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SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
TELECONFERENCE
February 10, 2022
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Greg Encelewski, Chairman
- Ed Holsten
- Heath Kocan
- Andrew McLaughlin
- Michael Opheim
- Hope Roberts
- Diane Selanoff
- Gloria Stickwan
- Angela Totemoff
- Donna Wilson
- Dennis Zadra

Regional Council Coordinator, DeAnna Perry

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Telephonic - 2/10/2022)

(On record)

(Invocation)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, DeAnna, if you're ready I'm going to go ahead and call the meeting to order. I know I've got about 10 or 12 after. We're having some phone difficulties. My understanding last time I called in there's 50 plus on the phone so I know it's going to be a little challenged. I do know we have Teams here. But I'm going to turn it over to you DeAnna and let you give some housekeeping announcements. I know you started once but if you want to go ahead and go through that now that'd be good.

MS. PERRY: Sure. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, this is DeAnna Perry. I'm the Council Coordinator for the Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

Some of the housekeeping items, again, we've already talked about muting your phones, star, six. The little symbol, star, or asterisk on your keypad and then the number 6 will mute you if you do not have a mute button. We kind of struggled with that this morning with folks calling in and we could hear a lot of feedback. So if you could just remember, if you're not speaking, to make sure that your phone's on mute that'll greatly help us hear each other and also capture everything for our court reporting.

The agenda and meeting materials can be found online on the Federal Subsistence website. That's at www.doi.gov/subsistence and then at the top you'll just go to the regions tab. You'll see several boxes and one of those will be meeting materials.

While we're on the conference call, again, I just can't stress this enough, the importance, since we've already struggled with it, the star, six. Our proceedings are being recorded and everything that's said will be captured in the transcript and, with that, I would just, again, remind the star, six, because a lot of times we hear things we probably don't want to have in the transcript. So please be

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1 respectful and have your phone on mute during the
2 meeting unless you're speaking. And also if you're
3 working or if your phone has the hold function, please
4 don't put us on hold, sometimes music plays when we're
5 hold and that basically stops our meeting, we cannot go
6 any farther. So, again, star, six to mute and please
7 do not put us on hold at any point during the meeting.

8

9 As we all know since we've been doing
10 this for almost two years, these virtual meetings are
11 extremely challenging so I will just remind folks to be
12 courteous and respectful and patient. All of our
13 meetings are conducted pursuant to Robert's Rules of
14 Parliamentary Procedure and that means that you call
15 for the Chair's attention and be recognized before you
16 speak. Obviously we're not in the same room and we
17 can't see hands go up, if you're on the videoconference
18 feel free to use the hand function, it's at the top of
19 the bar, it's got a smiley face and a big hand right
20 next to it. If you hover over that it'll give you some
21 options and one of that is a raising hand and that will
22 help us recognize that you want to speak. When the
23 Chair recognizes you please state your full name, also
24 your organization or your community so that we can
25 capture that for the administrative record and then, of
26 course, proceed with your statement.

27

28 The Council meetings provide an
29 opportunity for the public and tribes to provide oral
30 and written testimony and comment. At the beginning of
31 each day there's an opportunity to provide testimony on
32 non-agenda items and the Council Chair will announce
33 those opportunities for public testimony. And I'd just
34 like to remind you if you have a written comment, you
35 can email that to subsistence at F as in Frank, W as in
36 Whiskey, S as in Sam.gov and clearly indicate in the
37 subject line what the comment is on.

38

39 Finally, I'd like to welcome our four
40 new Council members. They'll be introducing themselves
41 formally in just a bit, but I want to remind, Staff,
42 especially, and folks presenting to the Council and
43 other Council members, that we do have a lot of new
44 Council members on and so we need to slow down and make
45 sure that we are referring tab numbers in their meeting
46 books, put on your camera if you can and would like to,
47 that way everybody kind of gets a name and face
48 association. And, yeah, I mean we did a brief new
49 member orientation but I just wanted to remind folks

50

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1 that please remember we have new Council members on
2 here and any help in guiding them through the meeting
3 would be appreciated.

4
5 Okay, Mr. Chair, I think I have all the
6 basics covered and I'll turn it back to you to move
7 forward on the agenda.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
12 DeAnna. Welcome everyone. We're first going to do a
13 roll call and establish our quorum so let's go ahead
14 and do that.

15
16 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
17 the Council members, again, if all Council members
18 could hit star, six to unmute their phone so they could
19 answer roll.

20
21 Ed Holsten, do I have you on the phone.

22
23 MR. HOLSTEN: Good morning, DeAnna,
24 this is Ed, I'm here.

25
26 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Ed, thank
27 you.

28
29 Michael Opheim.

30
31 MR. OPHEIM: Here.

32
33 MS. PERRY: Thanks Michael.

34
35 Diane Selanoff.

36
37 MS. SELANOFF: Here.

38
39 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Diane.

40
41 Dennis Zadra.

42
43 MR. ZADRA: I'm here, good morning.

44
45 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Dennis. Good
46 morning.

47
48 Gloria Stickwan.

49
50

0005

1 MS. STICKWAN: Good morning, I'm here.

2

3 MS. PERRY: Okay, thanks. I didn't
4 know if you got dropped.

5

6 Angela Totemoff.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MS. PERRY: Angela, are you with us.

11 Angela.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MS. PERRY: Okay. Donna Claus.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MS. PERRY: Andy McLaughlin.

20

21 Donna Wilson.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MS. PERRY: Hope Roberts.

26

27 MS. ROBERTS: Good morning, I'm here.

28

29 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Hope.

30

31 Heath Kocan.

32

33 MR. KOCAN: Here.

34

35 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Heath.

36

37 Michael Rego.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MS. PERRY: Okay. I was just checking.
42 Michael did have some business meetings. He is one of
43 the new Council members that was newly appointed and
44 because we received appointments so late he is not able
45 to join us today but should be on here tomorrow.

46

47 So I'll go back and just remind folks,
48 if you did put yourself on mute earlier, if you're a
49 Council member, go ahead and unmute yourself by hitting
50

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1 star, six again and I'll go ahead and call a few names
2 to see if those folks are on. It sounds like we have a
3 pretty unstable telephone line.

4
5 Angela Totemoff, are you with us on the
6 phone.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 MS. PERRY: How about Donna Claus.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MS. PERRY: Andy McLaughlin.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MS. PERRY: Andy, are you with us.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MS. PERRY: And Donna Wilson.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MS. PERRY: Okay. Mr. Chair, you do
27 have a quorum, seven of your 13 seated members are on
28 at the moment.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
31 DeAnna. And once again we'll keep checking it and see
32 if we can get in contact with those others. I think
33 some of there were going to be there.

34
35 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, would you like
36 to take roll call of Staff and maybe give those Council
37 members a moment to get on the line.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I was
40 going to go ahead and do a little introduction but we
41 can do the Staff and everyone else that's on there so
42 that would probably be helpful if you want.

43
44 REPORTER: Okay, wait, hang on, DeAnna,
45 before you begin. So, Greg, this is Tina, the court
46 reporter. I'm getting a lot of static when you talk, I
47 don't know how to correct that, I'm just letting you
48 know. I don't know if you're on a speaker, or what.
49 I'm picking you up but just in case.

50

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1 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Tina. And I would
2 just remind folks that if you are on the
3 videoconference, just make sure that you're muted.
4 When you unmute yourself on Teams then that does kind
5 of create a feedback problem. We're trying to make
6 sure that everybody is muted on Teams, and, again,
7 that's the videoconference. So please make sure that
8 you hover over the little microphone on Teams and hit
9 the cross -- or go ahead and toggle on it and it'll
10 have a dash through it so that'll be muted. It sounds
11 like we've got some folks muting and unmuting and I
12 think that's probably contributing to some of the
13 background noise because then the external speakers can
14 pick that up.

15
16 Okay, so while we're waiting for a few
17 more Council members to join us on the phone I'm going
18 to call Staff. And, Staff, if you're on video, if you
19 could go ahead and turn on your camera so that our new,
20 especially our new Council members that are joining us,
21 can put a name with the face, that would be helpful.
22 And I kind of got a cursory list here which is going to
23 go quicker than everybody speaking at once. So as I
24 call your name, please go ahead and let me know if
25 you're on and just identify yourself by your title and
26 your agency.

27
28 Okay, Ameer Howard.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MS. PERRY: Amy Craver.

33
34 MS. CRAVER: Yes, DeAnna, Amy Craver,
35 Subsistence Coordinator at Denali National Park.

36
37 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Amy. And, again,
38 Staff, if you want to unmute yourself, star, six on
39 your phone or if you've got a mute button. How about
40 Andy Morris.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MS. PERRY: Barbara Cellarius.

45
46 MR. MORRIS: Yes, good morning.

47
48 MS. CELLARIUS: Good morning, this is
49 Barbara.

50

0008

1 MS. PERRY: Go ahead, Barbara.

2

3 MS. CELLARIUS: Good morning, this is
4 Barbara Cellarius. I'm the Subsistence Coordinator for
5 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

6

7 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Barbara. And,
8 Andy, sorry about that, I'm going sort of alphabetical
9 by first name, so I might have caught you by surprise.
10 Andy, if you're there.

11

12 MR. MORRIS: Yeah, good morning. Andy
13 Morris with Forest Service (indiscernible - echo -
14 breaking up).

15

16 REPORTER: Okay, so whoever just was
17 speaking named Andy, I could not pick up what you were
18 saying. I don't know if you're on a speaker phone or
19 speaking from another room but I could not hear you.

20

21 MS. PERRY: Andy, you might be on mute
22 with your phone.

23

24 MR. MORRIS: Okay. Good morning, this
25 is Andy Morris with U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement
26 in Cordova.

27

28 REPORTER: Thank you.

29

30 MR. MORRIS: Thank you.

31

32 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Andy. How about
33 Ben Mulligan.

34

35 MR. MULLIGAN: I'm here.

36

37 MS. PERRY: Sorry, Ben, was that you?

38

39 MR. MULLIGAN: Yes, this is Ben
40 Mulligan.

41

42 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Ben.

43

44 Brie Darr.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MS. PERRY: Brian Ubelaker.

49

50

0009

1 MR. UBELAKER: Good morning. This is
2 Brian Ubelaker, Wildlife Biologist with OSM.

3
4 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Brian.

5
6 Brent Vickers.

7
8 MR. VICKERS: Good morning. This is
9 Brent Vickers. I'm the Supervisor Cultural
10 Anthropologist with OSM.

11
12 MS. PERRY: And Brent is going to be
13 our super hero slidemaster. He's going to be running
14 all the Teams stuff, so thank you Brent for doing that
15 and freeing me up for other things.

16
17 How about Brett Christianson.

18
19 MR. CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, Brett
20 Christianson. I'm the Wildlife Program Manager for the
21 Chugach National Forest.

22
23 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Brett.

24
25 Caroline Ketron.

26
27 MS. KETRON: Hi, this is Caroline
28 Ketron. I'm the Subsistence Coordinator for the Bureau
29 of Land Management, Glennallen Field Office.

30
31 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Caroline.

32
33 Chris McKee.

34
35 MR. MCKEE: Good morning everyone, this
36 is Chris McKee. I'm the Subsistence Coordinator for the
37 BLM out of the State office in Anchorage.

38
39 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Chris.

40
41 Dave Sarafin.

42
43 MR. SARAFIN: Yes, good morning. This
44 is Dave Sarafin, the Fisheries Biologist at Wrangell-
45 St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

46
47 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Dave.

48
49 Dana Kuhns.

50

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1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. PERRY: George Pappas.

4

5 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning. This is
6 George Pappas, Office of Subsistence Management, State
7 Subsistence Liaison.

8

9 MS. PERRY: Thanks, George.

10

11 Glenn Chen.

12

13 MR. CHEN: Yes, good morning, Mr. Chair
14 and Council members. My name is Glenn Chen, I am the
15 Subsistence Branch Chief for the Bureau of Indian
16 Affairs.

17

18 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Glenn.

19

20 Greg Risdahl.

21

22 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, DeAnna and
23 Mr. Chairman and members of the Council. This is Greg
24 Risdahl, Forest Service Subsistence Program Lead and
25 InterAgency Staff Committee member.

26

27 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Greg.

28

29 Heather Sam.

30

31 MS. SAM: Hi, I'm Heather Sam. I'm
32 with the Chugach National Forest and I help coordinate
33 subsistence.....

34

35 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Heather. You broke
36 up just a little bit, Heather when you were talking
37 about your title.

38

39 MS. SAM: Sorry. Did you ask a
40 question, I'm sorry, this is Heather?

41

42 MS. PERRY: Oh, I was just saying that
43 you broke up a little bit when you were explaining your
44 title and I was going to give you the opportunity to
45 repeat that.

46

47 MS. SAM: Oh, thanks. I help assist
48 with coordinating subsistence on the Chugach National
49 Forest on the Kenai Peninsula.

50

0011

1 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Heather.

2

3 How about Jackie Keating.

4

5 MS. KEATING: Good morning. This is
6 Jackie Keating, the Southcentral Subsistence Resource
7 Specialist for the Division of Subsistence at Alaska
8 Department of Fish and Game.

9

10 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Jackie.

11

12 Jarred Stone.

13

14 MR. STONE: Good morning, DeAnna and
15 members of the Council. Jarred Stone, Fisheries
16 Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.

17

18 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Jared.

19

20 Jason Roberts.

21

22 MR. ROBERTS: Hey, good morning
23 everyone this is Jason Roberts. I'm an Anthropologist
24 at the Office of Subsistence Management.

25

26 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Jason.

27

28 Jill Klein.

29

30 MS. KLEIN: Good morning, DeAnna and
31 members of the Council. My name's Jill Klein with U.S.
32 Fish and Wildlife Service and I'm the Regional
33 Subsistence Coordinator.

34

35 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Jill.

36

37 John (indiscernible - breaks up)

38

39 MS. PERRY: Was that John, I can barely
40 hear someone, I'm not sure if that was John, John
41 Brenlake.

42

43 How about John Kinsner.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MS. PERRY: Jordan Ryhmer.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0012

1 MS. PERRY: Judy Putera.

2

3 MS. PUTERA: Hi, yes, Judy Putera,
4 Wildlife Biologist with Wrangell-St. Elias National
5 Park and Preserve.

6

7 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Judy.

8

9 Katya Wessels.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MS. PERRY: Kim Yochum.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 MS. PERRY: Leanne McDonald.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MS. PERRY: Lisa Grediagin.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MS. PERRY: Mark Burch.

26

27 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hey, DeAnna, this is
28 Lisa Grediagin, the Wildlife Division Supervisor with
29 OSM. And, yeah, I think a lot of people are just
30 logged into the Teams meeting and are kind of half
31 monitoring it and not fully aware you're calling
32 everyone's name as you go through. So sorry if there's
33 some confusion there. Thanks.

34

35 MS. PERRY: Okay, Thanks. yeah, I just
36 figured this would be faster than everybody trying to
37 talk all at once.

38

39 Mark Burch, have you joined us.

40

41 MR. BURCH: Hello, this is Mark Burch
42 with the Department of Fish and Game.

43

44 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Mark.

45

46 Mark Miller.

47

48 MR. MILLER: Yes, good morning, this is
49 Mark Miller. I'm the Team Lead for Resource

50

0013

1 Stewardship and Science at Wrangell-St. Elias National
2 Park and Preserve.

3

4 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mark.

5

6 Marney (Indiscernible - cuts out)

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MS. PERRY: Milo Burcham.

11

12 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, good morning
13 everybody. This is Milo Burcham. I'm the Subsistence
14 Coordinator for the Chugach National Forest in Cordova.
15 Glad to be here.

16

17 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Milo.

18

19 How about Orville Lind.

20

21 MR. LIND: Good morning, DeAnna. This
22 is Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of
23 Subsistence Management. Good to see everyone on.
24 Thank you.

25

26 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Orville.

27

28 Pat Petrivelli.

29

30 MS. PETRIVELLI: Good morning. This is
31 Pat Petrivelli, BIA, Subsistence Anthropologist in
32 Anchorage. And I'm just in listen only mode for this
33 morning of the meeting.

34

35 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Pat.

36

37 How about Pippa Kenner.

38

39 MS. KENNER: Yeah, hi, DeAnna, this is
40 Pippa Kenner. And I'll be monitoring the meeting on
41 and off to provide Staff support. Thank you.

42

43 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Pippa.

44

45 Robbin LaVine.

46

47 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, DeAnna.
48 This is Robbin LaVine, I'm the Subsistence Policy
49 Coordinator for the Office of Subsistence Management.

50

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1 And I'll be here to support discussion today and it's
2 good to see you all and hear you all. Thanks.

3

4 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Robbin.

5

6 Ruth D'Amico.

7

8 MS. D'AMICO: Good morning.

9

10 MS. PERRY: Stephanie Latimer.

11

12 MS. D'AMICO: Sorry, DeAnna.

13

14 MS. PERRY: Is that Ruth.

15

16 MS. D'AMICO: Yep. Good morning
17 everyone. My name is Ruth D'Amico, I'm a District
18 Ranger, incoming on the Seward Ranger District of the
19 Chugach National Forest.

20

21 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Ruth.

22

23 Stephanie Latimer.

24

25 MS. LATIMER: Hi, Stephanie Latimer,
26 Executive Assistant on the Chugach National Forest.
27 And today I'm backing up Brent with the Teams stuff if
28 needed.

29

30 MS. PERRY: Great, thank you.

31

32 Steve Namitz.

33

34 MR. NAMITZ: Yeah, good morning. Steve
35 Namitz, USDA Forest Service, Chugach National Forest.
36 I'm a District Ranger duty stationed out of Cordova.
37 So good morning.

38

39 MS. PERRY: Good morning.

40

41 Todd Eskelin.

42

43 MR. ESKELIN: Good morning. Todd
44 Eskelin, Wildlife Biologist at Kenai National Wildlife
45 Refuge. And I help the Refuge Manager with in-season
46 management on the Kenai.

47

48 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Todd.

49

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1 Tom Kron.

2

3 MR. KRON: Yeah, good morning, Mr.

4 Chair. Members of the Council. And I will be the LT

5 Lead for OSM for this Council meeting. Thank you.

6

7 MS. PERRY: Tom Plank.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MS. PERRY: Valerie Lenhartzen.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MS. PERRY: Victoria Florey.

16

17 MS. FLOREY: Hi, this is Victory Florey,

18 National Park Service, Subsistence Program Analyst here

19 at the Regional Office.

20

21 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

22

23 And is there anybody else I didn't hear

24 from or I didn't call, go ahead and identify yourselves

25 now.

26

27 MS. RUPP: This is Liza Rupp.....

28

29 MR. HAUGHT: Hey, DeAnna, this is

30 Stormy.....

31

32 MS. RUPP: This is Liza Rupp with Lake

33 Clark National Park and Preserve. I'm the Cultural

34 Resources Program Manager and Subsistence Coordinator.

35 Thank you.

36

37 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

38

39 MR. HAUGHT: Also have Stormy Haught

40 here, U.S. Forest Service, Prince William Sound Fish

41 Biologist.

42

43 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Stormy and I'm

44 not sure how I dropped you off my list, sorry about

45 that.

46

47 MR. AYERS: And Scott Ayers, Fisheries

48 Division Supervisor at OSM. Good morning everyone.

49

50

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1 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Scott. You too.
2 I'm not sure how you got off my list, sorry about that.

3
4 Anyone else. Staff.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 MS. PERRY: Okay. So I'll go back real
9 quick and see if these Council members have joined us.

10
11 Angela Totemoff.

12
13 MS. TOTEMOFF: Good morning, I'm here.

14
15 MS. PERRY: Okay, thanks, Angela.

16
17 Donna Claus.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MS. PERRY: Andy McLaughlin.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MS. PERRY: Donna Wilson.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MS. PERRY: And, Greg, I know you are
30 here. Thank you all for your patience. I know this
31 does take a lot of time but it is required for our
32 administrative record to note who's at the meetings.
33 So I will hand it back over to you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I muted myself,
38 so I hope you could all hear me, I even put my picture
39 on the screen there for you to look at me one shot.
40 But, anyway, good morning to everyone and welcome you.
41 I really want to welcome everyone and that's quite a
42 list, it gets a little cumbersome. But that's a test
43 for the new members to remember all those names so
44 we'll see how that goes.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: But anyway I want
49 to welcome the new members. We have Donna, we have
50

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1 Hope Roberts, we have Heath Kocan. And we have Michael
2 Rego that is excused today. So I think DeAnna did some
3 training with them, so they are new members. I do want
4 to mention our past members, they were some very good
5 members, I'm sorry to see they're gone and hopefully
6 they reapply in the future if they so wish.

7

8 Then we have a couple other -- I don't
9 know if the Regional Forester is the one who wanted to
10 do an introduction and talk a little bit. Dave.

11

12 MR. SCHMID: Yes, Mr. Chair, can you
13 hear me okay.

14

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Can hear you loud
17 and clear.

18

19 MR. SCHMID: Excellent, thanks, Greg.
20 If I could just indulge with just a quick introduction
21 here I would really welcome and appreciate the
22 opportunity with folks.

23

24 So good morning. Good morning, Mr.
25 Chair. Council members. I really welcome the new
26 members as well and not meeting some of you folks for
27 awhile I thought I would just take a real quick minute
28 to introduce myself. I do serve as the Regional
29 Forester with the Forest Service over both the Chugach
30 National Forest as well as the Tongass so both directly
31 involved with -- certainly with the Southeast RAC and
32 the Southcentral RAC. I came to Alaska in 1982 and I
33 spent about 20 (ph - cuts out) years working and living
34 in rural Alaska, Prince William Sound and Cordova as
35 well through the '80s and '90s in Southeast Alaska on
36 Prince of Wales Island. So I do have certainly some
37 background and experiences living in those communities
38 and actually practicing a subsistence lifestyle as
39 well. Worked most of that time as a fisheries
40 biologist in the Prince William Sound area as well as
41 nationally. I did serve in the Washington office as
42 well in that capacity. But I've been back in Alaska
43 here the last four years serving as the Regional
44 Forester. It has been an incredible opportunity and
45 privilege to do that as well. And, as such, I do serve
46 and represent Secretary Vilsack, the Secretary of
47 Agriculture on the Federal Subsistence Board. And as
48 I've shared with many folks, I have lots of duties and
49 lots of other things, but this is probably one of the
50

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1 more important responsibilities that I have in my
2 capacity and I take that very seriously as well in
3 trying to provide those opportunities here, not just in
4 my area, but across the state of Alaska.

5
6 As you can tell by this morning and
7 trying to get into the meeting, you know, Covid has
8 been tough on all of us, trying to -- we've done our
9 best to adapt to this virtual environment. We're kind
10 of in a split environment here with a few folks at
11 least able to tie in by video today but -- and I know
12 it has challenged the RACs. I am really looking forward
13 to the day when we can meet in person again. I think
14 that I'm the eternal optimist and think that that day
15 is not too far off and the same goes for the Federal
16 Subsistence Board as well. And, while I know that's
17 been difficult, especially in our rural communities,
18 it's really been a challenge for the RACs just trying,
19 you know, sometimes there's no raise your hand feature
20 on a teleconference line and so it has been difficult
21 and I know at times I've heard from some members that
22 they don't feel that they have been as effective as
23 they could be or want to be and really wondering about
24 their role. And I guess if there's anything I could
25 share today is really want to assure people how
26 important that role is here in management of the
27 subsistence resources and program across the state and
28 how much the Board, and on behalf of the Board
29 recognizes that and it is making a difference. It's
30 hearing from folks through public testimony and, of
31 course, the reliance on the RACs here in terms of being
32 able to approve and work with proposals that come
33 forward. I know -- I think this RAC here has the most
34 proposals of any RAC in the state that are before it
35 and I just really want to, one, thank you all for
36 taking the time out to do this and know that even
37 though it's in a challenging environment, that this
38 role is critically important.

39
40 And I guess the only other -- there are
41 two other things I'd like to share.

42
43 We are in a different Administration. I
44 think some of you may viewed that just by ability to,
45 again, repopulate the RACs across the state of Alaska.
46 We had some real challenges in terms of getting quorums
47 and folks. It looks like the Southcentral RAC is full.
48 Hopefully we get together in person. But I would share
49 that this Administration really has a strong commitment
50

0019

1 to rural communities, to tribal nations, to ANCSA
2 Corporations. I've been involved with that here over
3 the last year. We have, really, I think challenged --
4 up'd the game in terms of our consultation, and tribal
5 consultation but also just working with under served
6 communities here. The President, Biden/Harris
7 Administration signed several Executive Orders that
8 really have a direct bearing on our programs here and
9 our access to resources as well.

10

11 As well as recently, both the
12 Secretaries of Interior and Secretary of Agriculture
13 also signed Secretarial Orders that have really helped
14 direct and focused a lot of our efforts around
15 consultation, around comanagement in some of our rural
16 communities and really starting to move the needle and
17 we're seeing that backed up, I think, with a lot of
18 other resources. There are -- there's been some recent
19 legislation and will bring a lot more resources to
20 Alaska as well through things like the Infrastructure
21 Bill, but what we're also seeing is a recognition, just
22 the lack of capacity both within the agencies, but
23 certainly with some of our rural communities, and
24 looking forward to moving forward with a lot of
25 restoring some of that capacity and really investing in
26 it and doing it in a way that maybe we haven't been
27 before. And so I feel really good about that moving
28 forward here and hopefully we'll see more to come on
29 that as well.

30

31 And then I did have one other, if you
32 recall -- I know it's not on your agenda, but I know we
33 have a meeting come up here and that was on the -- oh,
34 gosh, it was the deferred proposal that came out of
35 Cordova and the RAC here, I think, your RAC, 21-10, and
36 that was to establish a subsistence fishery in the
37 Lower Copper River, and if you recall the Board -- I
38 think it was the Eastern Interior RAC as well as the
39 Southcentral RAC had different recommendations and the
40 Board deliberated, and I know there was work by the
41 Staff Committee here to find a solution, but I guess
42 I'm asking you and I would ask the Eastern Interior --
43 I think there's a meeting coming up -- to see if
44 there's some way that we can find some compromise that
45 both Councils might be able to find a way to support
46 that recommendation. I encourage you to do that. I am
47 hoping to also not actively participate but certainly
48 be at that meeting and some of my other partners here
49 on the Subsistence Board, but I really encourage you
50

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1 all to work collaboratively and see if we can't find
2 some solutions around that.

3

4 So, with that, Mr. Chair, I've probably
5 taken more time this morning. Tried to clear as much
6 of my calendar here, certainly today and over the
7 course of the meeting to be able to listen in and
8 participate and, again, I just thank you all so much,
9 Mr. Chair, for your continued leadership and Council
10 members for your dedication. This is truly important
11 and critical business and just makes a difference in
12 people's lives in rural Alaska, so thank you for that,
13 and thanks for the opportunity.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Dave.
16 Very good words, great update, and thank you for being
17 here so that's very good. We will be taking that joint
18 meeting up on March 16th and we have been trying to
19 work collaboratively but it may get back to you but
20 we'll do our best.

21

22 MR. SCHMID: Great, thank you, Mr.
23 Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You bet. Okay, I
26 have another, is Jeff Schramm Chugach Forest
27 Supervisor, is he here and want to speak.

28

29 MR. SCHRAMM: Yes, I'm on, hoping you
30 can hear me. Jeff Schramm, I'm the Forest Supervisor
31 on the Chugach National Forest. I wanted to just take
32 this opportunity to introduce myself. i've been here
33 since August of 2019, so I've been here a couple years.
34 But before that I worked down in the Lower 48 in Idaho,
35 Utah and Wyoming and looked really forward to getting
36 up to Alaska and I'm enjoying it. But I wanted to
37 introduce myself, I got my face on the screen,
38 hopefully it's working. I know I've met with a few of
39 you and a few of you I haven't. But just wanted to,
40 again, at least so you can see me, and as Dave had
41 mentioned, hopefully we can get to where we meet in
42 person here shortly. Looking forward to that.

43

44 I wanted to just highlight a couple of
45 things.

46

47 One, we do have a new Ranger there in
48 Seward, Ruth introduced herself, D'Amico, here a bit
49 ago. Francisco Sanchez retired at the end of December

50

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1 after being on the District for six years so we wish
2 him the best and now we've got Ruth. We got her
3 officially -- her official start date is on March 13th.
4 So we look forward to getting Ruth out and meeting as
5 many of you as we can. Again, we'll see how Covid
6 plays out and hopefully we can get out there.

7

8 The main thing I wanted to do today is
9 just say thanks to the Chair and also to the Council
10 members for your time that you volunteered to help out
11 and fill this role, it's definitely appreciated and
12 look forward to working with you.

13

14 And, with that, I'll turn it back to
15 you Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Jeff.
18 Thank you, very good. DeAnna, did Sara, the new
19 Regional Director, is she here?

20

21 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. I did not see
22 her on Teams so I would just ask if Sara Creachbaum is
23 on the line with us this morning.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MS. PERRY: It looks like she couldn't
28 make it, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, well,
31 if she does we'll introduce her and have her talk.
32 Thank you.

33

34 Okay, well, with that we're going to
35 actually move on to review and adopt the agenda. We
36 didn't do the introductions for all the Council
37 members, I don't think, DeAnna, we did roll call but we
38 do have a time on the agenda that they'll each give
39 their little talk so I guess if that works we'll do it
40 that way.

41

42 MS. PERRY: Yeah, and Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes, go ahead.

45

46 MS. PERRY: As we start going through
47 our action items I just want to remind folks that if
48 you're going to make a motion, to make sure that you
49 remember to identify yourself when you're making or
50

0022

1 seconding that motion. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 REPORTER: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
6 DeAnna.

7

8 MS. SELANOFF: Mr. Chair, this is Diane
9 Selanoff. I'd like to make a motion to adopt the
10 agenda.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Diane, I do
13 appreciate that but could I add -- well, I guess I'll
14 get a second -- I wanted to amend it just a little bit.

15

16 MR. OPHEIM: This is Michael, I'll
17 second that.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
20 Michael. We have it moved and seconded to adopt the
21 agenda. If I could entertain a little discretion, I
22 have -- I wanted to add 10B update Council application
23 under 10B and add under 11G, the nonrural determination
24 policy, call for proposals. And if that would be
25 acceptable with the maker of the motion and the second,
26 we could add that to the agenda and then we could vote
27 on it.

28

29 MS. SELANOFF: It's okay with me to add
30 those two items to the agenda. But just for my
31 clarification can you tell me, again, what 10B was?

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Council
34 applications and nominations, it's just a little
35 reminder, and 11G is nonrural determination policy,
36 call for proposals.

37

38 REPORTER: Excuse me, this is Tina. So
39 was that Gloria that asked that question?

40

41 MS. SELANOFF: I was the last one who
42 asked the question about the update to the agenda, and
43 I'm the maker of the motion and I agree.

44

45 REPORTER: Okay, thank you. Thank you.

46

47 MR. OPHEIM: And this is Michael and
48 I'll agree with the added agenda items there.

49

50

0023

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
2 Michael. Okay, I think we got a motion and we got it
3 amended and we got it seconded and they both agreed and
4 so any more discussion on the agenda.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, all
9 in favor aye.

10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

14
15 (No opposing votes)

16
17 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, could you ask if
18 anyone's opposed, I think there was some later aye's
19 and I just want to make sure the record is clear.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, once again
22 I'll ask for opposed. We got a lag on the phone pretty
23 bad but anyone opposed to the adoption of the agenda
24 with the motion and the amendments.

25
26 (No opposing votes)

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I hear none,
29 DeAnna.

30
31 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Just for a
34 housekeeping item, I'm going to mention before we get
35 too far, is Friday at 10:00 a.m., the Alaska Department
36 of Fish and Game wanted to give their agency report. I
37 don't know if we'll be done by then or where we'll be
38 but we'll keep them abreast and try and save that spot,
39 and if we're running ahead we'll call them early.

40
41 So, okay, according to my agenda the
42 next item is election of officers and so I think we
43 need to do that before we move on so the Chair will
44 pass it to DeAnna.

45
46 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
47 the record my name is DeAnna Perry. I'm the Council
48 Coordinator for the Southcentral Subsistence Regional
49 Advisory Council and the designated Federal Official.

50

0024

1 In accordance with the Council's charter, Council
2 members elect a Chair, a Vice Chair and a Secretary for
3 a one year term.

4
5 I would now like to open the floor for
6 nominations for the Council Chair and these nominations
7 do not need to be seconded.

