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SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
VOLUME II
TELECONFERENCE
February 25, 2021
9:06 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
Greg Encelewski, Chairman
Donna Claus
Ed Holsten
Andrew McLaughlin
Diane Selanoff
Gloria Stickwan
Angela Totemoff
John Whissel

Regional Council Coordinator, DeAnna Perry

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Telephonic - 2/25/2021)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'll go ahead and call this Council back in session for today, February 28th, it's 6 after 9:00 so we're officially back in session you go ahead and call the roll.

MS. PERRY: Okay.

Angela Totemoff.

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

MS. PERRY: Good morning.

Donna Claus.

MS. CLAUS: Here.

MS. PERRY: Good morning.

Andy McLaughlin.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Here.

MS. PERRY: Good morning, Andy.

Aaron Bloomquist.

(No comments)

MS. PERRY: John Whissel.

MR. WHISSEL: Here.

MS. PERRY: Good morning.

Ed Holsten.

MR. HOLSTEN: Good morning, I'm here.

MS. PERRY: Good morning.

Diane Selanoff.

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1 MS. SELANOFF: Good morning.

2

3 MS. PERRY: Good morning.

4

5 Gloria Stickwan.

6

7 MS. STICKWAN: Here.

8

9 MS. PERRY: Good morning.

10

11 Greg Encelewski.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm here.

14

15 MS. PERRY: All right. I don't believe
16 Paula is with us, I think she is still in class.

17

18 Paula, just doublechecking, are you on
19 the line.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MS. PERRY: Okay. Mr. Chair, you have
24 eight of your 10 seated members online. And it looks
25 like there are still some people still trying to call
26 in. So as far as the public and maybe some Staff.
27 Would you like to wait just a few moments for those
28 folks to join us. I know we do have a time crunch this
29 morning, we'll be losing a Council member or two.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, no, they
32 could call in as they come. We could go ahead and get
33 started I think. I mean I'm ready to get started.

34

35 MS. PERRY: Okay. I am just going to
36 -- so I do have a couple of just reminder announcements
37 for folks.

38

39 So, again, Stephanie is our person
40 who's going to be running the slides on the Teams
41 meeting, if you're on Teams. If you're not on Teams
42 and would like to be, you can call 1-800-478-1456 for
43 that link. There's really no other way to share that
44 other than through email so feel free to call that
45 number to see the videoconference. So the
46 videoconference, some people are on camera, some aren't.
47 If I could encourage anyone who is speaking, when
48 you're speaking turn on your camera, that just seems
49 more collaborative that way. And then we also use the
50

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1 screen for showing some presentations, and we do have a
2 couple of presentations that just came in in the last
3 night and today. Council members I have sent that to
4 you. One is from Karen Linnell, it's her presentation
5 she'll be doing under agency reports, Ahtna InterTribal
6 Resource Commission report, so that's a PDF that was
7 sent to you last night. And then this morning I sent
8 to you a proposal from John Whissel that he mentioned
9 yesterday regarding dear, that we want to revisit. He
10 did have an opportunity to write that up and provide
11 that, and I have sent that out to everybody.

12

13 So some of our housekeeping items. The
14 agenda and meeting materials can be found online on the
15 Federal Subsistence Program website,
16 www.doi.gov/subsistence, go into the regions tab there
17 and pick Southcentral, you'll be able to see the
18 meeting materials, there's also some supplemental
19 meeting materials on there as well.

20

21 All right. Just checking at some last
22 minute emails, hoping that folks are able to get on
23 here.

24

25 We have opened up a videoconference
26 option through the Microsoft Teams. As I mentioned you
27 don't have to download software for that but you do
28 have a bit more functionality if you do. On the Teams
29 platform, if those folks are just joining us for the
30 first time, you'll see the little tool bar up at the
31 top and the little hand there, if you want to speak, if
32 you can just click on the hand that gives us a head's
33 up and it's pretty valuable since we're in the virtual
34 world and we can't see people raising their hands or
35 walking up to the table to give testimony or looking at
36 each other at the Council member table and knowing who
37 wants to speak. And also you'll see the little
38 microphone and the camera, we will be muting all audio
39 on Teams. There's a screen up now that reminds you of
40 that audio number. So you'll call in and we have to do
41 that separately, again, because we're recording this
42 through a court reporter and her equipment so we've got
43 a dedicated audio line that we need to use. The
44 camera, again, I would encourage anybody who's speaking
45 to go ahead and put your camera on, if you're not
46 comfortable doing that you can just toggle off and on
47 by pressing it and it'll go off.

48

49 Well, now I would like to address an

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1 issue from yesterday and I want to be as respectful as
2 I can in doing so. As I read my notes last night I
3 realized just how much crosstalk was happening during
4 the meeting and, you know, even though I had reminded
5 us that our meetings are conducted under Roberts Rules
6 of Parliamentary Procedure, somehow through the day we
7 kind of lost that structure. So that's problematic for
8 a variety of reasons.

9
10 First, we need to remember that we have
11 new Council members and at each meeting we usually have
12 some new Staff and new public participants. Everyone's
13 trying to understand the protocol and how the meeting
14 is run so that they can fully participate so we need to
15 be mindful of that. It's much easier, again, doing
16 these meetings in person, again, because you can see
17 who is speaking or who wants to speak. In the virtual
18 world it really becomes much more difficult. And we,
19 from behind the scenes, are trying to employ tools and
20 techniques to make it better, user friendly for folks
21 and kind of overcome any challenges.

22
23 So as I explained yesterday this isn't
24 a regulatory meeting that we're having this time around
25 so we don't have that built in portion for public
26 testimony into our protocol because we're not following
27 the proposal structure that we do in a regulatory
28 meeting. But that was not meant to imply that we
29 weren't going to have time for public comment. I was
30 letting our new members know what to expect and to
31 remind us all that the Chair helps lead us through that
32 so we have to wait on his direction to do that. So
33 even though this meeting isn't organized like a
34 regulatory meeting, we do still have to follow some
35 procedural rules.

36
37 Yesterday we had a variety of people
38 speaking at all different times. Council members were
39 interjecting into public testimony and public testimony
40 was interjected into Council deliberations. There were
41 also two or three people speaking all at once and so
42 it's challenging, it's not impossible, to identify
43 who's speaking when that happens. New participants
44 don't recognize our voices, and perhaps even our names
45 yet. The court reporter has the responsibility of
46 capturing an accurate record for the transcript, and
47 even though we have our most seasoned court reporter
48 covering this meeting, she cannot and should not be
49 expected to be able to guess who is speaking.
50

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1 Lastly, as the Council Coordinator I
2 must ensure that we follow a structured meeting
3 protocol. It's my responsibility to create and
4 maintain an administrative record for each and every
5 one of these meetings, so if people are speaking at all
6 times during the whole meeting this could jeopardize
7 the work of the Council. To give an example, if
8 someone is giving public testimony and a Council member
9 pops in with a comment without the Chair's recognition
10 of the time to do so, that Council member's comment
11 could be mistaken for a public member's comment, and
12 likewise if a public member comments in the middle of a
13 Council's deliberation, that might be mistaken for a
14 Council member's comment. Again, it's really hard in
15 the virtual world because we're just trying to tune
16 into voices.

17
18 We need to be mindful when it's our
19 turn to speak so that we can mitigate or avoid
20 instances that increase the chances from mistakes in
21 our record. So going forward, today, and in our future
22 meetings, I hope I can count on all of you, that's
23 Council members, Staff, public individuals, to help us
24 adhere to our structure as closely as possible so that
25 I can preserve an accurate and complete administrative
26 record. Listening to the Chair and respecting when
27 it's the Council's time to talk and deliberate and
28 respecting when it's time for us to receive public
29 comment will allow us to hear from everyone in a way
30 that helps those of us participating in the actual
31 meeting and also making our record clear for anybody
32 who reviews it later.

33
34 It's important to realize that, for me,
35 as a designated Federal official of the Council, I do
36 take my duties and responsibilities very seriously.
37 I'm the one who has to ensure that the administrative
38 record for this Council and it's business is legally
39 defensible. So I know we can all appreciate that
40 aspect.

41
42 And I just want to thank you in advance
43 for helping me do that by respecting the RAC meeting
44 process and helping me to assure that we have a
45 complete and accurate administrative record.

