybe the Council has some questions
24 for you on that. Anybody on the Council.

25

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

27

28 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cathy.

29

30 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
31 if Mr. Bemis -- does he need to be reappointed, or if
32 we take no action now and do it later, is he still
33 considered the alternate and is actually still serving
34 for lack of having a primary representative?

35

36 MS. CELLARIUS: That's correct.
37 Essentially there is -- I think it's actually a
38 statutory -- yep, it's statutory -- members continue to
39 serve until reappointed or replaced as long as they --
40 the RAC appointees maintain either being a member of a
41 RAC or an AC. So it doesn't really -- if you decide to
42 wait until the fall it doesn't have a significant
43 impact.

44

45 MS. NEEDHAM: Okay, thank you. Mr.
46 Chair, this is Cathy. I would be hesitant -- I would
47 like to give Ms. Cellarius some more time to help us
48 identify someone for that primary seat and I'm sure
49 that Mr. Bemis was continuing his alternate role, you
50

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1 know, in a way that is effective and so they have at
2 least one representative that we've appointed in the
3 past so that would be something I'd like to make sure
4 that we think about is if we take no action now it's
5 not going to necessarily going to shake up things. And
6 I would like to have, you know, some kind of names
7 before us before we decide who the primary person would
8 be.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
13 Cathy. Yeah, this is Don. I do have one question. So
14 I think I understand that it is okay for this Council
15 to appoint somebody from the RAC -- that is not
16 presently a member of this Council, like if you recruit
17 somebody say from the local Advisory Committee in
18 Yakutat, that's perfectly acceptable that we, as a RAC,
19 appoint them; is that correct?

20

21 MS. CELLARIUS: That would meet the
22 eligibility requirements specified in ANILCA. They
23 have to either be a member of the RAC or they have to
24 be a member of the AC, and the only community that is
25 eligible -- the only community in Southeast Alaska
26 that's eligible to engage in subsistence in Wrangell-
27 St. Elias is Yakutat, so essentially we're talking
28 about either a RAC member from Yakutat or an member --
29 a Yakutat resident who's on the Yakutat AC.

30

31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Even though
32 they're not a member of our Council we would still make
33 that appointment?

34

35 MS. CELLARIUS: That would be
36 consistent with the provisions of the requirements of
37 ANILCA.

38

39 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you.

40

41 MS. CELLARIUS: You know it is very
42 effective if the appoint -- the RAC appointee who.....

43

44 (Teleconference interference -
45 participants not muted)

46

47 MS. CELLARIUS:to the SRC is a
48 member of the RAC because it creates a connection
49 between the two bodies and we do have that situation in

50

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1 -- we have that situation with our other two RACs and
2 we've had that situation with Yakutat before.....

3

4 (Teleconference interference -
5 participants not muted)

6

7 MS. CELLARIUS:it's just right
8 now there's not someone from Yakutat on the RAC. You
9 could wait until the fall and we can see where things
10 are if you prefer to do that.

11

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: All right. Okay.
13 Question for DeAnna, is this an action item that
14 requires a motion if we take no action.

15

16 MS. PERRY: I would recommend it,
17 possibly a motion to take no action.

18

19 (Teleconference interference -
20 participants not muted)

21

22 MS. PERRY: Just for the record since
23 there is an expiration of March 2022 of the
24 appointment, just solidifying what Barbara said, that
25 Mr. Bemis would continue until the fall, until we could
26 put a representative in there. And then possibly if
27 there are two we could do the representative and an
28 alternate like we've done in the past.

29

30 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

31

32 MS. PERRY: Maybe just a quick motion
33 to take no action.

34

35 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right, thank you.
36 With that in mind is there anybody on the Council who
37 would like to make a motion.

38

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

40

41 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Go ahead, Cathy.

42

43 MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 I'm not quite ready to make a motion. I did want to ask
45 -- I just wanted to let Barbara know that when I was at
46 the Board of Fish meeting I met an AC member from
47 Yakutat who was a previous Regional Advisory
48 Council member representing Yakutat, and I do not
49 remember his name, but if you were going to be doing
50

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1 some outreach he might be a person to get in touch
2 with. And you might be able to find out -- he said
3 that he served from -- I think he ended his term on the
4 RAC, he did 10 years and he ended around 2000, so he
5 would be in our old RAC records, and he was up there
6 representing the Yakutat AC at the Board of Fish
7 meetings.