8
9 Are there any nominations for the Chair
10 position.

11
12 MR. OPHEIM: Michael Opheim. I'll
13 nominate Greg.

14
15 MS. PERRY: Okay. Michael nominates
16 Greg Encelewski.

17
18 Any further nominations.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MS. PERRY: If there are no further
23 nominations I will declare the nominations for Chair
24 closed. The nomination for Greg Encelewski as the
25 Chair for the Southcentral Subsistence Regional
26 Advisory Council all signify by saying yea.

27
28 IN UNISON: Yea.

29
30 MS. PERRY: Okay. Those opposed
31 signify by saying nay.

32
33 (No opposing votes)

34
35 MS. PERRY: Okay, thank you. Mr.
36 Encelewski, you are returning as the Council Chair,
37 I'll pass the gavel back to you and the floor is now
38 yours if you would like to lead nominations for Vice
39 Chair and Secretary positions on the Council.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you,
42 DeAnna and thank you Council members. I was hoping
43 that we would have some new Chair, but we'll just keep
44 going. I'll be truthful, I haven't even put my
45 application in for the next term but I might have to do
46 that.

47
48 We will now open nominations for Vice
49 Chair.

50

0025

1 MR. OPHEIM: This is Michael, I'll
2 nominate Gloria.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We got a
5 nomination for Gloria, is there other nominations.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing no other
10 nominations, the nomination will be closed for Vice
11 Chair. All those in favor of Gloria signify by saying
12 aye.

13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

17
18 (No opposing votes)

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria, you're
21 back there as the Vice Chair. Thank you.

22
23 MS. STICKWAN: Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I will now
26 open for the office of Secretary, nomination.

27
28 MS. STICKWAN: I nominate Andrew
29 McLaughlin.

30
31 REPORTER: Who was that.

32
33 MS. STICKWAN: Gloria Stickwan
34 nominating Andrew G. McLaughlin.

35
36 REPORTER: Thank you.

37
38 MS. SELANOFF: I'll nominate Hope
39 Roberts. This is Diane.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We've got
42 two nominations, Andy and Hope, are there any other
43 nominations.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, hearing no
48 more nominations I'll close nominations. We got two
49 nominations, DeAnna, how do you want to vote on them.

50

0026

1 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, usually the
2 nominations are done by secret ballot but we're not in
3 the same room so I -- I guess we could do this by
4 email. If the Council members would like to send me an
5 email letting me know their vote.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

8
9 MS. PERRY: I would need.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Council members,
12 if you all got email.....

13
14 MS. STICKWAN: What is her -- what page
15 is Hope's last name on?

16
17 MS. PERRY: It's on the roster which is
18 behind Tab No. 2. And I can.....

19
20 MS. STICKWAN: I don't see.....

21
22 MS. PERRY:send out a quick.....

23
24 MS. STICKWAN: I don't see her.....

25
26 MS. PERRY:email to everyone.

27
28 REPORTER: Okay, so I really need one
29 person to speak at a time and identify yourself please
30 before you talk. Thank you.

31
32 MS. STICKWAN: Gloria Stickwan. I don't
33 see her name other than -- unless her name is different
34 from.....

35
36 MS. PERRY: Yeah, sorry, Gloria. This
37 meeting book was published before we got the
38 appointments. There's a new roster, I think, that was
39 uploaded to the website, sorry, that is the old one.
40 Her last name is Roberts, R-O-B-E-R-T-S and I think
41 what I can do is send an email out to all Council
42 member so that you can just do a quick reply to me,
43 that might be the easiest. And while folks are doing
44 that, Mr. Chair, you could probably move on to the next
45 agenda item if you'd like.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm going
48 to move on on the agenda but just make sure you send in
49 your vote Council members and vote for who you choose
50

0027

1 and put your name on it so that she knows that you're a
2 Council member and send that to DeAnna.

3

4 Okay, next item we have up on the
5 agenda is the review and approval of the minutes and
6 that is under Tab 3 of your booklet that came out. So
7 if anyone wants to take a look at that and make
8 revisions, corrections, or a motion we will so
9 entertain it.

10

11 (Pause)

12

13 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, this is
14 Angela Totemoff.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Angela.

17

18 MS. TOTEMOFF: I make a motion to
19 approve the October 13 and 14 meeting minutes.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, thank
22 you. Do we.....

23

24 MS. STICKWAN: I just wanted to.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:have a
27 second.

28

29 MS. STICKWAN: No, I had a question or
30 discussion on us voting -- and I just wanted to say I
31 wanted to change the minutes. I believe I see
32 Glennallen there, and not Wrangell St.-Elias, it's
33 wrong.

34

35 MS. SELANOFF: I'll move to second.
36 This is Diane Selanoff. I'll move to second the motion
37 so we can have discussion.

38

39 REPORTER: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Diane.
42 Okay, we got a motion on the table by Angela and we got
43 it seconded by Diane and we're on the floor now so we
44 could have discussion. It sounds like we need to make
45 an amendment, so, Gloria, go ahead and put.....

46

47 MS. STICKWAN: I said.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:forth

50

0028

1 your.....

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: Sorry, I wasn't
4 listening, I was voting on -- anyways in my report I
5 said there's a (indiscernible - cuts out) Glennallen,
6 not Wrangell-St.Elias Park and Preserve, that was the
7 only correction I have.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

10

11 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, this is DeAnna.
12 I'm sorry, Gloria, are you referring to the last
13 sentence that would be on Page 2 of the minutes, I
14 have: She reported.....

15

16 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, that would.....

17

18 MS. PERRY:that there was.....

19

20 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, I want to.....

21

22 REPORTER: Okay, one at a time.

23

24 MS. STICKWAN: In Glennallen.

25

26 MS. PERRY:a.....

27

28 MS. STICKWAN: Not -- he wasn't killed.
29 it was just a bear mauling in Glennallen.

30

31 MS. PERRY: Glennallen, okay, thank
32 you, Gloria. I'll make that correction.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm
35 assuming is the maker of the motion and the second okay
36 with the amendment.

37

38 MS. SELANOFF: This is Diane, I'm okay
39 with the amendment.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: How about you
42 Angela.

43

44 MS. TOTEMOFF: Yes, I'm fine.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
47 Okay,. any other -- we got a motion on the floor, we
48 got it seconded, we made just a correction and we're
49 good with the correction by Gloria, any other
50

0029

1 discussion.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, all
6 in favor aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

11

12 (No opposing votes)

13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. So
15 carries, DeAnna, thank you. Okay, our next item we
16 have Council member reports. And so what I generally
17 do, I welcome the new folks but I'm not going to put
18 them on the spot so I think what we'll do is we'll just
19 go down the roster. I got the new one here, DeAnna, I
20 hope, and, of course I generally go last, but I will
21 just go down the roster and when you get done, the new
22 ones will be at the bottom and that gives them a chance
23 to kind of hear our comments and maybe help them think
24 about what they would like to add to it and do their
25 comments and introduce themselves.

26

27 So, Ed, just by choice you're No. 1 on
28 the list here.

29

30 MR. HOLSTEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 Coming from Cooper Landing here, there's really not a
32 lot to announce. Finally we got a decent winter. We
33 got a lot of snow, little ice, it's been a really good
34 change over the previous winters.

35

36 Snowshoe hare populations are still
37 increasing. A lot more sightings of lynx.

38

39 On another note there was an article --
40 maybe most people saw it in this morning's paper,
41 forecasting sockeye runs in Cook Inlet and Copper
42 River, the forecasts looked pretty grim. So I'm sorry
43 to say that but at least that's what the Daily News
44 reported.

45

46 That's all I have to say, Mr. Chair.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0030

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.
2 Yeah, I read the report and it's definitely down, so,
3 thank you. Alrighty, Michael.

4
5 MR. OPHEIM: Yes, Mr. Chair. From
6 Seldovia here, we're actually having a pretty good
7 winter here too. We've gotten quite a bit of snow. We
8 had some snow and blowing snow yesterday, pretty nice.
9 We've had a good bit of snowshoe hare around here. The
10 population is still coming up. I even had some tracks
11 in my yard the other day so that was kind of cool, here
12 in town.

13
14 But, you know, there's been a few guys
15 getting out and fishing, it sounds like they're doing
16 pretty good on the winter kings.

17
18 There was a little black bear here out,
19 oh, weekend before, just a cub, from last year it
20 looked like. Hopefully it went back to its den. I know
21 sometimes they get out in the wintertime and take a
22 look around but it was unusual for a bear that size,
23 usually it's a little bigger ones we see.

24
25 And, you know, a few moose wandering
26 around here yet, it's been kind of icy this winter so
27 it's going pretty good.

28
29 Hopefully we'll have a good return on
30 salmon like we did last year for the kings here in the
31 Slough, we're looking forward to that.

32
33 And just hoping everybody stays safe
34 out there. Thanks.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
37 Michael. I'm going to have to come visit you in the
38 Slough.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyway, okay,
43 Diane.

44
45 MS. SELANOFF: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
46 Chair. I want to reemphasize that the salmon was
47 really slow coming in in 2021, they were like a month
48 late. It set off red flags all over and I was really
49 getting alarmed and concerned, although when they did
50

0031

1 finally return it was in its normal abundance.

2

3 But this winter, the winter kings have
4 been easy to get. They've been available. And I know
5 if somebody goes out, 90 percent of the time they'll
6 come back with some kings, winter kings that is.

7

8 And then like the lynx and the weasels
9 also have been in abundance, too, that I've noticed and
10 I'm talking to people that there are quite a bit out
11 there.

12

13 Hunting it felt like it was down to a
14 minimum because of Covid and people were less likely to
15 gather and go hunting together with their extended
16 families although immediate families have been hunting
17 and successful and sharing with the rest of the
18 community.

19

20 And the one thing that we haven't
21 noticed this year was like deer -- sometimes out -- but
22 in our area right now we wouldn't see them because
23 we've had also an abundance of snow.

24

25 And I just wanted to throw out to, I
26 don't know if this is the appropriate time, but I will
27 not be available for tomorrow's meeting.

28

29 Thank you. That's my report.

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, you may be on
34 mute.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, are you still
39 with us?

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, the Chair's
42 still with you he was on mute too. We'll go ahead and
43 move on then if Dennis is not with us right now, we'll
44 go ahead to Gloria.

45

46 MR. ZADRA: Oh, no, I'm here.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Excuse me,
49 Gloria, Dennis is here, go ahead Dennis.

50

1 MR. ZADRA: Okay. Yeah, Dennis Zadra
2 from Cordova. I guess a report from over here since
3 the last meeting was we did have a really early snow.
4 First of all we were doing goat hunts and had two feet
5 of snow up on the mountains on September 24th which was
6 the earliest I've ever seen. And it pretty much stuck
7 up on top. By the time we started deer hunting later
8 on into December the snow was thigh deep off the beach
9 and in the meadows and so it looked really, really bad,
10 the deer were right on the beach. It made it really
11 easy to get. But fortunately it did warm up and it
12 started to rain and a lot of that snow settled out, the
13 snow and the freeze melted out and so now these -- but
14 there's definitely have more cover and so I don't think
15 it's going to be such a grim prospect for them as it
16 looked like early.

17
18 We did have our Board of Fish meeting,
19 in person meeting here in Cordova the first part of
20 December, and felt that was a productive meeting, of
21 course.

22
23 And I guess the only other thing I did
24 want to bring up and it didn't make the agenda, but
25 Mark and Sandy King are long time residents of Cordova
26 and they submitted a letter to OSM basically regarding
27 our subsistence moose hunt and I just wanted to touch
28 on it because I spoke with Sandy and wanted to bring it
29 up. The situation was is that the subsistence permits
30 were awarded last year, awarded to one gentleman who
31 passed away before he could hunt, his family assumed
32 that the permit would go back to the family and it
33 wasn't, it was reissued to the next person in line. It
34 sounds like that is not a good thing, you know, but
35 speaking with Milo and how this works, that we would
36 have to change the regulation, instead of making it an
37 individual permit, a household permit and it would
38 really muddy the waters. So it sounds like that
39 situation is not going to be able to be changed without
40 a lot of work but I did want to mention that,
41 especially on behalf of Mark and Sandy.

42
43 And other than that that's all I have.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
46 Dennis. Yeah, thanks for bringing up that permit
47 thing, too, that's interesting but, yeah, it would have
48 to go back through the process. All right, thank you.

49
50

0033

1 Gloria, you want to go ahead.

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: Okay. Gloria Stickwan.

4 Just want to say we had early snow too. And we had
5 cold weather, about four or five days it was like 60
6 below here for about four days at my house and then it
7 warmed up and it's warm right now and we're getting a
8 lot of snow right now. And it's difficult for the
9 moose to move with snow.

10

11 I see a fair amount of hares.

12

13 And I just want to say we did not make
14 the king salmon return, escapement goal was not met but
15 sockeye was, and we'll see what happens this summer.

16

17 That's all I have, thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
20 Gloria. Yeah, boy, everybody got the snow that's for
21 sure. Okay. Angela Totemoff you're up.

22

23 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 Angela Totemoff reporting. So speaking with the people
25 in and around the Prince William Sound, similar to what
26 other people are experiencing, they had a slow king run
27 as well as a slow red run. Silvers were okay for the
28 community members and some of the other fishermen in
29 town. They are experiencing low octopus numbers, which
30 is very interesting and strong otter, both land otter
31 and sea otter, are seeing an increase in those as well.

32

33 The herring -- sorry, I'm skipping all
34 over the place. Herring was -- they are returning and
35 it's been -- they're spawning area around some of the
36 communities in Prince William Sound has been pretty
37 sparse but they have seen them come back, they're just
38 spawning deeper so it's making us start talking about
39 the spawning areas and more, particular, the kelp and
40 the seaweed in that area. We're starting to look into
41 that to see what's going on.

42

43 Other than that, I don't know if
44 they're on the line today, I didn't hear them, but you
45 might be hearing from SEARC is creating a really
46 interesting group with their marine mammal program
47 coordinator and so we're excited to see what they have
48 started up.

49

50

0034

1 So, yeah, that's my report, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good, thank
4 you, Angela. Good. Okay, I'm just going to check and
5 see if Donna Claus got on.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. How about
10 Andy, Andy are you on the phone.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I hear
15 someone but I guess it's not Andy. Alrighty.....

16

17 MR. STEVENS: Just to let you know I
18 finally made it on, this is Dan.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Who is this?

21

22 MR. STEVENS: I'm Dan. Dan Stevens.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good. Okay.
25 We're going to go next to our -- we're going to start
26 with our new members, Donna Marie Wilson, is she on.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We're
31 going to move on then to Hope Roberts, and I know
32 you're there Hope because I heard you earlier so you're
33 up for a report and I want to welcome you to the
34 Council and feel free to go ahead and give us a little
35 bit about you and your report. Thank you.

36

37 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Good morning, all. I'm Hope Roberts. I am a resident
39 of Valdez. I am Tlingit/Athabascan and English. I own
40 a sportfishing charter out of Valdez. We've been
41 running it for the last five years. I am also a marine
42 mammal hunter, seal meat is a part of our family diet.
43 I'm a Native Tribal Liaison at Chugach Regional
44 Resources Commission and when we have a quorum I Chair
45 the Valdez Advisory Committee. I am also the secretary
46 of the Board of Directors of the Valdez Native Tribe. I
47 am really honored to be here so thank you.

48

49 So my phone was cutting in for Diane's

50

0035

1 report so if I reiterate anything hopefully it's -- so
2 I went through your meeting minutes for October so I
3 just kind of went from there and asked some of the
4 hunters in the area, and I have actually seen moose for
5 the first time in seven years down there in the Valdez
6 area and so I asked a Wildlife Trooper and he said,
7 well, it's probably the wolves pushing them down from
8 Thompson Pass because there's a ton of snow and some of
9 the hunters have said that they were very successful in
10 deer hunting because of the amount of snow coming down
11 the hills and mountains.

12
13 I have also seen lynx around town but
14 that's probably because of all the bunnies Valdez has.

15
16 And when I do hunt marine mammals I
17 found in the last years that sea otters are actually
18 very small compared to where else I have hunted and I
19 have hunted in the Kodiak Islands and the Homer area
20 and those sea otters seem to be three times the size.
21 So it's kind of hard for me to harvest them when
22 they're so small.

23
24 But the seals seem very healthy and I
25 harvest them as we need them.

26
27 And that's what I have for you today.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, very good,
30 and it was quite a bit and it's all good stuff, so,
31 welcome and thank you Hope.

32
33 We'll go ahead and is Heath Kocan on
34 now.

35
36 MR. KOCAN: Yeah, this is Heath. I'm a
37 resident of Cordova, subsistence user. Unfortunately I
38 don't have a lot to report this year. The Science
39 Center here in town just got a new building and I got
40 hired on and so I've been working six, seven days a
41 week for most of the year and have not been able to get
42 out.

43
44 But I was successful in my moose hunt.
45 And from what I hear -- I usually king fish in the
46 winter here and it's been a little slow but there are
47 some fish out there.

48
49 Yeah, that's really all I got right
50

0036

1 now.

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, great. Thanks, and welcome to you. I know our next one, Michael, is excused, Rego, today, he's unavailable so I'm going to go back around -- I'm going to go ahead and give my little update now on a couple things.

One thing I just wanted to report for the Chair's report, the Federal Subsistence Board met for its work session February 1, they took action on the pending individual C&T use determination, the Council supported that, just so we know. That was the individual customary and traditional use for Kathryn Martin for salmon in the Copper River drainage, Prince William Sound. The Board voted consistent with the Southcentral and Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council's recommendation as well, as well as from the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission. And they found that Ms. Martin had a longstanding use of the area of traditional use and practices and that all eight factors of customary and traditional use determination were evident. So that was their finding and adopted.

The next one they had the Technical Review Committee ranking 2022 Fish Resource Monitoring Plan, funding recommendations. They included one project for Southcentral in the Copper River chinook salmon in-river abundance and I believe we're going to hear more about that from the FRMP today in our meeting.

And I'll give you a couple little things here from our area here in Ninilchik, Darrel Williams is on, he'll give you a fish report later on under some of his agency reports for tribes. And we did have a fairly good moose hunting season and we, like everyone else, we got a real winter for a change, we got good snow, in fact we got plenty of snow, we got more than we could imagine or need. But, anyway. it is taking a toll now on the moose and the wolves are still pretty prolific and they're taking some toll there also.

I haven't heard a lot of the winter kings, I got a few taste of them but I guess they're doing pretty good.

0037

1 One thing I'm just going to mention and
2 it's a State resource but it's a real subsistence
3 resource for our people here and that is the clams.
4 And I'm on the local Advisory Council here for the
5 State with Ninilchik and we took up quite a few
6 proposals on the clams. And the clams are in real
7 peril, they have been for years. The last four years
8 the Ninilchik Beaches have been shut down, the east
9 side beaches, they're starting to consider restrictions
10 on the west side also now and putting limits on them.
11 The studies they're doing, they're finding the clams
12 are not reproducing right, they're not reaching
13 maturity, they're really in peril on the Cook Inlet
14 area here. So that's just for your info.

15
16 It's been a good winter. I am not going
17 to go into the fisheries stuff, I think I'll leave it
18 at that. We have -- we still continue to share and
19 have bountiful blessings here so everything so far,
20 we're doing okay, so thank you.

21
22 DeAnna, I think I could go back and see
23 if we got anyone we missed here that might have come
24 back in. Real quick is Donna in or Andy.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Or Donna Wilson.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we'll call
33 that for our reports now.

34
35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)

36
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Who's there?

38
39 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I can't hear you,
42 if you could -- was someone trying to get to the Chair
43 for a report.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm just
48 going to remind here on our agenda here, public and
49 tribal comments on non-agenda items are available each
50

0038

1 morning and so I'll remind you of that if anyone has
2 any.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We're going to go
7 ahead and move on to old business now. And under old
8 business we'll go ahead and on Tab 15, Tom Kron's going
9 to give us an overview of the 2021 Council charter
10 changes, and it's Tab 15.

11
12 MR. KRON: Yeah, DeAnna, maybe you can
13 help me with this one. The charter should be in the
14 back of the book and I'm not sure what the tab number
15 is.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Tab 15.

18
19 MS. PERRY: No. 15.

20
21 MR. KRON: But we had a request that
22 went around to a number of the Councils last time
23 around asking that Council members be able to stay on
24 the Council if, in fact, the Council confirmation
25 information was late in Washington. This was an issue
26 we had for several years but did not effect us this
27 time around. So, again, that particular change did not
28 effect us this time around. We did get our
29 confirmation of Council members for the current Council
30 meetings.

31
32 And, DeAnna, maybe you can help me with
33 anything else that is in the charter that's new.

34
35 MS. PERRY: For the record this is
36 DeAnna Perry. I believe there was some other Regional
37 Advisory Councils that had some changes in their
38 charter but for the Southcentral you covered it, the
39 Section 12 membership that added language for a given
40 year and they may continue to serve on the Council
41 following the expiration of his or her seat until such
42 appointments have been made.....

43
44 (Teleconference interference -
45 participants not muted)

46
47 MS. PERRY: (Breaking up) even if that
48 member's specific seat remains unfilled. So, yeah,
49 Tom, I believe you covered the changes for the
50

0039

1 Southcentral charter.

2

3 So, Mr. Chair, I believe that concludes
4 that particular agenda item.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes, it does and
7 I was on mute and I thanked Tom and I thanked you, and
8 so now I'm sure you could hear me. If there's any
9 questions we'll get them to Tom or to you. Thank you.

10

11 We added 10B and that's just an update
12 on the 2022 Council application and nomination process
13 and, DeAnna, you want to talk to that.

14

15 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 Again, this is DeAnna Perry. The annual appointment
17 process is very complex. It takes about 15 months to
18 complete. It begins in September each year when the
19 Federal Subsistence Board announces the open
20 application period for Council membership. During a
21 six month application period, the Program conducts an
22 extensive state-wide recruitment effort. The Program
23 distributes approximately 2,000 applications throughout
24 Alaska via mail, email, and we do this to individuals,
25 agencies and organizations. Additionally, the Program
26 conducts wide-ranging out through a variety of media
27 outlets including, but not limited to radio, internet,
28 Facebook, public conferences and newspaper. This
29 cycle's Council application nomination season is open
30 until February 28th. As of February 4th only three
31 applications have been received for membership on the
32 Southcentral Council. There will be five seats
33 available to fill. So as you can see, currently, we do
34 not have enough applications to fill the five seats
35 that will become open this December.

36

37 So I'm just taking this opportunity to
38 remind Council members whose terms expire this
39 December, along with any interested folks from the
40 public that if you would like to apply for membership
41 on this Council, you can go to our website, again,
42 that's www.doi.gov/subsistence click the regions tab,
43 there's an information video on that page about
44 becoming involved in the Federal Subsistence Regional
45 Advisory Council, there's a news release for the open
46 application period and then you'll find the membership
47 application nomination packet for you to fill out.

48 Instructions are in that packet, and, of course, you
49 can always email me and I'll be happy to send you that

50

0040

1 information as well. My address is deanna.perry, so
2 that's D-E-A-N-N-A.P-E-R-R-Y@USDA.gov. Feel free to
3 send me an email and I can send you, electronically,
4 that packet. And just a reminder, applications must be
5 received, not just postmarked, but they must be
6 received by February 28th. You can email it, fax it,
7 send it by snail mail, and, again, just feel free to
8 give me a call or send me an email if you have any
9 questions. My phone number is 907-209-7817, and you
10 can reach me that way.

11

12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted)

14

15 MS. PERRY: It sounds like we are
16 getting some more background feedback, so at this time
17 I'd ask folks to please press star, six and mute your
18 phone if you're not speaking. I do understand that the
19 Mat-Su Valley has some pretty significant outages for
20 telephone lines so that might also be an issue.

21

22 So, yeah, I'm hearing a lot of rustling
23 so please take a moment.

24

25 (Teleconference interference -
26 participants not muted)

27

28 MS. PERRY: If I could have your
29 attention, please take a moment to check your phone and
30 press star, six, or your mute button. Thank you very
31 much. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
34 DeAnna. And just a reminder to my fellow Council
35 members, Ed, Michael, myself and Diane Selanoff and
36 also Dennis Zadra, all our terms are expiring this
37 December so if you wish to reapply I encourage you to
38 do so like DeAnna said.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 Let's go ahead and do C, we changed B
43 to C on the deferred Fish Proposal 21-10. There's
44 information for upcoming joint meeting with Eastern
45 Interior RAC and I think, Tom, you're going to give
46 that to us or make a statement about that upcoming
47 meeting. Anyway I'll turn it over to you.

48

49 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0041

1 Again, Tom Kron here with OSM. I'm just going to
2 provide a brief update on the deferred Fish Proposal
3 FP21-10 which would create a new Federal subsistence
4 fishery for salmon in the Lower Copper River adjacent
5 to the Copper River Highway.

6
7 This is only a briefing.

8
9 Fisheries Proposal 21-10 requests the
10 Federal Subsistence Board implement a salmon
11 subsistence fishery in the Lower Copper River adjacent
12 to the Copper River Highway with a harvest limit of 15
13 salmon other than pink salmon, for the first two
14 members of the household, and 10 salmon for additional
15 household members. It would limit chinook salmon
16 harvest to five per household. Allowable gear types
17 would be dipnet, rod and reel, spear, or gaff. The
18 proposal was submitted by Jesse Carter and Robert
19 Jewell of Cordova Alaska.

20
21 FP21-10 was presented to the
22 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils for their
23 recommendations during the fall 2020 meetings. The
24 Southcentral Council supported the proposal with the
25 OSM modification that required reporting salmon harvest
26 to area managers within 48 hours. The Eastern Interior
27 Council opposed the proposal. The, Board, at their
28 January 21st meeting chose to defer action on this
29 proposal to allow conflicting user groups to meet and
30 attempt to reach a compromise in order that the
31 deferral will give the Southcentral and Eastern
32 Interior Councils time to meet and work toward a
33 compromise that can be supported by those affected.

34
35 That brings us to the present.

36
37 A joint meeting of the Eastern Interior
38 and Southcentral Council has been scheduled for March
39 16th via teleconference to take up this deferred
40 proposal. Meeting book materials will soon be mailed
41 out to members of both the Eastern Interior and
42 Southcentral Councils. The Board will act again on
43 this proposal at an upcoming meeting after the Councils
44 conclude their business.

45
46 Thank you for your time. Please let me
47 know if there are any questions.

48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0042

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Tom.
2 Yeah, and we look forward to that meeting and we look
3 forward to the material and we'll all get the same
4 material and stuff at the same time and it should be a
5 good productive meeting. I have talked with the Eastern
6 Interior Chair and we worked out some logistics between
7 us so hopefully it'll go smooth and we'll be able to
8 come to a good compromise. So any questions for Tom
9 before we move on.

10

11 MS. SELANOFF: Yes, this is Diane
12 Selanoff. I do have a question for Tom. What is being
13 compromised, what's the (indiscernible), what's the
14 hold up?

15

16 MR. KRON: The original -- Mr. Chair,
17 and Diane. The original proposal was supported with
18 modification by the Southcentral Council. The Eastern
19 Interior Council opposed it. So, again, the intent is
20 to meet in mid-March for those two Councils and to talk
21 about things that could be done, that could be
22 implemented and things that couldn't. But, again,
23 that's where we are right now. Again, the plan is for
24 this joint meeting and then based on the results from
25 that, to bring it back to the Federal Subsistence
26 Board.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Tom.
31 Diane, does that help?

32

33 MS. SELANOFF: Thank you. Yes, that
34 does, thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Any
37 other questions for Tom.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Before we
42 move to new business let's take a short break, check
43 our phones make sure they're muted and everything's --
44 not -- we're getting a lot of feedback today, get a
45 fresh cup of coffee, just a few minutes. Let's try and
46 be back here in five minutes, I know it's kind of tough
47 for everyone but let's just take a short, short break
48 and stretch. Okay.

49

50

0043

1 MS. PERRY: And, Mr. Chair, before we
2 go I'd just like to remind a few Council members they
3 still haven't voted for Secretary so maybe they could
4 do that during the break. Ed. Greg. Angela. Donna
5 Claus. Andy McLaughlin. Michael Rego. I know some of
6 those folks aren't on. But if you could take a minute
7 to respond to the email I sent you on Secretary maybe
8 when we come back we could go ahead and announce that.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. For your
13 info, DeAnna, I sent mine to you quite awhile back, you
14 might check your email or text.

15
16 MS. PERRY: Okay, I don't see it but I
17 will doublecheck, thank you.

18
19 REPORTER: Okay, and this is Tina, the
20 court reporter. I just want to ask everybody if you
21 could take a moment and check your phone, the Operator
22 just let me know that there's 23 lines that are unmuted
23 so that's more than just the Council even. So if
24 everybody could take a moment on this break and
25 doublecheck your phone line it would be appreciated by
26 everybody.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 (Off record)

31
32 (On record)

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: DeAnna, I'm ready
35 to reconvene whenever everyone else is.

36
37 MS. PERRY: I can check all the Council
38 members to make sure they're back Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes, if you
41 would, and if we have any of our members that haven't
42 showed up, Andy or any of them that were absent, but
43 let's go ahead and give it a quick check.

44
45 MS. PERRY: Okay, great. Just checking
46 on Council members to make sure we're back from break
47 so if you'll star, six and unmute your phones, Council
48 members, I'll go down the list really quickly.

49
50

0044

1

Ed Holsten, are you back with us.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

MS. PERRY: Michael Opheim, are you
back with us.

7

8

MR. OPHEIM: Michael's here.

9

10

MS. PERRY: Thank you, Michael.

11

12

Diane Selanoff.

13

14

MS. SELANOFF: Here.

15

16

MS. PERRY: Thanks, Diane.

17

18

Dennis Zadra.

19

20

MR. ZADRA: Yeah, Dennis is here.

21

22

MS. PERRY: Thanks, Dennis.

23

24

Gloria Stickwan.

25

26

(No comments)

27

28

MS. PERRY: Angela Totemoff.

29

30

(No comments)

31

32

MS. PERRY: Donna Claus, were you able
to join us.

33

34

35

(No comments)

36

37

MS. PERRY: Andy McLaughlin.

38

39

(No comments)

40

41

MS. PERRY: Donna Wilson.

42

43

(No comments)

44

45

MS. PERRY: Okay. And I just received
an email from Donna, it looks like she was dropped so
hopefully she can connect back shortly.

46

47

48

49

Hope Roberts.

50

0045

1 MS. ROBERTS: Here. Can you hear me.

2

3 MS. PERRY: I can now, thank you, Hope.

4

5 Heath Kocan.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MS. PERRY: Michael Rego were you able
10 to join us.

11

12 MR. KOCAN: This is Heath, I'm back.

13

14 MS. PERRY: I'm sorry, Heath, was that
15 you.

16

17 MR. KOCAN: Yep, this is Heath, I'm
18 back.

19

20 MS. PERRY: And we'll ask everybody to
21 mute your phones if you're not speaking. And, Hope, it
22 looks like I saw your text, you are here. Donna, was
23 that you by chance that was trying to speak a moment
24 ago.

25

26 MS. WILSON: Yes, can you hear me.

27

28 MS. PERRY: I can now, thank you,

29

30 Donna.

31

32 REPORTER: And that's Donna who?

33

34 MS. PERRY: Donna Wilson.

35

36 MS. WILSON: This is Donna Wilson.

37

38 REPORTER: Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we have two
41 Donna's.

42

43 REPORTER: Yeah.

44

45 MS. PERRY: And, Ed, I see you on --
46 can you hear us on Teams, can you hear us on audio
47 okay?

48

49 MR. HOLSTEN: Yep, I -- the number
50 dropped on me and I just got back on.

0046

1 MS. PERRY: And, Greg, you're.....

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria, I'm
4 here.

5

6 MS. PERRY:here.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'm here.

9

10 MS. PERRY: Gloria.

11

12 MS. STICKWAN: Gloria Stickwan, I'm
13 here.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, good.

16

17 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Gloria. Mr.
18 Chair, you do have nine of your 13 participating 13
19 members back online. And I do have the results for the
20 Secretary election.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. If you
23 want to go ahead and give us that we'll appoint the
24 Secretary.

25

26 MS. PERRY: Sure. And the new
27 Secretary for the Southcentral is Hope Roberts.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right, well,
30 congratulations Hope, thank you.