46
47 So, again, thank you for that. So as
48 we move forward, Mr. Chair, I believe we're ready to
49 return to our agenda and we left off with an added
50

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1 agenda item, 11E, and that was the Fisheries Resource
2 Monitoring Project, and I believe Jared Stone is
3 standing by for that presentation, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
6 DeAnna, and thanks for those comments and I hope we
7 could all work with that. I do have a couple things,
8 DeAnna, I want to mention just before we go on to the
9 FRMP presentation. We do take public comments on
10 nonagenda items each morning, so I did want to open
11 that up if there is any and make sure that we didn't
12 miss that opportunity. Then also after we do that
13 public comments, we had a couple other housekeeping
14 items we need to go back on and that was Andy had
15 wanted to address the annual report, John Whissel has
16 his deer proposal, so those we need to fit into the
17 agenda and we could either do it now after we do our
18 public comments or -- and then we could go to our
19 Fisheries Resource Management thing.

20

21 (Teleconference interference -
22 participants not muted)

23

24 REPORTER: And if we could all take a
25 minute and see if our phones are muted it'd be great,
26 thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Do I have
29 anyone out there that's got a nonagenda item that they
30 need to comment on, from the public. I got a hand
31 raised there. Whoever raised their hand, I could see
32 them, if you want to go ahead and talk, we don't hear
33 you though.

34

35 MS. LINNELL: Okay, thank you, Mr.
36 Chair. This is Karen Linnell. Yesterday afternoon I
37 spoke about helping with a paragraph regarding
38 fisheries research and I sent that to DeAnna this
39 morning and so you might consider including that in the
40 letter to the Secretary. That would be appreciated.

41

42 I put in the chat as well, I hadn't
43 been on the Teams yesterday, but today I am and I put
44 in the chat that one of the things about these virtual
45 meetings is the lack of opportunity to talk to Council
46 members and have a side bar to where we can raise our
47 concerns, and so when you're bringing these items up,
48 such as the letter, we need an opportunity to add or
49 ask questions on those items so that we can be heard
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1 and ensure we're covering all our areas of concern.
2 And we do appreciate, so much, all the hard work and
3 the difficulty, both of the Staff and you, as Chair, in
4 keeping this meeting running as smoothly as possible,
5 so I just wanted to thank you for that and we're
6 prepared later today to give our presentation.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
11 Karen. Does anyone have any comments this morning,
12 from the public, nonagenda.

13

14 MS. CLAUS: Mr. Chairman, is this the
15 time to discuss the deer regulation?

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No.

18

19 MS. CLAUS: Okay, thank you. This is
20 Donna.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'll come back to
23 Andy -- or the John one. I'm just taking anyone that
24 missed -- every morning we have a call for public and
25 tribal comments on nonagenda items.

26

27 MS. CLAUS: This is Donna again. I
28 didn't realize that was on the agenda, I haven't seen
29 that on the agenda, so I was just curious.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: On the deer --
32 the only one Donna, what did you want to talk, is it a
33 nonagenda item?

34

35 MS. CLAUS: I don't even know what that
36 is so I will just go mute, thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, this is DeAnna.
43 I might be able to help Donna. Donna, yesterday when
44 we were going through our agenda, we had our call for
45 wildlife proposals and that's Agenda Item 11B, and your
46 fellow Council member John Whissel mentioned that he
47 was interested in putting forth a proposal for possibly
48 the Council to review and put forward as a Council, and
49 that's the deer proposal that I sent you earlier. So
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1 we will be coming back to that a little later, just
2 letting you know that that's kind of where that fits
3 in. It's one of those items that we talked about
4 yesterday but that we have to revisit today. But right
5 now, as Greg mentioned, we start off each morning with
6 public and tribal comment on nonagenda items. And so
7 that's what he's doing right now. But we will be
8 getting to that shortly.

9

10 MS. CLAUS: Yes, thank you Diana, this
11 is Donna -- I mean DeAnna, this is Donna.

12

13 MS. PERRY: You bet.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, thanks for
16 clearing that up. Yeah, that's where I was trying to
17 go with that. Okay. Okay, is there anyone else on
18 nonagenda items.

19

20 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, hearing
23 none, let's go ahead and get back to our agenda and
24 let's go ahead and finish up the two businesses.....

25

26 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:we need to
29 take care of. Andy, are you there, are you prepared
30 for your talk on what you wanted us to include with the
31 annual report?

32

33 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes, sir, thank you,
34 Mr. Chair. I was able to bump my medical appointment
35 to 10:30 so I could be here until 10:20 but I could do
36 that now, I'm prepared.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: If you could do
39 that now, if you're prepared, that would be good then
40 we'll get that off the list and we'll go to John next.

41

42 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Great, thank you very
43 much, Mr. Chair. Yeah, sorry about, this is going to
44 be a little wordy but it includes pertinent
45 information. I'm not quite sure if it's for the annual
46 report or what was suggested yesterday, a separate
47 letter that might get better attention.

48

49 But anyhow, this is a situation that is

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1 going on in my home region that I need to represent.

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In the past, for years, I've brought this situation up to people at OSM and thanks to them, they're always providing me the proper avenue, you know, the State of Alaska regulatory process change information, but those provisions provided by the State, mostly due to the State Constitution, I believe, don't really allow Federal subsistence users the service that they require.

So anyhow, I'll try to make it fast.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No, just get 'er -- get what you need to do here, Andy, we're listening. It's for the fellow Council members here to understand.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you. For the record -- okay.

Under the Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southcentral RAC Charter, one of my duties as a RAC member is to recommend initiation, review, evaluation of policies, management plans and other matters relating to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife in my home region. In our annual report we are to identify current and anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife populations within the region. Anticipation of upcoming subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations is to be reported. RAC members' duty is to recommend strategy for the management of the fish and wildlife populations within the region as needed to accommodate such subsistence uses and needs. Recommendations can include assessing and quantifying implementation of policy program needs and to create a greater collaboration with the State, tribes of territories and to recommend implementation of regulatory reform. This is all in our bylaws, I believe.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, it sounds like the charter to me, yeah, go ahead.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: This can include identifying regulations for repeal, replacement or modification and including regulations that are outdated, unnecessary or ineffective.

1 The marine waters of Prince William
2 Sound are utilized by Federally-qualified subsistence
3 users who have depended upon them for sustenance and
4 subsistence uses for centuries. However, current
5 jurisdictional designation of the marine waters is
6 technically only regulated by the State of Alaska who
7 do not consistently provide meaningful preference to
8 rurally-determined subsistence users in the way that
9 Federal regulations do. The State Constitution does
10 not allow it. Thus creating the deficiency that
11 warrants this request.

12
13 Currently, Federally-qualified
14 subsistence users are only able to propose changes to
15 existing regulations already designated within Federal
16 lands and waters, yet a disservice is being conducted
17 at the present time in Prince William Sound, Unit 6D,
18 marine waters that currently exist only under State
19 management. Ironically, nearly all of the surrounding
20 shorelines of the main land and most of these islands
21 are designated as Federal, some are also Federally-
22 recognized tribal and guaranteed C&T uses of the marine
23 resources are on record with our Anthropology
24 Department, which I'm sure an .804 analysis would
25 reveal the use of everything ocean from crabs to
26 halibut. These marine water resources should fall
27 under the umbrella of Federally-regulated subsistence
28 uses as well as State. Many examples exist state-wide
29 in all regions where Federally-qualified subsistence
30 users operate in-tandem with coinciding State sport and
31 personal use users. Co-management of these resources
32 and conservation efforts coexist at the same time under
33 separate regulatory processes in the same locations.
34 For example, even out here, there's a few regions where
35 we receive Mountain goat permits from Milo that are
36 Federal but in that same area, the State of Alaska
37 allows sporthunting of those animals at the same
38 location.

39
40 The Federally-qualified rural residents
41 of Prince of William Sound are being under served by
42 the current regulatory processes conducted by the State
43 of Alaska. Federally-qualified users of the resources
44 technically can only harvest resources under current
45 State regulations from the marine waters upon which
46 they leave. There are inadequacies that exist in bag
47 limits season timings and harvest methods of resources
48 that residents require use of for subsistence purposes.
49 A modification process of this one-sided jurisdictional
50

0222

1 issue is needed to better serve the subsistence needs
2 of the people who currently abide by restrictions
3 conducted by the more limited State of Alaska
4 regulatory processes. It would be appreciated if a
5 procedural methodology for how to propose creation of
6 both Federal and State co-jurisdiction upon these
7 marine waters of Prince William Sound was made
8 available to the public. Dual management can and
9 should exist. The OSM should be able to provide a
10 method for proposal to make such a modification. This
11 process should be available to the public and to the
12 Southcentral RAC members, it actually should be
13 available to all RAC members statewide and public, not
14 just Prince William Sound. I'm sure there's very
15 similar situations elsewhere.