8
9 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes, it might have been
10 John Vale.

11
12 MS. NEEDHAM: Actually, yeah, that
13 sounds right.

14
15 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah, and I've been
16 working with the AC coordinator and plan -- when I
17 actually go to Yakutat I was going to try to talk to
18 some folks, including John. It just seems like it was
19 better to do in person.

20
21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.

22
23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted)

25
26 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Would anybody
27 like.....

28
29 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is
30 Albert.

31
32 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Albert. Is that
33 Albert.

34
35 MR. HOWARD: Yes, thank you, Mr.
36 Chairman.

37
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yeah, go ahead,
39 Albert.

40
41 MR. HOWARD: I'd like to make a motion
42 that we take no action until we have a name.

43
44 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
45 Albert.

46
47 MS. NEEDHAM: Cathy will second that
48 motion.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Cathy.
2 So the motion is that we take no action on an
3 appointment to the Wrangell-St. Elias Resource Advisory
4 Commission, is there any other discussion.

5
6 MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman, this is
7 Albert. Under discussion.

8
9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Do you have
10 something to add Albert or was that a call for the
11 question.

12
13 MR. HOWARD: Just a statement. It's
14 the first time I made a motion to do nothing. Thank
15 you, Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, thank you,
18 Albert. Anybody else.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MS. PHILLIPS: Call for the.....

23
24 MR. KITKA: Don, this is.....

25
26 MS. PHILLIPS:question.

27
28 MR. KITKA:Harvey. I call for
29 the question.

30
31 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, I heard
32 Harvey call for the question. I think I can do a voice
33 vote on this. All in favor of the motion to take no
34 action say aye.

35
36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37
38 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anybody opposed to
39 the motion say no.

40
41 (No opposing votes)

42
43 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, motion
44 passes. We'll revisit this in the fall. Hopefully
45 we'll have a candidate.

46
47 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair
48 and Council members.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, I -- yeah,
2 Barb, go ahead.

3
4 MS. CELLARIUS: I was just going to say
5 thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: You're welcome,
8 thank you for bringing that to our attention. I think
9 we can recess for today. Tomorrow we have a couple
10 more business items to get through, reports basically.
11 The indigenous management working group report. I'll
12 ask Bob Schroeder if he can kind of lead that
13 discussion. I know that Bob wrote out some preliminary
14 draft ideas and circulated them to the working group
15 people and we have a chance to comment on those and
16 perhaps with those comments they might be in a forum
17 where it can be presented to the entire Council, for
18 the entire Council to review and take action on before
19 the end of the meeting. So, Bob, if you're listening,
20 will you be prepared to do that. And then I'll have a
21 little bit more to add on the deer summit, but not very
22 much. We'll start the meeting tomorrow at 9:00 with
23 public testimony not related to the agenda. I believe
24 we have a request from Salmon Beyond Borders to do a
25 presentation tomorrow morning and so we may hear from
26 them first thing. And then tomorrow we'll probably
27 undertake the item -- well, some other items but call
28 for Federal fish and shellfish proposals. So if
29 anybody has any proposals that they wish to put forward
30 and discuss with the Council, have those ready for us,
31 probably be working on those tomorrow.

32
33 So good session today. I think we got
34 a lot of the phone issues ironed out, it went a little
35 smoother this afternoon than this morning. So DeAnna,
36 unless you have anything else to add.

37
38 MS. PERRY: I do not, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Recess
41 until 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

42
43 MR. SLATER: Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

46
47 MR. SLATER: Yeah, this is Jim. Hey,
48 I've been in Juneau trying to get back to Pelican with
49 my kids since Saturday and there's a weather window
50

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1 tomorrow. I'm going to try to make it so my attendance
2 may be spotty in the afternoon, or maybe in the
3 morning, depending on when we leave. I just wanted to
4 give you a head's up on that. But in any case if I'm
5 successful getting home or I don't sink I'll be here on
6 Thursday.

7

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, very good.
9 Well, yeah, be careful, safe traveling.

10

11 MR. SLATER: All right, thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay, we'll recess
14 until tomorrow morning.

15

16 (Off record)

17

18 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

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THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

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Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22