31

32 Okay, we're going to go ahead and move
33 on here, I think we're to new business. On my agenda
34 we have Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
35 information update. Jarred Stone.

36

37 MR. STONE: Thank you. Good morning,
38 Mr. Chair and members of the Council. My name is
39 Jarred Stone and I am a Fisheries Biologist here with
40 the Office of Subsistence Management. I work here in
41 the Southcentral region but I also work for the
42 Kodiak/Aleutian and the Bristol Bay regions. I am
43 joined today with my colleague, Jason Roberts, who is
44 an Anthropologist with OSM.

45

46 So to begin I'll be providing an update
47 on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. This
48 will be a brief update but please feel free to ask
49 questions as we move along and we'll do our best to

50

0047

1 help answer them.

2

3 For the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
4 Program update, this is not an action item for today,
5 there are no associated materials for this discussion
6 in your Council meeting books. This is merely an
7 information update.

8

9 We are currently in the final phase of
10 the 2022 Monitoring Program funding cycle. The Federal
11 Subsistence Board met in early February and made
12 recommendations about the Monitoring Plan. Once the
13 Office of Subsistence Management has a final budget,
14 the Assistant Regional Director will then approve the
15 funding plan and all of the applicants will be notified
16 of the status of their submissions.

17

18 With the 2022 cycle coming to an end,
19 it's now time for the Councils to begin developing
20 priority information needs for the 2024 Fisheries
21 Resource Monitoring Program, which will happen at your
22 next meeting in the fall. We are asking for Council
23 members to consider volunteering and to meet by
24 telephone this summer to identify knowledge gaps and
25 information needed for the management of subsistence
26 fisheries for the Southcentral region. The draft list
27 of priority information needs will then be presented to
28 the Councils for their final approval during their fall
29 2022 meeting.

30

31 This concludes my presentation
32 regarding the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
33 Are there any questions or any volunteers who would
34 like to help draft the priority information needs for
35 the fall 2022 meeting. I believe last cycle we had
36 Gloria Stickwan and a previous Council Member, John
37 Whissel, who is no longer on the Council. And so if
38 you would like, I can take your name for today and then
39 work with you this coming summer to coordinate a time
40 to meet with the Bristol Bay [sic] Council to draft the
41 priority information needs for the upcoming fall
42 meeting.

43

44 That's all.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you,
49 Jarred. We got a couple of volunteers if we want, or

50

0048

1 do we got questions for Jarred. I'll just open it up
2 for whoever wants to speak first.

3

4 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria, Mr.
5 Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead,
8 Gloria.

9

10 MS. STICKWAN: I would volunteer, like
11 to volunteer.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Great, we got
14 Gloria back Jarred. We got another one.

15

16 MR. KOCAN: Hi, this is Heath Kocan.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hello, Heath, go
19 ahead.

20

21 MR. KOCAN: Yeah, I'll volunteer.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Heath, that's
24 good. I was going to ask someone from Cordova, that's
25 good, that's perfect. There you go, Jarred, you got
26 two volunteers and thanks for your report. Any
27 questions for him before I Jarred go.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

32

33 MR. STONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You're welcome,
36 thank you. Next one we got Prince William Sound,
37 freshwater and marine water jurisdiction. I know
38 Andy's very passionate about this but we lost him
39 somehow today. Robbin LaVine, do you want to go ahead
40 and take that one.

41

42 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 Members of the Council. For the record my name is
44 Robbin LaVine, I'm the Subsistence Policy Coordinator
45 for the Office of Subsistence Management. And I would
46 like to provide you just a bit of an update and I was
47 hoping that some of your Council members were on hand
48 to support this discussion. But you did form a working
49 group to meet about options in regards to our fish and
50

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1 shellfish regulations and marine water jurisdictions in
2 Prince William Sound. And I presented a bit of a
3 briefing to provide context and give you an
4 understanding of what can be accomplished in this arena
5 and I'm going to present the same briefing to you now.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, sounds
8 good.

9
10 MS. LAVINE: So I'm going to speak
11 briefly about what our Program does, the limitations of
12 our Program and extraterritorial jurisdiction.

13
14 As you already know the Federal
15 Subsistence Management Program provides a subsistence
16 priority for the harvest and use of most fish and
17 wildlife resources on Federal public lands and waters
18 in Alaska as authorized by Title VIII of ANILCA.
19 However, subsistence uses of migratory waterfowl,
20 marine mammal and other marine resources are addressed
21 through other Federal management programs. The Prince
22 William Sound marine waters are under the ownership of
23 the State of Alaska. The Submerged Lands Act of 1953
24 gave all State jurisdiction over tidally influenced
25 inland waters and marine waters three miles seaward from
26 the line of mean high tide. In Prince William Sound
27 proper there are no Federal public waters in the marine
28 environment. The waters beyond that three mile limit
29 and out to 12 miles off shore are U.S. Territorial
30 Waters. These territorial waters are not within the
31 State of Alaska, which means the subsistence priority
32 of Title VIII of ANILCA does not apply. Rather, the
33 Federal government exercises control over fisheries in
34 these waters.....

35
36 (Teleconference interference -
37 participants not muted)

38
39 MS. LAVINE:pursuant to the
40 Magnuson-Stevenson -- Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries
41 Conservation and Management Act.

42
43 So to recap, there are no Federal
44 waters in Prince William Sound. The line of the mean
45 high tide to three miles seaward is within State
46 jurisdiction and this includes all of Prince William
47 Sound. And the three mile limit to 12 miles off shore
48 is Federally-govern -- Federal government management
49 through the Magnuson-Stevenson [sic] Fisheries
50

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1 Conservation and Management Act and not ANILCA.

2

3 So that gives you a little bit of a
4 background on jurisdiction.

5

6 And now I want to talk to you really
7 quickly about extra-territorial jurisdiction. There is
8 a process for petitioning the Secretaries of the
9 Interior and Agriculture to exert regulatory authority
10 over activities on non-Federal lands under State law,
11 like commercial fishing, to protect subsistence
12 activities on Federal lands. Although the Secretaries
13 have never exercises its authority, they can consider
14 petitions to exercise control over hunting, fishing or
15 trapping activities occurring on non-Federal lands when
16 such petitions indicate that those activities may be
17 interfering with subsistence hunting, fishing or
18 trapping on the Federal public lands and waters to such
19 an extent as to result in a failure to provide the
20 subsistence priority as specified under Title VIII of
21 ANILCA. In this case, even if extra-territorial
22 jurisdiction petitions were granted it would not
23 accomplish what you're requesting. It would not
24 transform those State lands or waters into Federal
25 lands or waters and an ETJ would not initiate a
26 procedural methodology that creates an aligned Federal
27 or State regulatory process.

28

29 I would like to conclude with a message
30 that we are here to support you all, particularly if
31 you wish to develop fisheries proposals for Federal
32 public waters and our team is also ready to direct you
33 to those points of contacts who can help you engage
34 with the Board of Fish regulatory process.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
37 Council.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
40 Robbin. That was good -- it's not good news, but it's
41 a great report. We kind of knew that going in. We
42 were hoping that extra-territorial had more open for
43 Federal lands but it's quite obvious that they don't
44 have no control there. I guess the only outlet is to
45 get favorable State proposals for the subsistence user
46 but I know Andy would be interested in hearing all
47 this. Hopefully he got it.

48

49 Got any questions for Robbin at this

50

0051

1 time before we move on. Any Council member.

2

3

(No comments)

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you, Robbin. All right, we're going to move to the Board of Fish regulatory action information share. Dave Sarafin's going to do that and that's on Tab 4 in your Council book.

MR. SARAFIN: Good morning, Mr. Chair. Yeah, this is Dave Sarafin, Fish Biologist at Wrangell-St. Elias.

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

MR. SARAFIN: And, yes, a short update on the Board of Fish meeting that occurred November 30th to December 6th in Cordova. The main proposal that did pass was Proposal No. 7 that -- it passed as modified by RC100 that they developed during the meeting.

This one prohibited professional guide services from assisting with subsistence fishermen in boats in the Glennallen Sub -- well, it would be for the Upper Copper River District, so this would be the Federal subsistence fisheries of the Glennallen subdistrict, actually. So initially it -- well, the record copy, anyway, modified to be for the Glennallen subdistrict and it's actually, while fishing, there can't be professional guide service assistance.

And otherwise there were a handful of other proposals that weren't directly related to salmon that passed. One added bag possession limits for Dolly Varden, Prince William Sound, for subsistence. One established gear size restrictions, or definitions for subsistence, one of which included for fyke nets used in the Prince William Sound freshwater finfish fisheries that limited the opening of a fyke net to four inch and that's designed for the whitefish subsistence fishing that occurs under State regulations to try to prevent lake trout, the bycatch, and the fyke net, I believe was the main purpose for that. That was Proposal 24 and 25 on those two. Those carried.

And then that was the main ones. There

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1 were a couple in the Cordova area, that added pink and
2 chum salmon additional limits for subsistence.

3

4

5 And otherwise there were a number of
6 proposals that did not carry that were directed at
7 dipnet fishing, either from boats or types of --
8 several were related to boats, either in both the
9 Chitina and Glennallen, or one or the other, and other
10 ones were to prohibit gillnet mesh in dipnets, there
11 were -- you know, they also had a proposal that would
12 prohibit fishfinders from those fishing from a boat.
13 But none of these other ones carried though.

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With -- another interesting one was
Proposal 5 that was to -- the proponent originally
requested to establish an optimum escapement goal and
depart from the sustainable escapement goal of the
fishery management plan there. This was actually
requested to be withdrawn by the proponent, however, it
was discussed by the Board and it did not carry,
however the Department of Fish and Game actually
submitted a revision to the escapement goal and that is
scheduled to take effect during the 2022 season. This
will change the sustainable escapement goal from the
lower bound of 24,000 fish to a range -- this is for
chinook salmon, to 21,000 to 31,000. And, you know,
related to Proposal 5, the Superintendent of Wrangell-
St. Elias National Park and Preserve submitted, both,
an agenda change request to address an apparent error
of inconsistent -- in escapement goals that are found
in two Copper River Salmon Management Plans and a
separate comment letter to both support maintaining the
24,000 chinook salmon sustainable escapement goal and
to reemphasize the inconsistency between the plans.
Concerns expressed in the comment letter regarding the
reduction of the escapement goal as recommended by
ADF&G, they were referenced by the Board in discussion
but did not impact the end result of 3,000 fish
reduction in the minimal bound chinook sustainable
escapement goal for the Copper River. And the apparent
error of inconsistent escapement goals of the
management plans was not addressed or acknowledged
during the Board discussion at the meeting.

So that's my update for you and I'm
open for any questions.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Anyone got
any questions for Dave on the fish regulatory actions

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1 as he explained.

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: Can you explain the
4 Wrangell-St. Elias Superintendent's letter or is that
5 later?

6

7 MR. SARAFIN: Well, I think when we get
8 to the Resource Stewardship and Science Division report
9 for the Park, Mark will address a few more details
10 regarding the letter.

11

12 MS. STICKWAN: Okay, thank you.

13

14 MR. SARAFIN: Okay, sure.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thanks.
17 Anyone else got a question.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, well,
22 thanks, Dave, but you're up next also on the fisheries
23 report, Tab 5 first document there. So you may as well
24 go right into that.

25

26 MR. SARAFIN: Okay, thank you, Mr.
27 Chair. Yes, and we put -- I think this got put on the
28 agenda just to provide some more details of how the
29 Copper River salmon run went this past year in case
30 there's any information you'd like to consider for any
31 proposals when that topic comes up. So just real
32 briefly for the fish report.

33

34 You know we are planning to -- trying
35 to get Tanada Creek salmon weir back in action and
36 there has actually been some local hire announcements
37 that have been open and they're actually scheduled to
38 close tomorrow so if anyone knows of any individuals
39 that live in the Slana area that are interested in work
40 that's a good opportunity, and if they miss the
41 deadline they could also contact me directly if they
42 were interested.

43

44 We -- I guess moving on to the Upper
45 Copper River fisheries, and this should be in your
46 materials, part of the fisheries report for Wrangell-
47 St. Elias, so the 2021 season, you know, it started out
48 slow and management actions of the State Department of
49 Fish and Game limited the early season commercial

50

0054

1 opportunities in the Copper River district in response
2 to low numbers of returning salmon at the start of the
3 seasons. The season total commercial harvest for the
4 Copper River district is reported to be 397,747
5 sockeye, 69,055 chinook salmon. And ADF&G reports the
6 commercial harvest of sockeye to be the ninth lowest in
7 the last 50 years and chinook salmon to be the second
8 lowest since statehood. The sonar -- Miles Lake Sonar
9 down near Cordova reported passage from May 12th to
10 July 28th and provided a season total estimate of
11 751,262 salmon migrating upstream for the season and
12 that's 31 percent above the, you know, management
13 objective of 575,000 passing the sonar and exceeds the
14 in-river goal of 605,000. And there's a -- you can see
15 the graphic display of the sonar counts as the season
16 progressed. So the in-river sonar passage, you know,
17 that provides a primary assessment of sockeye salmon
18 return to the Copper and after a relatively slow start
19 that improves substantially in June and the overall
20 assessment exceeded the management objective. And
21 these objectives are designed to provide harvest
22 opportunities to both Federal subsistence and other
23 State up river users as well to achieve the sustainable
24 escapement goal for sockeye. And as with sockeye,
25 fisheries managers also monitor chinook salmon run
26 strength with the primary indicator, our data from the
27 in-river abundance project operated by the Native
28 Village of Eyak. Traditional insight is gained from
29 recent application of updated technology at the sonar
30 to provide species apportionment data. And the
31 preliminary estimate of in-river chinook salmon was
32 reported as 21,656 fish. And this indicates the
33 chinook salmon sustainable goal of 24,000 fish was
34 likely not at met and this will be the fourth -- would
35 be the fourth season out of the past 10 years that the
36 goal was not met.

37
38 And then in response to the weak
39 chinook salmon returns ADF&G closed all State fisheries
40 in the Upper Copper River drainage to retention of
41 chinook salmon by late June, including personal use
42 fisheries of Chitina, the sportfishery and the
43 subsistence fishery of Glennallen subdistrict.
44 Concurrent with those closures including the upper
45 river subsistence fishery, ADF&G continued to authorize
46 13 openings of commercial and subsistence fisheries of
47 the Copper River district since the chinook salmon
48 entry into the Copper River historically nearly
49 complete by early July. So these chinook closures do
50

0055

1 not affect those fishing under Federal regulations.
2 And once enough information was available to indicate a
3 likelihood of not meeting the SEG, harvest by Federal
4 users through the remainder of the season was not
5 expected to be high enough to have a significant impact
6 on the sustainability of the stock. No Federal special
7 actions were issued by the in-season manager to
8 restrict harvest of chinook salmon or for any other
9 purpose in the fisheries of the Upper Copper River.
10 Federal managers monitored run strength indices
11 throughout the season to evaluate the need for
12 appropriate action. And although Federal actions were
13 not taken, Wrangell-St. Elias Park and Preserve
14 prepared and distributed advisory announcements
15 intended to inform subsistence users of the present
16 concerns for Copper River chinook salmon and this
17 announcement was sent to all those with a Federal
18 subsistence permit for the area with email addresses on
19 record. And in the announcement, we requested that
20 users consider voluntarily releasing healthy chinook
21 salmon that may be beyond their needs.

22
23 For the 2021 season it was open May
24 15th through September 30th and through the Office of
25 Subsistence Management Federal subsistence permit
26 website, 194 chinook -- or Chitina subdistrict permits
27 and 354 Glennallen permits and one Batzulnetas area
28 permit were issued. And then tables 1 through 4 on the
29 following pages of this report show historical and
30 expanded report -- or historical and expanded harvest
31 for Federal subsistence fisheries in each subdistrict.
32 And on Table 1 it summarizes it for the Upper Copper
33 River district and for 2021 at this point, based on our
34 harvest returns it appears that the harvest of 20,606
35 is between the five year and 10 year average. Chinook
36 salmon is below both, and overall we're slightly just
37 -- just about at the five year but below the 10 year
38 for all species.

39
40 And preseason Copper River forecast
41 from the Department was just recently released for
42 sockeye salmon but it was not available for king. And
43 they had a forecast of 1.4 million sockeye and note
44 that to be 34 percent the 10 year average.

45
46 And for 2022 early season management
47 strategies for the Federal subsistence fisheries,
48 unless the run strength assessments prompt concerns of
49 meeting the escapement goals we anticipate all Federal
50

0056

1 subsistence salmon fisheries of the Upper Copper river
2 will be open from May 15th to September 30th.

3

4 And that concludes my report and I'm
5 open to any questions.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, that was a
8 good report, yeah, thank you. Questions for Dave.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: None, you did so
13 good -- good report and good data so thank you Dave.

14

15 MR. SARAFIN: Okay, thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Next we're
18 going to go to Copper River sockeye salmon research
19 projects reports Mark Miller. That's on Tab 5, it's
20 the second document in there.

21

22 MR. MILLER: Good morning again, Mr.
23 Chair and Council. This is Mark Miller. I am the Team
24 Lead for Resource Stewardship and Science at Wrangell-
25 St. Elias National Park and Preserve. And as the Chair
26 indicated my report is in your meeting materials, Tab
27 5.

28

29 I'd like to give a brief overview of
30 three new Park Service funded research projects
31 focusing on Copper River sockeye salmon stocks. Two of
32 these three projects are beginning this year.

33

34 The first project was proposed in
35 collaboration with the Alaska Department of Fish and
36 Game. The Department will be conducting this work.
37 And this project will evaluate the genetic analysis as
38 a tool for estimating the stock composition of sockeye
39 salmon harvest in Copper River fisheries and
40 potentially inform in-season management decisions once
41 a data record has been built. Decisions that aim to
42 ensure long-term health and sustainability of salmon
43 stocks and fisheries. This project will build on
44 previous genetic baseline work done by the Department
45 in which nine genetic reporting groups were documented,
46 including seven up-river groupings and in the report
47 you'll see a figure provided by Alaska Department of
48 Fish and Game that illustrates the distribution and
49 characterization of the nine reporting groups included

50

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1 in the project.

2

3

4 Summary of the analysis and reporting
5 that will be done over this three year project on a
6 yearly basis in the commercial fishery, there will be
7 six weekly in-season estimates of stock composition
8 done during the first six weeks of the season. The in-
9 season reports will be reported to managers
10 approximately five days after samples are collected and
11 then in addition there will be five post-season
12 estimates of stock composition for the latter portion
13 of the season. In the up river fisheries, there'll be
14 three monthly in-season estimates of stock composition
15 of the harvest with results reported to managers
16 approximately seven days after samples are collected.
17 We anticipate, based on the timing of this project,
18 that the Department may be able to provide interim
19 project results to the Board of Fisheries in late 2024
20 for consideration in relation to relevant regulatory
21 proposals for the Prince William Sound Management Area
22 during the 2024 Board of Fisheries meeting.

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The second project of the three begins next year rather than this year and it builds directly on top of this first genetic project leveraging the genetic sampling conducted by that project. This one will be conducted by researchers from University of Alaska-Fairbanks and Prince William Sound Science Center in collaboration with Fish and Game and others. And the basic details of this project are that this work will characterize health and energetic status of these genetically determined sockeye salmon stocks and evaluate whether measures of body size, physiological condition, migration distance and harvest pressure may make some stocks more vulnerable to environmental changes than others potentially increasing mortality risk.

The third project begins this year, it's also led by Prince William Sound Science Center with several other collaborators and is a project that's based on analysis and modeling with existing data sets. This project will look at factors affecting migratory success of Copper River sockeye salmon and aims to develop a better understanding of how environmental changes in the Gulf of Alaska and the Copper River watershed may impact spawning migration success by sockeye salmon under future logical scenarios.

0058

1 Dave Sarafin mentioned the letter
2 submitted by the Park Superintendent Ben Bobowski to
3 the Alaska Board of Fisheries prior to the Board of
4 Fisheries meeting. That letter is included with my --
5 at the end of my report and in response to the question
6 that was asked by Gloria regarding details of the
7 letter. There are a lot of details in the letter but I
8 will summarize the letters conclusion relative to the
9 Department's recommendation to change the sustainable
10 escapement goal for Copper River king salmon from the
11 lower bound of 24,000 to sustainable escapement range
12 of 21 to 31,000.

13
14 The summary reads as follows:

15
16 The Department's recommendation to
17 lower the sustainable escapement goal was based in part
18 on a model spanning 1980 to 2018 data that used lower
19 quality data from years prior to the recent decline,
20 documented decline in king salmon productivity and
21 changes in marine conditions may have over-estimated
22 the productivity of king salmon population that is
23 known to be declining in size and, therefore, may have
24 under estimated the degree to which the risk of over
25 fishing would increase by reducing the lower bound of
26 the escapement goal.

27
28 And that concludes my report and I can
29 take questions.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Questions
32 for Mark.

33
34 MS. STICKWAN: I had a question for
35 Mark.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria.

38
39 MS. STICKWAN: So my understanding was
40 the numbers that you -- that National Park had
41 questioned about this was the two different plans had
42 different numbers for the escapement of other fish;
43 could you explain that part?

44
45 MR. MILLER: Yes, that refers to two
46 separate management plans. One is the Copper River
47 District Salmon Management Plan, the other one being
48 the Copper River King Salmon Management Plan.

49
50

0059

1 The Copper River District Salmon
2 Management Plan references a spawning escapement goal
3 of 17,500, other salmon, in the Copper River District
4 Plan, and that 17,500 is out of alignment with what
5 was, at the time of our comment letter, 24,000 as the
6 escapement goal for king salmon but now 21,000 as the
7 escapement goal for king salmon. And our comments were
8 that although the Department doesn't view these plans
9 to be contradictory, the numbers appear out of
10 alignment, and our recommendation, our comment was that
11 these -- that the numbers should be brought into
12 alignment for clarity of management direction for the
13 public and stakeholders.

14
15 MS. STICKWAN: That was roughly about
16 3,000, the difference, right?

17
18 MR. MILLER: Roughly, yes.

19
20 MS. STICKWAN: Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
23 Gloria. Any more questions for Mark.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, well, thank
28 you, Mark, good job. We'll go ahead and move on then
29 if there's no more questions. We got call for Federal
30 fish and shellfish proposals, Tom, do you want to go
31 ahead on that.

32
33 MR. STONE: Mr. Chair, this is Jarred.
34 I'll be giving the presentation for the call for
35 Federal fish and shellfish proposals.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, that's
38 great and that's on Tab 6, should be. Okay, Jarred.

39
40 MR. STONE: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
41 members of the Council. Again, my name for the record
42 is Jarred Stone. I'm a Fisheries Biologist with OSM.

43
44 And today I'll give a brief update on
45 our call for Federal fisheries and shellfish proposals.
46 This is an action item and you can find the materials
47 on how to submit a regulatory proposal on Tab 6 of your
48 meeting books.

49
50

0060

1 The Federal Subsistence Board will be
2 accepting proposals this winter and into spring to
3 change the Federal regulations for the subsistence take
4 of fish and shellfish on Federal public lands and
5 waters for the 2023 through 2025 regulatory cycle. The
6 Board will consider proposals to change Federal fish
7 and shellfish seasons, harvest limits, methods and
8 means and customary and traditional use determinations.
9 The current window of opportunity to submit proposals
10 is not quite ready yet, however, as a Council you may
11 vote on fisheries proposals and then submit the
12 proposals to the Council Coordinator. Council
13 Coordinators will then hold on to these proposals until
14 the window for fisheries proposals has officially
15 opened and then submit them. The general public will
16 need to wait until the window for fisheries proposals
17 has officially opened, which should be some time soon,
18 and stay open for a period of at least 30 days.

19
20 Proposals need to be submitted to the
21 regulations website by going to www.regulations.gov.
22 There will be a news release from OSM announcing the
23 call for proposals window once the dates are set. The
24 proposals will be analyzed and presented to the
25 Councils during the upcoming fall 2022 meetings for
26 Council recommendations. Proposal analysis and Council
27 recommendations will be presented to the Federal
28 Subsistence Board for their action at the January 2023
29 fisheries regulatory meeting.

30
31 In addition, this cycle, we're going to
32 continue conducting reviews of closures of the Federal
33 Subsistence Fisheries Regulations, similar to what the
34 wildlife cycle has done this last round. There are
35 currently 20 closures statewide under review for this
36 upcoming fisheries regulatory cycle and all of these
37 closure reviews fall outside of the Southcentral region
38 and your Council will not need to consider any during
39 the fall 2022 Council meeting.

40
41 That concludes my presentation. Are
42 there any questions related to the fisheries regulatory
43 cycle process or any proposals that you would like to
44 put forward.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm going
47 to thank you, Jarred. Let's see does anyone got any
48 proposals, action proposals at this time to put
49 forward. It sounds like we got some time but we're
50

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1 going to be stuck here before too long. So our action
2 item is if we want to put a proposal forward so if
3 anyone comes up with one or wants to bring one up later
4 to get it in we'll go ahead and get that done.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Jarred,
9 well, I guess we got an action item but we don't have
10 no action right yet so we'll have to see what proposals
11 anyone might come forth with.

12

13 MR. STONE: Mr. Chair, this is Jarred.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead.

16

17 MR. STONE: Thank you. So just to
18 clarify, as a Council, if there are any proposals that
19 you'd like to put forward, today would be the day
20 otherwise when the window of opportunity opens to
21 submit proposals, folks can then submit proposals as
22 individuals and so I just want to make that clear that
23 if there's any proposals of the Council that you'd like
24 to put forward, today would be the day, otherwise we'll
25 look for them when the window of opportunity opens.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I think I
28 had that, but does everyone understand that, if the
29 Council has a proposal we want to come up with today we
30 could put that forward and you don't have to -- I don't
31 know if anyone was prepared to put anything forward at
32 this time but if you do during the course of the
33 meeting certainly we could entertain getting it and
34 putting it forward and we'll squeeze it in the agenda
35 somewhere. So be thinking on it and we'll thank you
36 Jarred and we'll see what we come up with.

37

38 DeAnna, just a question for you, did
39 you have any fish proposals that any Council wrote in
40 or submitted that wanted us to consider?

41

42 MS. PERRY: No, Mr. Chair, we talked
43 about this briefly in the new member training and it's
44 been on our agenda and I know Federal Staff are
45 standing by in case any Council member would like to
46 speak with them and maybe work on something during the
47 meeting.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

50

0062

1 MS. PERRY: They're more than welcome
2 to do that and then bring it back to the Council and
3 see if the Council wants to support it and put it in on
4 behalf of the Council. But as Jarred said, any person
5 on the Council can individually, on their own, put in
6 any type of Federal fish proposal once the window's
7 open.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, very good.
10 So Council members you be thinking, and if you need to
11 get a hold.....

12
13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted - phone ringing)

15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:go right
17 ahead and speak up.

18
19 MS. STICKWAN: Hello. Hello.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks,
22 again, Jarred.

23
24 MR. STONE: Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We added G
27 to the agenda, I squeezed it in this morning, kind of
28 late, but we got it on there. And that was just
29 nonrural determination policy call for proposals and I
30 think Brent Vickers is going to talk to that.

31
32 MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Chair, this is Jason
33 Roberts. I was going to take that one.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, well, I got
36 bad information, Jason, but you're great, go ahead.
37 You go right ahead.

38
39 MR. ROBERTS: All right, thank you.
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm a pretty new Anthropologist
41 here at the Office of Subsistence Management in
42 Anchorage so I'm just getting up to speed recently but
43 eventually I'll be tasked with working primarily with
44 the Southcentral and Kodiak/Aleutian region. But right
45 now I'm just here to provide a brief overview of the
46 current call for proposals for nonrural determinations
47 in Federal regulations. This is an action item but
48 these materials are not in your Council book.

49
50

0063

1 The nonrural determination is the
2 process for formally changing in Federal regulations a
3 community's status from nonrural to rural or from rural
4 to nonrural. This is the second call of proposals for
5 nonrural determinations since 2018. Any valid nonrural
6 determination proposals submitted this year will be
7 acted on by the Board in 2025. The call for nonrural
8 determination proposals occurs every four years
9 concurrent with every other fisheries regulatory cycle.
10 The next call for proposals for nonrural determinations
11 will be in 2026.

12
13 So as you heard from our colleagues in
14 the Fisheries Division, the call for proposals has not
15 yet been published due to a lengthy clearance process
16 in Washington but when it is published the period for
17 public comments and proposals to change regulations
18 will be open for at least 30 days. So there's a flier
19 on our website on how to submit proposals to change
20 nonrural determination. This flier includes
21 information on where to submit a proposal and what
22 items a proposals must contain to be accepted for
23 consideration by the Federal Board. The website
24 address is www.doi.gov/subsistence/faqs, and faqs is
25 spelled F-A-Q-S. This flier can be found near the
26 bottom of the frequently asked questions page.
27 Additional information may be found in the soon to be
28 published 2023 to 2025 subsistence fish shellfish
29 proposed rule.

30
31 And, again, this isn't an action item
32 and so with that thank you very much for your attention
33 and my colleagues and I from OSM will try to answer any
34 questions you might have about this.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
37 Jason. Once again anyone on the Council, we got any
38 nonrural determination policies -- we got a call for
39 proposals, so it's up to us if we got a proposal or we
40 got anything going, it's the long-term, to get your
41 shot in, but, anyway, if anyone's got one, if not then
42 we'll move on.

43
44 (Teleconference interference -
45 participants not muted)

46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: But anyone with
48 any nonrural determination policy call for proposals.

49
50

0064

1 (No comments)

2

3

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I understand we don't have one at this time and I don't think DeAnna received any, did you DeAnna?

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(No comments)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I understand we don't have one at this time and I don't think DeAnna received any, did you DeAnna?

MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, I'm sorry, I didn't hear, the.....

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I was mentioning -- sorry, I was wondering if you have any proposals for any nonrural policy calls for proposals.

MS. PERRY: I have not received any, Mr. Chair, thank you.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you. Okay, Council members, if you do decide let me know as we go through our agenda today and we'll discuss them.

Next on the agenda is No. H, and we're going to.....

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:review and approve our fiscal year 2021 annual report and that's on Tab 7, the report if you want to review it on Tab 7. I don't know, DeAnna, do you want to walk through that or if we.....

REPORTER: Before you start, DeAnna, if everybody could take a second and check your phone line, please. We have a lot of background noise and Greg's breaking up, DeAnna's breaking up and I'm not picking that up on the recording. Thank you.

MS. PERRY: Thanks, Tina. Yeah, again, star, six, if you don't have a mute button on your phone.

So I'd like to direct the Council members to Tab 7 in your meeting book and for the public who are on our website looking at the meeting materials it's the annual report so you'll see the annual report there and I trust everyone's had a chance to review it at this point. It covers several topics that were raised at the last meeting. If we could have

0065

1 a moment, if we need to, to give folks time to give
2 that another glance and decide if there should be any
3 edits to the report and we can also include additional
4 topics as long as we put a good administrative record
5 about what we want that content to look like and I can
6 make those edits during this meeting, on the record and
7 then, of course, it being an action item the Council
8 has the responsibility to finalize this report and
9 again we can do that with additions or edits during
10 this meeting.

11

12 So, Mr. Chair, I would just ask the
13 Council's wish, if we want to take a moment to look
14 that over or if everybody's already looked it over then
15 I can make note of, again, any edits or if you're ready
16 to approve it as it is drafted we can do that as well.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
21 DeAnna. Okay, everyone's got the annual report,
22 probably had it for awhile. Does any Council member
23 have any edits, additions, would like to put something
24 different, add to it as it's been drafted. Actually
25 it's pretty comprehensive, it's quite good. We found
26 out some of it's not going to fly on our shellfish.
27 But, anyway, is there any additions at this time or
28 would you like any -- anyone need to.....

29

30 MS. SELANOFF: Mr. Chair, this is Diane
31 Selanoff. I'll make a motion to approve the Federal
32 Subsistence Board annual report so we can see if
33 there's any discussion to be added.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Diane,
36 is there a second to that motion.

37

38 MR. OPHEIM: Michael will.....

39

40 MS. STICKWAN: Mr. Chair, I have
41 someth.....

42

43 MS. TOTEMOFF: I will second.

44

45 REPORTER: Can somebody say that again,
46 a second? I think Michael.

47

48 MS. STICKWAN: Mr. Chair, I had
49 something to add.

50

0066

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Could I
2 clarify who seconded it first, just real quick.

3
4 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, this is
5 Angela.....