16
17 The current lopsided system needs to be
18 updated. Such a process is warranted and is being
19 requested as it is certain that a co-management
20 structure, including both State and Federal regulations
21 simultaneously serving the two user groups of the
22 resources there, both State and Federal, would better
23 serve the local rural Federally-qualified subsistence
24 users by including them in processes that currently
25 exclude their needs while being forced to abide by
26 State regulations only.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very well
31 conducted, yeah, very good. Andy, let me ask you a
32 question, well we're going to the Council to deliberate
33 what they want to do to send the letter in the annual
34 report or a letter by itself. I'm not sure where it'll
35 be most effective, maybe an individual letter. What's
36 your thoughts?

37
38 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Well.....

39
40 MS. SELANOFF: Good morning, this
41 is.....

42
43 MR. MCLAUGHLIN:to.....

44
45 MS. SELANOFF:Diane Selanoff, how
46 are you -- could I have a moment to speak?

47
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm talking with
49 Andy right now, he's replying to a question I gave him.
50

0223

1 MS. SELANOFF: Okay. Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Andy.

4

5 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
6 Chair. I didn't mean to interrupt there. Yeah, I
7 think from what was said yesterday, Katya, there was
8 saying it was probably more well received or
9 interpreted in a better way as an individual letter. I
10 like the sound of something that sounds like it might
11 be more productive.

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

14

15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I can imagine the way
16 things work, a lot of stuff like this just gets
17 completely stonewalled and goes nowhere. So I would
18 like the best process to take place to get this squeaky
19 wheel heard and some grease on it. Because, you know,
20 the letter might be better than putting a little
21 paragraph in our annual report.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay,
24 thanks. Yeah, that was kind of my thought. Okay, go
25 ahead, Diane, you wanted a question for Andy or me, go
26 ahead.

27

28 MS. SELANOFF: Yeah, actually -- thank
29 you for the opportunity to speak here. I actually
30 wanted to comment on your letter, Andy, it's very well
31 written although I did want to say that if -- we have
32 the same problem also in the Cook Inlet and the
33 villages of Nanwalek and Port Graham where the State
34 and Federal have -- especially with sheep -- or
35 actually goat. What's happening is the State is giving
36 out so many opportunities to get goat and sheep and
37 they're being distributed from Seldovia and so, you
38 know, a percentage goes to Nanwalek, a percentage goes
39 to Seldovia, a percentage goes to Port Graham, and then
40 they're hunters from all over but in order to access
41 those hunting grounds, they must go through corporate
42 lands like the Port Graham Corporation, that's where
43 the goats are at or, you know, in that area. So by
44 basically, you know, giving out hunting permits to hunt
45 those areas they are now trespassing on corporate lands
46 to get there. And if anything happens to any of those
47 hunters while on corporate lands they corporation could
48 be sued. And so we said, what are you doing here,
49 you're putting us in a position to, you know, we don't
50

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1 know who these are going out to, nobody's getting
2 special permission and they're like, yeah, we'll
3 discuss it at our next State meeting but what's
4 happening is, you know, the tribes are Federally-
5 recognized forms of government and then you have the
6 State who is giving out, you know, these permits to go
7 hunting and trespassing on corporate lands and we have
8 no knowledge of who's going where and when and so we
9 even asked more questions.

10

11 But -- okay, so, you know, they need to
12 get permission to trespass or to be hunting in that
13 area and we don't have -- how is it being monitored
14 because right now these, you know, seem to be places
15 where these animals venture to and are they being
16 tracked and how and we suggest aerial surveys
17 continuously and as you know if a plane is flying over
18 an animal will tend to, you know, walk into the brush
19 or just step away and not be out in the open so I don't
20 know how accurate the counts are. I'm sure they're
21 pretty good because it's something they believe in.

22

23 But the point I'm trying to say is I
24 appreciate your letter. I hope you wouldn't add just
25 Prince William Sound but that you would add, you know,
26 the Cook Inlet into that and that's what I have to say,
27 thanks.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thanks, Diane. I
30 think that, you know, that's Andy's letter, I think we
31 ought to address that separate. We should write
32 another one for the other areas, but that's just my
33 thoughts. So I'm going to open it up to the Council.
34 I think you've made some good points there Diane, and,
35 Andy, it's up to you, of course. So I'm going to ask
36 the Council if we -- I mean we certainly support this
37 letter of Andy's and how do you guys want to handle it,
38 if you want to make a motion to support it and send it
39 individually from Andy to the Federal Board, I'll leave
40 it up to you guys.

41

42 MR. WHISSEL: Mr. Chair, this is John
43 Whissel.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead,
46 John.

47

48 MR. WHISSEL: Here let me -- I'll put
49 my camera on also, as requested. I managed to get Teams
50

0225

1 working today also. Okay, there we are.

2

3

4 I don't feel like it is a good idea for
5 us to start taking the fact that we're discussing
6 writing a letter as an opportunity to get everybody's
7 issues on the table and into the letter. I can
8 understand people wanting to communicate with the
9 Federal Subsistence Board and wanting to communicate
10 through this Council to the Federal Subsistence Board.
11 This is an issue Andy's brought up numerous times, back
12 in the before time when we used to sit face to face,
13 this is something Andy and I have talked about between,
14 you know, breaks and during sessions, and I would like
15 to approach this issue singly. I believe strongly that
16 Cook Inlet has the greatest, or the same right to make
17 this request as Prince William Sound does, and during
18 my time in trying to get government to do what I want,
19 the best way for that to happen is to give them a bite-
20 size piece that they can take bite of and do and that
21 paves the way for everybody else. So I think I'd like
22 to look at what Andy's done and I would be satisfied to
23 submit it Andy's letter as written as the Council, if
24 that's how Andy wishes to do it.

24

25

Thank you.

26

27

28

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, John.
That's kind of my feeling too. Thank you.

29

30

31

Any other Council members want to weigh
in on discussion now at this time.

32

33

34

MS. STICKWAN: I have a question, Mr.
Chair.

35

36

37

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead,
Gloria.

38

39

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41

MS. STICKWAN: I was wondering, we're
not allowed to send a letter to DOI, I guess, I just --
that's correct, right?

42

43

44

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46

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, could you
repeat it for me and DeAnna would you correct me if I'm
wrong. Go ahead, DeAnna, I wasn't sure who you said
to send the letter.

47

48

49

MS. STICKWAN: To the Department of
Interior, Secretary, and I guess we can't do that.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Oh, I see what
2 you're saying.

3
4 MS. PERRY: Hi, Gloria, through the
5 Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You can't go
8 directly to the Secretary Department of Interior, just
9 the Board, to the Federal Board, is that your question?

10
11 MS. STICKWAN: Yes. And I guess we
12 can't do that so.

13
14 MS. PERRY: Through the Chair, this is
15 DeAnna.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead,
18 DeAnna.

19
20 MS. PERRY: Yeah, Gloria, that's a
21 great question and one that I think RACs do struggle
22 with. We are prohibited from having a direct line to
23 the Secretaries, however, what we've used in the past
24 is sending the letter to the Board, and then asking
25 them, in a separate letter, to send our letter of
26 concern to the Secretaries, and then the Board forwards
27 it to the Secretaries. The Board can do that. They
28 can have that direct link to the Secretaries, the RACs
29 cannot. So we can still get to the goal, but we have
30 to go through the Board to make that happen. And they
31 do have the discretion of sending it on or not, but it
32 is an avenue that we can pursue.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks,
35 DeAnna. That clears it up. I guess did that -- did
36 that answer your question, Gloria, we send it to the
37 Board and ask them to send it to the Secretary.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria, just a
42 question. Are you okay with the response that DeAnna
43 gave now, that you understand?

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MS. PERRY: Gloria, you might be on
48 mute, we can't hear you.

49
50

0227

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, anyway, I
4 think that answered the question. Is there other
5 Council members who have a comment or some input.

6

7 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
8 Ed.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Ed.

11

12 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, no, I really
13 appreciated Andy's presentation. I've always agreed
14 with his viewpoint and I fully support a letter to the
15 Board. Hopefully the Board will agree to forward it on
16 to the Secretary. But I think it's long overdue and
17 hopefully this process will result in some, you know,
18 increased use, better use by subsistence users in
19 Prince William Sound.

20

21 That's about all I have to say.

22

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.
26 Well put, thank you. Any other Council members.