6
7 MR. OPHEIM: Michael was one of them.

8
9 MS. TOTEMOFF:I seconded it.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Angela. I
12 heard Angela and then I heard Michael and so Angela you
13 seconded it and we're open for discussion. Go ahead, I
14 heard someone wanted to add something.

15
16 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria Stickwan,
17 may I add something.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yep, go ahead.

20
21 MS. STICKWAN: I just had a question
22 about why the Federal Board deferred Proposal 21-10
23 back to us because it's their decision to make -- it's
24 their responsibility to make decisions on the Board and
25 for them to bring it back to us -- to me, that's
26 passing the buck back to us, they should have made a
27 decision. And why is it -- why are we -- our
28 recommendations not taken and a decision made by the
29 Board. It's their responsibility to take action on
30 proposals and not put it back on us.

31
32 That's what I wanted to add to the
33 letter.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, I would
36 second adding that to the letter because I agree with
37 you fully. So if we could add that to the letter,
38 DeAnna, and you could draft that in there I'd
39 appreciate that. Anything else while we got the motion
40 on the floor and we got a second, anyone else got
41 anything.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: This is your
46 time, last time for audits or additions to our annual
47 report.

48
49 (No comments)

50

0067

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We got a motion
2 on the table, we got a second and we got an addition to
3 the report on why the Board referred 21-10 back, any
4 more discussion.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none
9 then.....

10
11 MS. SELANOFF: Mr. Chair, this is Diane
12 Selanoff, I call for the question.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Question's been
15 called for, all in favor aye.

16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

20
21 (No opposing votes)

22
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. It's
24 carried unanimous by our Council members present, thank
25 you. Next we have Federal subsistence, and we're going
26 to go to I, Federal subsistence annual report reply
27 process review by the revision, discussion and Council
28 comments and feedback and Tom is going to talk -- Tom
29 Kron.

30
31 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. Members of the
32 Council. This issue was discussed at your meeting last
33 fall, and for the present meeting it's an action item
34 and will be considered by all of the Councils.

35
36 During the Federal Board's August 2021
37 work session, the InterAgency Staff Committee briefed
38 the Board on the annual report reply process and
39 possible revisions to improve responsiveness to
40 Regional Advisory Council concerns. The Staff
41 Committee briefing is part of the larger ISC effort to
42 improve workload efficiencies within the Federal
43 Subsistence Management Program. The Board reviewed and
44 discussed the report reply process and agreed to
45 forward this topic to the Councils for your input on
46 the suggested revisions, including possible ideas of
47 your own.

48
49 As you are aware, ANILCA Section .805
50

0068

1 authorizes the Councils to prepare an annual report
2 containing information related to important subsistence
3 resource issues within their regions.

4
5 Historically, the Board has strived to
6 provide responses to every topic listed in annual
7 reports regardless that come in from the Councils
8 regardless of its authority to address the issues
9 raised. However, it is unclear if Board responses on
10 all annual report topics are helpful to the Councils
11 while also taking considerable Staff time to complete.
12 The Staff Committee has suggested process revisions.

13
14 1. To maintain annual reports as a way
15 to inform the Board of local conditions, issues and
16 needs, and

17
18 2. To propose letter writing as a way
19 to request a response from the Board on topics of
20 concern.

21
22 To that end, we are asking you to think
23 about what you want from the Board in response to your
24 annual report. To help guide your discussion I
25 suggest we; 1, review the ISC's suggestions again; 2,
26 we can open the floor to questions and Council
27 discussion, and, then; 3, ask you to take action and
28 develop your comments to forward to the Board.

29
30 And, again, this is an action item for
31 your consideration. And I guess I would recommend that
32 we see if Robbin or any of the ISC members that are
33 online have any additional comments.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
38 Tom. I have a comment before we go to additional
39 comments from Robbin. But I do think you brought up a
40 couple good points there of informing the Board. We
41 take our letter to the Board very seriously. Those are
42 our priorities and that's what we're trying to get to
43 the Board and so that's why we pick out or topics and
44 we spend quite a bit of time on them too. So I don't
45 think that -- that's kind of informing them, maybe we
46 could inform them more. We would need to know more
47 what they want for information so I'll open that to the
48 Council and topics of concern. But I feel for the time
49 I've been here, we've done our best effort to give our
50

0069

1 priorities to the Board. Maybe we're not informing
2 them enough and so if we need to do that then we'll
3 work on it. But this is an action item, it's kind of
4 hard to prepare a quick action here.

5

6 So let's ask Robbin if she wants to add
7 to this discussion and then I'm going to open it to the
8 Council members to go ahead and give me feedback and
9 get feedback from Tom or how we want to give guidance.

10

11 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, this
12 is Robbin.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

15

16 MS. LAVINE: So I want to emphasize a
17 couple of points here as you consider this action item.
18 The first is to emphasize that these reports, your
19 annual reports are invaluable as they provide the Board
20 with a broad holistic picture of local resource
21 conditions and you also provide the most up to date
22 subsistence issues facing your communities in your
23 region. So with this knowledge, the knowledge that you
24 provide the Board through your annual report, the Board
25 can make informed decisions.

26

27 So these suggested revisions are not
28 intended to diminish the ability of the Councils to
29 communicate with the Board. The Board relies on your
30 knowledge and expertise and annual reports are a way to
31 ensure that the Board remains up to date on important
32 developments within your region.

33

34 So, again, what we're looking for is
35 not so much a question about your annual reports, there
36 is no question about how important your annual reports
37 are, we're looking for guidance from you and feedback
38 from you on the utility of report -- of Board replies
39 to your reports and to the issues within your reports.
40 So what the ISC is recommending is that you continue on
41 with your annual reports but if there is a really
42 critical issue, an issue that you know the Board can
43 take action on, an issue that's within the Board's
44 authority, that you write a letter requesting a
45 specific response and it may be that through that
46 letter writing process it could be that there is
47 greater responsiveness.

48

49 And thank you, Mr. Chair, I'm happy to

50

0070

1 field any more questions and potentially so can my
2 colleagues from the InterAgency Staff Committee who are
3 online.

4

5 Again, thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Robbin,
8 thank you for that, some clarification there. I want
9 to just make a comment before we move on for
10 suggestions from our Council. You know we take up all
11 the Federal proposals, we do Federal testimony, we do
12 all the testimony -- public testimony, excuse me, and
13 we deliberate these and we pass them on to the Federal
14 Board. So in my estimation that is a very direct
15 communication to the Board of our thoughts and our
16 process and they get to read our analysis of why and
17 our justifications and so what I'm hearing you say is
18 that we may want a specific letter or a specific item
19 that we want them to look at or work on or better
20 report to them. So I just don't want the Council to
21 feel, you know, I feel we've given them more. I think
22 they are lacking in giving us back. But, anyway,
23 that's my opinion and my opinion is only one.

24

25 So let's open it up to the Council and
26 let's just have a discussion and see where we go with
27 it.

28

29 Go ahead.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Don't be shy.

34

35 MR. OPHEIM: This is Michael, Mr.

36 Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,

39 Michael.

40

41 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, I guess that
42 confused me a little bit. So we write them our normal
43 letter, which I do agree is -- because we do spend some
44 time talking about these items as we suggest them for
45 the letter, you know, I could see maybe there's some
46 clarification maybe on some things that might make the
47 letter longer, if that's not an issue, then fine, but
48 on specific items -- so if we have something that we
49 feel even more important than what we have just in the
50

0071

1 standard letters, is that what I'm understanding,
2 that's what we would write a second letter being very
3 specific about?

4
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think
6 that's.....

7
8 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:the
11 suggestion that.....

12
13 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

16
17 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.
18 The -- there would -- in this process -- or based on
19 these recommended or suggested changes to the annual
20 report and reply process, nothing would change. I mean
21 you already write letters to the Board, you already --
22 about different issues outside of the regulatory cycle.
23 You already write letters to other agencies and
24 entities on things that you think are really important
25 and you take a tremendous amount of time and effort in
26 developing your annual report, again, like I said,
27 which is incredibly valuable. This is the foundation
28 of this Federal Subsistence Management Program and the
29 knowledge that we rely on for the Board to be actively
30 informed.

31
32 So it's the annual report, that's going
33 to stay the same that -- or that would stay the same.
34 But the only difference here would be in how you
35 receive a response from the Board. And it may be under
36 the scenario that your -- you would forward your annual
37 report to the Board, the Board would read and review
38 and inform themselves during their work session, this
39 happens every summer but the response would be probably
40 just thank you so much for your knowledge, right. So
41 that might be the standard response. But if there is
42 something within your report or there is an issue that
43 you really are seeking guidance and a more detailed
44 response from the Board, a more detailed engagement
45 from the Board that would be the content of a letter.

46
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
50

1 Robbin. Yeah, we added to our annual report very
2 specific content today, one, that's one -- okay, I'm
3 still opening it up to the Council. I think Michael, I
4 hope you didn't get cut off there because you were
5 asking a question and hopefully that answered your
6 question and if you have more just go right ahead.

7
8 MR. OPHEIM: Mr. Chair, this is
9 Michael. No, that was a good explanation and it sounds
10 like more that it would be how they reply to us and our
11 letter, of how much their reply is, I guess. So that
12 makes it a little bit clearer. Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
15 Michael. And also if we had anything specific we could
16 write them a specific letter is my understanding
17 outside of the annual report, which would be good. Any
18 other comments or questions or anything anyone got a
19 letter they want to write.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well, I
24 think at this time, Robbin and Tom, we're debating it
25 and we got no action and so our action is probably
26 unnecessary duplication. But anyway we'll carry on and
27 if we come up with something, will the Council bring it
28 back up to me, please.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we got
35 another one here, the next one, receiving public
36 testimony protocol, guided decisions -- discussion,
37 excuse me, and Tom I think you're on for that. I have
38 you down that you're going to do that.

39
40 MR. KRON: Mr. Chair. During each
41 regulatory cycle there are several opportunities for
42 the public to provide their oral and written comments
43 to the Federal Subsistence Board and to the Councils.

44
45 First opportunity comes after the call
46 for the proposals is published in the Federal Register.
47 This is an opportunity to submit proposals, or any
48 significant comments to the Board. The first comment
49 window is open anywhere from 45 to 90 days or longer.
50

1 No. 2. The second opportunity for
2 public comments is on submitted proposals begins when
3 the proposal submission window closes and the validated
4 proposals are published on the Federal Subsistence
5 Management Program web page. I'm guessing that the
6 people that've been on the Council for a number of
7 years will remember seeing proposal books for example
8 for fisheries or for wildlife, so, again, with those
9 proposal books public comments can be submitted.

10
11 The third opportunity comes during the
12 Council meetings themselves.

13
14 The fourth opportunity for public
15 comments on proposals occurs during the Board
16 regulatory meeting when the Board meets to make
17 decisions on those regulatory proposals, either
18 fisheries or wildlife.

19
20 Now, prior to the Council's fall 2022
21 meeting cycle, when the Councils are going to discuss
22 fisheries proposals and closure reviews, we are
23 requesting Council input on how the Councils would
24 prefer to receive written public comments submitted to
25 them after the proposed rule deadline. Once OSM
26 receives input from the Councils on permanent guidance,
27 we will then update the written framework accordingly.
28 This is not an action item but Council discussion is
29 encouraged.

30
31 For the Council's feedback we developed
32 a number of questions that we would like the Council
33 members to respond to.

34
35 No. 1. First of All, the Council's
36 opinion, what are the best ways to encourage public
37 feedback to the Councils.

38
39 No. 2. Would the Council prefer to
40 receive comments from the public orally or in writing.

41
42 No. 3. Would it be helpful to the
43 Council if OSM requests the written public comments to
44 be submitted.

45
46 No. 4. Is it better for the Council if
47 received public comments are read verbatim into the
48 record or summarized.

0074

1 No. 5. Do we have any other
2 suggestions regarding the ways of improving written and
3 oral public testimony procedures during the Council
4 meetings.

5
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Tom.
9 Lots of questions there and we might have to come back
10 with you for some clarification. But the public
11 feedback, you know, I just wanted to state, you know,
12 on our Council and things have changed and so we take
13 the written, of course, but we've always encouraged our
14 oral presentation at our Council meetings for them --
15 the proponent of the proposals so they could describe
16 it, we could ask questions, we could go back and forth.
17 You don't get that clarity in writing back and forth, I
18 don't think, things are lost in there. Of course you
19 have to allow for the writing. So I'm just stating
20 some obvious things that I've seen.

21
22 And I guess I got a question for you,
23 Tom, when you say after the deadline, at what point
24 would be doing, you know, after a proposal deadline
25 being submitted and writing accepted, would that be
26 clear up until the time the Federal Board deliberates
27 or where's the cutoff. There seems to be some change
28 there from the normal procedure. So I'll open it up to
29 other questions and maybe you could just comment to
30 what I thought there.

31
32 MR. KRON: Again, there's a time period
33 after the proposal books are put together in the
34 spring, either fisheries or wildlife, and it basically
35 allows people to write in with public comments to, you
36 know, a proposal or a number of proposals. Subsequent
37 to that, again, leading up to the Council meetings,
38 during the Council meetings there's an opportunity for
39 people to provide comments to the Councils so that you
40 can make decisions on what you want to do for a
41 recommendation on the proposals.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Right.

44
45 MR. KRON: And then, again, a fourth
46 time, during the Federal Subsistence Board meeting they
47 also gather comments. So, thank you, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.

50

0075

1 Go ahead Council members, your questions and opinions,
2 thoughts, improvements or whatever we would like to
3 help out here.

4

5 MS. WILSON: Mr. Chair, this is Donna
6 Wilson, could I be recognized.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead,
9 Donna.

10

11 MS. WILSON: I had a question about
12 your best way for feedback from the public, you
13 mentioned oral or written, does that include emails, is
14 that acceptable as well?

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think they
17 accept -- I'm not sure if there's guidelines, do you
18 want to answer that DeAnna.

19

20 (Pause)

21

22 MS. PERRY: Am I unmuted now, can
23 everyone hear me?

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You're unmuted
26 now, now we can hear you.

27

28 MS. PERRY: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 So I think the question from Donna was oral or written,
30 does that include emails. It does include emails. I
31 know at the last Federal proposal regulatory cycle in
32 fall we did mention at the beginning of the meeting
33 that you could submit written public comments by email.
34 I know that in a number of meetings folks read those
35 comments into the record and then they were also read
36 because they were received in written form so I think
37 we're trying to maybe clean up and not have so much
38 duplication with the public comments.

39

40 Does that answer your question, Donna,
41 we would be able to accept email written comments.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Donna, did that
46 answer your question on the emails, they are
47 acceptable. I guess the only question now is how long
48 are they acceptable?

49

50

0076

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: At some point I
4 would assume that you'd need to get all this stuff
5 published and get it going.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Donna, did you
10 have any follow-up on that question.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm not hearing
15 her.

16

17 MS. PERRY: This is DeAnna. Mr. Chair,
18 this is DeAnna.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, DeAnna.

21

22 MS. PERRY: Yeah, I just wondered if it
23 might be possible to have the document provided to the
24 Council so they can see these periods of time that are
25 open. I know that Tom verbally said that but perhaps
26 it might be easier -- I know it's being shown on the
27 screen but not all of our Council members are on the
28 screen. I'm not sure if we're able to share that.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'm reading
31 it on the screen now, that's real helpful, but like you
32 say some of us probably don't see that, yeah.

33

34 MR. VICKERS: Hi, DeAnna, this is Brent
35 (indiscernible)

36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think someone's
38 trying to talk to you DeAnna.

39

40 MS. PERRY: Okay.

41

42 MR. VICKERS: Yes, hi DeAnna, this is
43 Brent from OSM, I'm sorry I unmuted the computer not
44 the phone. Tricky. I just wanted to note that I'll
45 take that into note and see if we can make this
46 document public. I think the problem right now is that
47 this is ongoing stuff and we're trying to keep up with
48 everything, get the latest on what we're able to do and
49 were not able to make this .508 compliant before the
50

0077

1 meeting, really this is just being finalized with
2 regulations as -- our protocol, what we're able to do
3 as late as possible. So I'll make a note of that to
4 bring up to OSM leadership, that this would be very
5 helpful to provide particularly these opportunities and
6 any updates to them for the Council. So I just was
7 able to find the document, the latest document we have
8 with the talking points and provide that on the screen
9 today but it's not .508 complaint.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. PERRY: Okay. And I.....

14

15 MR. VICKERS: Maybe Robbin.....

16

17 MS. PERRY:appreciate that.....

18

19 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.

20

21 MS. PERRY: Go ahead, Robbin.

22

23 MS. LAVINE: Yeah, I just wanted to
24 note that the document that we have used to provide
25 this briefing to the Councils is a way for us to gather
26 your input and feedback so that we can create a final
27 version with guidance on the public testimony and
28 comment process for the fall meeting. So once we have
29 everybody's feedback on that, we will have final
30 guidance to share with all of you. So this one, what
31 you're seeing, if you're seeing anything on the Teams
32 screen, that is very basic guidance to help us lead you
33 through this discussion and, again, we will take your
34 input and your suggestions to create a final document
35 to share with the public.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 MS. STICKWAN: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead.

42

43 MS. STICKWAN: I have a comment, this
44 is Gloria Stickwan.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

47

48 MS. STICKWAN: I guess my concern would
49 be the cut off period would be at the latest, but at

50

0078

1 the same time there should be a cut off period and I do
2 have a concern about form letters being sent at the
3 last minute without our input on the process. It seems
4 to me like we could get a lot of comments all at once
5 just before the meeting and we wouldn't have time to
6 read all the comments. I know that happens at the
7 Board of Game meeting, they will have a form letter
8 without about 10,000 (ph) signatures and that's kind of
9 what I'm referring to, at the last meeting, a lot of
10 pages, that could happen. And that would be my
11 concern, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria, those are
14 great points and we could point those out. Because
15 it's happened to us before. We had hundreds of form
16 letters from one guide center and we had a lot of stuff
17 like that. And as I mentioned before, the last minute,
18 and cut off period, and I don't see that answered in
19 here, it just gives you all the opportunities, but not
20 the specifics. So I think we're lacking something
21 there. Anyway, okay, those are good comments.

22

23 Others.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well,
28 Robbin and Tom, you got some comments on the protocol
29 and we'll keep an eye on it and maybe can come up
30 better as you define some of your protocol.

31

32 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

33

34 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 MS. PERRY: This is DeAnna.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, you're
39 welcome on the -- who else is talking?

40

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

42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, DeAnna.

44

45 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
46 was just looking at the questions that were posed and I
47 think the comments that Donna, Gloria and you have
48 given provide information but there was one on there
49 that no one's touched on. Does this Council feel when
50

0079

1 they receiving comments is it better to read them
2 verbatim or to summarize.

3

4 (Teleconference interference -
5 participants not muted)

6

7 MS. PERRY: So perhaps we could provide
8 some input on that topic.

9

10 REPORTER: And before we do that we're
11 going to need people to mute their phone please.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we got a
14 real bad connection DeAnna.

15

16 REPORTER: Yes.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: But, DeAnna, what
19 you're basically saying is when they do the public
20 comments or the written comments, excuse me, if it
21 would -- give a summary rather than verbatim, some of
22 them are pretty long.....

23

24 (Teleconference interference -
25 participants not muted)

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:come in so
28 we should add that to our list, that's something we
29 should.....

30

31 MS. PERRY: Yeah, right, that's.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: And I would
34 imagine we would summarize them. The phones are going
35 to hell on us but it's almost lunchtime so how we
36 doing, any more comments, feedback.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Would the Council
41 like to take lunch today.

42

43 MS. STICKWAN: I would like to. Gloria
44 speaking.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. How about
47 giving us a one hour lunch, let's say quarter after
48 1:00, we'll get started promptly at a quarter after
49 1:00 and we'll recess for now. Does that sound

50

0080

1 acceptable -- and when we come back we'll be on K.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I didn't hear
6 anyone object. Okay, don't forget to call back in.

7

8 (Off record)

9

10 (On record)

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Mr. Chair, is
13 back with you and I'm ready to roll whenever everyone's
14 here.

15

16 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, I'll take a
17 quick roll call.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

20

21 MS. PERRY: So for Council members, and
22 Council members only, go ahead and unmute your phones
23 so I can hear you and I'll go through the roll real
24 quickly.

25

26 Ed Holsten.

27

28 MS. ROBERTS: I'm here.

29

30 MR. HOLSTEN: Yep, I'm here, thank you,

31 DeAnna.

32

33 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Ed.

34

35 Michael Opheim.

36

37 MR. OPHEIM: Michael's here.

38

39 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Michael.

40

41 Diane Selanoff.

42

43 MS. SELANOFF: Here.

44

45 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Diane.

46

47 Dennis Zadra.

48

49 MR. ZADRA: Dennis is here.

50

0081

1 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Dennis.

2

3 Gloria Stickwan.

4

5 MS. STICKWAN: Here.

6

7 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Gloria.

8

9 Angela Totemoff.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MS. PERRY: Angela, have you rejoined

14 us.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MS. PERRY: Okay. Donna Claus, were

19 you able to join us.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MS. PERRY: And Andy McLaughlin, were

24 you able to join us this afternoon.

25

26 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes, I'm here, sorry
27 for the absence. I may be interrupted, my phone's
28 ringing off the hook so I may step out.

29

30 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Andy.

31

32 Donna Wilson.

33

34 MS. WILSON: Present.

35

36 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Donna.

37

38 Hope Roberts.

39

40 MS. ROBERTS: Here.

41

42 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Hope.

43

44 Heath Kocan.

45

46 MR. KOCAN: Here.

47

48 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Heath.

49

50

0082

1 Michael Rego, was he able to join us.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MS. PERRY: Michael.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MS. PERRY: Okay. And I'll again call
10 Angela Totemoff, Angela was on earlier today. Angela
11 have you rejoined us.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MS. PERRY: Okay. And, Greg, I heard
16 you earlier, so, Mr. Chair, you have 10 of your 13
17 seated members present. You do have a quorum.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
20 DeAnna. And, Angela, if you come on.

21

22 MS. TOTEMOFF: I'm here, thank you, Mr.
23 Chairman.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Oh, you
26 was just waiting to hear from me, there you go. Thank
27 you. All right, we're going to go ahead and get back
28 started. Just a couple comments before we get back to
29 the agenda. We're actually on Agenda Item K, we're
30 going to get a briefing on automating Federal
31 subsistence permits. But before we do, remember, if
32 you come up with any proposal for fish, you know, a lot
33 of times the Council, we wait for public, but if you do
34 have a proposal I do want to get those in today, if a
35 Council member comes up with a proposal that they want
36 to submit, it's the call for proposals. And we had
37 also talked about, you know, receiving public testimony
38 protocol, if there's any further questions on that
39 we'll entertain them later today, too.

40

41 Okay, with that we're going to go ahead
42 come to order here and we're going to go to a briefing,
43 Council comments on proposed actions to automate
44 Federal subsistence permits. And, Tom Kron, I think
45 you have that one also.

46

47 MR. KRON: I do. Mr. Chair. Members
48 of the Council. This is not an action item but we
49 wanted to give you an update.

50

0083

1 The law requires all Federal
2 departments and agencies to gain approval through the
3 Office of Management and Budget prior to the collecting
4 the information from the public.

5
6 This law was designed to protect you,
7 the public, from unreasonable requirements to provide
8 data and/or personal information without justification.

9
10 After the most recent OMB, Office of
11 Management and Budget, clearance to collect information
12 from the public, OMB contacted OSM and tasked us with
13 exploring the use of automated permits within our
14 Program.

15
16 OSM is asking the Councils and the
17 public for ideas as to how the issuing of permits into
18 the future. Any and all ideas are welcome.

19
20 Some of the issues that might be
21 addressed.

22
23 How can we verify a person is a
24 Federally-qualified user.

25
26 How do we address the lack of or
27 substandard infrastructure in rural communities if
28 internet permits are used.

29
30 How will managers address quotas,
31 and/or limits to the amount of permits issued in the
32 case of conservation concerns.

33
34 How will managers deal with the lack of
35 reporting of harvest results in the case of power
36 failures or lack of the internet. Especially when
37 reporting requirements are listed as 48 or 72 hours due
38 to severe conservation concerns.

39
40 How would this possible change affect
41 subsistence users.

42
43 What methods of issuing permits would
44 be preferred by subsistence users.

45
46 While this is not a formal request for
47 comments, we ask that any comments to be sent to
48 subsistence website by November 15, 2022, this coming
49 fall, November 15th, 2022. More information will be
50

0084

1 provided to the Councils as this process moves ahead.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, thank you
6 there, Tom. I guess I could make a quick comment, we
7 got until November but the Council may have some
8 suggestions also here. I do know we set up a program
9 with the Kenai -- with Ken Gates on the Kenai here and
10 once he got the data in and he verified and then he
11 went to an automated system of notifying us. And they
12 would just call us on our permits, and they would
13 reissue them and send them by mail. It seems to work
14 pretty handy. But, anyway that's a thought. Anyway
15 I'll try and get the details and maybe get them. And
16 reporting, they're bad, if you don't report they bug
17 you, they send you emails, can't get -- I don't know, I
18 guess it wouldn't be any better than the paper one.

19

20 But, anyway, just some thoughts.

21

22 Anyone else got any comments for Tom on
23 that, reporting.

24

25 MR. OPHEIM: This is Michael, Mr.
26 Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
29 Michael.

30

31 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, you know, I get a
32 few hunting permits for -- and then the reporting for
33 Fish and Game, you know, you just go online and do the
34 report there and it seems to be a pretty simple
35 process. I like how, you know, if you don't report in
36 time they remind you and I can't remember, you might
37 not even be able to purchase your next hunting license
38 until you get your report filled out or something
39 there. But that might be something to look at, is what
40 ADF&G has going. So those are just my thoughts.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good comments.
43 Yeah, and that works pretty good. I mean for those
44 that don't have the technology it might be a problem,
45 but that is a good fix that works handy, great system.

46

47 Anyone else.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0085

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, well, thank
2 you, Tom. I think I got you on the next one too here.
3 We're going to have a briefing on the Secretary
4 regulations proposing the inclusion identifying
5 submerged lands in the Tongass National Forest.

6
7 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again,
8 this is not an action item but we wanted to make sure
9 you were updated. This is an information brief only
10 and not an action item required on the part of the
11 Council.

12
13 First taking place in the publication
14 of the proposed rule in June 2016 and the final rule in
15 May 2018.

16
17 The Secretaries were directed to
18 initiate regulatory proceedings to identify those
19 submerged lands within the Tongass National Forest that
20 did not pass -- that were not passed to the state of
21 Alaska at statehood, and, therefore, remain Federal
22 public lands subject to Federal subsistence provisions.
23 The purpose of this proposed rule is to complete
24 regulatory proceedings addressing submerged public
25 lands within the Tongass National Forest, as directed
26 by the court.

27
28 The majority of these submerged lands
29 are low-water lines, reefs, rocks and very small
30 islands, maybe 100 yards to a half a mile in length.
31 And I have not talked to DeAnna to see, but the hope
32 was to be able to provide a map showing where these
33 locations are, but I do not know. DeAnna, could you
34 join in and tell us if you've gotten a map from Theo on
35 this.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Tom. I have not
40 received a map but it's my understanding, as you just
41 mentioned, all of these submerged lands or proposed
42 lands are on the Tongass National Forest which is
43 outside the Southcentral area.

44
45 MR. KRON: Okay. Well, thank you. And
46 this document.....

47
48 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: This is Theo, I'm on
49 the line.

50

0086

1 MR. KRON: This document is expected to
2 be published in the Federal Register sometime this
3 month, hopefully and there will be a 60 day comment
4 period.

5
6 As a Council, if you desire to comment
7 on this proposed rule you may submit your comments to
8 your Council coordinator, DeAnna.

9
10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11
12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted)

14
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, that's very
16 good. If you do have comments you could submit them to
17 DeAnna. Anyone got any comments they want to make now
18 on the Tongass submerged land.

19
20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted)

22
23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: So Theo's online,
24 it's a conference call -- well, he's on his cell phone,
25 we have no land line.

26
27 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: All right.

28
29 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: So you're on the
30 phone.

31
32
33 REPORTER: So I'm not picking up who's
34 talking.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'm not
37 either.

38
39 REPORTER: Oh, okay. I thought it was
40 just me. If you could identify yourself and speak up a
41 little bit, please.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we're going
46 to go ahead and if you do have something that you want
47 to propose on the Tongass let's submit it to DeAnna.

48
49 Agency reports.

50

0087

1 We got agency reports and generally
2 this is a note we got 15 minutes unless in advance.
3 There's quite a few agencies. I did have a note here,
4 DeAnna, something on the .508 compliance issues,
5 nothing shared, .508 complaint, so do we need to talk
6 to that?

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I can't hear you
11 DeAnna.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I still can't
16 hear you. I think you're muted.

17
18 MS. PERRY: Okay, can you hear me now?

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes, very clear.
21 Good.

22
23 MS. PERRY: Okay. Alrighty. And I am
24 getting.....

25
26
27 (Teleconference interference -
28 participants not muted)

29
30 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: Hey. Hey.

31
32 MS. PERRY:of feedback.....

33 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: Yeah, he's here and
34 how do I mute this.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We're picking up
37 some background conversations.

38
39 MS. PERRY: Whoever's speaking.....

40
41 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin
42 LaVine.

43
44 MS. PERRY:could you please.....

45
46 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair.

47
48 MS. PERRY:either.....

49
50

0088

1 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin
2 LaVine. And I do hear my colleague Theo Matuskowitz,
3 and so if we pause for just a moment I understand he is
4 having technical difficulties, so if we pause just a
5 moment, hopefully he can hear us and he might be able
6 to identify himself online. Theo, are you there?

7
8 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: Yeah, could you hear
9 me?

10
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I could hear you.

12
13 MS. LAVINE: Yes, Theo, we can hear
14 you, thank you.

15
16 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: Was there a question,
17 I'm sorry. I don't have phone service -- or regular
18 phone service or internet right now and so I'm having
19 to go through the cell phone.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we could
22 hear you. We're on the agenda, if you got something to
23 speak to, on the items, Theo, that's fine, we're
24 starting on the agency reports.

25
26 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: No, I don't have.....

27
28 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is
29 Robbin.....

30
31 MR. MATUSKOWITZ:anything to add,
32 if there's any questions I'm available.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

35
36 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, this is DeAnna.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yep, go ahead,
39 DeAnna.

40
41 MS. PERRY: I just wanted to get us all
42 on the same page.

43
44 (Teleconference interference -
45 participants not muted)

46
47 MS. PERRY: I think Theo was trying to
48 get connected when we were talking earlier. So, Theo,
49 we just talked about on our agenda, the briefing on the
50

0089

1 Tongass submerged lands and Tom had asked if we had a
2 map and I don't think one's available yet but could you
3 confirm for our Council that all of those proposed
4 submerged lands are on the Tongass National Forest and
5 not within the Southcentral region.

6
7 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: Yes, they are 100
8 percent within the boundaries of the Tongass National
9 Forest nowhere other than that area. So none in the
10 Prince William Sound or along the Kenai Peninsula or
11 anything like that.

12
13 MS. PERRY: Okay, thanks for that
14 confirmation, Theo.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we
17 appreciate that.

18
19 MS. PERRY: Yeah, I think that was the
20 only question, Mr. Chair, so if you wanted to go on to
21 agency reports. I know this lag in our teleconference
22 ability right now is really challenging so thank you
23 all for hanging in there.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yep. Okay, very
26 good. I'm glad we got that cleared up, thanks, Theo.
27 We're going to go on to tribal governments and the
28 first one I have Ninilchik Traditional Council.
29 Darrel, are you on the line.

30
31 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, this
32 is Darrel Williams, can you hear me.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good. Loud
35 and clear, go right ahead.

36
37 MR. WILLIAMS: All right. Mr.
38 Chairman. Members of the Board. My name is Darrel
39 Williams. I work at Ninilchik Traditional Council, and
40 I'm here today to give the report on the Cook Inlet
41 Ninilchik subsistence fishery on the Kasilof and Kenai
42 Rivers. So this will be pretty straightforward, it was
43 another good year.