27

28 MS. CLAUS: Mr. Chairman, this is
29 Donna.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Donna.

32

33 MS. CLAUS: Yeah, I would like to
34 support both of those guys, that letter is well written
35 and let's turn it in solely on Andy's deal.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank you.

38

39 MS. CLAUS: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyone else.

42

43 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria, I was --
44 my phone shut off for some reason, I don't know. But,
45 yes, I understand.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I just
48 wanted to make sure, Gloria, that you understood,
49 DeAnna explained that we could send it to the Board and
50

0228

1 request that they pass it on to the Secretaries.

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: Yes, I understand that
4 and I think that would be good to do and I support the
5 letter.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
8 Anyone else on the Council want to comment on it at
9 this time.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: If not, I think a
14 motion is in order to send this from the Council as
15 presented by Andy McLaughlin to the Federal Subsistence
16 Board with the request to forward it on is in order.

17

18 MR. WHISSEL: Mr. Chairman, this is
19 John Whissel. I move to send the letter written by Andy
20 McLaughlin on to the Federal Subsistence Board with
21 support from the Southcentral Regional Advisory
22 Council.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, John.
25 Very well. Is there a second.

26

27 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
28 Ed, I second.

29

30 MS. TOTEMOFF: This is Angela Totemoff,
31 I second.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think I got a
34 couple seconds. Ed, I heard you and I'm not sure if
35 that was DeAnna -- Diane, rather, excuse me, Diane.

36

37 MS. PERRY: I believe that was Angela
38 Totemoff, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Oh, okay, Angela.

41

42 MS. TOTEMOFF: I'll rescind, Ed's
43 second is fine.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good, Angela,
46 okay, I got John and also seconded by Angela, any
47 discussion or any question on what we're about to do
48 here.

49

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1 (No comments)

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, all in favor of that action of sending that letter on and request it be forward say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, very good. Thank you, Andy. Very well done job and we'll take care of that. Okay. We'll move to the next item that we need to go back, and, John Whissel, we're going to ask you to come back and we had a call for proposals and you wanted to go ahead and address the deer issue.

MR. WHISSEL: Yes, Mr. Chair, thank you. I drafted a two page document to address two separate issues I'd like to amend regarding our deer harvest.

Recently, we expanded the deer harvest to include.....

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

MR. WHISSEL:a single buck in the month of January if you had not harvested all five of your deer, if you had a deer legal to harvest. The deer season ends on December 31st for the rest of Prince William Sound, that's in 6D.

The reason for this is because most of the older folks that can't really get around the mountains, deer hunting's very challenging earlier in the season, it's only very late in the season when a lot of people are able to participate and the deer are sort of pushed down and not on the peaks. And that season is getting later and later. So we added this single deer in January. And I'm basically of the feeling that I'm seeing a lot of people going unfulfilled and the best opportunity for deer hunting is coming, honestly, the month of February, so I wanted to simply extend the deer season in Unit 6D without having it being a single deer in the month of January

0230

1 or worrying about being a buck or doe because the
2 antlers are shedding at that point anyway, it's very
3 difficult to tell sex on a hunt. And make it simple.

4

5 I was going to apply it to Unit 6
6 altogether but Andy's report yesterday that they were
7 not having as much luck on their side of the Sound, I
8 decided I would propose it just for 6D but I'd be open
9 to opening it up.

10

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The second issue is one of basically converting the current proxy system, which is basically for disabled people only, to have people hunt their individual permits. Basically a household limit. And what I put in the language was basically that anybody could designate a hunter who's also Federally-qualified and lives in their household to harvest their quota of five deer with the same requirements that they get a proxy and that they can't have more than a single quota in their possession at any given time.

This should be already allowable for deer and we don't have that because of our moose harvest.

But Milo Burcham is on the line and Milo had some thoughts about a more expedient way he thought this might work and so I'd like at least for him to be able to get on the record here for OSM to have that to work off of as they figure out the best way to implement this if the Federal Subsistence Board so chooses.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

MR. WHISSEL: And if the RAC supports it. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Milo, do you want to, at this time, tell us the backup information on this that you might be working on -- that you think works so we could, as a Council, decide whether we want to put this forward?

MR. BURCHAM: Yeah. Yes, this is Milo Burcham of the Chugach National Forest. John and I had a couple discussions on what his intent and he mentioned a household limit for deer and I told him that several years ago when we adopted our moose

0231

1 drawing, we changed our designated hunter rule for Unit
2 6, to include moose, deer, black bear and beaver --
3 this is probably 15 years ago or so, and that made our
4 designated hunter laws different in Federal regulations
5 than the rest of the state. The rest of the state, any
6 qualified user can designate any qualified user for any
7 hunting but we kind of refined that because of the draw
8 hunt and these other species got lumped into that. And
9 I think we could meet the intent of what John wants by
10 just striking deer from the Unit 6 designated hunter
11 provision. He added some extra language, I don't know
12 if that's necessary but we could leave that up to OSM
13 regulation specialists, but I think that would meet the
14 intent of what John's after.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay, very
17 good. Okay, Council members, you guys got it and it's
18 kind of in a rough draft of what we would present and
19 have OSM work to help get a proposal -- for a wildlife
20 proposal change this next cycle, on the deer that
21 John's proposing.

22

23 Anyone want to start out a comment on
24 it or support it, or a motion to support.

25

26 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead.

29

30 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you.
31 Yeah, I definitely support this. Of course, I believe
32 Federally-wise, if, you know, with Milo there and
33 Charolette Westing with Fish and Game even, could
34 probably verify that it's barely even statistically
35 relevant of what the Federal subsistence take of deer
36 would be in comparison to the overall harvest. So,
37 anyhow, yeah definitely support that.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks,
42 Andy. Is there any other comments, or questions before
43 we make a motion to support it.

44

45 MR. WHISSEL: Mr. Chair, this is John
46 Whissel.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, John.

49

50

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1 MR. WHISSEL: I would only add, and
2 since Milo's been able to speak on the record, I would
3 only add that I would support the simpler means of
4 getting this done that he suggested, if, in fact, the
5 good folks at OSM agree and it gets it done. It's the
6 intent that I'm trying to achieve, I'm not really fixed
7 on particular regulatory language that I wrote.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, sounds
12 good. We would just support the concept they come up
13 with so, yes, okay, and the easier the better is your
14 statement, okay. Okay, any other comments.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, let's go
19 ahead and move someone to submit this wildlife proposal
20 to OSM or whoever to draft up for us, but we support it
21 for the change on the deer in Unit 6D.

22
23 MS. PETRIVELLI: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead,
26 I'm not sure who's there that's first. Go ahead, would
27 you state your name.

28
29 MS. PETRIVELLI: This is Pat
30 Petrivelli.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, Pat, go
33 ahead.

34
35 MS. PETRIVELLI: I just had a question,
36 so just for clarification purposes, maybe it'd be
37 better to have two separate proposals, one to deal with
38 the designated hunting issue and then the other one is
39 the season limit. But I agree, Milo's suggestion, and
40 it would be the simplest is just to eliminate deer from
41 the special provisions for Unit 6. And it would be
42 just deleting that word and it would accomplish the
43 same intent.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's, I think,
46 what we want to do so yeah we'll.....

47
48 MS. PETRIVELLI: Yes. So whoever.....

49
50

0233

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: leave the
2 details up to you guys.

3
4 MS. PETRIVELLI: So whoever makes the
5 motion, it might be good to make just two separate
6 proposals.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hopefully --
9 okay, we'll think about that, thank you.

10
11 Okay, you heard Pat saying that, so if
12 someone wants to make a motion that encompasses that,
13 both, or one, is fine with me. The intent is to get
14 the support and work out the details in the simplest
15 manner that accomplishes what John proposed.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I know I've put
20 you guys on the spot how to make a motion, but I think
21 you could just make a motion of support for the
22 proposal to change the deer in Unit 6D.

23
24 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
25 Ed. I'll make that motion with one letter we will
26 support as written by John, the designated hunter issue
27 in Unit 6D.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, that's just
30 for the designated hunter issue, correct?

31
32 MR. HOLSTEN: Yes.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, is there a
35 second to Ed's motion.

36
37 MR. WHISSEL: (Indiscernible)

38
39 REPORTER: If there's a second I didn't
40 hear it. I think maybe John was trying to second.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm not
43 sure who seconded it but I thought it might be Andy.

44
45 REPORTER: Okay, yeah, I thought I
46 heard someone but not sure.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I kind of
49 need you to state your name, I can't see you so
50

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1 whoever's seconded it, speak up please.