44
45 We are still using the same sites, the
46 same gear type of 10 fathom nets that are anchored in
47 the river. The net operation consists of 30 minute
48 windows, it's broken down into 30 minute windows.
49 Anybody who's looking at the reports that were
50

0090

1 submitted you'll see that in the information but it's a
2 little different between the Kasilof and Kenai River.
3 The Kasilof net is actually put in the river and it's
4 actually removed every 30 minutes and checked. The
5 Kenai River is a much faster river and we actually
6 leave the net in the water and we actually walk the
7 net, there's actually people in the water with the net
8 essentially all the time. So basically the 30 minute
9 window that we use on Kenai River is based on what the
10 net harvests over a 30 minute window. So they're a
11 little bit different but we still use that 30 minute
12 timeframe to be able to monitor our data and our
13 fishing effort on the rivers.

14
15 We still report the same way that we
16 have in the past with a couple of additions this year.
17 We do report within 24 hours and generally we report
18 the same day as we fish. It's usually the last thing
19 we do during the day. And we email that report to Ken
20 Gates immediately for management purposes. The change
21 this year is we also started reporting the daily
22 distributions that we did. So it's interesting to hear
23 about the idea -- talking about permitting and how that
24 should work with Federally-qualified subsistence users
25 and get their permits and reports and stuff like that.
26 This is how we've dealt with it. The idea was to be
27 able to reduce some of the management pressures so they
28 have the information and we can also help track harvest
29 and -- that users were able to get. Every year we do
30 have some conflicts where people will go and they'll do
31 a different fishery and that still counts towards their
32 harvest and they'll let us know and so there's a couple
33 of little quirks that happens in the reporting but
34 generally for a lot of the folks who use this
35 subsistence fishery it's pretty straightforward.

36
37 So our field data is collected at the
38 site, we actually write this stuff down as we go on
39 every day and then it's compiled within the day to be
40 submitted. Then after we do the distribution of fish
41 and we provide those fish to subsistence users with a
42 permit, then we actually do the reporting and we're
43 able to submit that report.

44
45 The Kasilof fishery started on June
46 16th and was fished through July 15th and it was --
47 most days -- there was a few days that we didn't fish
48 when -- throughout the time period, sometimes we needed
49 to do maintenance to the gear and the boat and stuff
50

0091

1 like that, but we fished most of those days. The
2 Kasilof fishery in 2021 was actually exceptional. We
3 caught more fish in the Kasilof fishery than we
4 actually ever had before, which is pretty surprising.
5 So for 2021 the Kasilof we harvested 1,307 sockeye and
6 we actually did not have additional bycatch. So both
7 the nets have performed really, really well about
8 targeting sockeye and not other species. So that's
9 really been a good thing.

10

11 The Kenai fishery is a little bit
12 different. We fished that from July 21st through August
13 3rd. And so the way it works in the Cook Inlet is the
14 sockeye appear in the Kasilof fishery first and then
15 they appear in the Kenai fishery second and so that's
16 why we fish one river and then the next. Both
17 fisheries were really good this year. The Kenai River
18 fishery, we fished for actually 12 days, 12 very long
19 days and we harvested 3,204 sockeye. So it was good in
20 both rivers, actually it was an exceptional year and
21 the runs were strong and that was really impressive and
22 we were able to get our gear in the water and back out
23 of the water quickly.

24

25 So for the Kasilof River we actually
26 had the net in the water, we actually tracked that, for
27 63 hours. And so we actually calculated that out and
28 it ends up catching about, oh, about 20 fish an hour,
29 which is pretty exceptional for the Kasilof. We've
30 never had those kind of numbers before.

31

32 Now the Kenai fishery is a different
33 fishery. It's a larger fisher, faster waters, things
34 like that. We actually had a net in the Kenai River
35 for 70 hours over those 12 days and that averages out
36 to 45 fish an hour. So to give you an idea of how that
37 harvest looks or what it's like to experience that and
38 how much time we have gear in the water, we try to
39 communicate that that way.

40

41 It's interesting because the way we
42 operate one net compared to the other is just -- you
43 know, we're still trying to catch the sockeye but
44 they're just managed differently. One net gets pulled
45 out, one net stays in. But the goal of both fisheries
46 is to not have gear in the water any longer than what
47 we absolutely have to. So that was really nice to be
48 able to complete that fishery in 12 days.

49

50

0092

1 In terms of permits this year, it's
2 interesting because it's like in 2016 when the
3 permitting first started and the fisheries was just
4 getting underway, we started with 29 permits so 2017
5 increased to 94, '18 was 106; 2019 was 119 permits,
6 2020 was 129 and in 2021 we had 159 permits to be able
7 to fill that. We were able to fill the majority of the
8 permits. It seems like every year something happens to
9 a few people, things, life happens and it gets in the
10 way and they're not able to actually collect their
11 permit or receive fish. That tends to happen every
12 year. And it's also interesting, you know, just making
13 note because it just brought up here a little bit ago,
14 so, you know, with those permits if they don't get
15 filled, at the end of the season, what we generally do
16 is we'll put them in an envelope and we'll mail them in
17 back to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and, you
18 know, things happen for folks and we want to make sure
19 that this reporting gets taken care of. And it's been
20 interesting because we've actually -- from our end,
21 we've actually had problems getting stuff to the area
22 office here. It's interesting because the post office
23 will send it back undeliverable, you know, and we've
24 called them going, hey, guys what's up and it's just a
25 post office fluke kind of thing. So I mean that's
26 something to consider on the reporting requirement.
27 The way our reporting works for the organization is,
28 like I said, and then when we give our people fish,
29 what we do is we actually have a copy of what they're
30 supposed to do. They call the phone number,
31 communicate their permit number, they tell them how
32 many fish they received from the fishery that's being
33 fished, whether it's the Kasilof or the Kenai River.
34 So there's been, you know, that kind of stuff. And
35 then there's actually the hard permit that gets mailed
36 in when the fishing's completed. And it seems like
37 we've had some lumps and bumps on that that's really,
38 you know, there's -- there's some other moving parts
39 that none of us have control over, so I just thought
40 I'd mention that because it got brought up earlier
41 about the permitting and how to do this.

42
43 So that's my report for the Kenai and
44 Kasilof. I appreciate the time. And I'm here to take
45 any questions.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
50

0093

1 Darrel. Yeah, good report and good success. Got a lot
2 in the Kasilof because they shut down the commercial. I
3 didn't fish, I let them by.

4
5 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you for that, Mr.
6 Chairman.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyway I just
9 thought I'd throw that in there.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyone got any
14 questions for Darrel.

15
16 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
17 Michael.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Michael's
20 got a question for you, go ahead.

21
22 MR. WILLIAMS: All right.

23
24 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, first off
25 congratulations, that's awesome. I love hearing how
26 many people are using this and how many people are
27 getting fish. That just amazes me and I hope more
28 people catch on to that and can do that for their
29 communities, you know, it's a great thing.

30
31 I know I had emailed you, Darrel, a
32 while back after I saw the Fish and Game closure was
33 coming out and so I just wanted to doublecheck and make
34 sure nothing had changed there, that wasn't affecting
35 you for this upcoming season?

36
37 MR. WILLIAMS: Certainly. Thank you,
38 Michael. Yeah, we looked at that too and so, you know,
39 in terms of the gillnet fishery that's being operated,
40 you know, we primarily target sockeye, so it won't
41 affect that but we do have users who do go out and
42 actually harvest with rod and reel for chinook salmon.
43 You know, I'm sure there's going to be some impact over
44 that. I'm not sure -- you know, because we don't
45 manage that part of it, I'm not sure what that impact's
46 going to look like. But our sockeye fishery will
47 continue.

48
49 And, you know, it's always concerning
50

0094

1 we hear about low run returns for chinook salmon and
2 how that's being managed. Yeah, I wish I had a really,
3 really good answer on that but, you know, in the terms
4 of the sockeye fishery I don't think it'll affect that
5 part of it. So there'll be some opportunity but I do
6 think it's going to affect people who go out and fish
7 like that. You know it's also probably important to
8 say especially for some of the newer members there, our
9 subsistence fishery, most of the people that we see
10 sign up for the fishery are disadvantaged or elderly
11 and what happens is a lot of the times a lot of the
12 younger folks, they take their families out and they go
13 out and then they harvest themselves because it's that
14 traditional and cultural thing to do. That kind of
15 time. And I think that's where we're going to see an
16 impact on that. You know because we don't get those
17 numbers of who's doing that, I'd really like to look to
18 see how much of an impact it's going to be.

19

20 Yeah, I wish I had a better answer.
21 But I do know that the sockeye fishery should be okay
22 but I do worry about the other part of it because
23 that's a big deal.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, okay.
26 Any other questions for Darrel.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks
31 again. Next, we're going to go to the Native Village
32 of Eyak, Partners Program report, summary report on the
33 Copper and the chinook and so forth. Matt, I believe
34 -- Matt, are you going to give that, and that's on Tab
35 8 of your Council book.

36

37 MR. PICHE: And this is Matt Piche,
38 through the Chair. Just wondering if you can all hear
39 me.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hear you loud and
42 clear on my end.

43

44 MR. PICHE: Excellent. So the 2021 in-
45 river abundance estimate for Copper River chinook
46 salmon is 21,656 chinook salmon through Baird Canyon.
47 Standard error on that is 1,119, our lower confidence,
48 95 percent confidence limit is 17,894 and our upper 95
49 percent confidence limit is 25,417.

50

0095

1 Sampling operations at Baird Canyon
2 started on the 16th of May, that was roughly 48 hours
3 following break up in that portion of the river. Our
4 sampling operations at Baird Canyon began prior to ice
5 out at Miles Lake so we're confident that the early
6 part of the run is represented in our sample and
7 tagging continued through the 17th of July, which is
8 one of the longer seasons we've had at Baird Canyon and
9 we wanted to make sure we encompassed the entire run,
10 which we feel that we did.

11
12 Just to put this into context to the
13 historical numbers, the lowest recorded run size on
14 record occurred in 2016, followed by 2020 and, again
15 here in 2021. Prior to 1999 reliable chinook salmon
16 population estimates don't exist, but from 1999 to 2007
17 annual run size on the Copper River averaged 82,986
18 chinook salmon. The beginning of 2008 we entered a
19 period of low abundance and we've been at a period of
20 low abundance since 2008, and the average run size
21 since 2008 has been reduced by 43 percent to 47,398
22 chinook salmon.

23
24 All the trend data and fisheries
25 harvest data is in the packet that was given to you and
26 at this point I will stop talking and I'm happy to
27 answer any questions that the Council may have.

28
29 Thank you for the opportunity to
30 present.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Matt.
33 I'm going to open it up to the Council for questions.
34 I'm sure you have some up there, especially maybe up in
35 the Cordova area.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any questions.

40
41 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question. I
42 have a question.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go right ahead,
45 Gloria.

46
47 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria Stickwan.
48 Did you say that king salmon was not met because I
49 heard earlier that it may not have been met by Dave
50

0096

1 Sarafin.

2

3

4 MR. PICHE: Council Member Stickwan,
5 through the Chair. That is correct. The spawning
6 escapement will not have been met in 2021. Now, I will
7 say that with an asterisk. They are still calculating
8 in-river harvest. The sportfish harvest data doesn't
9 come in for awhile still, that's the mailout survey, so
10 that's the last data set that ADF&G gets in. So the
11 actual harvest in-river has yet to be determined,
12 however, with the in-river abundance with 21,656, it
13 only leaves 656 salmon left for harvest in-river on
14 average about anywhere from 2,500 to 4,000 kings are
15 harvested in-river. So it's highly likely that we will
16 have missed the escapement goal in 2021.

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Other questions for Matt.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you for the report and it's pretty comprehensive in the book. If anyone has any questions they could address them to Matt or the Coordinator. Matt, did you have anything else.

MR. PICHE: Just the one other thing I wanted to mention is there was a change at the recent Board of Fish cycle and the escapement goal on the Copper River has been changed. It was 24,000 or more chinook salmon, now it is 21,000 to 31,000 chinook salmon so it was lowered and there was an upper cap put on it.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is there a reason for that lowering?

MR. PICHE: So there is -- there is a scientific report that you can refer to for the details and that's available at the Board of Fish website and also from Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Basically they -- it -- I'm not an expert on it but they were able to account for more variables using statistics and looking at the entire data set available and weighting pre-1999 data, which was a little less reliable versus the mark/recapture data which we've had since 1999 which is a little more reliable. That adjusted this range, would be the effective range for

0097

1 the escapement goals on the Copper River. This was an
2 Alaska Department of Fish and Game decision that the
3 Board of Fish also commented on and the Board of Fish
4 decided to support.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks,
7 Matt. Yeah, I knew a little bit about it and I kind of
8 wanted your twist on it, so thank you.

9

10 Any other questions for Matt before we
11 wrap up with him on his program there, from the Council
12 members. Anyone.

13

14 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, this is
15 Angela Totemoff.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Angela.
18 Go right ahead, speak up.

19

20 MS. TOTEMOFF: I'm looking at the
21 report in Section 8, Figure 2 and 3. I just wanted to
22 make note that this is pretty significant information
23 that people will be able to use to lean on to make
24 policy proposals, you know, regulation proposals, and
25 changes and stuff and I just wanted the Council members
26 to keep in mind that between Figures 2 and 3, if you
27 look, one is non-commercial versus commercial and the
28 ranges are significantly different. So the range for
29 commercial [sic] use goes from zero to 10,000 and the
30 commercial [sic] use starts at zero and goes to 80,000
31 and so it could be a little misleading if you're not
32 paying attention to the numbers. Just noting that the
33 commercial use is significantly higher than subsistence
34 harvest put together, so I just wanted to note that.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's good
37 information, we note that and thank you for that.
38 That's helpful to know, although we knew some of that,
39 we needed to be reminded all the time. Thank you.

40

41 Anyone else got a comment or a
42 question.

43

44 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question again.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

47

48 MS. STICKWAN: Will Matt be on the line
49 when we have the meeting in March 16th with Eastern

50

0098

1 Interior?

2

3

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Matt, are you
4 going to be at our joint meeting for questions or
5 comments if we need you?

6

7

MR. PICHE: I will certainly make every
8 attempt to be on the line. That is occurring during
9 our field season so if work calls me away then I will
10 be away but I will make absolutely every attempt to be
11 on the line for that meeting.

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
Okay. Anyone else.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
Matt.

MR. PICHE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, now we're
going to go to Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: DeAnna, do you
have someone in the cue for Ahtna here today?

MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, I did not
receive any communication that they had a presentation
but I did leave that on as a courtesy in case they did
attend the meeting. But I have not heard from anyone.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
Alrighty, we'll move on. If they show up we'll see if
we could jump back a little. U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service, where's 'ol Todd Eskelin, is he around.

MR. ESKELIN: I am, Mr. Chair, can you
hear me okay.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I hear you good.

MR. ESKELIN: Great. Well, thank you
through the Chair and Council and welcome to the new
Council members. For the record my name is Todd
Eskelin, I work at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

0099

1 I will keep it very brief for you, I just have a couple
2 updates on the harvest of our various hunts on the
3 Kenai. And we did receive a few more moose turned in
4 during the late hunt this fall so we had a total of
5 eight moose harvested in 2021. And then on our drawing
6 hunts, we had one caribou harvested under the drawing
7 hunt, zero goats and zero sheep. And, yeah, I don't
8 know, that's -- there's a lot of interest in the
9 drawing hunts but then there's not a lot of people that
10 go hunting when they actually draw the permit. So
11 that's kind of where we're at on that one.

12

13 The other subject I wanted to bring up
14 was we had a pretty good system for doing the drawing
15 hunts, having a month long application period after the
16 State draw results came out and then we would do the
17 drawing. And because there are some proposals that are
18 going to go in front of the Federal Subsistence Board
19 in April we've had to modify that timeframe a little
20 bit in case any of those proposals would then affect
21 the communities that would be eligible for the drawing
22 hunt. So we worked with Forest Service, with Milo and
23 Heather, and we have come up with a new, little bit
24 later drawing date for that pending the results of the
25 Federal Subsistence Board. I think it'll still work
26 good for everybody, we just like to give everybody
27 maximum time to plan their hunt once they draw for that
28 August time period when the hunt starts.

29

30 So that's really all I had for you for
31 this meeting but I'm certainly available for any
32 questions.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Todd, well,
35 thank you. That's good, they took some more moose.
36 I'm not sure what happened on the goat and the sheep
37 though, but maybe it was a goat rope, but anyway, thank
38 you.

39

40 Any questions for Todd on the Kenai.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you for
45 your report, Todd. I guess you got now questions we'll
46 leave it at that. I'm healed up, I could go on that
47 caribou hunt now.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

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1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I got to draw it
2 though now, okay.

3
4 Okay, if that's -- thank you, Todd, and
5 we'll move on.

6
7 Next, I got Forest Service, Milo on
8 Chugach, we got Heather with you, Kenai, and we got
9 that under Tab 9 is what my little thing says in there,
10 some other reports, maybe Greg is going to give a
11 verbal regional report also. So whoever you guys want
12 to start.

13
14 MR. BURCHAM: I guess I'll defer to
15 Greg. Greg, do you want to go first.

16
17 MR. RISDAHL: Well, I certainly can,
18 Mr. Chair, and Milo.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That'd be fine,
21 you go right ahead.

22
23 MR. RISDAHL: Okay. I'll turn on my
24 video here too so you can see where I'm at.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

27
28 MR. RISDAHL: All right. This report
29 was actually meant to be given last fall, it has to do
30 with the fiscal year 2021 but neither the Southeast nor
31 the Southcentral Regional Advisory Councils got to the
32 reports last fall so I'm giving you the report now.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we
35 appreciate that. We got booked up really bad and we
36 were very -- we ran out of time but thank you.

37
38 MR. RISDAHL: Yeah, absolutely, no
39 problem at all. The management of National Forest
40 lands for subsistence uses plays a vital role for
41 sustaining the health of rural Alaska communities by
42 ensuring that healthy fish and wildlife populations are
43 available to provide a reliable food supply for
44 residents. The Federal Subsistence Management Program
45 plays an important role in maintaining employment to
46 rural Alaskans where opportunities are often limited as
47 well. The Forest Service supports the subsistence way
48 of life in rural communities by implementing critical
49 monitoring and management activities through these
50

0101

1 funds specifically allocated towards subsistence uses
2 on National Forest lands.

3

4

5 In 2021 the Alaska region Forest
6 Service and Fish and Wildlife Service personnel and the
7 Office of Subsistence Management analyzed nine wildlife
8 regulatory management proposals in the Southeast region
9 and 27 in the Southcentral region to determine wildlife
10 population trends and appropriate harvest levels and to
11 determine appropriate management actions to provide for
12 the continuation of subsistence uses on National
13 Forests in Alaska. Forest Service Staff also analyzed
14 two wildlife closure reviews for the Southeast region
15 and provided input for additional regulatory proposals
16 on other Federal lands across Alaska.

16

17

18 Through delegated authority from the
19 Federal Subsistence Board Forest Service in-season
20 managers implemented seven special actions on the
21 Tongass National Forest to conserve subsistence
22 resources in 2021.

22

23

24 (Teleconference interference -
25 participants not muted)

25

26

27 MR. RISDAHL: Three of these in-season
28 actions were for wildlife, specifically mountain goat,
29 and four for fish, three were salmon and one for
30 eulachon. No special actions were implemented on the
31 Chugach National Forest in 2021, however.

31

32

33 At the State level the Forest Service
34 InterAgency Staff Committee member, that would be me,
35 helped evaluate several additional emergency action
36 requests to address immediate conservation and
37 subsistence use issues for fish and wildlife.

37

38

39 The Forest Service Regional Advisory
40 Council Coordinator, DeAnna, facilitated four Council
41 meetings by the end of the year last year, two each for
42 the Southeast and two for the Southcentral Advisory
43 Councils.

43

44

45 In 2021 the Tongass National Forest
46 Staff oversaw eight sockeye salmon stock assessment
47 projects and one eulachon monitoring project through
48 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. Also
49 through the FRMP, the Tongass National Forest partnered
50 with five tribal groups and the Alaska Department of

50

0102

1 Fish and Game and supported 16 local jobs with tribal
2 organizations in rural communities.

3

4 Approximately \$775,000 in Forest
5 Service funding was distributed across the Tongass and
6 Chugach National Forests specifically for subsistence
7 projects in 2021. In addition, the Forest Service
8 provided approximately \$465,000 in subsistence support
9 to OSM and the Fish and Wildlife. Notably, the Chugach
10 National Forest completed year six, the final year of
11 the black bear monitoring project in partnership with
12 ADF&G, and I think Milo will have some information on
13 that for you. Alaska bears were basically radio-
14 collared -- I probably shouldn't say anything about
15 this, but I believe they were radio-collared I 2018 and
16 collars were picked up last year. So the data analysis
17 and writing is probably underway now and, again, Milo,
18 can fill you in on that.

19

20 In combination, both National Forests
21 completed 26 deer surveys and six population surveys
22 for moose and mountain goats. Monitoring was
23 implemented primarily through contracts and agreements.
24 Forest Service research and inventory and monitoring
25 projects continue to be vital to effectively manage
26 subsistence resources and uses while providing for
27 conservation of harvest of species.

28

29 In partnership with the Department of
30 Interior, the Forest Service continues to contribute to
31 and work cooperatively within the Federal Subsistence
32 Program.

33

34 Activities include annual rulemaking,
35 fish and wildlife population monitoring, law
36 enforcement and education, employment and capacity
37 building.

38

39 The Forest Service regularly consulted
40 with Alaska tribes and Native corporations to comply
41 with Presidential and Secretary policy direction and to
42 be respectful of the current and historical role of
43 Native Alaskans and other Federally-qualified rural
44 subsistence users while managing for customary and
45 traditional uses.

46

47 So a little bit more about the budget.
48 The President's budget proposed for management of
49 National Forest lands in Alaska for subsistence was

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0103

1 essentially the same as the budget that was enacted by
2 Congress last year. However, because of budget
3 modernization with USDA the budget allocation process
4 has since changed for the Forest Service and Staff
5 salaries were put under a separate funding code. The
6 total budget for FY21 was approximately \$2.650 million,
7 and that table is in the supplemental material you have
8 before you. The subsistence operating budget for 2021
9 was approximately \$2.300 million, so this is all money
10 that goes to projects and operations so everything but
11 salaries and travel. This included an additional
12 \$205,000 in prior year funds that we received back from
13 Washington, D.C., an estimated \$1,216 million was spent
14 supporting salaries for 46 Forest Service personnel
15 that conducted subsistence related work. Subsistence
16 funding enabled the Forest Service to continue to meet
17 its responsibilities under the 1980 Alaska National
18 Interests Land Conservation Act as well as provide
19 vital employment in isolated rural communities. The
20 current level of funding also enabled the Forest
21 Service to continue hire approximately 30 to 40
22 seasonal employees to collect fish and wildlife
23 population data. The information is used to set annual
24 harvest levels and it is essential for keeping fish and
25 wildlife populations healthy and productive. The
26 Forest Service continued to use funds from the
27 Congressional line item for subsistence to manage the
28 Alaska region subsistence management program including
29 for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program projects.

30
31 Last year approximately \$775,589 from
32 the subsistence budget was provided to the Tongass and
33 Chugach National Forest, primarily for FRMP funding.
34 This funding will continue to support projects in 2022.
35 On the Chugach National Forest \$75,000 was allocated to
36 monitor black bear, deer, moose and mountain goat
37 populations. Additional funding in the amount of
38 \$30,000 was allocated to restore salmon runs on the
39 Resurrection River and to hire an intern to conduct
40 subsistence fishing monitoring activities. The
41 majority of the Tongass funding went towards FRMP
42 projects, though deer, moose, and mountain goat surveys
43 were also funded with subsistence dollars.

44
45 In fiscal year 2021, \$465,523 was
46 included in the Forest Service Regional Office
47 allocation to fund an InterAgency agreement with OSM to
48 support the Southeast and Southcentral Regional
49 Advisory Councils. This was used to pay OSM
50

0104

1 Anthropology Staff to review and analyze wildlife and
2 fisheries proposals, closure reviews and special action
3 requests. In addition, \$50,000 was provided to the law
4 enforcement within the Alaska Forest region. No funds
5 are currently available for a Wildlife Resource
6 Monitoring Program, although funds are spent on
7 wildlife surveys within the National Forests
8 allocations as noted above.

9

10 To-date on lands managed by the USDA
11 Forest Service in Alaska, both the Southeast and
12 Southcentral regions, \$30,600 million approximately has
13 been invested to complete over 90 projects through the
14 FRMP Program. One new FRMP project was funded by OSM
15 in the Southeast in 2020 and I think folks already
16 heard from Jarred that there was a project -- a new
17 project for the Southcentral region this year that has
18 been approved for funding by the Federal Subsistence
19 Board. Nearly 17 million of the total has been paid
20 through direct contracts to tribal governments
21 performing the work. At its peak, the Forest Service
22 supported over 65 local jobs in rural Alaska directly
23 from FRMP funding. For comparison, in 2019 the FRMP
24 supported about 30 jobs, in 2020 the Program supported
25 22 jobs and in 2021 the Program, again, supported
26 another 22 jobs in rural Alaska.

27

28 Forest Service subsistence resources
29 monitoring projects provide valuable information and
30 help build collaborative relationships with other
31 Federal, State and tribal partners. Forest Service
32 involvement in the FRMP has also helped to build
33 capacity and local tribal governments involved in
34 increasingly complicated and labor intensive scientific
35 research, inventorying monitoring projects and
36 traditional ecological studies. This work has helped
37 tribal governments and organizations effectively
38 participate in regulatory decisionmaking by the State
39 and Federal governments regarding wildlife and
40 fisheries issues.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
43 Council. Happy to take any questions at this time.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, great --
46 good report Greg there. Any questions on the report
47 for Greg. Anyone.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0105

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: A whole lot of
2 dollars spent over the years for good cause. Anyone
3 got anything.

4
5 MR. RISDAHL: I see Donna has a hand
6 raised on the Teams call, Donna Wilson.

7
8 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Donna
11 Wilson, welcome, go right ahead.

12
13 MS. WILSON: Okay, Chair, thank you, if
14 you can hear me.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We could hear you
17 good.

18
19 MS. WILSON: I have a question
20 regarding your surveys within the Chugach Forest. I
21 didn't hear anything about the sheep around Sheep
22 Mountain, Unit 13D which is along the Glenn highway. I
23 realize most of this was done down there, what is it,
24 Unit 6?

25
26 MR. RISDAHL: Yeah, Donna, through the
27 Chair. Let's see, that's not even your bailiwick Milo.
28 Let's see, Brett Christianson was on. Is there someone
29 there from the Forest that could answer Donna's
30 question about sheep surveys in Unit 13. I'm sorry,
31 Donna, I do not know the answer to your question.

32
33 MS. WILSON: Okay. That's not a
34 problem. I'm just looking for more information
35 (indiscernible).....

36
37 (Teleconference interference -
38 participants not muted)

39
40 MS. WILSON: Go ahead.

41
42 MR. RISDAHL: Well, we can sure look to
43 try to find some information on sheep surveys for you
44 in 13 and get back to you if that's okay.

45
46 MS. WILSON: That would be fine, thank
47 you very much.

48
49 MR. RISDAHL: You're very welcome. Any
50

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1 other questions.

2

3 MR. BURCHAM: I'll just chime in real
4 quick there. This is Milo Burcham from the Chugach.
5 Can you hear me?

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Can hear you,
8 Milo, go ahead.

9

10 MR. RISDAHL: Yeah.

11

12 MR. BURCHAM: The only sheep we have on
13 the Chugach Forest is on -- are on the Kenai, we don't
14 have any sheep, and the Sheep Mountain area that you're
15 talking about is off National Forest, it would be -- I
16 don't know the ownership, BLM or Chugach State Park and
17 Fish and Game would be doing surveys in that area
18 possibly in cooperation with BLM, but, yeah, that's
19 outside of our area.

20

21 MS. WILSON: Can you tell me whether
22 there's been any closures in the Chugach for sheep?

23

24 MR. BURCHAM: No. Specifically in the
25 Chugach National Forest, no, they're managed mostly by
26 Fish and Game on the Kenai Peninsula and there is a new
27 draw permit for sheep on the Kenai, a Federal draw
28 permit, but right now it's mostly being managed by the
29 State right now so there are no Federal closures per
30 se.

31

32 MS. WILSON: Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Donna, did
35 that answer your question.

36

37 MR. RISDAHL: Thank you, Milo.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

40

41 MS. WILSON: Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Milo,
44 thanks for helping out Greg. Any more questions for
45 Greg before he leaves.

46

47 (Teleconference interference -
48 participants not muted)

49

50

0107

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Greg.
2 We'll go ahead.....

3
4 MR. RISDAHL: You're welcome, Thank
5 you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:and let Milo
8 go now.

9
10 MR. BURCHAM: Okay, thank you Chair and
11 Council. Can you hear me now and see me.

12
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yep.

14
15 MR. BURCHAM: Anyways, thank you in
16 advance. And maybe I should ask permission because
17 we're going to run long, we're going to go outside our
18 15 minutes, is it okay if I proceed?

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: As long as it
21 ain't over 20, you were supposed to get pre-approval,
22 remember.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, it's fine,
27 go ahead.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MR. BURCHAM: Okay, well, thank you
32 very much. I'm Milo Burcham, the Subsistence
33 Coordinator for the Chugach National Forest and I'll
34 give the report for the Chugach.

35
36 I want to start out by introducing two
37 new faces to the Chugach Subsistence Program. One is
38 the new District Ranger over on the Kenai, Ruth
39 D'Amico, who's now acting -- not acting, but actually
40 filled the position as the District Ranger so she will
41 be an in-season manager and she's actually been around
42 for a little while and worked -- she was my first part-
43 time person in the program working on the Kenai several
44 years ago so she's familiar with the program and the
45 issues on the Kenai and has spent a lot of time there
46 so she'll be really good. So anyway welcome Ruth.

47
48 And then Heather Sam was present at the
49 fall meeting but you guys were so busy with agenda we
50

0108

1 weren't really able to take things up. Anyway, Heather
2 is my right-hand person for the Kenai and is working on
3 Kenai issues, permits, harvest reporting and working
4 with some of the State biologists and the Refuge over
5 there also. So it's great to have her aboard. I'll let
6 her talk in just a second.

7

8 I'm just going to say an overall
9 comment on the budget. We're working on that right
10 now, the Chugach is busy, the Resources Program is busy
11 in their budget process for out year planning. In
12 general I'll just say it's stable for FY22 and we're
13 funding the base program which includes the
14 administrative and permitting part of this but also we
15 have a cost-share with Alaska Department of Fish and
16 Game and we're funding survey work for moose and
17 caribou and sheep, or goats, but, anyway we're funding
18 survey work through this cost-share with them.

19

20 So I'll let Heather go next and then
21 I'll come back on for Unit 6 but, Heather, do you want
22 to report on the Kenai.

23

24 MS. SAM: Yeah, definitely. So I just
25 have a quick report on some harvest information. We
26 had -- our moose season we had one bull harvested with
27 54 permits issued but only 24 people hunted. And then
28 caribou, we had 42 permits issued but we did not have
29 any caribou harvested. And then for mountain goat,
30 which we had 28 applicants but we had three hunters
31 drawn for that and we had one goat -- one male goat
32 harvested for that. And I did just want to make one
33 comment, it's been a really unusual winter season here.
34 We had a pretty early snowfall in late September and it
35 just kind of snowed in the mountains pretty
36 consistently and it hasn't really stopped. But we had
37 one really significant weather event that I've never
38 seen. I've lived in this area for about 20 years. And
39 there was a number of single day precipitation records
40 broken for Portage and Girdwood but just here in, you
41 know, right near where I'm -- I'm based out of Moose
42 Pass, we had 14 inches of rain in like a five, or six
43 day period and then Cooper Landing had 10 inches of
44 rain and Girdwood had 17 inches of rain and then
45 Portage Valley had 20 inches of rain and that was
46 following a snow above 2,000 feet. So it's just kind
47 of interesting the -- you know, the -- it presented
48 some pretty big challenges for folks probably getting
49 out to hunt, especially for caribou and for goat.

50

0109

1 So thanks.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very interesting.
4 Questions for Heather.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MR. BURCHAM: Okay, thanks for that.
9 And I'll continue on with Unit 6, that's the Prince
10 William Sound and Copper River Delta portions of the
11 Chugach National Forest.

12

13 And I'll start by reporting on goats.
14 We have an allocation of goats, subsistence goat
15 permits for Prince William Sound, nine permits were
16 issued and two goats were harvested and that actually
17 closed for the first time in several years units
18 closest to Cordova, both goats, you know, the two goat
19 quota.....