2

3 MR. WHISSEL: It's John Whissel, I
4 seconded it.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
7 John.

8

9 REPORTER: Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we got a
12 motion, moved and seconded by Ed, and that was the
13 designated hunter portion of it, any questions on it,
14 any discussion.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, all
19 in favor of that motion, aye.

20

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

24

25 (No opposing votes)

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. That
28 carries. Now, we need the second part of the motion --
29 or another motion, am I correct on that, John, is that
30 what you wanted?

31

32 MR. WHISSEL: Yeah, I think so we would
33 want -- well, I'll do it. I make a motion to extend
34 the any deer season in Unit 6D to end January 31st.

35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there a
37 second to John's motion.

38

39 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

40

41 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, this is Ed -- Mr.
42 Chair, this is Ed, I second.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Ed, thank
45 you. Any discussion on the extension to the end of --
46 the 30th.

47

48 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I could just say
49 I remember everybody had the big panic when I made the
50

0235

1 proposal for the one buck only and that's why we kept
2 it to one buck, it was intended for either sex, so this
3 is alreadygoing where itshould havegone a longtime ago.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Andy,
8 thanks. Any other comments.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we got a
13 motion, we got a second to extend that season. All in
14 favor, aye.

15

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

19

20 (No opposing votes)

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, that
23 carries. Okay, well, if I didn't miss anything, I
24 think we're ready now to move on where we left off
25 yesterday with the FRMP report.

26

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

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead,
30 DeAnna.

31

32 MS. PERRY: Sorry, about that. Since
33 we're just kind of tying up old business and new
34 business. Yesterday when we were talking about annual
35 reports, Karen Linnell mentioned scientific data, the
36 need for scientific data and she did provide us with
37 some additional language if the Council wanted to
38 consider it. At this point the Council has already
39 adopted the language in the annual report and we did
40 actually ask for some specific scientific data under
41 our climate change paragraph but I did send Ms.
42 Linnell's verbiage to everybody earlier this morning
43 and I didn't know if the Council wanted to take action
44 on that. They could further add that to the annual
45 report if they wanted, they could take it under
46 advisement until next time, they could send a special
47 letter, again, just following up so we can tie up that
48 loose end from yesterday.

49

50

0236

1 So I'll leave it with you and the
2 Council, Mr. Chair.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. It's kind
5 of up to the Council, of course, but I think we've got
6 that tied up, if we've got it mentioned in ours then I
7 think we should take that under advisement for our
8 future reports and we can get a chance to study and
9 look at it, I haven't seen the letter. I think that's
10 something that, you know, the Council here has debated
11 our reports and I think we've got that pretty well
12 covered for now.

13
14 Any Council want to comment on that, if
15 you guys want to open it up for more -- to add to our
16 report. I thought about this yesterday and I'm not
17 sure that was the proper avenue we were taking anyway.

18
19 MS. PERRY: And, Mr. Chair, this is
20 might be something just to keep in mind as we hear
21 about the Fisheries Resource Monitoring projects, of
22 course, that's another route that we get data as well,
23 so, anyway, thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay,
26 thank you. Let's go ahead and have our FRMP report
27 finally.

28
29 MR. STONE: All right, good morning,
30 Mr. Chair and members of the Council. My name is Jared
31 Stone and I am a fisheries biologist with the Office of
32 Subsistence Management. I'm here today to update the
33 Council on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
34 and the funding opportunity that closes on March 15th.
35 It's not an action item.

36
37 We are seeking applications for
38 projects that address priority information needs that
39 you have developed at your last Council meeting and
40 that gather information to manage and conserve
41 subsistence fisheries in Federal public waters in
42 Alaska. The Monitoring Program is also directed at
43 supporting meaningful involvement of fisheries
44 management by Alaska Native and rural organizations and
45 promoting collaboration among Federal, State and Alaska
46 Native and local organizations.

47
48 For the 2022 funding cycle it is
49 anticipated there will be \$2.25 million available for
50

0237

1 the first year of new projects. Anyone wanting to
2 apply can find information about the program on the
3 Federal Subsistence Management Program's web page
4 or.....

5

6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Do you have the
7 right tape?

8

9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participants not muted)

11

12 MR. STONE:by visiting
13 www.grants.gov. After the funding opportunity window
14 closes, applications will be reviewed by the Technical
15 Review Committee. The results of that review will be
16 presented to you at your next meeting.

17

18 This is not an action item.

19

20 If there are any questions I would be
21 happy to address them now.

22

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
24 Council for your time today and this concludes my
25 presentation.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Any
28 questions for Jared.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any Council
33 members, any questions.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, I guess
38 we'll figure out how to proceed, okay, thanks, Jared.

39

40 Okay, I think we're ready to move on
41 then to agency reports, is that correct?

42

43 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, agency
46 reports. We have a time limit, 15 minutes, unless
47 approved in advance. I don't know that we've ever
48 strongly enforced it, but if you get carried away we
49 will. We're going to start out, on my agenda it shows
50

0238

1 Ninilchik Traditional Council; Darrell, are you up?

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman. Members
4 of the Board. My name is Darrell Williams. I'm with
5 the Ninilchik Traditional Council to give the report
6 today.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
9 Darrell, thank you.

10

11 MR. WILLIAMS: All right. Thank you
12 everybody for giving us the opportunity to be able to
13 spend a little time talking about subsistence from the
14 tribe.

15

16 Just to kind of give you guys a rundown
17 of where we're at now, presently, we're already looking
18 at getting to fish. It's been interesting because the
19 last several years of doing the gillnet fishery in the
20 Kenai River, we heard a lot of similar discussions
21 yesterday about the use of gillnets and different
22 settings and types and so on and so forth, people's
23 concerns, and I want to say that with our use of the
24 gillnet, the mesh type that we selected, the mesh size,
25 and the placement in the river we've still been
26 successful about avoiding bycatch and mortality within
27 the fishery. Last year in 2020 we caught -- on the
28 Kenai River we caught 3,163 sockeye for Federally-
29 qualified users who obtained a Federal permit.

30

31 So with that said that was in 17 days
32 of fishing on the Kenai. So as we have fished this
33 river more and we've gotten more familiar with the run
34 behavior in that particular stretch of the river we're
35 able to reduce the impacts by not having a net in the
36 water as much, putting the net in the water, getting
37 our fish and getting out of the waters has always been
38 our goal. For bycatch we caught 18 coho, and one Dolly
39 Varden in 2020. So to demonstrate the effectiveness of
40 how a set, a size, gear type, those kind of things,
41 it's really worked very well. And it's demonstrated
42 this consistent effort.

43

44 So what we do to be able to measure
45 that, is we look at the ability to harvest versus time
46 in the water to be able to get a rough figure. So for
47 2020 we ended up right about 47 fish per hour that we
48 were able to harvest. Because when it's less than that
49 we don't want to put a net in the river just to hang a
50

0239

1 net in the river, right. So that's something that
2 we've been doing and it's been very successful and
3 we're gearing up for that.

4
5 We're also very pleased to hear about
6 the wildlife harvest on the recent proposals. We want
7 to be able to thank the Regional Advisory Council and
8 the Federal Subsistence Board for making that happen
9 and allowing subsistence users to be able to harvest.

10
11 We're going to keep an eye on this
12 whole permitting system to see how it develops. The
13 Chairman brought up some topics yesterday that have
14 been discussed here about moose and how that's -- and
15 the permitting and how that's going to work, especially
16 here in the local area of Ninilchik.

17
18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted)

20
21 MR. WILLIAMS: There are some concerns
22 and.....

23
24 REPORTER: Okay, hang on, Darrell.
25 Darrell, could you hold on just one moment, please.

26
27 MR. WILLIAMS: Sure.

28
29 REPORTER: So -- thank you. This is
30 the reporter, so I have people talking on the phone to
31 other people and they're talking over Darrell, so if
32 everybody could take a second, check your phone, make
33 sure you're on mute unless you're talking directly with
34 the Board. I appreciate that.

35
36 Sorry, Darrell, go ahead.

37
38 MR. WILLIAMS: That's quite all right,
39 thank you so much.

40
41 So, yeah the Chairman brought up some
42 points up in discussion that we've had here locally
43 about moose and how that's going to work long-term.
44 And we'll be watching that and I'm sure we'll have more
45 to contribute later.