20

21 (Teleconference interference -
22 participants not muted)

23

24 MR. BURCHAM:was taken which was
25 good to see the use of the permits.

26

27 For moose, you know, we have the draw
28 hunt for moose over here, it's very popular. We had
29 35 cow permits and 35 bull permits. 34 of those
30 permits were hunted, both for bulls and for cows. For
31 cows there were 30 cows harvested and for bulls 27 were
32 harvested. And that all sounds good but I just will
33 mention real quickly there's a couple of red flags that
34 are starting to crop up. 27 bulls harvested out of 34,
35 you know, sounds pretty good but it's actually kind of
36 low for us. It's 81 percent and we often have very
37 high hunter success there. And also report -- oh, and
38 of the unsuccessful hunters, there were reports of them
39 hunting for 20 days, 60 days, 30 days, 20 days and 61
40 days, and that's a lot of effort for, you know, what
41 we've seen -- compared to what we've seen for
42 successful hunters. Also reports are cropping up from
43 pilots and some of the air boat operators or hunters on
44 the Delta that they have some concerns for moose
45 numbers out there. With that, we are getting ready to
46 do the draw for this years permits. I received 775
47 applications and we're entering those right now. I
48 should have the draw results out by the end of the
49 month, or March 1st is what I shoot for.

50

0110

1 For deer we got a lot of snow early in
2 the season and it was rough on deer, in fact, the
3 future looked bleak for deer if you looked at early
4 snowfall but since Christmas we've got mostly rain so
5 that's -- those snow depths in the lower elevations
6 have been -- have come down so hopefully that bodes a
7 little better for them. Anyways it's been interesting.
8 And the State monitors the harvest of that hunt and I
9 don't think they have the results yet, but likely
10 because of the heavy snows there was a lot of harvest
11 late in the season.

12

13 Fish permits. We issued this year 74
14 permits for the freshwater fisheries of the freshwater
15 streams of the Copper River Delta. Still chasing those
16 reports but I have 47 reports, 63 percent reporting so
17 far and have a total of 295 coho and 19 sockeye
18 reported taken by those permits.

19

20 And then the last thing I want to
21 report on is the bear project. We're kind of wrapping
22 that up and we've kind of concluded field work for that
23 project. That project has run from 2016 through 2021
24 from 2016 to 2018 for.....

25

26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted)

28

29 MR. BURCHAM:we trapped and
30 collared bears and we handled 106 -- we made 106
31 captures of 96 different bears, we placed 53 collars
32 and those collars lasted for about three years on these
33 bears. The last batch of collars, those we put out in
34 2018 dropped off this past fall and this past year, our
35 field work included -- well, throughout the project our
36 field work has includ -- other than trapping has
37 included replacing collars in dens on animals whose
38 collars had failed to keep our sample size up and then
39 this past year we concentrated on visiting den sites in
40 the summer to describe the dens. We wanted to see what
41 as many dens looked like, to see what they're using for
42 denning habitat around here. And then retrieving
43 dropped collars because we can get a little bit more
44 data if we get the collars in hand. And so we spent a
45 lot of time covering a lot of Esther and Knight Island
46 bushwhacking and climbing mountains to pick up collars
47 wherever they happened to drop off. It was interesting
48 but also fun and challenging work.

49

50

0111

1 Anyway as I said the last collars
2 dropped off last fall and so now we're moving to the
3 analysis phase of the project and working with Fish and
4 Game, biologist Charolette Westing, and their
5 biometrician, John Skinner, to look at the data and
6 start reports and getting publications and, in fact, we
7 have one that has been reviewed and is on its way out
8 the door as I speak.

9
10 So that's where we are. That's most of
11 what I have to say. I will add this, that this is
12 probably my last Council meeting with you guys. I've
13 been working with this Council for 21 years now and
14 have really enjoyed it but it looks like I got a
15 retirement coming in the coming year so I probably
16 won't be at your fall meeting, but I want to say,
17 thanks, I've enjoyed working with you and playing a
18 role for rural life and am supportive for the cause.

19
20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted)

22
23 MR. BURCHAM: So, anyway, that's what I
24 have and I'll be happy to take any questions.

25
26 REPORTER: Wow, congratulations Milo.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Milo.
29 Good report. Questions for Milo. Anyone have any
30 questions on anything he covered, or anyone in the
31 total area that reported.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Milo, I just wan
36 to tell you, I've been there for a good stretch of that
37 21 years and I've been trying to retire for a long and
38 it doesn't seem to work so I wouldn't count on it so,
39 you know, things happen.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: But you've been
44 awesome, great job and you've given us a lot of
45 information, a lot of detail and always helpful to call
46 any time, anywhere. So I know I sure appreciate it
47 from the Council and I wish you the best if you do get
48 to retire.

49
50

0112

1 Okay, any other comments, any questions
2 for Milo or any of the team.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Does that cover
7 it Milo, everything you wanted with Heather, Greg and
8 you.

9
10 MR. BURCHAM: There might be.....

11
12 MS. WILSON: Mr. Chair. Donna Wilson
13 through the Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Donna.

16
17 MS. WILSON: Yeah, I just had a
18 question for Milo or maybe a comment. You were talking
19 about collars, well there's been a sheep over here with
20 a collar on it for about three years, right here on
21 Sheep Mountain, I was just wondering if that might be
22 one of yours that you're looking for.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 MR. BURCHAM: No, it's not. These
27 collars I was talking about were just on black bears
28 but, again.....

29
30 MS. WILSON: Right.

31
32 MR. BURCHAM:you know, call your
33 local Fish and Game out of either Glennallen or Palmer
34 and they could probably give you some information on
35 collars in that area. I don't know if there's a number
36 or a color to read on the collar but possibly you could
37 get -- or ear tags -- you might be able to get some
38 information and find out about the individual animals.

39
40 (Teleconference interference -
41 participants not muted)

42
43 MS. WILSON: All right. Well,
44 somebody's got a collar on them.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, maybe that
47 sheep got the best of that one, I don't know.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

0113

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's got the bear
2 collar on.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, well,
7 thanks, Milo, good. And is that your questions, Donna,
8 we'll go ahead.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Are the phones
13 being as squirrely as I think they are but anyway I'm
14 hearing pretty good but anyway if we're completed there
15 we're going to go ahead and move on then. We'll go to
16 Denali National Park and Preserve. Let's see, wait a
17 minute, let me make sure I'm not on the wrong place
18 here. We got to go to the Park Service, Wrangell.....

19
20 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:St. Elias,
23 go ahead.....

24
25 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, Sorry.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:Barbara --
28 yep.

29
30 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, this is DeAnna.
31 I just wanted to let you know that Hope Roberts has her
32 hand up before we move on.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Oh, okay, well,
35 she needs to talk up. Hope, go ahead. We can't see
36 that.

37
38 MS. ROBERTS: Okay, well, thankfully
39 DeAnna did. I just wanted to let you know that I've
40 been notified that Karen Linnell from the Ahtna
41 InterTribal Resource Commission is on.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I got that
44 notice but.....

45
46 MS. ROBERTS: So.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:we'll do
49 roll call on her at the end here. Thank you much.

50

0114

1 Okay, now I'm going to go to the
2 National Park Service, Wrangell-St. Elias.

3

4 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 For the record this is Barbara Cellarius and I'm the
6 Subsistence Coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National
7 Park and Preserve. Can you hear me.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hear you good,
10 loud and clear.

11

12 MS. CELLARIUS: Great, thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You're on Tab 10.

15

16 MS. CELLARIUS: My -- yep, I'm on Tab
17 10, I'm the first report. And before we get started,
18 first, I want to let you know that the Staff from
19 Denali National Park are not going to be able to be
20 here today but their report is the second report under
21 Tab 10.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

24

25 MS. CELLARIUS: And then I also wanted
26 to invite Judy Putera who's the Wildlife Biologist from
27 Wrangell-St. Elias to give a report. Her report, we
28 weren't able to submit it in time, but it will be
29 included in the Eastern Interior materials and I'm sure
30 we can get anyone a copy from the Council who's
31 interested. So I'm going to see if Judy wants to give
32 her report quickly.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

35

36 MS. PUTERA: Yes. Mr. Chair, this is
37 Judy Putera, Wildlife Biologist for Wrangell-St. Elias.
38 I'm just going to give a really brief update on the
39 Chisana Caribou Herd.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go right ahead.

42

43 MS. PUTERA: We did a -- okay, can you
44 hear me.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We hear you good,
47 right ahead.

48

49 MS. PUTERA: Okay, yeah. We did a

50

0115

1 composition count October 11th, 2001 [sic] on the
2 Alaska side and then October 14th on the Yukon side.
3 We counted a total of a -- or we counted a total of 420
4 caribou and we got a bull/cow ratio of 45 bulls to 100
5 cows, which was the highest observed since 2016. Our
6 calf/cow ratio -- or calf/cow ratio was only 12 calves
7 per 100 cows, which was the lowest recorded since 2003.
8 So in terms of our Chisana Caribou Herd Management
9 Plan, the bull/cow ratio remains above the minimum
10 threshold for allowing a subsistence harvest. However,
11 the three year rolling average calf/cow ratio is 14 to
12 100, which is under the minimum, just slightly under
13 the minimum of 15 calves per 100 cows threshold to
14 continue the hunt, although I do want to point out that
15 we did not do a count in 2020 so that three year
16 average, you know, skips a year. But I guess, you
17 know, what we would do is we would get folks together
18 on the Chisana caribou management -- the participants
19 that manage the herd before the hunt this fall and just
20 kind of talk about that calf/cow rolling three year
21 average and make a decision on whether or not we want
22 to have the hunt.

23

24 And that's basically all I have.

25

26 And I just want to say I'm glad Milo
27 stepped up because I'm -- this is actually going to be
28 my last Southcentral meeting because I am also
29 retiring, hopefully by this -- hopefully at the end of
30 March so that's my plan and it's just been a -- you
31 know, really great working with you guys.

32

33 Thanks.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you,
36 Judy, yeah, it's been great working with you and the
37 Council I'm sure echoes that. I don't know how you
38 guys are all figuring out retirement. Yeah, okay, I
39 got to work on that one.

40

41 Anyway, questions for Judy.

42

43 MS. STICKWAN: Mr. Chair. Could she
44 email her report to the Council members.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, Judy, could
47 you email your report to the Council members.

48

49 MS. PUTERA: Absolutely. Yeah.

50

0116

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, appreciate
2 that. Thanks, Gloria.

3
4 MS. PUTERA: Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Barbara.

7
8 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 So I'm just going to run through some highlights of my
10 written report. The Wrangell-St. Elias Staff issue
11 Federal subsistence hunting permits at Chitina, Copper
12 Center, Kennecott, McCarthy and Slana and then we get
13 some assistance from Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge in
14 Tok. And 212 Federal registration permits were issued
15 for goat, moose, sheep, -- goat, moose, and sheep hunts
16 in Wrangell -- in Unit 11 and sheep and caribou hunts
17 in Unit 12. And then that number does not include
18 almost 200 permits that are issued by our Slana Ranger
19 Station for Unit 13 hunt.

20
21 So just a few highlights from the
22 hunts. Judy talked about the Chisana Caribou Herd.
23 That's a small hunt that takes place in Unit 12 east of
24 the Nabesna River and south of the Winter Trail and we
25 have a management plan for that herd with a harvest
26 quota of seven bull caribou. We issued five permits
27 and no caribou were harvested during the 2021 season.

28
29 For the winter moose hunt in Unit 11,
30 that is the southern portion of Unit 11, the quota for
31 that hunt was seven bulls, we issued seven permits and
32 I have not had any report of any harvest under that
33 hunt.

34
35 Probably our most popular -- one of our
36 most popular hunts is the Unit 12 -- or Unit 11
37 remainder moose hunt. We issued 140 permits, 70 people
38 hunted so half of the people who got permits and 10
39 animals were reported harvested.

40
41 The -- we have a couple of sheep hunts
42 that are available for people 60 years of age or older.
43 For Unit 11 26 permits were issued, 11 people hunted
44 and three sheep were harvested. And then for the Unit
45 12 elder sheep hunt, 13 permits were issued, six people
46 hunted and no sheep were reported harvested.

47
48 There is a joint State/Federal permit
49 for a moose hunt on portions of Unit 11 and 12 that is
50

0117

1 sort of centered along the McCarthy Road -- or the
2 Nabesna Road although the hunt area is larger than just
3 the Nabesna Road. A total of 282 permits were issued
4 for that hunt, including 167 permits issued to
5 Federally-qualified subsistence users, a total of 23
6 animals were harvested including 16 animals harvested
7 by Federally-qualified subsistence users.

8
9 So that's the -- I'm also going to talk
10 about some projects but I'll stop and see if there are
11 any questions about the information about the hunts
12 that I just provided.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks,
15 Barbara. Any questions on the hunts for Barbara before
16 she proceeds. Any Council member go right ahead, any
17 questions on the hunting.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Barbara, I
22 guess you could proceed.

23
24 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 So I've got several projects that are underway related
26 to both anthropology and subsistence. So there's an
27 Ahtna ethnographic overview and assessment which is
28 being carried out through a cooperative agreement with
29 the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission. Work on
30 this project has been delayed and so we are currently
31 hoping that the project will be completed in 2023.
32 We're also working with AITRC, the Ahtna InterTribal
33 Resource Commission on a couple of TEK projects. One is
34 related to traditional knowledge about caribou and then
35 the other is about local knowledge on winter
36 environmental conditions and their impacts on
37 subsistence access and both of those projects are
38 ongoing. Similar to the local knowledge project about
39 winter environmental conditions, we're also working
40 with a researcher at UAF who is looking at changing
41 river and ice conditions using remote sensing. And so
42 that project is also ongoing.

43
44 And then we're getting started on a new
45 project relating to a -- it's a survey of Upper Copper
46 River communities about their harvest and use of
47 subsistence resources. And my colleague from the
48 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, I think, is going
49 to mention a little more about this project as well.
50

0118

1 And then the last thing I have is two
2 new hunting and fishing resources. the first one is an
3 online mapping tool that will allow subsistence users
4 and Park visitors to create geo-reference PDF maps of
5 areas within the Park. And then those maps can be
6 viewed on a GPS enabled mobile device such as a
7 Smartphone or just displayed on like your computer or
8 anything that will show you a PDF. So that tool is
9 actually now up and running. It wasn't when I provided
10 the report but there's an address in the report for
11 where to access that or you could just go to our Park
12 website and then it's under the tab for maps. And
13 then the final thing is we have a new users guide for
14 hunting, trapping and fishing in Wrangell-St. Elias and
15 it's targeted for people who are harvesting resources
16 in the Park under State of Alaska regulations and it's
17 currently available on the Park website and we will
18 also have printed copies, hopefully, soon.

19

20 And that completes my report, Mr.
21 Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Barbara, that's a
24 good report. You're really refining your subsistence
25 there, on exactly where they need to be, pretty good,
26 online maps and the whole nine yards.

27

28 Thank you. Questions for Barbara on
29 anything on her report or any questions for her area,
30 Wrangell-St. Elias Park.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, well,
35 Barbara, I guess we got under you -- well, we did Judy,
36 but we do have Dave on here for an FRMP report,
37 Tab.....

38

39 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah, I don't know -- I
40 guess we should see if Dave has anything else to
41 report. He did report earlier but he might have
42 something else.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. He just
45 was plugged in here, too, so I just wanted to not miss
46 that. Okay.

47

48 MR. SARAFIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
49 Dave Sarafin. And, yeah, I gave my full report earlier

50

0119

1 so nothing new.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
4 Dave. I just still had you on my agenda here.

5

6 Okay, last call for anything on
7 National Parks there.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank.....

12

13 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

16

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

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, DeAnna.

20

21 MS. PERRY: I just wanted to introduce
22 Heather Coletti, she was going to provide a
23 presentation under National Park Service on the razor
24 clam status.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I do have
27 her down here.

28

29 MS. PERRY: Yes.

30

31 MS. COLETTI: Hello.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes, we're
34 listening to you.

35

36 MS. COLETTI: Can you all hear me?

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we can hear
39 you, you started talking on both Teams and the phone
40 so.....

41

42 MS. COLETTI: Yeah, so I muted myself
43 on Teams and I'm on the phone and great I see my
44 presentation up.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Then.....

47

48 MS. COLETTI: So this will be really
49 brief. My name is -- thanks for having me and my name

50

0120

1 is Heather Coletti. I'm the Marine Ecologist with the
2 Southwest Alaska Inventory and Monitoring Program and
3 the Parks include Kenai Fjords, Lake Clark, Katmai and
4 Aniakchak. And this report, in particular, has to do
5 with some work we did in cooperation with ADF&G, the
6 Sea Life Center and USGS looking at razor clam
7 populations on the east and west side of Lower Cook
8 Inlet.

9

10 And this all began with our interest to
11 look at what might be causing the differences between
12 these east and west clam populations. As many of you
13 know the east side has been closed to harvest since
14 2015 and the west side is still supporting a harvest,
15 and even a commercial harvest.

16

17 Next slide please.

18

19 So gene transcription is a tool that we
20 implemented or used for this study and we decided to
21 use it because.....

22

23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted)

25

26 MS. COLETTI:really it allows for
27 us to detect the earliest signs of potential health
28 impairment or altered levels of gene transcripts in
29 these animals so you can detect and quantify cellular
30 and physiological responses to contaminants,
31 temperatures, pathogens, ocean pH and other
32 environmental conditions. And the defenses, or these
33 gene responses that have been activated are what we're
34 looking for and they're an indicator of ecosystem
35 health. And so we decided to compare and contrast
36 these two populations that seem to be -- certainly
37 seemed to have difference abundance and density
38 estimate.

39

40 Next slide please.

41

42 So what this shows is essentially with
43 the five genes that we looked at, which we recognize
44 are not a lot but these are five genes that have been
45 used in other studies with other (indiscernible) to
46 assess contaminant loads or nutritional stress and we
47 -- what this is showing is essentially there is no
48 difference -- I'm sorry -- no difference between the
49 two populations that we looked at, which we thought was
50

0121

1 really really interesting.

2

3

Next slide.

4

5

6

So what we decided to think about is what else might be going on that might be in contrast between these two populations.

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This map here, the greenish-blue dots are actually from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey conducted in 2017 for sea otters so this is their abundance and distribution at the time. Now, of course, you have to take this with a grain of salt, these are summer distributions. This is kind of a one time snapshot and this was in 2017 but you can see there's quite a difference between, you know, the density of animals on the east side of Cook Inlet and on the west side of Cook Inlet so we thought well maybe, you know, instead of just looking at potential stressors in the system, like ocean acidification, temperature or nutrients, there might be a predation piece at play as well. So we're not saying it's just -- just caused by predation but that certainly could be part of the puzzle.

26

Go ahead, next slide, please.

27

28

29

Can you click it one more time, or maybe two more times.

30

31

32

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41

So these are pictures -- so I will say that razor clams were sampled along the Lake Clark coastline in 2021 that began in partnership with ADF&G and so we wanted to compare densities, because ADF&G samples the east side every year so we thought we'd look at density estimates between two different sites -- and go ahead and click it one more time -- and you can see here the abundance and density estimates on the western Cook Inlet, that Chinitna Bay Clam Cove are significantly higher than the east -- the two sites on the east side of Cook Inlet.

42

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So we're going to sample a new site again in Lake Clark this year with the help of ADF&G. And some of the other things that we'll dig into next are we're actually working with Fish and Wildlife and USGS to assess sea otter use in these razor clam beds. There's going to be some survey work that Fish and Wildlife is going to conduct in lower Cook Inlet and

0122

1 we're actually going to start conducting some forage
2 observations so we can see, if and when sea otters are
3 actually using these razor clam beds.

4

5 And that's it. Thank you, very much.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, Heather, I
8 got some comments on your thing. A good report but
9 I've seen this all, as I mentioned earlier in the
10 meeting, I'm on the local AC and you're in an area here
11 with the clams that I know a tremendous amount about
12 and we got a lot of local knowledge, including Clam
13 Cove. I fly there, I dig there yearly. I also fished
14 commercially at Clam Gulch for many years since I've
15 been young and I know the clam population, and I know
16 Ninilchik. And I just give you that background because
17 my past daughter-in-law did a thesis for the U.S. Fish
18 and Wildlife, I helped her do a study on clams many
19 years ago and we've been, from the Traditional Council
20 here in Ninilchik, we offered to try and close the
21 clams. We did one year down to about 45 and they came
22 back and we opened them.

23

24 Anyway, where I'm going with this there
25 was a lot of proposals, and there's a lot of State
26 proposals out there 255, 256, 257, so on and so forth
27 and they're trying to -- 258, and they all have to do
28 with 259 with the reduction of the bag limit on those
29 clams. You know there's a ton of knowledge and a ton
30 of stuff that you guys are studying. We've offered
31 from the Council to participate with our local
32 knowledge, we've had the Fish and Game come there but
33 they never returned. They're trying to do a study with
34 the university now and the bottom line, there's a host
35 of reasons, as you well know, of why they're declining
36 so rapidly and they're not reproducing. They're not
37 reproducing at the right rate. We know that they have
38 tons of little ones and they don't get over three or
39 four year old and they don't reproduce. Anyway, just
40 for the information so I'm giving you local knowledge.

41

42 A lot of people here in Ninilchik guide
43 and they take boats across Cook Inlet and they go to
44 Polly Creek, Chinitna Bay, other areas for clam
45 digging. They are getting worse and worse. We had
46 local guides testify, they don't even take their
47 clients there anymore. So this is a serious situation
48 and I'm just throwing in my knowledge to add to what
49 your studies are. And I would encourage you to talk to
50

0123

1 some of the locals here and some of the people's local
2 knowledge and anecdotal information is very valuable
3 and there's a lot of reasons for what's going on.

4
5 But it's a combination of a lot and I
6 sure appreciate all your effort there. So if you want
7 to have comments or questions for me, if not I'm going
8 to open it up to the Council.

9
10 MS. COLETTI: I -- if you don't mind
11 I'll jump in, I would love to follow-up with you for
12 more specifics and I will add we're going to collect
13 some more clams this summer and run controlled exposure
14 experiments on them at the Sea Life Center so we can
15 really start to get a handle, you know, we need to map
16 their whole genome and there's some other things and
17 I'm not a geneticist, luckily we have partners who are
18 doing this, but maybe we can dig into some more than
19 just the five genes we have here. And like I said we
20 also are trying to partner with that predation piece.
21 But I would love to talk to people that have had a
22 history of clamming on the west side of Cook Inlet that
23 I -- that would be great. I'm not sure how we could
24 follow-up but I would love to.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, I'll get
27 your contacts but, yeah, there's a lot of local
28 knowledge here that will help you. There's a lot of
29 detailed studies that went into this previous that
30 doesn't show up very often but we'd sure like to find
31 out some of the root cause of some of this. And the
32 otters are a big problem as we know and you're on to
33 it. But there's changing times and changing things.

34
35 One of the things that the biologists
36 from Homer noted that it's not just the clams, all the
37 shellfish, you know, in the bay area, the crab, the
38 shrimp and a lot of that is declining so it's a major
39 problem.

40
41 But I sure appreciate your presentation
42 and I want to give the chance for the Council to
43 comment on that, I don't want to take all the time,
44 but, thanks, Heather. Is there a Council.....

45
46 MS. COLETTI: Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:that has
49 questions on the proposal. It was very good.

50

0124

1 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
2 Michael.

3
4 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chair, Andy here.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
7 Michael.

8
9 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, I just had a comment
10 I guess. I'm totally happy to hear that Heather is
11 going to contact you and use some actual local
12 knowledge to help with her work there. I think that's
13 something that's been missing for a long time with a
14 lot of these projects that happen in our areas, you
15 know, that scientists come in and don't work with the
16 people in the area and, you know, there's so much
17 knowledge and information that could be learned through
18 talking to the locals. Especially those who have
19 history. So I commend Heather on that. And I hope she
20 follows up with you and maybe some others in your
21 community there to help get that figured out.

22
23 I know our clams here have been an
24 issue since the early 2000s and, you know, we're not
25 seeing the recruitment that we're hoping and trying to
26 do some planting here but, yeah, it's been pretty hit
27 and miss. So, yeah, good luck to you Heather and thank
28 you for working with the communities.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, thank you
31 Mich.....

32
33 MS. COLETTI: Yeah. No, I agree and I
34 guess I'll just back up just a touch so you guys -- so,
35 you know, you -- we had originally kind of envisioned
36 some of this gene transcription work because monitoring
37 things like, you know, phytoplankton or temperature or
38 ocean acidification in the water can be really
39 challenging and really variable and so we thought,
40 well, how can we -- maybe the thing that we care about
41 most is how are the animals that live there responding
42 and so that's where we start -- you know, we've done
43 some of this work with mussels but recognizing that
44 razor clam habitat is unique and important, you know,
45 we're trying to go down this road too and I think it's
46 going to be, you know, potentially a combination of
47 stressors, both from predation but also environmental
48 change, you know, as was mentioned earlier. So, you
49 know, getting a historical perspective and a local
50

0125

1 perspective would be great.

2

3 So thank you very much appreciate all
4 the thoughtful comments.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, Heather,
7 thank you. I'm one of those animals and I'm not doing
8 very good because I can't get my clams anymore and it's
9 really been a detriment to our community and we're not
10 blaming anyone but we do know a lot and we offer a lot.
11 I actually participated at University of Fairbanks-
12 Alaska in defense of a thesis done by Jamie McKeller
13 and I would encourage you to look that up. It was
14 years ago and there was a lot of data log, there's a
15 lot of temperature things, a lot of things, some things
16 some people didn't even (indiscernible) reporting on,
17 and I shouldn't say that, but that was with the State,
18 but, anyway, we would love to help out and really try
19 and find a fix to the cause.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MS. COLETTI: Thank you.

24

25 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead.

28

29 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, Andy McLaughlin
30 here, thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hello, Andy, go
33 ahead, welcome.

34

35 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, a quick comment
36 here about clams. You know reading about ocean
37 acidification and a very vital part of the very early
38 planktonic development of clams where a calcium layer
39 gets laid down but when ocean acidification pH changes,
40 that very early life cycle stage of immature clams kind
41 of doesn't happen. And a trend that I could note here
42 in Prince William Sound, which of course is not Cook
43 Inlet, but it's kind of the same waters, they flow
44 through here like a big river out past Kodiak, anyhow,
45 and the softshell clams, which I don't know if -- the
46 relationship between clams, if razors are closer -- but
47 softshell seem to be.....

48

49 (Teleconference interference -

50

0126

1 participants not muted)

2

3 MR. MCLAUGHLIN:at a better
4 survival rate right now but they're always in like a
5 delta, they're in a soft freshwater estuary type
6 terrain habitat whereas the butters and the cockles and
7 the steamers we used to get here.....

8

9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participants not muted)

11

12 REPORTER: So.....

13

14 MR. MCLAUGHLIN:so those harder
15 shell ones that live in the rocks and live in the
16 armored beaches, maybe they're more in saltwater and
17 less freshwater, something, maybe.....

18

19 (Teleconference interference -
20 participants not muted)

21

22 MR. MCLAUGHLIN:as well. So
23 anyway, yeah, that's my two cents worth on clams.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you
26 Andy. Well, there's lots of two cents on it, I
27 guarantee you, you know, just one of the comment that,
28 you know, it's kind of similar but there are so many
29 differences in the clam beds and the beaches even
30 in.....

31

32 (Teleconference interference -
33 participants not muted)

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:Cook Inlet.

36

37 REPORTER: Greg.

38

39 MS. LINNELL: Mr. Chair, can I -- may I
40 -- can I.....

41

42 REPORTER: So excuse me, this is Tina,
43 the reporter. So excuse me, Greg, I can't hear you,
44 somebody has an open line and is having a full
45 conversation right on top of you. So if everybody
46 could take a second, see if your phone's muted please
47 and then Greg you can continue because I didn't get the
48 last few sentences, sorry, and go ahead.

49

50

0127

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I was just
2 going to comment on Andy's. I think someone finally
3 hung up. But what Andy was saying is a lot of the
4 beaches are similar in those shells but I just wanted
5 to note that for study purposes, and, you know, I've
6 argued this with the Fish and Game, the Clam Gulch
7 Beach versus the Ninilchik Beach, they're like day and
8 night, they're two different worlds. They've always
9 were small, soft, darker in color than the ones here in
10 the clearer water that had more feed in the Ninilchik
11 area, smaller beaches, a lot of these clam beds are
12 very -- their growth and their ability to be large like
13 Clam Cove over on the west side is way prolific
14 compared to a place like Polly Creek. And so there is
15 a difference there.

16
17 But you guys rattled my chain on these
18 clams.

19
20 But, anyway, I'll quit there and we'll
21 go ahead and see if there's any more questions and then
22 we'll probably take a quick break.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any questions
27 more for Heather. Thank you again Heather.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MS. COLETTI: Thank you, again, for
32 inviting me, I appreciate it. I look forward to
33 talking to you more.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
36 You know, Barbara told us that the Denali National Park
37 wouldn't be here, we went ahead and took Heather's
38 report, is there anything else under Denali National
39 Park that I need to cover before I take a break.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. The next
44 one will be the BLM, but let's go ahead and take a
45 short break just for a stretch until 3:00, take about
46 seven minutes, six or seven minutes and let's stretch,
47 get a fresh cup of coffee and we'll come back and we'll
48 pick up Bureau of Land Management and also, Karen, I
49 know you arrived and showed up and I got my agenda
50

0128

1 outline and I'm going to call on you as soon as I get
2 done with H on the agenda here.

3

4 MS. LINNELL: Okay, thank you so much,
5 sir.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, thank you.

8

9 (Off record)

10

11 (On record)

12

13 MS. PERRY: For those Council members,
14 if you want to take yourself off mute real quick so you
15 can answer roll call that would be great.

16

17 Ed Holsten, are you back from break.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MS. PERRY: Michael Opheim, are you
22 back with us.

23

24 MR. OPHEIM: Michael's here.

25

26 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

27

28 Diane Selanoff.

29

30 MS. SELANOFF: I'm here, thank you.

31

32 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

33

34 Dennis Zadra.

35

36 MR. ZADRA: Dennis is here.

37

38 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

39

40 Gloria Stickwan.

41

42 MS. STICKWAN: I'm here.

43

44 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

45

46 Angela Totemoff.

47

48 MS. TOTEMOFF: I'm here.

49

50

0129

1 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

2

3 Donna Claus, were you able to join us
4 today.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MS. PERRY: Andy McLaughlin, are you
9 still with us.

10

11 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I'm here.

12

13 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Andy. And
14 hopefully we'll be able to hear your Council member
15 report now that you've joined us, hopefully we'll be
16 able to get to that a little bit later.

17

18 Donna Wilson, I see you're on Teams.

19

20 MS. WILSON: Donna's here.

21

22 MS. PERRY: All right, thank you,
23 Donna. And, you, too, I think we missed you earlier in
24 the Council member reports so hopefully we'll be able
25 to hear from you a little bit later on as well.

26

27 Hope Roberts.

28

29 MS. ROBERTS: Here.

30

31 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

32

33 Heath Kocan.

34

35 MR. KOCAN: Here.

36

37 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

38

39 Michael Rego, were you able to join us.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MS. PERRY: Okay. And Ed coming back
44 to you, are you on audio Ed Holsten.

45

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

47

48 MS. PERRY: Great, thank you, Ed.

49

50

0130

1 And, Mr. Chair, are you back with us.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The Chair is back
4 and ready to roll. Thank you, DeAnna.

5

6 MS. PERRY: Okay, Mr. Chair, you have
7 11 of your 13 seated members, you have a quorum. Thank
8 you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. I do
11 have both Donna and Andy on my list. We're going to
12 ask for their reports later. Okay, thanks. We're
13 going to go ahead with Bureau of Land Management.
14 Caroline.

15

16 MS. KETRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 This is Caroline Ketron, I'm at the Bureau of Land
18 Management Glennallen Field Office. I'm the
19 Anthropologist and Subsistence Coordinator there. I'll
20 highlight some updates that are also included in our
21 written report.

22

23 We welcomed several new permanent
24 employees in 2021, including Leanne McDonald, who is
25 our new wildlife biologist, and myself as the
26 anthropologist. I am new to this position but not new
27 to the Copper Basin.

28

29 We, the Glennallen Field Office,
30 continues to work with Ahtna InterTribal Resource
31 Commission as they initiate their community harvest
32 system for caribou and moose and we're receiving
33 regular harvest updates from AITRC and also since the
34 system was implemented later in the season, so far they
35 haven't harvested any animals under that system and we
36 don't have harvest to report on that.

37

38 We are in a multi-year cooperative
39 agreement with Fish and Game to monitor moose and --
40 subsistence moose and caribou populations on BLM and
41 State of Alaska lands in Unit 13. And we remain closed
42 to the public this permitting season due to Covid-19 so
43 we continued to issue subsistence hunting permits over
44 the phone to folks who had been issued them previously
45 and permittees could opt to have their permits mailed
46 or schedule an appointment to pick them up.

47

48 Our moose season this year in Unit 13
49 was about on par with our average. We issued 1,160

50

0131

1 permits and there were 61 bulls harvested. So far
2 we've got 489 permits attempted, which is a success
3 rate of 12.5, the five year average success is about 12
4 percent, so that's about normal for us. These numbers
5 might be slightly off from what's in your written
6 report because I updated them in February but the
7 harvest remains 61 so it's just we got a few more
8 unsuccessful hunt reports for the moose hunt if there's
9 a slight difference there.

10

11 For caribou so far we've got 2,590
12 permits issued so far. Harvested bulls 139, cows 69 so
13 208 caribou so far. 325 is the five year average
14 Federal subsistence caribou harvest for Unit 13. The
15 season is not over yet until March but based on hunter
16 reports the caribou didn't begin to move into the
17 Federal subsistence area until very late in the fall
18 season so we'll have more complete numbers when the
19 season ends and we send out our requests for reports.
20 I think we probably have -- we have all the harvest
21 it's just the folks that were unsuccessful aren't
22 included quite yet in our statistics.

23

24 That concludes my report, does anyone
25 have any questions.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Council members,
28 I should have told you that was the new.....

29

30 (Teleconference interference -
31 participants not muted)

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:Tab 11
34 there. But anyway any questions for Caroline.

35

36 MR. OPHEIM: Mr. Chair, this is
37 Michael.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
40 Michael.

41

42 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, I was just curious
43 how's that herd size doing, is it holding steady, is it
44 growing, what's that look like.

45

46 MS. COLETTI: That's going to be a
47 better question for Fish and Game which I think is
48 going next. We manage that through cooperating with
49 them so I have -- on hand I have our data from the
50

0132

1 Federal subsistence harvest but I don't have complete
2 numbers for the herd.

3

4 MR. OPHEIM: Okay, thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
7 Michael. Any other questions for Caroline.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Donna, do you
12 have your hand up?

13

14 MS. WILSON: Yes, I do.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

17

18 MS. WILSON: Can you hear me?

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I could hear you
21 loud.

22

23 MS. WILSON: Okay. My question is how
24 come, or if you know, there's so many permits issued
25 and out of those that attempted, it's less than half.
26 Is there a reason why the.....

27

28 MS. COLETTI: Oh, of.....

29

30 MS. WILSON: Go ahead.

31

32 MS. COLETTI: Oh, of folks that
33 actually did go hunting out of the permits issued,
34 yeah, I understand the question. I don't know the
35 answer to that exactly. We do keep track of those
36 numbers and they seem to hold steady over the time.
37 There's a lot of variables, herd movement, sometimes
38 seasonal issues affect whether or not folks do go
39 hunting. I know, for example, it was really warm at
40 the beginning of the season so it varies a lot.
41 There's just a lot of different things that go into
42 that but we do keep track of those numbers and if there
43 were ever, you know, a huge fluctuation we would -- we
44 would try to investigate that for sure.

45

46 MS. WILSON: And second to that
47 question, is the 12.6 percent, or your percentage of
48 hunter success based on all of those or those that
49 attempted and didn't get anything. That's a lot

50

0133

1 of.....

2

3

4 MS. COLETTI: Yeah, no, that's a great
5 question. So that percentage is based on permits
6 attempted. So our numbers for that are tied to our
7 success in getting folks to report their harvest and to
8 report their hunt. And so right now we have 87 percent
9 of our moose harvest reports returned, so that's
10 everybody that got a permit, 87 percent of folks have
11 returned it, it's nice to be in the 90s but 87 isn't
12 too bad as far as getting accurate information about
13 hunter success. So that 12.5, 12-ish percent is of the
14 folks that went hunting who was able to harvest.

14

15 MS. WILSON: Okay, I get it, thank you.

16

17 MS. COLETTI: Yeah, you're quite
18 welcome.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
21 Any other questions for BLM, for Caroline.

22

23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted)

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, well, thank
27 you for your report. And do you have anyone else there
28 that wants to report.....

29

30 (Teleconference interference -
31 participants not muted)

32

33 MS. COLETTI: I -- I think that that
34 concludes our BLM report. We've got some other Staff
35 online but they've indicated that that's all we have
36 for you today. Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well,
39 thank you very much.

40

41 Okay, next we got the Alaska Department
42 of Fish and Game, and I know they wanted a time
43 tomorrow and I told DeAnna there may not be tomorrow
44 and it looks like it won't be, so is Jackie Keating, is
45 she available.

46

47 MS. KEATING: Good afternoon, Mr.
48 Chair, yes, this is Jackie, I'm available.

49

50

0134

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Oh, great, okay,
2 you've got the floor.

3
4 MS. KEATING: Thank you, very much.
5 Good afternoon, everybody. For the record my name is
6 Jackie KEATING. I am the Southcentral Subsistence
7 Resource Specialist for the Department of Fish and
8 Game. And really appreciate having a quick time slot
9 here to chat with everyone. We did provide our
10 standard one page update, I believe that would be in
11 Tab 12, and I'll keep my update pretty brief. We just
12 like to give a quick overview of some of the work that
13 we're doing in the region.

14
15 You'll see on the update, one of the
16 first things we've been working on is a project with
17 the Native Village of Chenega in collaboration with the
18 Chugach Regional Resource Commission. This is a clam
19 recovery project. And we were brought in in addition
20 to the biological side to bring in that traditional
21 local knowledge side. We traveled there last year to
22 conduct a long series of key respondent interviews and
23 some mapping of historical clam areas as well. So this
24 has been really great to be involved in. We're
25 processing the data as we speak and really appreciate
26 getting to work with Chenega and with Chugach Regional
27 Resource Commission as well.

28
29 We have several different projects in
30 the works with them, some I've heard mentioned today.

31
32 One of those is the marine mammal
33 project so we're involved with that too with providing
34 existing data on the marine mammal harvest and
35 conducting some key respondent interviews on that topic
36 as well.

37
38 Other things in Prince William Sound,
39 we're hopeful that we have funding that looks quite
40 promising for doing updated comprehensive harvest
41 surveys in Tatitlek and potentially Chenega as well so
42 really excited about the prospect of that.

43
44 And then moving down our update to
45 Mentasta and Chistochina, Barbara Cellarius mentioned
46 this in her update but this is another collaboration
47 that we are quite excited about. This is the Division
48 of Subsistence working with Wrangell-St. Elias as well
49 as the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission to update
50

0135

1 comprehensive subsistence harvest information for both
2 of these communities. It's a great capacity building
3 opportunity and it'll be great to work with Ahtna and
4 we will be hitting the ground around this time next
5 year in the communities to conduct these surveys.

6
7 Then the other thing I just wanted to
8 mention is at the fall meeting there was quite a bit of
9 commentary about the fact that a lot of the communities
10 on the Kenai Peninsula have a fairly narrow data set
11 when it comes to subsistence harvest information. A
12 lot of these communities we only have one year for. So
13 just something to think about when we come into this
14 next cycle for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
15 Program, if we can be of any assistance putting
16 priority information needs together or if there are
17 particular communities that this body is interested in
18 us doing more work in we would be happy to help put
19 that together and put in a proposal to collect more
20 information.

21
22 And, with that, I'm happy to answer any
23 questions and thanks again for your time.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, that's very
26 good, FRMP.....

27
28 MS. STICKWAN: Mr. Chair, I have a
29 question.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

32
33 MS. STICKWAN: On your report it says
34 Wrangell-St. Elias is going to work with InterTribal
35 for Mentasta and Chistochina and then you said you were
36 going to do some research studies with the communities
37 in the Copper Basin but you didn't mention what
38 communities.

39
40 MS. KEATING: Sure. Thanks for the
41 question. So we're starting with Mentasta and
42 Chistochina but working closely with the Park Service
43 we are seeking out other funding to expand to
44 communities in the Copper River Basin. We don't have
45 quite have any really solid updates on that yet but
46 hope to have some more news on that front over the next
47 year.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Did that
50

0136

1 answer question, Gloria?

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, kind of.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah.

6

7 MS. STICKWAN: Mentasta and Chistochina
8 but.....

9

10 MS. KEATING: And if Barbara -- if
11 Barbara Cellarius is still on and has any more comments
12 on that I would invite her to chime in as well because
13 she's been thinking about other communities funding
14 opportunities.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Barbara, do
17 you got any comment, are you there.

18

19 MS. CELLARIUS: Well, I guess I would
20 say that this is sort of a conversation that we've been
21 having with Fish and Game and AITRC and so maybe we can
22 talk more about it at the SRC meeting. We don't have
23 -- we're sort of looking for funding at this point but
24 certainly could -- you know it's a conversation we
25 could have if there's communities that people think
26 should be a higher priority than others, we would be
27 interested in hearing that.

28

29 Thanks.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks,
32 Barbara. Okay. Any other questions for Alaska
33 Department of Fish and Game for Jackie.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
38 Jackie. I guess we're good for now.

39

40 MS. KEATING: Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We got the
43 Office of Subsistence Management. Tom, you get to come
44 up again, you got quite a bit of the agenda today here.

45

46 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 Members of the Council.

48

49 On behalf of OSM, I want to thank all

50

0137

1 Council members for your exceptional work on behalf of
2 your communities and user groups during these trying
3 times. We value your expertise and the contribution of
4 your knowledge and experience in the regulatory
5 process.

6
7 It has been very difficult for all of
8 us dealing with the Covid-19 environment.

9
10 First of all I will touch on
11 teleconferences, I know they're very frustrating for
12 all of us. You heard from the Forest Service this
13 morning about this issue.

14
15 We're holding all 10 winter 2022
16 Regional Advisory Council meetings via teleconference.
17 The Department of Interior guidelines advise that
18 people avoid travel and refrain from meeting in person
19 to minimize risk and help prevent the spread of Covid-
20 19. OSM received directions from the Department of
21 Interior that no Federal Advisory Committee meetings
22 would be held in person in the fiscal year 2022, and
23 all Regional Advisory Councils are FACA Committees,
24 Federal Advisory Committee members. The Federal
25 Subsistence Management Program recognizes that in-
26 person meetings are preferable, however, until we can
27 ensure the safety of all participants, we will follow
28 the current guidelines and hold all meetings via
29 teleconference. We thank you again for being willing
30 to participate in the lengthy teleconference and
31 appreciate your patience as we deal with the various
32 technical issues that arise from the poor telephonic
33 connections, the vast distances involved, and different
34 communication systems throughout the state of Alaska.

35
36 Next I'll just touch on Staffing
37 changes.

38
39 We are very pleased to announce the
40 following OSM Staffing changes that have occurred since
41 your last Council meeting in fall 2021.

42
43 Scott Ayers was hired as the OSM
44 Fisheries Division Supervisor in January. Scott worked
45 for three years as a Fisheries Biologist for OSM
46 several years ago before he took a job with the U.S.
47 Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish
48 Restoration Program. We welcome Scott back to OSM.

49
50

0138

1 Jarred Stone and Cory Graham have both
2 been promoted within the Fisheries Division, while two
3 additional Fisheries Biologists are being hired now.

4
5 In January, Sherri Gould-Fehrs, OSM's
6 Administrative Support Assistant was temporarily
7 promoted to the Assistant Regional Director Secretary
8 position.

9
10 Kayla McKinney stepped up to
11 temporarily serve as Subsistence Outreach Coordinator.

12
13 In December and January, Liz Williams
14 and Jason Roberts were hired as OSM Anthropologists.
15 Liz worked for OSM about 12 years ago and is returning.
16 Welcome back Liz.

17
18 OSM is pleased to welcome three newly
19 hired Subsistence Council Coordinators, Nissa Bate
20 Pilcher, Leigh Honig, and Brooke McDavid, all with a
21 wealth of knowledge and experience in working with
22 rural users and communities as well as Alaska
23 subsistence users.

24
25 We also had departures at OSM through
26 retirement and new opportunities.

27
28 We bid a fond farewell to
29 Administrative Staff Catherine Avery and Ricky Cabugao.

30
31 The OSM Team continues to work on
32 rebuilding our capacity and hopes to advertise
33 positions in our regulatory and administrative support
34 functions soon.

35
36 Next time I'll talk about DOI and USDA
37 listening sessions on Federal Subsistence Policy.

38
39 The U.S. Departments of Interior and
40 Agriculture conducted virtual listening sessions and
41 Tribal consultations on January 10th, 20th, 21st and
42 28th, last month, on Federal Subsistence Policy. The
43 Secretaries requested input from Tribes, Tribal
44 consortia, and Alaska Native Organizations and
45 Corporations. The Department of Interior Senior
46 Advisor for Alaska Affairs and Strategic Priorities met
47 with Federal Subsistence Board members prior to the
48 consultations to introduce Board members and Department
49 of Interior leadership and to provide Board members
50

0139

1 with an update on Department of Interior activities
2 related to subsistence management.

3

4

5 Over the past two years, plus, we have
6 been reminding Council members about the change in
7 requirements for IDs at airports. Beginning May 3rd,
8 2023, every air traveler will need to present a RealID-
9 complaint driver's license, or other acceptable form of
10 identification, such as a passport, to fly within the
11 United States. This is applicable even when you fly on
12 small Bush carriers. Please note that all Council
13 members will need to make sure that they have the
14 required RealID for travel to the fall 2023 Council
15 meetings.

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Next, I'll just touch on an update on
the lawsuit from the State of Alaska.

As you were previously briefed, on
August 10th, 2020 the State of Alaska filed a lawsuit
against the Federal Subsistence Board after it adopted
Emergency Special Action WSA19-14. This special action
allowed the Village of Kake to engage in a community
harvest of up to four bull moose and 10 male Sitka
black-tailed deer. Also included in the lawsuit was
temporary special action WSA20-3 which closed Federal
public lands in Units 13A and 13B to moose and caribou
hunting by non-Federally-qualified users for the 2020-
2022 regulatory cycles. As part of this lawsuit the
State asked the court to issue two preliminary
injunctions. One to prevent the Unit 13 closure from
taking effect and another vacating the Kake hunt and
prohibiting the Board from allowing any additional
emergency hunts related to impacts of Covid-19.

On December 3rd, two months ago, 2021,
the U.S. District Court denied the State's request for
a declaratory and permanent injunctive relief finding
in favor of the Federal Subsistence Board on both
matters.

The court found that, one, it lacks
jurisdiction over the issues associated with the Kake
hunt because that portion of the State's claims are
moot. And, two, the Federal Subsistence Board decision
to close Unit 13 and 13B to non-subsistence was both
legally permissible and supported by information on
record. The State recently filed an appeal of the
District Court's decision but the Ninth Circuit has not

0140

1 yet set a schedule for briefing.

2

3 I'd be happy to answer any questions.
4 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Council members.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right, Tom,
7 thank you. Very good report, thank you, you got a lot
8 going on. Council members, any questions for Tom.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: A lot happening
13 there.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, thanks.....

18

19 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:again, Tom,
22 you.....

23

24 MS. STICKWAN: No, I have a question.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:did a.....

27

28 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We got a question
31 for you, hang on, is that Gloria, go ahead.

32

33 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah. Do you have any
34 idea when the appeal, is there a deadline, do you have
35 any idea when that will be?

36

37 MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Gloria. I
38 asked Ken Lord that very same question, he said he
39 thought it might be a year or two before we get any
40 word on the appeal.

41

42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Tom.
45 Thank you, Gloria. Any other questions for Tom.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Once, again,

50

0141

1 thank you, Tom. I have a couple items now, I would
2 like to go back to when we started our agenda here we
3 went through all the Council members and they gave
4 their little update and little talk, and, Donna, you
5 was not there, we skipped over you. So I would like
6 you to introduce yourself, welcome you and go ahead and
7 give a report. I don't know if you got to catch in on
8 the end of the Council members giving their reports and
9 at the end we'll have final comments, but if you have
10 anything you want to report for your area or anything
11 to do with your position there you go right ahead.

12

13 MS. WILSON: Okay, thank you, Chair.
14 And I'm glad to be here. I'd like to speak to the fact
15 that I'm on the.....

16

17 (Teleconference interference -
18 participants not muted)

19

20 MS. WILSON:and not in Sutton.
21 I've been here for a number of years living just below
22 Sheep Mountain Reserve and enjoying a lot of the
23 fishing around and trapping. My original place, the
24 homestead here, is where we ran a guiding business out
25 of for a number of years and between the Nelchina and
26 the Matanuska so I'm really familiar with this area and
27 the hunting.

28

29 I have some concerns about our area
30 here and I'd like to include the Chickaloon Natives,
31 that portion of this unit is right -- right next to 14
32 -- or 13 and 14 are right next to each other, right
33 where Chickaloon is and I believe they've been doing
34 some salmon hatchery things there and I don't hear much
35 about the reports from them whether it's through tribal
36 or them individually but I would be interested in that
37 information and how it plays a role in their use of
38 subsistence.

39

40 There is some critical issues here that
41 I'm concerned with and we'll say this immediate
42 community along the highway. Unit 13 gets an
43 unprecedented amount of pressure from all users be it
44 subsistence or even commercial. Some areas have
45 changed those regulations over the years that I've seen
46 but there's still of a problem here with what is State
47 community moose hunting and the fact that it's not --
48 it doesn't appear to be the same type of community
49 moose hunt that the Federal subsistence hunts are. And
50

0142

1 it opens rather early and it allows for people with all
2 types of vehicles and whatever they're going to hunt
3 with to go out and take any bull for a period of time
4 about 10 days prior to the regular season. So when
5 subsistence users not on the State community moose hunt
6 list get to go out and hunt in our yard, there's no
7 moose left. And I don't know that the population is so
8 declined but this is a narrow area through here and it
9 does get a lot of pressure whether they're accessing,
10 you know, behind on either side but it's a source to
11 all those other locations where they hunt including the
12 Nelchina Herd and the Tier II. And they've had a lot
13 of pressure but I don't see it as subsistence so much
14 as, you know, the State program.

15
16 But I would like to see or hear from
17 some of the subsistence persons about maybe how they
18 could help manage this or make it somehow available for
19 the residents to have access to animals that they can
20 hunt, you know, in the season.

21
22 So that's kind of my report, my
23 concern. I realize we're not on hunting and it's more
24 about fish but I know that a lot of our, you know, the
25 people from my area do fish the Copper. That's
26 primarily where they go and have fishwheels, some of
27 them, or, you know, they're just regular fishermen but
28 they do use it quite a bit.

29
30 I don't see in the reporting much about
31 where the individuals that use those subsistence
32 permits or the fishing reports, where specifically that
33 these users -- you know, if it's broken down by
34 community or residents or something like -- where they
35 are, like are they traveling far to access those or
36 getting together with families during a season. I would
37 like to see some things on that.

38
39 But I'm mostly just kind of learning
40 the ropes here and would appreciate any input or help
41 along the way, even outside of the meetings, I would
42 welcome any support or help just to guide me through
43 this so that I can be a functioning helpful member and
44 represent my subsistence users.

45
46 So I thank you and I'll turn it back
47 over to you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Donna.
50

0143

1 Yeah, good report and good issues and good passion for
2 your people in your area. I like to see that. There
3 are so many conflicting hunts with State and Federal
4 and areas, I think DeAnna could help you a lot. Office
5 of Subsistence Management will be glad to. And at any
6 time, anyone in your area could put in a -- if it's
7 Federal land, and if it qualifies for a Federal hunt we
8 could put in proposals and they could come
9 individually, they could come from the Council so when
10 we get in that cycle -- we'll try to get you all up to
11 speed, Donna, but there's ways. I know just -- I'll
12 give you an example. On the Kenai here, when I
13 started, we fought for a fishery, it took us years and
14 years, tens of years and lawsuits and all kinds of
15 stuff, but it took us forever to identify and be able
16 to find Federal areas that we traditionally hunted and
17 used and that we were qualified for for fishing so it
18 is a process, it's very complicated and it's very
19 frustrating too. But we'll certainly help you, we
20 welcome you and we'll try to do the best we can to get
21 all the information we can to you.

22

23 So thank you.

24

25 MS. WILSON: Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm going to go
28 next to Andy, and I got to get Karen here too. But,
29 Andy, you missed the meeting this morning, a lot went
30 on and we'll get you caught up but I know you have some
31 personal issues going on so if you want to give a
32 little report, if you've got the time, I'd appreciate
33 it, to give an update of your area.

34

35 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, sure, thank you,
36 Mr. Chair. Yeah, sorry about this morning, a lot of
37 things happening. Anyhow, kind of bummed out to have
38 missed such a large portion of the agenda. I hope --
39 I'm not sure how -- I guess I'll call DeAnna. So,
40 anyhow, yeah, I'd like to know a lot of stuff that
41 happened, sorry I missed it.

42

43 Heaving snows came early on here, you
44 know, not just talking fisheries, I think we're looking
45 at signs of another snowpocalypse type of event for the
46 deer population.

47

48 Something I mentioned earlier, it seems
49 like clams -- well, there's a lot of sea otters, too,

50

0144

1 around, but the hardshell clams being nearly -- I can't
2 say nonexistent but not how they've been in the past.
3 Softshell clams seem to be about average of a normal
4 year. People, subsistence-wise fisheries, kind of
5 minimal crabs being caught. Octopus are being caught
6 seem like on an average on normal. That type of thing.

7
8 Oh, here's kind of an interesting
9 thing, the starfish -- the sunstars. We had like a
10 disease here a few years back where all the sunstars,
11 and typically sunstars are like that soft starfish, you
12 know, in the tidal zones and they're like 150 feet down
13 on up to the beach, well, anyhow those are now -- those
14 went away. Like they had this rot on the end of their
15 legs and they all started dying off. Now, there's still
16 none of those up in the shallows to speak of of the
17 soft type, just the hard type starfish but way down
18 deep now there's surviving sunstars, orange ones and
19 purple ones, mostly the orange ones, the bright orange
20 ones, but very deep ones. So like a new trend
21 happening, they didn't typically get on your hooks or
22 into your traps way down deep at 350, 400 feet but
23 these ones are, they're now where they never used to
24 be. So the sunstars are back, they're just deeper.

25
26 Anyhow, that's kind of it for the
27 report there.

28
29 Sorry to see Milo Burcham go. Yeah,
30 he's done such an awesome job, it's been such a
31 pleasure working with him.

32
33 Anyhow, yeah, lots of snow here, came
34 on early, who knows how that'll affect everything from
35 the berries, you know, when the spring happens and the
36 blossoming and all that, that affects the berry crop of
37 next fall but anyhow, thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, very
40 much, Andy. We'll get you caught up here and we're
41 going to have some other comments, we got a little more
42 to go here. But we did miss Karen Linnell under the
43 tribal government reports and we wanted to get her in
44 here and we missed her and I was in the middle of the
45 agenda so I finished that trend. Karen, if you're
46 there I would love you to go ahead and take the floor
47 and give us your reports and update.

48
49 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0145

1 This is Karen Linnell for the record. The Executive
2 Director of the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission.
3 I want to thank you, Commission members, and folks and
4 welcome your new membership. It's good to hear some
5 new voices and share some fresh blood in there and also
6 retain some of the young history with you, Greg, and
7 Gloria, and others being able to groom some young folks
8 into keeping this Commission going and active. I
9 appreciate that.

10

11 Caroline reported briefly on our
12 community harvest system as it was passed last year and
13 we finally got all the framework and everything done
14 late in July/August, so we got a late start. Covid
15 limited our ability to travel to our eight communities,
16 all eight of our communities to get folks registered so
17 we didn't get the participation that we had
18 anticipated. Plus there were some emails sent out to
19 hunters that kind of put a negative slant on the
20 community harvest and so we didn't -- you know, there
21 was a little bit of backlash and some Facebook posts
22 and misinformation sent out. In the end, you know, we
23 had additional meetings and worked with the agencies to
24 get an agreeable information sheet out. We published a
25 flow chart on what that hunt would look like and how
26 they can choose, if they choose to participate what
27 does that mean, and that's on our website. It was sent
28 in a link by the agencies. Anyway we got that done.
29 In the end we had 40 registrants with zero moose
30 harvested and zero caribou harvested to date. And to
31 answer, I think, it was Miss Donna that asked about the
32 community harvest system and the community harvest hunt
33 on -- subsistence hunt under the State, I'd be happy to
34 talk with you about it and kind of explain what we
35 experience here in the Copper Basin and share the
36 differences between the two programs. My phone number
37 is 907-822-4466.

38

39 Going on to -- Barb Cellarius with
40 Wrangell-St. Elias reported that we're working on the
41 Ahtna ethnography and a caribou snow and ice TEK
42 project for the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. The
43 ethnography is documenting the use of the land by the
44 Ahtna people within the Park boundary but also -- and
45 then we're also looking at the TEK project. The snow
46 and ice project came about when we had a caribou
47 working group meeting that included the National Park
48 Service, BLM, ADF&G, Tetlin Wildlife Refuge, Sue
49 Entsminger as the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC member and
50

0146

1 myself and we talked about the Nelchina Caribou Herd,
2 the Mentasta Herd and the Chisana Herd and looking at
3 the dynamics and looking more toward managing across
4 the landscape versus land ownership because the animals
5 know no boundaries. And one of the things that was
6 brought up is, you know, intensive management, and how
7 the Park does not allow for intensive management and
8 does provide for the opportunity for subsistence
9 trapping but the snow and ice conditions and river
10 crossings limit participating in that and so that's
11 something that we're looking at, how the snow and ice
12 conditions have changed and limited or changed our
13 access to the lands Park boundary. Again, that program
14 got a slow start. The ethnography, we have the first
15 draft done.....

16

17 (Teleconference interference -
18 participants not muted - coughing)

19

20 MS. LINNELL:we're working with
21 the Park on getting funding for publication and having
22 it meet Federal publication standards. The TEK project
23 got a slow start again because of Covid and so that's
24 something that's ongoing.

25

26 We're working with the Native Village
27 of Chitina on developing a tribal historic preservation
28 office. And this is also a National Park Service
29 classification and so we're going to be working with
30 them on what that looks like because, specifically, it
31 has to deal with Indian Country lands and as you know
32 most of Alaska does not fall under Indian Country
33 because we have no reservation, or one reservation,
34 that does not include the Copper River, so we'll be
35 looking at that.

36

37 Our fisheries biologist has been
38 looking at Town Lake there in Chitina and working with
39 the Copper River Watershed Project collecting samples
40 and looking at macro.....

41

42 (Teleconference interference -
43 participants not muted - coughing)

44

45 MS. LINNELL:invertebrates and E-
46 nvironmental DNA to inform our restoration plan. EDNA
47 is kind of a new technology where they filter the water
48 and are able to take from that filter DNA samples and
49 tell you what percentage of what species in that sample
50

0147

1 are in there. And so that's something relatively new
2 and we're kind of excited about using new technology to
3 inform our projects -- future projects.

4

5 Klutina Lake sonar, we're working with
6 the Native Village of Eyak and the ADF&G CommFish
7 Division on a sonar project to monitor escapement on
8 the Klutina River. As you might know Native Village of
9 Eyak did a radiotelemetry project several years back,
10 maybe 10 or 12 years ago now that has shown that 30 to
11 50 percent of the sockeye return go up the Klutina
12 River. So, you know, if anything happens to that
13 Klutina River it could devastate our fishery for
14 everyone, CommFish, sportfish, personal use and
15 subsistence uses, and so we need to kind of get a
16 baseline and see what's going on there.

17

18 We are hoping to incorporate some other
19 projects with that Klutina River sonar project. A
20 smolt trap. And then we're looking at partnering with
21 the Prince William Sound Science Center on a hydro-
22 acoustic survey of Klutina Lake. And so looking at the
23 whole life cycle of the sockeye, from egg to the ocean
24 and back to spawn and trying to capture as much
25 information as we can to better understand what's
26 happening with the fish.

27

28 The -- we just completed our third year
29 of our Carnivore Stewardship Study. This is done in
30 partnership with ADF&G, AITRC, Ahtna Incorporated and
31 the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. In 2021 about 560
32 samples were collected across all of Game Management
33 Unit 13. These hair snare samples were sent out for
34 analysis and we hope to have the DNA analysis back
35 soon. This is a true collaboration. It was jointly
36 developed. The study was jointly developed and jointly
37 funded. And so we're excited about that partnership.
38 The partnership there has led to additional talks on
39 looking at a caribou habitat study in GMU 13 but also
40 in talking with -- more recently with Todd Rinaldi out
41 of Palmer about possibly doing a habitat study for
42 bison within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park in
43 GMU 11. And we also have been talking with Wrangell-
44 St. Elias on the possibility of a wolf population study
45 looking at the dynamics and the change -- flowing both,
46 you know, within the Park boundary and then crossing
47 over into GMU 13 or across the Copper River and trying
48 to look at that. So that's something brand new. All
49 the details haven't been worked out or what it's going
50

0148

1 to look like but that's something that you'll be seeing
2 or hearing more about in the next couple years.

3

4

5 Finally, poor salmon returns. I just
6 got a Google alert that told me that the preliminary
7 predictions for 2022 is another low salmon return and
8 frankly it said it's below the -- well below the 10
9 year average. And so working with taking numbers
10 provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
11 their multiple charts and graphs, we were able to take
12 those numbers and put them into a single graph and then
13 we found that the ANS goals for the Upper Copper River
14 near Chisto -- north of Gakona, they hadn't met the ANS
15 in -- except for in two of 10 years, so two out of 10
16 years they met the ANS. And then in the lower portions
17 of the Glennallen Subdistrict from Tonsina River to
18 Gakona they met it two out of the last five years. So
19 there's been decline in the last five years that is
20 very significant. If you talk to our local State
21 biologist he says that we're not putting in the effort
22 but using traditional knowledge and listening to my
23 elders, on my personal fishwheel when the fish aren't
24 coming you don't keep taking them, you let them go by
25 so that they can perpetuate and lay their eggs and
26 spawn so that you'll have fish for generations to come.

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And so those are some of the things we
want to look at.

We did submit a proposal to AKSSF, the
Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund, we submitted a proposal
to FRMP, both of those were not funded. And it's kind
of disappointing. But we are going to be -- and Barb
Cellarius had mentioned this, ADF&G had also mentioned
this, that we're looking at comprehensive survey, Julie
King talked about it, doing the comprehensive survey
for two of our Ahtna communities at Chistochina and
Mentasta and so those are some of the things that we'll
be working on this year. You know, we just ask that
you include this concern for the salmon population, the
low returns in your letters to the Secretary and the
Federal Subsistence Board and that they make it a
priority as to find out why we're having such low
returns. Even with the chinook, if the numbers come up
they have studies out there the -- the salmon are
smaller, the sockeye and the kings are smaller, smaller
fish lead to smaller eggs and lower fecundity and so
those are concerns that we have. It means that we need
more to get up river to meet those same goals. And so

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1 this has been a big concern for the Ahtna people and
2 our neighbors here on the Copper River in meeting those
3 needs.

4
5 So I just want to thank you again for
6 your time and your dedication to our resource
7 management and sustainability. So thank you, sir.

8
9 And I'll take any questions if you have
10 any.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Karen.
13 You guys are doing some awesome stuff. The EDNA
14 studies and the new technology and, wow, I mean I wish
15 we could get everyone engaged in that.

16
17 As to your concerns of the low returns,
18 I mean it's everywhere and if the Federal Board hasn't
19 got their eyes open to it yet I'm not sure what we
20 could do, but we will continue to push it back on them.
21 There's definitely trouble in paradise.

22
23 Anyway, I open it up to the Council for
24 questions for Karen. That was a very good,
25 enlightening report, it gives me good confidence and
26 thank you, Karen.

27
28 MR. OPHEIM: Mr. Chair, this is.....

29
30 MS. LINNELL: Oh, Mr. Chair, I did have
31 one more.....

32
33 MR. OPHEIM:Michael.