46
47 Very pleased to hear about this idea of
48 reducing the cycle for Federal subsistence proposals,
49 and I just want to make a note it'll help us out for
50

0240

1 the right reasons. When we did our fishery it was a 15
2 year process and I hope nobody else has to go through
3 that. I would also make a comment on the idea of co-
4 management to make sure that that gets really
5 scrutinized very hard because of the past experiences
6 demonstrated by fisheries such as ours.

7
8 There is -- I guess the other part of
9 the concerns that I just wanted to mention really
10 quickly, with the subsistence cycle being able to be
11 reduced, I hope that we'll be able to address things
12 like C&T, methods and means, and even like the closures
13 or reporting issues that we've talked about yesterday
14 and we're aware of that here. The way we've done our
15 reporting is daily even though we're allowed 72 hours,
16 we still report every day. That's a choice. We want
17 that fisheries management to be successful. We also --
18 because it's a community-based fishery, we actually,
19 you know, fill paperwork out, we give people a piece of
20 paper, you know, call this in and report it, to make
21 sure that we encourage that reporting for that in-
22 season management. Last year, for example, the sockeye
23 run on the Kenai was right about 2 million fish and we
24 harvested 3,000 for people who had Federal permits to
25 be able to -- who were qualified to do so. And it's
26 the same type of people, just to really put a name on
27 it, most of the people are elderly, over 50 years old,
28 disadvantaged, those kind of things, so in terms of how
29 successful the fishery has been, that's been really
30 wonderful because that's a valuable thing for a
31 community. You know the young guys they go out and
32 they fish by themselves and they go and have a good
33 time doing so but people who really have needs, have
34 been able to utilize this resource and, again, we want
35 to thank everybody for allowing it to happen.

36
37 Mr. Chairman, that's all I have.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good,
40 Darrell. Has anyone got any questions for Darrell on
41 what the Ninilchik Tribal Council's doing --
42 Traditional Council.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
47 Darrell. Good report.

48
49 Next, I got the Native Village of Eyak.
50

0241

1 MR. PICHE: Hello, this is Matt Piche.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hello, Matt, how
4 are you?

5

6 MR. PICHE: I'm good.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, good.

9

10 MR. PICHE: And I'm ready when you are.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You got the
13 floor.

14

15 MR. PICHE: Okay. Well, good morning,
16 my name is Matt Piche. I'm the Partners Program Fish
17 Biologist for the Native Village of Eyak in Cordova.
18 I'm here to update the Council on the 2020 Copper River
19 sockeye and chinook salmon run size spawning escapement
20 update and overview of the 2020 in-season fisheries
21 management. I'm able to present this Copper River
22 salmon summary data to you as part of the U.S. Fish and
23 Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management
24 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. The summary
25 data presented here is collected by many agencies
26 including ADF&G, National Park Service, Native Village
27 of Eyak, BLM, and OSM.

28

29 I'll begin with Copper River returning
30 run size data.

31

32 The 2020 Copper River sockeye salmon
33 return run size -- returning run size estimate was a 37
34 year low with an approximate estimate of 639,000
35 sockeye salmon returning to the mouth of the Copper
36 River prior to any harvest occurring. This is 66
37 percent lower than the historical average run size from
38 1978 to 2020, and 73 percent lower than the 10 year
39 average run size. But the 2020 run size was below the
40 previous 35 year low, that occurred in 2018.

41

42 Copper River Delta sockeye salmon are
43 enumerated separately from the Copper River main stem
44 stocks and are managed using fixed wing aerial surveys
45 instead of sonar or mark/recapture methods. In 2020
46 the preliminary Copper River Delta peak aerial survey
47 count was just above the lower bound sustainable
48 escapement goal of 50,000 sockeye salmon. Preliminary
49 data suggests the lower bound of escapement was
50

0242

1 achieved on the Copper River Delta. All Copper River
2 Delta sockeye salmon abundance and harvest data are
3 collected and published by Alaska Department of Fish
4 and Game.

5
6 The 2020 Copper River chinook salmon
7 run size was the second lowest on record at an
8 estimated 32,000 chinook salmon returning to the mouth
9 of the Copper River prior to any harvest occurring.
10 This is 34 percent below the 10 year average and 45
11 percent below the historical average. The lowest
12 return on record occurred in 2016. The chinook salmon
13 population data used for these estimates is collected
14 by the Native Village of Eyak's fishwheel
15 mark/recapture program and the lower river harvest data
16 was published by Alaska Department of Fish and Game in
17 their post-season analysis and annual management
18 reports.

19
20 The only other population data
21 available for Copper River chinook salmon is the
22 Gulkana River counting tower operated by Alaska
23 Department of Fish and Game and BLM, and in 2020 an
24 estimated 2,262 chinook salmon migrated above the
25 counting tower which was approximately 41 percent below
26 the historical average. This is preliminary data.

27
28 I will now provide a Copper River
29 spawning escapement update. 2020 sockeye salmon and
30 chinook salmon harvest data is computed by Alaska
31 Department of Fish and Game and National Park Service
32 fishery managers. Once harvest is calculated spawning
33 escapement of both sockeye and chinook salmon can be
34 estimated by subtracting up river harvest from lower
35 river abundance estimates. Based on preliminary data
36 and historical harvest it's likely the lower bound of
37 the sockeye salmon escapement goal was achieved in
38 2020, however, the harvest data is still being
39 finalized. Based on preliminary data historical in-
40 river harvest and in-season management to reduce
41 chinook salmon harvest of all fisheries, other than
42 subsistence in 2020, chinook salmon spawning
43 escapements should be near the lower bound of the
44 escapement goal, however, until harvest data is
45 finalized it remains unknown if the SEG was achieved.
46 Once in-river harvest is finalized it will be
47 subtracted from the in-river abundance estimate
48 produced by NVE's mark/recapture program to determine
49 if the sustainable escapement goal was met.

50

0243

1 And then lastly, I have a brief
2 overview of some of the 2020 Copper River fishery
3 management decisions. These are in-season emergency
4 orders and closures.

5
6 Due to low sockeye passage at the Miles
7 Lake Sonar, and low Copper River Delta aerial surveys,
8 commercial fishing targeting Copper River sockeye and
9 chinook salmon was limited to seven openers with
10 approximately 84 hours of fishing during the first two
11 and a half months of the fishery. Personal use
12 fisheries were restricted in time through scheduled
13 announcements due to low Miles Lake sonar. Sockeye
14 salmon harvest was closed in the personal use fishery
15 towards the end of the season on July 27th through the
16 month of August. Sportfisheries were closed to sockeye
17 salmon harvest on August 3rd. On June 20th Copper
18 River sportfishery annual bag limit for chinook salmon
19 was reduced from four to one, and beginning on June
20 22nd chinook salmon retention was closed in all
21 personal use fisheries for the remainder of the season.
22 Chinook salmon closures were implemented because of the
23 low catch rate at Native Village of Eyak's Baird
24 Canyon's research fishwheel tagging, in-season in-river
25 abundance indices of mark/recapture and low Gulkana
26 River tower counts. All State and Federal Copper River
27 sockeye and chinook salmon subsistence fisheries
28 remained opened and unrestricted during the 2020
29 season.

30
31 And then just lastly, Copper River
32 Delta coho salmon escapement is assessed using aerial
33 index surveys by ADF&G. Preliminary data showed a peak
34 count of 37,225 coho salmon, which is above the lower
35 bound SEG of 32,000 coho salmon, total escapement
36 spawning in areas above the Copper River Delta are not
37 monitored.

38
39 This concludes my presentation.

40
41 Thank you for allowing me time to talk
42 and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Matt.
47 Great report. Questions. Council members, questions
48 for Matt, anything on this report.

49
50

0244

1 MS. STICKWAN: Mr. Chair. I was
2 wondering if we could get a copy of that report.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, Matt, could
5 we get copies of the report or get them sent to DeAnna
6 so she could send them out to us.

7
8 MR. PICHE: Yes, I will do that.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Great, thanks.
11 Anyone else got questions.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks,
16 Matt. Thanks. Good report.

17
18 MS. STICKWAN: Oh, I have a question,
19 Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead.
22 Sorry, Matt, hang on.....

23
24 MS. STICKWAN: I was wondering.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:Gloria go
27 ahead.

28
29 MS. STICKWAN: I was wondering when you
30 would have the numbers for the king salmon about.

31
32 MR. PICHE: Yes, can you hear me, I'm
33 getting confused with my star six's, am I on mute or
34 no?

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No, I could hear
37 you good.