34
35 MS. LINNELL:thing that I forgot.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Oh, go ahead.

38
39 MS. LINNELL: And that is the State of
40 Alaska being on the InterAgency Staff Committee
41 reviewing the FRMP proposals and the agencies reviewing
42 the FRMP proposals and their funding each other, to me,
43 is a conflict of interest, unless the tribes also have
44 professionals and folks on there to be a part of that
45 InterAgency Staff review. We do have fisheries
46 biologists on Staff, we have anthropologists on Staff
47 and I know you do as well.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

50

0150

1 MS. LINNELL: And I think that having
2 tribal representation at those proposal reviews is key
3 to making sure that this is a balanced and fair
4 process. I see less and less money going to tribal
5 organizations and more and more going to funding
6 agencies and the State projects and to me that's a big
7 concern. I just wanted to raise that to you folks.

8
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Karen.
12 Yeah, very, very good point. Okay, Council.....

13
14 MR. AYERS: Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

17
18 MR. AYERS: Hi, this is Scott Ayers,
19 the OSM Fisheries Division Supervisor.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Scott, it's good
22 to have you back.

23
24 MR. AYERS: If I could have just a
25 minute. It's good to be back. It feels like returning
26 to home.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I'm very
29 happy. If you could see me smiling, you'd see me
30 smiling, thank you, go ahead.

31
32 MR. AYERS: Yeah, I just wanted to
33 address a few of those comments that Ms. Linnell just
34 left regarding the FRMP and the Technical Review
35 Committee.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

38
39 MR. AYERS: I just wanted to let
40 everyone know that agencies are recused from scoring
41 their own proposals as part of that process so folks
42 are not, I guess, scoring for themselves when the.....

43
44 MS. LINNELL: But.....

45
46 MR. AYERS:different proposals do
47 come in. So.....

48
49 MS. LINNELL: Yes, but they are.....

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0151

1 REPORTER: Okay, one at a time, please.

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MS. LINNELL: Yeah. But they do score the tribal proposals. And the tribes should be able to participate in that process as well. I think it's not that difficult to invite professionals from these tribal organizations to participate and review those proposals giving a fair ranking.

We had one in several years back to use drones to monitor spawning streams and was told that it wasn't scientific enough and then in the following year or so the State of Alaska got one in a different area but using drones to monitor spawning streams. Basically using an idea that we put forward. And so I think, again, to be fair, to be transparent it would be good to have tribal organizations and their Staff participating in the process, not just consulting with tribal organizations as whether they meet that criteria or not. That's a pretty low bar if you ask me.

The other one -- one other thing that I did forget is that we have an invitation to hunt for migratory birds that allows AITRC to issue an invitation to hunt for migratory birds for the indigenous hunt and that is brand new and will come into effect this spring and so we're looking forward to inviting folks to hunt. Right now I believe there are only two invitations to hunt and this is for an immediate family member so parents, children, siblings, grandparents is as far as you can go, no aunties and uncles, no cousins, so for the eight tribal communities. And that means that I now -- because I don't live in one of the eight tribal communities, I now can be invited to hunt ducks for my dad, which is an exciting thing, and/or a grandfather can be invited home to teach his grandchildren how to process ducks.

Amazing. Fantastic.

So, yeah, thank you.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Scott, you wanted to finish up what you had there.

MR. AYERS: Yeah, that's fine. I just had recently been asking questions about this myself and had been reaching out to the DOI Solicitor, Ken Lord, about this, and he had mentioned to me that the

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1 Federal Advisory Committee Act and its implementing
2 regulations do not cover inter-governmental committees,
3 which include any committee composed of Federal
4 employees and elected officers of State, local and
5 tribal governments or their designees with authority to
6 act on their behalf, acting in their official
7 capacities.

8

9 Lawyer language here.

10

11 But, however, the purpose of this
12 inter-governmental committee must be solely to exchange
13 views, information, or advice related to the management
14 or implementation of Federal programs established
15 pursuant to statute, that they explicitly share inter-
16 governmental responsibilities or administration. The
17 State shares responsibility for the management and
18 administration of subsistence resources, which is why
19 we're required, by statute, to consult with ADF&G on
20 much of the (indiscernible) decisionmaking. Tribes
21 have no such responsibility or authority under this
22 statute.

23

24 And so that is how it is that we have
25 the State on the Technical Review Committee at this
26 point in time but not any tribal entities.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thanks for that
29 clarification. Thanks, Scott. Okay, well, with
30 that.....

31

32 MS. LINNELL: Mr. Ayers, can you.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:we need
35 to.....

36

37 MS. LINNELL:email me that?

38

39 MR. AYERS: I would be happy to put you
40 in touch with the people that can get you that
41 information, absolutely.

42

43 MS. LINNELL: Okay. Also, AITRC does
44 have an agreement with the Secretary of the Interior
45 for cooperative management of fish and wildlife on
46 Federal lands.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We'll let
49 you.....

50

0153

1 MS. LINNELL: Putting it out there,
2 thank you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. All right,
5 well, thank you. Before we move to No. 13 on the
6 agenda we have a couple of things I wanted to make sure
7 I covered. We had proposals for fish and we asked if
8 anyone had a proposal. You know we haven't had a lot
9 of time to study it, and we went through a couple of
10 things, but anyway the public process is going to open
11 soon so if anyone comes up with a proposal or wants to
12 submit one now or wants to get one personally, don't
13 miss that deadline. You know we'll have plenty of
14 time, but the call for proposals went out today so I'm
15 just reminding the Council if you guys have anything.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Also I want to
20 mention, you know, we talked about receiving the public
21 testimony protocol. We went through it. We do have --
22 you know, we had a good discussion there, we had four
23 options, we need to get that out and get everyone up to
24 speed on that and we were going to send out some notes
25 on that, too, I think.

26
27 So, DeAnna, before I move on with the
28 agenda, did I miss anything that we needed to go back
29 to to review?

30
31 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
32 know that this has been a huge information download,
33 especially to our new Council members today, and I
34 think when we were talking about fish proposals and
35 nonrural determination proposals we went pretty quickly
36 and I've been fielding several emails kind of behind
37 the scenes regarding questions on that. So, Mr. Chair,
38 with your permission, would Brent Vickers be able to
39 speak to this, maybe just a five minute information
40 download to kind of revisit that for our new Council
41 members.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we could
44 take five. We actually did cover it, I thought, pretty
45 thoroughly, but Brent are you available.

46
47 MR. VICKERS: Hi, I am. This is Brent
48 Vickers from OSM and I'm sorry I was just quickly -- my
49 attention -- and I lost a few words, but I assume,
50

0154

1 DeAnna, you were asking me to touch back on the
2 nonrural -- here we go -- determination process.

3

4 MS. PERRY: Yes.

5

6 MR. VICKERS: And you thought that
7 maybe this would be a good thing just to go back on
8 because we have new Council members, to begin with and
9 also it's a new process although you are the only
10 Council to really have gone through it with the Moose
11 Pass nonrural proposal that went through in the last
12 cycle.

13

14 As we said before -- so we had a very
15 brief presentation on this and really just covered the
16 skeleton basics of it of it that unlike fishery
17 regulation proposals and wildlife regulation proposals,
18 the nonrural determination occurs every four years, not
19 every two years and so this -- and this is because it's
20 a much lengthier -- it is a lengthier process. It's --
21 there's more that's involved. And what is involved --
22 and, in particular, what's involved is a threshold --
23 review of thresholds and that what that means,
24 basically, is the proponent, when they submit the
25 proposal needs to include these specific requirements.
26 And what I'm speaking about really is three, four and
27 five on this list that DeAnna is sharing right now. It
28 needs to include some boundaries and definition and
29 that is because just saying the name of a community or
30 a -- a community may not be enough. If I were to say
31 that Anchorage, for example, I wanted Anchorage or --
32 to have a nonrural determination proposal, that would
33 include a very large area, different communities. At
34 the same time if Girdwood or Eagle River wanted to
35 submit a nonrural determination proposal, they would
36 need to have boundaries to define exactly what they
37 mean -- what is being included in that community and
38 what is being excluded within the greater Anchorage
39 incorporated area. And I'm sorry if I don't have all
40 the terms right, but basically need to include the
41 boundaries of what is being -- what is being
42 considered. Also having the rationale why, why is this
43 for consideration, what about this community don't we
44 know, what is it about the -- why is the proponent
45 really think that this should be reconsidered as a
46 nonrural or, conversely, a rural community and then
47 also evidence. Some facts, population, harvesting
48 reports saying that there's a determination, a reliance
49 on subsistence resources, anything else that would show

50

0155

1 that basically this is a separate -- particularly non-
2 determination, that this community is separate from
3 what other communities it has been aggregated with,
4 that it actually has a rural culture, subsistence way
5 of life, that -- anything else that really needs to
6 show that this is -- can go through the analytical
7 process. And so when this is submitted, that first
8 year is looking at these -- what the proponent has
9 submitted and seeing if it meets the thresholds that
10 can -- that meets the thresholds that the Council and
11 the Board agree that this has enough there in the
12 proposal itself, that it can be -- go on to the next
13 steps of actually being analyzed by OSM Staff and that
14 the analysis can get reviews and comments from the
15 Councils, from the tribes, from the public and then the
16 Board can make a determination. And then that would be
17 three years after the original proposal was submitted.

18

19 So we will have -- if a proposal is
20 submitted now, or when the window opens for proposals
21 the Board will be making the final action on a valid
22 proposal that meets the thresholds in 2025.

23

24 Is there any other questions.

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No, I think you
27 brought out some good points there. I mean we verified
28 -- you know, you got a good point No. 1, that new
29 Council members haven't seen it, our Council has been
30 through it with the Moose Pass. But it does, the
31 facts, the boundaries, all that stuff needs to be
32 there, and we have a lot of little communities, just
33 about anyone could apply for a rural whatever. So, you
34 know, to get the historical, traditional and customary
35 use and the boundaries and define why and all that,
36 that's good, I'm glad you reiterated those points to
37 us.

38

39 And then for the new members, you know,
40 this is going to take awhile for this to soak in, you
41 know, we changed the process, it is a new process, it's
42 very detailed. It's a lot easier, in my opinion now,
43 to just claim a rural area and I don't know how that's
44 going to also affect the rural communities now because
45 you will have more pressure on a resource that's very
46 limited in most cases. So I would like all the Council
47 members to get familiar with it, you know, and
48 understand it, and if we have questions we'll come back
49 and study it with Brent Vickers, or whoever, and make

50

0156

1 sure if someone decides that they want to put in a
2 nonrural determination we got it all straight in our
3 minds of how we go about it.

4

5 So is there any questions from the
6 Council on his report. We went through it a couple of
7 times, I know it's a ton of information in one day,
8 probably too much and too much to expect in a short
9 time to respond to a lot of this stuff and to give
10 comprehensive stuff, you know, a lot of this stuff
11 today was almost a work session, that's why it's so
12 good if we have in-person meetings we could really
13 ferret it out. But I know we went through some other
14 stuff here on a lot of stuff on the public protocol and
15 other proposals that it's almost impossible to, by
16 phone, with 40 or 50 people to come up with a quick
17 decent proposal. So I understand that it's open.

18

19 I've been rambling, that's enough.

20

21 Any other Council members got any
22 questions on how to submit a proposal to change the
23 nonrural determination.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well,
28 thank you much. We're going to go ahead and continue
29 to move on. We got more on our agenda here. We do
30 have -- let's see, I got confirm the joint meeting. I
31 think with Eastern Interior March 16th, I don't know
32 what we need to confirm DeAnna, as far as I know it's
33 scheduled, everyone should have notice, correct.

34

35 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair. I was just
36 curious what this Council's preference might be,
37 whether we just do it by simple teleconference or is
38 the videoconference, like what we're doing today,
39 having that component, is that helpful or not or should
40 we just do it as a straight teleconference. So if this
41 Council has any preference I'd like to note that.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, DeAnna,
44 I'll go first. There's pros and cons to it so I'm
45 going to let the Council talk to you. There's -- if
46 you got a small group and everyone could be on the
47 Teams or Zoom it works real great, two Councils, 26
48 people and agency people, it's going to be very
49 distracting, you're going to have a few people on Teams

50

0157

1 to see and it's going to be hard to control. So I
2 don't know -- and I'm not whining because I'm not a
3 whiner, it's very hard to control these meetings and in
4 a telephone conference and it's a lot to manage, and to
5 manage both at the same time does put a little extra
6 burden. It is helpful but it only allows those on that
7 can be on, some can't be on the video.

8

9 So that's my comments.

10

11 Council members, what do you think.

12

13 MS. STICKWAN: I got a.....

14

15 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chair.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You're breaking
18 up a little bit but who is this.

19

20 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

23

24 MS. STICKWAN: I just wanted to say I
25 was on the phone and I got dropped about five times
26 today.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, it's been
29 really bad.

30

31 MS. STICKWAN: I had to keep calling
32 back in.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I got connection
35 problems myself and a lot of hearing problems. So I'm
36 hoping.....

37

38 MS. STICKWAN: And I was thinking maybe
39 for that March 16th meeting there won't be as many
40 people or Staff online as this meeting.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Right.

43

44 MS. STICKWAN: I think Zoom might work
45 better.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I would agree
48 with you, that works pretty good, you see everyone,
49 they're all there. But we got a lot of extra people on
50

0158

1 the phone today, I mean I heard at one time when I
2 called in it was at 40, 48, 50, 50-something, I
3 mean.....

4

5 REPORTER: And not muted.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:yeah, and we
10 were kind of loaded up. But anyway, any other
11 comments.

12

13 MR. OPHEIM: Mr. Chair, this is
14 Michael.

15

16 MS. ROBERTS: Mr. Chair, this is Hope
17 Roberts.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Hope.

20

21 MS. ROBERTS: I find that using the
22 Teams avenue is really helpful because I like to see
23 people, especially, you know, they can turn their
24 cameras on and we can learn faces and names. That
25 helps me.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I agree but not
28 everyone could do it, so that's the problem. I agree I
29 like it too when you can, when it's practical.

30

31 Okay, other comments.

32

33

34 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Andy.

37

38 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you. Just a
39 reminder, back in October when we made the March 16th
40 date, I could not attend that date.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I know, it
43 wasn't good for every.....

44

45 (Teleconference interference -
46 participants not muted)

47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, any other
49 comments.

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1 (No comments)

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: DeAnna, it's up to you, you come up with the best venue and it sounds like we're going to use a little of both but it's going to be a challenge too of how we Chair and how we recognize each other. And if I could only see a few and some I can't see, kind of hear, so I'm willing to try anything, I can figure it out. I've modernized myself to.....

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

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, DeAnna.

MS. PERRY: I just saw that OSM, Tom Kron, had his hand up, I didn't know if he had something to offer in this discussion but I just wanted to bring that to your attention.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well, Tom's been on my attention all day, he's been on the agenda here.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Tom, did.....

MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chair.....

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:you have anything on the dates for the joint meeting.

MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I'll just add I would recommend that maybe you and DeAnna talk with Sue Entsminger, the Chair of the Eastern Interior Council meeting. A year ago she wanted to use Teams with their Eastern Interior Council meeting and what ended up was she was the only one on Teams besides Federal and State Staff. The rest of the Eastern Interior Council members had trouble just making the phone connections work. So, again, if you were to do it on a Teams, I'm not sure how much practically the Eastern Interior Council members would be able to participate. But just something to consider.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good. Good

0160

1 point, Tom, thank you. I will tell you, and I'm
2 watching Teams now and the only one I see is our new
3 member Donna, and I've seen her all day and I see
4 DeAnna, and I see the names there but every once in
5 awhile one pops up but that's why I could always call
6 on Donna because I can see her hand up. But that's why
7 I mentioned it, if everyone was on it and we had all on
8 the screen -- we need at least 26 slots for the two
9 Councils -- but, anyway, okay.

10

11 Any other comments, yeah, and I do
12 remember talking, DeAnna, the Eastern Interior did have
13 some problem with phone connections down there so I'm
14 not sure what we could do to resolve that. But
15 whatever comes best is we'll use both, or by phone.

16

17 MS. PERRY: Sounds good, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Who's there, go
20 ahead.

21

22 MS. PERRY: I was just acknowledging,
23 it sounds good, Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
26 Okay, next item is the fall 2022 meeting date and
27 location. Well, we know the location because we got
28 told that everything's going to be virtual. We got
29 October 13th and 14th, that still works for me, I don't
30 know about the rest of the Council members. October
31 13th and 14th, we're confirming that date, date and
32 location for the fall meeting.

33

34 MS. PERRY: And, Mr. Chair, this is
35 DeAnna. We would need a motion and a vote for that.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Does
38 someone want to move that.

39

40 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I so move, this is
41 Andy.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Andy moved
44 for that date. Is there a second.

45

46 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, this is Ed, I
47 second it.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.

50

0161

1 Okay, we're open for discussion. The next meeting
2 October 13th and 14th, any other discussion.

3

4 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, this is
5 Angela Totemoff.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hello Angela.

8

9 MS. TOTEMOFF: Just a friendly
10 amendment to consider the 12th and the 13th. The 14th
11 is AFN Board meeting, which I'm also a part of, that
12 might be -- and I also serve on their subsistence
13 committee so it would be nice.....

14

15 (Teleconference interference -
16 participants not muted)

17

18 MS. TOTEMOFF:I could provide
19 updates from the meeting in that meeting as well.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, that would
22 probably help some of other of us too, also. I'm not
23 opposed to that amendment 12th, 13th, does that still
24 work for everyone.

25

26 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I so move to retract
27 the other dates and amend that to the 12th and 13th.
28 This is Andy again.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Andy.
31 Ed, are you good with that.

32

33 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, this is Ed, Mr.
34 Chair, I'm good with that.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Any
37 other discussion.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We amended
42 the.....

43

44 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes, go ahead.

47

48 MS. PERRY: This is DeAnna. I don't
49 know that a final word has been given on whether our

50

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1 fall meetings will be in person or not so if we could,
2 let's just go ahead and add a location just in case
3 because this will be the only time that we get to
4 choose that so I would entertain maybe picking a
5 location just in case we do get to meet in person.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, I'd wish
8 and hope that but we got word today that 2022 and we
9 got a letter from them that all meetings will -- and I
10 doubt that the Administration, they're scared to death,
11 I don't -- I don't know -- about the Covid -- so we're
12 probably not going to change but things could happen --
13 so everyone do you agree do we want to meet -- do you
14 want to meet -- we don't want to go too far because we
15 don't even know if we could meet in person, but I'd
16 love to meet in person so would Anchorage work for
17 everyone or what do we want to do.

18
19 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Anchorage.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Anchorage.

22
23 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE VOICE: Anchorage.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's good,
26 we'll add that to your list, DeAnna. And does the 12th
27 still work -- okay, I got a motion, I got a second for
28 the 12th, 13th if we could meet in person, then in
29 Anchorage, and they will confirm a venue, any more
30 discussion.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, all
35 in favor aye.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

40
41 (No opposing votes)

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
44 Now, it says 2023 winter meeting date and location.

45
46 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

49
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1 MS. PERRY: This is DeAnna. I just
2 wanted to let you know that the only Council that's met
3 so far has been Bristol Bay and that they chose March
4 14th and 15th so that doesn't show in your meeting
5 books and I just wanted to make sure that everybody
6 knew, 14th and 15th was chosen by Bristol Bay.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, 14th and
11 15th Bristol Bay. Did we have a date on that before,
12 the 16th and 17th?

13
14 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, this is DeAnna.
15 To my knowledge we have not discussed the winter 2023
16 cycle yet.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well,
19 anyone want to propose a date, I would say sometime in
20 March there, 16th, 17th.

21
22 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, this is
23 Angela.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Angela.

26
27 MS. TOTEMOFF: I'd like to propose the
28 winter meeting to be on the 16th and the 17th.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. March.
31 Okay, is there a second to that.

32
33 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, this is Ed, I
34 second.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.
37 Any discussion, any conflicts. I got a full schedule
38 but I'll figure it out if I'm still here. Okay.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none
43 we're proposing for the year of 2023 that our meeting
44 be the 16th and 17th of March and that would be the
45 winter Regional Advisory Council meeting.

46
47 MS. STICKWAN: What will be on the
48 agenda, does DeAnna have an idea.

49
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1 MS. PERRY: Oh, gosh, that's a year
2 from now, Gloria, I have no idea. We'll do our call
3 for agenda items as we normally do and take input at
4 that time but, yeah, I can't foresee a year ahead.
5 We'll have our regulatory proposals in the fall and in
6 our March meeting 2023 that would open up the call for
7 wildlife proposals.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Right.

10
11 MS. PERRY:so I know that would
12 be on the agenda but as far as other topics it would be
13 up to the Council and what suggestions we might have.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, sounds
16 good. Okay, I got a motion and a second, any other
17 questions or discussion.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, all
22 in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25
26 MS. STICKWAN: I was just wondering are
27 we going to have a location or are we going to talk
28 about it.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Too far out.

31
32 MS. STICKWAN:at the winter
33 meeting.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We'll talk about
36 it at the fall meeting. I got all the ayes, any
37 opposed.

38
39 (No opposing votes)

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: DeAnna, are you
42 good with giving the location in the fall?

43
44 MS. PERRY: Certainly, yes.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
47 Okay, we have come to closing comments and what we
48 generally do at closing comments, for new members.....

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1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted)

3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:I'll do the
5 same I did this morning, I go through the list of our
6 Regional Advisory Council and we start out and we just
7 move on through. And so these closing comments are of
8 the meeting today and whatever you might have in your
9 closing comments.

10

11 Ed, I'm going to.....

12

13 MS. STICKWAN: Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:go ahead and
16 start with.....

17

18 MS. STICKWAN: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, go ahead.

21

22 MS. STICKWAN: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

25

26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted)

28

29 MS. STICKWAN: Before we start closing
30 comments I would like to ask if DeAnna could just get a
31 card from the Southcentral to -- to get a card for
32 retirement for Milo Burcham and Judy Putera thanking
33 them for their service from the SCRAC. I know we all
34 won't be able to sign it but just a card to them.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very thoughtful,
37 Gloria. And I think it's absolutely -- DeAnna, would
38 you make sure that's taken care of and get it sent
39 around so Council members could sign it.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think you're
44 muted.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: DeAnna, I didn't
49 hear you.

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1 (No comments)

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: She's trying to

call back.

MS. PERRY: Sorry. I think I'm on here

now.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You are.

MS. PERRY: Can everyone hear me.

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

MS. PERRY: Yeah, okay. So we're getting a lot of background noise again so I would ask the Council members to just open up your mics when you're getting ready to speak. I know when Gloria was speaking it broke up quite a bit but I did get the gist that we're going to get a card for Milo and Judy from the Council, on behalf of the Council thanking them for their service and wishing them well on their retirement.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's correct, thank you. Okay, we're going to go to comments now and we're starting with Ed.

MR. HOLSTEN: Yes, Mr. Chair, I'll make this brief. Again, I'd thank you for helping us get through this meeting with difficulties with phone lines and everything else and especially DeAnna for putting up with all this. I was sorry to hear that Milo was retiring, I'm sure going to miss him and the information that he provides us. And I just want to welcome our new Council members and it's really great to see some new faces.....

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

MR. HOLSTEN:enjoy what the Southcentral RAC does. So thank you very much.

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1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed,
2 and thank you for putting yourself up on Teams. We're
3 taking a look at you and thanking you. We'll move on
4 to the next. Michael, do you want to go ahead and make
5 your closing comment.

6
7 MR. OPHEIM: Yes, sir. Yeah, no, it
8 was a good meeting, lots of information. I really
9 enjoy everybody's effort to send us information early
10 so we can get to see it before we get to the meeting.
11 And, you know, DeAnna, worked pretty hard at that, and
12 everybody else, appreciate everybody's effort. And all
13 the phone troubles, that was just an extra cherry on
14 the top, I guess, for them.

15
16 But yeah, it'll be sad to see Milo go.
17 I've had a couple conversations with him over the years
18 on the phone there on different so it was pretty good
19 being able to, you know, talk with people.

20
21 It was good and glad to participate.
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
25 Michael, and thanks for your participation, it's very
26 good. Good job today. Thank you. Okay, Diane
27 Selanoff, are you there.

28
29 MS. SELANOFF: Yeah, I'm here. I just
30 wanted to -- I'll make it short also. I wanted to
31 welcome the new Council members and wish Milo and Judy
32 well with their retirement. And thank the Staff for,
33 you know, all their hard work and preparation today.
34 And I appreciate the shorter meeting. In the past
35 we've had some pretty long meetings where I left the
36 meeting with a huge headache, that wasn't the case
37 today, it was pretty short, pretty simple. So thank
38 you very much, and we'll talk to you again.

39
40 Thanks.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Diane.

43
44 Dennis.

45
46 MR. ZADRA: Okay, I'm technically
47 challenged here but I've got the camera on and the
48 recording. And, yeah, I just want to welcome the new
49 Council members. It's great to see everybody stepped
50

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1 up and filled that in. I did get my application back
2 in so hopefully I will be reappointed as well. And the
3 same to Milo and Judy, boy, we're going to be seeing
4 new faces around everywhere. And just in closing, just
5 want to reiterate, Copper River is so important to so
6 many people in this area and the river is not in a good
7 way and we just really need to put our heads together
8 and figure out what's best to get it back on track and
9 make sure everybody gets their fish.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good,
14 Dennis, thank you much.

15

16 Gloria.

17

18 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to say thank
19 you. It was a good meeting. Looking forward to
20 meeting in person. Congratulations to the new members.
21 Looking forward to your input and congratulations for
22 you to be reelected as Chair and for Hope as well. And
23 just want to say good well wishes to Judy Putera and
24 Milo Burcham on their retirement. Thank you for a good
25 meeting.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
28 Gloria, very good.

29

30 Angela.

31

32 MS. TOTEMOFF: Yes, Mr. Chair, can you
33 hear me.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good, yes I
36 can.

37

38 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you. Yes, I just
39 want to say that I appreciate your leadership on this
40 and I appreciate DeAnna's hard work on getting us all
41 together. Welcome to the new members and I'm looking
42 forward to meeting again in person. Hopefully our
43 State is going to be in a condition where we can do
44 that soon. And so I just want to say I'm looking
45 forward to seeing you guys face to face so I can put a
46 face to the name. And just something to consider, too,
47 it would be nice if there were some space -- and
48 something to consider if we could all -- if the Council
49 members could meet in person or even on a less
50

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1 informal, or less formal space just to get to know each
2 other. I'm just throwing that out there as well. But,
3 yeah, great meeting and I'm looking forward to hearing
4 from you guys soon.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
7 Angela. I think that would be a great idea. I've
8 thought of that a lot. I've thought of calling some of
9 them when I was in town or something but it would be
10 nice even if we met informally, to have a social event
11 or something.

12

13 MS. TOTEMOFF: Right, absolutely.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: But we'll work on
16 that. Thank you.

17

18 Donna Claus, she did not make it today
19 so we'll move on to Andy.

20

21 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
22 Chair. Yeah, welcome to the new members and, of
23 course, huge thanks to the Office of OSM, all the folks
24 there and not just them but the other agencies that
25 provide all these great reports and wonderful
26 information that we use to help make these decisions.
27 And, anyhow, also the big congrats to Milo and Judy
28 there for that retirement. Speaking from experience, I
29 retired a year ago myself and it's pretty cool -- you
30 still stay busy, by the way, and anyhow going to do
31 more subsistence and that kind of stuff so I'm
32 certainly glad to be involved and volunteering for the
33 Southcentral RAC. I'll get in touch with you DeAnna
34 after the meeting because I got to play catch up from
35 missing that morning part.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good, Andy,
38 thank you. Okay, new members, Donna, do you want to
39 go, Donna Wilson.

40

41 MS. WILSON: Yeah, I'd just like to
42 thank you all for what I thought was a pretty good
43 meeting. I appreciate the Chair and how you took care
44 of everybody and DeAnna, you did a wonderful job, I
45 just don't know how you manage but, yeah, it did work
46 out and thank you for all your help. Also a comment
47 to, Karen, was it, Karen Linnell, I did get that phone
48 number and I will be talking to you.

49

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1 Thank you, very much.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Donna,
4 very good. Hope, make yours.

5

6 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir. Thank you for
7 being so welcoming to us new members. I'm really
8 impressed that the meeting lasted only one day when you
9 had planned it for two, that just shows really great
10 planning and team work on the Southcentral RAC. And,
11 Donna Wilson, I'm interested in following up with you
12 on the Chickaloon Native -- the -- what you were
13 speaking of earlier. And, Angela, I agree, I think it
14 would be wonderful if we all got together and met in
15 person so that we could get to know each other as RAC
16 members. Thank you for voting me in as your Secretary
17 for this year, I am really honored.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Thank
22 you, Hope. Okay, Heath Kocan.

23

24 MR. KOCAN: Hi, yeah, just I want to
25 thank that I'm happy to be on the Council and I'm
26 looking forward to it. It was a lot of information to
27 take in today but hopefully it will slowly absorb into
28 my head.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Trust me, Heath,
31 it will but we're glad to have you and like everyone
32 else said, new members are always welcome and we really
33 get good ideas and good areas and representations and
34 we look forward to that so thank you.

35

36 Okay, I'll go ahead and do my comments,
37 I think I got everyone there. But I also thought it
38 was a pretty decent meeting and first and foremost I
39 want to thank all the Staff, and hard work, and DeAnna,
40 behind the scenes, you know, helps keep me straight and
41 get a lot of organization here. Sometimes I accuse her
42 of being a little bit too in-depth but she's very good
43 and we can all use it so that's great.

44

45 Yeah, sorry to hear Milo and Judy both
46 are leaving but people do get to retire. Unfortunately
47 I tried it in 2009 and I've been working back since
48 2012 and now I've got three or four jobs, plus more all
49 the time it seems but, anyway, that's just the way it

50

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1 goes.

2

3

4 The new Council members, I welcome you
5 and I encourage you to seek out more information from a
6 lot of people here. There are -- I'm going to put my
7 video on so you could see my face down here in the
8 corner, but, anyway, there are a ton of Staff at OSM,
9 there's a ton of people that all gave these agency
10 reports today and they're welcome to work with any one
11 of the Council members to help us out, so don't be shy
12 about that at all.

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The clam study was especially
encouraging to me to see that someone's actually taken
that on and looking at it and I look forward to see
some of the outcome of that. Also Karen Linnell's
report was quite interesting and also hopeful of some
of the new technology, who would have thought we could
look at water and figure out how many species are
around, I mean that's pretty awesome if it works, those
things.

But, yeah, I just want to give a thanks
to all the Council members, too. There's a lot of
people stepping up and participating, I love to see
that. It is a public process and it's for the public
to bring forth and I always like to kind of quote 'ol
Ralph Lohse, you know, he was the Chair before I was
and of course an excellent Chairman, but he always
liked to have the people come forth and present it in
person, get to talk it out and if they had something
they wanted to propose, that the proponent really
thought it out and we helped them with it, rather than
just sending a note in an email and trying to push
something through so I kind of encourage that. And
it's really, when you get to going down the road in
these meetings and we're all in a public setting you
will find that it is awesome and it's really
collaborative, we work well together. We do keep in
focus with our task to provide Correct. subsistence
opportunities to our qualified users and that they have
a preference. I know that it's a very convoluted
system fighting with the State and other agencies but
as you see they're coming along and they're doing
studies and working with us too now, so -- so there's a
lot of hope. We do have a lot of our resources in
peril and we all understand that but we need to know
why, and we need to know how and what we could do to
restore them and bring them back to full life and so I

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1 look forward to that.

2

3 I just thank every one of you and I
4 wish you a wonderful spring, it's coming around,
5 believe it or not.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: And is there any
10 other thing that needs to come before the Council, if
11 not, if I hear nothing I will entertain a motion to
12 adjourn.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, this is
17 Angela.

18

19 MS. STICKWAN: I'll move to.....

20

21 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, this is Ed.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead Angela.

24

25 MS. TOTEMOFF: I'll make a motion to
26 adjourn.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Is
29 there a second.

30

31 MS. SELANOFF: Diane seconds.

32

33 MR. HOLSTEN: This is Ed.....

34

35 MR. OPHEIM: Michael seconds.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All in favor.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you
42 all, you guys have a wonderful evening and once, again,
43 thanks DeAnna for all your support and everyone else.
44 Thank you all, awesome job. Okay. Take care.

45

46 (Off record)

47

48 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

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Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22