38
39 MR. PICHE: Perfect. So, Gloria,
40 through the Chair. That's dependent upon -- I guess,
41 Dave Sarafin, and Mark Somerville would be the two
42 people that need to be asked that question. I think
43 they probably have subsistence harvest, a pretty good
44 idea about subsistence harvest right now as well as
45 personal use, those permits were all due in the fall,
46 however, the sportfish mailout harvest surveys tend to
47 take a little while longer to get all of that data
48 compiled because it's a statewide survey. So Mark
49 Somerville would be the contact on when he anticipates
50

0245

1 those being in. Once we have all of the sportfish,
2 subsistence and personal use harvest recorded then the
3 system-wide spawning escapement can be calculated. And
4 the in-river abundance that NVE produces, that
5 population portion of that, and we release that in
6 September of this year, of this past year.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay,
11 Gloria, I hope that answered that. And then we could
12 get some reports from Dave and Mark down the road here.
13 Any other questions for Matt before he leaves.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I hear
18 none, thank you.

19

20 MR. PICHE: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. Next I
23 got Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission, Native
24 organizations -- under Native organizations.

25

26 MS. PERRY: And, Mr. Chair, this is
27 DeAnna.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead,
30 DeAnna.

31

32 MS. PERRY: I just wanted to remind the
33 Council members who might be on Teams that I did send
34 that presentation to them by email this morning so that
35 they could have that in front of them since they're not
36 able to see the Teams screen.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I'm going
41 to have to dig it up.

42

43 (Pause)

44

45 MS. LINNELL: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
46 This is Karen Linnell, Executive Director for the Ahtna
47 InterTribal Resource Commission.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good morning,

50

0246

1 Karen, again, and we're glad to have your presentation
2 now.

3

4 MS. LINNELL: All right, thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Uh-huh.

7

8 MS. LINNELL: We can go on to the next
9 slide. We'll give a little talk on our wildlife
10 management program.

11

12 Next slide.

13

14 We have a bear hair snare collaborative
15 project working in partnership with the Alaska
16 Department of Fish and Game and Ahtna Incorporated.
17 This is a noninvasive hair snare sampling across Ahtna
18 lands and GameManagement Unit 13. Theestimated bear --
19 we're using this to estimate bear density and
20 distribution for management purposes.

21

22 Next slide.

23

24 The 2020 season, the green spots that
25 you see is where we had hair snare locations. We
26 collected 606 hair samples, 92 were from harvested
27 bears and 52 samples from live capture. And we
28 received lots and lots of photos. In the lower left
29 hand side there you'll see the barbed wire that we use
30 to collect hair samples and there's two samples there,
31 they're marked and tagged separately.

32

33 Next slide.

34

35 And then we started to plan our 2021
36 season to expand throughout the entire Unit 13.

37

38 Next slide.

39

40 The monthly home ranges for the -- that
41 were collared, the data is provided by Alaska
42 Department of Fish and Game, they're averaging about
43 200 kilometers, square kilometers is their range.

44

45 Next slide, please.

46

47 So this is the site layout for 2021,
48 and they're doing about 13 kilometer site thread (ph),
49 and then a 10 sigma 63 kilometer cluster distances

50

0247

1 between the clusters. So they're hoping to do 10
2 clusters and about 90 traps. If we average about two
3 samples per trap we're looking at possibly 1,100
4 samples for 2021.

5

6 Next slide.

7

8 This last -- in 2020 we were asked by
9 the Department of Fish and Game to help them with their
10 orphaned moose project. We had one moose that we were
11 able to raise and five calves were brought for release
12 in Unit 13D by -- and they were raised by the Moose
13 Mamas. We suspect that all of the five calves raised
14 by Moose Mamas are suspected mortality. We recovered
15 three of the ear tags from -- and three kill sites were
16 found from predation. So one moose has not been
17 trackable and that's the moose that AITRC raised and it
18 could be possible issues from the ear tag transmitter.

19

20 Next slide, please.

21

22 So to improve the project and to
23 possibly improve the survivability of the calves we're
24 looking at a new facility where we may be able to have
25 a soft release where they'd be in a protected area.
26 We're looking at possibly 60 acres with free forage in
27 there. In the picture you'll see the fingers in the
28 red box there, those are moose browse, it was a former
29 moose browse project and so there's some good willow
30 regrowth in there so early succession on habitat for
31 them. And we secured some funding from the Native
32 American Agriculture Fund for this project.

33

34 Next slide, please.

35

36 Our fisheries program.

37

38 Next slide.

39

40 We are working with partners of the
41 Copper River Watershed Project and Wrangell Institute
42 for Science and Education, collaborating with Native
43 Village of Chitina and Chitina Native Corporation in
44 writing a plan to restore salmon to Town Lake in
45 Chitina.

46

47 We were able to have a field day, walk
48 the creek from the lake, Town Lake, through to Suzie
49 Lake and then down to the mouth of the Copper River

50

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1 where we saw juvenile coho and chinook salmon. We
2 placed minnow traps along Town Lake drainage, collected
3 and tested waters samples around the drainage and
4 continue to monitor the lake. We worked and sampled
5 with Fish and Wildlife Service, the Watershed Project,
6 WISE, NRCS, and AITRC Staff to do this survey.

7

8 Go ahead.

9

10 We also have a contract to work with
11 ADF&G in collecting Gulkana hatchery otolith sampling.
12 This year we collected nearly 1,500 sockeye samples, of
13 that 792 were male, 685 female. We also took samples
14 from chinook, we took 200 plus samples there. 106
15 male, 112 female.

16

17 Next slide.

18

19 Tribal stewardship planning. This is
20 something that we've been working on for a few years
21 now where we're working with the tribes to document
22 their land use, both historical and today. And then we
23 did a survey, we tried to capture all eight communities
24 but due to Covid we were only able to reach five.

25

26 Next slide, please.

27

28 Some of the survey questions is how did
29 you get to the place where you hunted moose. Caribou.
30 Have you ever hunted caribou, how did you get there.
31 You know what do you trap for. What type of berries do
32 you pick. Do you use medicinal plants and where -- you
33 know how do you harvest them. And those questions when
34 they're answered were mapped on the next page. Here
35 you'll see the map.....

36

37 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Glennallen, Fish
38 and Game.

39

40 MS. LINNELL:and this is some of
41 the Native or land use collection from Chitina to
42 Mentasta and all the way.....

43

44 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah, just give me
45 a second.....

46

47 MS. LINNELL:to Cantwell.

48

49 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE:let me.....

50

0249

1 REPORTER: Hold on a second. Karen.
2 Karen, Karen, could you please stop just a moment.

3
4 So this is the reporter, somebody's
5 talking online over Karen's presentation. I'd
6 appreciate it if everybody took a second, looked at
7 your phone, make sure you're on mute because I'm trying
8 to record Karen.

9
10 Sorry, Karen, go ahead.

11
12 MS. LINNELL: Thank you. Next slide,
13 please. And this is just breaking it down by each
14 village.

15
16 Next slide.

17
18 And, again, next slide, please.

19
20 Our anthropology projects. We have a
21 Partners in Fisheries Management project that ended in
22 December. We're finishing up our final report. In
23 this, we were looking at the effectiveness of tribal
24 citizens and rural residents participation in the
25 fisheries management regulatory process. We have
26 conducted interviews and looking at future research
27 needs. That'll be summarized in our report that should
28 be done in the next week or two. Our Ahtna ethnography
29 project is a project we're doing with the Wrangell-St.
30 Elias National Park documenting the Ahtna people's use
31 of the lands within the Park. The Park's been around
32 for 40 years and some ethnographies going to get done
33 so we're pleased with that and we're pleased that we're
34 able to help to write out own story and use of the
35 lands. We're also doing -- we had talked about access
36 within the Wrangell-St.Elias and how things have
37 changed. This is something that came out of our
38 Caribou Working Group where it was the Wrangell-
39 St.Elias, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Department
40 of Fish and Game, AITRC, and the Wrangell-St.Elias SRC
41 were talking about caribou and migrations and trying to
42 see what we can do to help the herd. And we talked
43 about predation within Wrangell-St.Elias and one of the
44 comments was, well, we're not stopping folks from
45 subsistence trapping and my answer was but the river
46 is. The river's not staying frozen. It's unsafe to
47 cross in the winter now and so from that this is where
48 our snow and ice caribou TEK project came about. Covid
49 restrictions stopped us from interviewing new folks
50

0250

1 this year so we -- or in 2020, and we plan to start
2 this project fairly soon.

3

4 Next slide, please.

5

6 The big news. AITRC's community
7 harvest system. It's fantastic. And I want to thank
8 you folks, it's been four years in the making. You
9 folks have been very helpful with your support and I
10 just want to thank you for that. Without the RACs, I
11 don't think this would have gotten anywhere. What does
12 it mean that the eight villages have a community
13 harvest system, it means that Federally-qualified
14 residents of Cantwell, Mentasta, Chistochina, Gakona,
15 Gulkana, Copper Center, and Chitina census designated
16 areas -- places are eligible to participate in the
17 community harvest system, but are not required to. You
18 don't -- it also means that you don't have to go to the
19 BLM and the National Park Service for your Federal
20 permit, but to one location here at AITRC. The seasons
21 and bag limits will be the same as other Federally-
22 managed hunts.

23

24 Next slide.

25

26 This is just an example, and there's
27 several slides of this, of what the census designated
28 place looks like. But for Cantwell, the National Park
29 Service resident zone is a three mile circumference
30 from the Post Office.

31

32 Go ahead, keep going, please.

33

34 Continue.

35

36 Future project considerations. We're
37 looking at wolf monitoring in Unit 13D. We want to
38 host some trapping classes and training for our young
39 people, get them involved and out on the land again.

40

41 Working on -- we've been talking with
42 Tom Parigie (ph) out of Fairbanks, who developed a
43 moose browse methodology of monitoring moose browse to
44 estimate how many moose are in the area. And so we
45 would like to host a training. He came here probably
46 four or five years ago and did a training. Since then
47 we've had a turnover in Staff at ADF&G, BLM, and Ahtna
48 with their natural resource techs and now we have
49 biologists ourselves so we'd like to host that training

50

0251

1 again and be able to speak the same language and know
2 that we're talking about the same thing when we talk
3 about the moose browse in our area.

4
5 Our fisheries biologist left at the
6 beginning of January and we've already filled that
7 position and our new biologist will be on hand in the
8 office here on March 15th.

9
10 We're working with the Native Village
11 of Eyak on a Klutina River sonar project to monitor
12 escapement on the Klutina River, and that's based on a
13 radiotelemetry project that NVE did about 10 years ago
14 where they found that 30 to 50 percent of the sockeye
15 return goes up the Klutina River.

16
17 Gulkana River limnology, as we've said
18 before in some of our discussions, the Prince William
19 Sound Aquaculture Corporation, PWSAC, is running the
20 Gulkana Hatchery and they are having difficulty meeting
21 their brood stocks and it's taking longer, more effort
22 to get that brood stock. We want to know what's going
23 on and why they're not getting it.

24
25 And then, of course, documenting our
26 traditional hunting use, and fishing uses and laws and
27 then other considerations. Our goal is always to fill
28 information gaps, not duplicate effort and working in
29 partnership with folks like NVE.....

30
31 You can go on to the next slide.

32
33and the Park Service, BIA, Indian
34 Land (indiscernible) Foundation, the watershed project,
35 et cetera, you know, this work is crucial to ensure the
36 sustainability of our fish and wildlife resources, and
37 we just want to thank our partners for that. A
38 majority of this is funded through the Bureau of Indian
39 Affairs.

40
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42
43 I'll take any questions if you have
44 any.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Karen, that was a
47 great report and I appreciate it, I'm sure we all do
48 and I want to congratulate on AITRCs community harvest
49 system and getting that approved. That's a big, big
50

0252

1 plus.

2

3

4 MS. LINNELL: Yes. Thank you. And,
5 you know, throughout yesterday and today we talked
6 about the need for more information and having that 10
7 year average, and we were listening to Matt Piche's
8 report, having that 10 year average that was given to
9 us by the Department for the preseason estimate,
10 looking back and hearing Matt talk about the last 35
11 years, a 45 percent decline, that's a big deal. And,
12 again, I can't stress enough the need for additional
13 information. And I would hope that you folks would
14 reconsider and put that into your annual report to the
15 Secretary.

15

16

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49

50

16 Anyway, thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Appreciate the time to provide this update to you
18 folks.

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Karen.
21 Any questions for Karen before she leaves here from the
22 presentation.

24 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, this is
25 Angela Totemoff.

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead,
28 Angela.

30 MS. TOTEMOFF: Hi, Karen. I just wanted
31 to say that I really truly appreciated your
32 presentation today. This morning when I was preparing
33 for the meeting, it was on my mind that what would be
34 really powerful with this group is to have something
35 like a strategic plan and this is very similar to what
36 you did with your community and I think it could be --
37 this model that you created could be used in other
38 communities and other groups, too. So I just wanted to
39 mention that and give you credit where it's due and
40 great job on this. I really appreciated your
41 presentation today.

43 MS. LINNELL: Thank you. You know,
44 this is AITRC originally started was when we talked to
45 Congressman Young about being able to have co-
46 management and he said you need all of your tribes on
47 board. It can't be just the corporations. And so we
48 did that. And then he said I'd like for you guys to
49 come up with a solution, he said that you're the first

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1 one that came to us with a solution, I'd like for you
2 guys to be a demonstration for other areas in the state
3 and the Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission is
4 also got that MOA with the Secretary regarding fish and
5 salmon stocks. And so they're the example for
6 fisheries. And so we're trying to work in this
7 partnership so that this can be replicated across the
8 state.

9

10 Thank you for that.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
13 Angela. Any other questions for Karen.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks,
18 again, Karen.

19

20 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Next I got
23 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and I don't know if
24 Ken's going to do that or who's going to talk to us,
25 but whoever's going to present, you're up.

26

27 MR. GATES: Yeah, good morning, Mr.
28 Chair. This is Ken Gates with U.S. Fish and Wildlife.
29 And I just wanted to thank the Council members for
30 their time.

31

32 Yeah, I just want to give a quick
33 update on permits for the Cook Inlet Federal
34 subsistence fisheries from last year. We issued 396
35 permits between both Cooper Landing and Ninilchik. 10
36 of those permits were designated fishing permits. 103
37 were general fishing permits, of which 71 of those were
38 issued to residents of Cooper Landing, 18 from Hope and
39 14 from Ninilchik. We had 283 household permits, of
40 which 157 were issued to Ninilchik residents, 93 to
41 Cooper Landing and 33 to Hope. And I just wanted to
42 say that we are planning to issue permits for 2021
43 fishing season starting May 1st. We're still working
44 through the process that we're going to use since our
45 office is currently closed to the public and it does
46 not appear as if it's going to open by May 1st.

47

48 And I just wanted touch real quick on
49 the harvest from last year. Between the Kenai and
50

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1 Kasilof Rivers there was approximately a little over
2 5,000 salmon harvested in the various Federal
3 fisheries. To the gillnet fisheries on both the Kenai,
4 Kasilof dipnet fisheries and the dipnet fishery at the
5 Russian River Falls and rod and reel.

6
7 And that's all I had regarding permits
8 in Federal subsistence fishery.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Ken, thank
11 you. Any questions on his report or for him.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, well,
16 thanks, Ken and welcome. I know I got to meet with
17 you, and Ivan and look forward to working with you here
18 on the Peninsula and great to have you.

19
20 MR. GATES: Yeah, thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Next, I
23 got USDA Forest Service.

24
25 MR. BURCHAM: Yes, good morning
26 everybody. This is Milo Burcham of the Chugach
27 National Forest. And I'll update the -- can you hear
28 me now?

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Sure, I hear you.

31
32 MR. BURCHAM: This is Milo Burcham of
33 the Chugach National Forest. And I'll be reporting for
34 the Chugach -- no, I'm getting confused because I'm on
35 Teams and that automatically mutes me and I'm talking
36 through my phone, sorry about that.

37
38 I'll do the Chugach National Forest
39 agency report. I submitted a report that's in your
40 Council book but that was submitted back in December
41 and I didn't have numbers, most seasons were still
42 active or we hadn't concluded all our seasons yet so I
43 can fill in some of those blanks. I'll update you on a
44 couple personnel items.

45
46 Most importantly, our Regional
47 Subsistence Coordinator position has been filled. That
48 was previously Tom Whitford's position but it's been
49 several months since he's been in place, we've now
50

0255

1 hired Greg Risdahl. And Greg Risdahl comes from the
2 Office of Subsistence Management so he's a quick study
3 and will hit the ground running, I'm excited to have
4 him on board and also he and I go back a long time,
5 just about 40 years, to the University of Montana, and
6 Greg introduced me to how to pack and elk out of the
7 woods years and years ago. So excited to have him in
8 place.

9
10 Secondly, as far as personnel goes,
11 Dave Pearson was my assistant on the Kenai and he
12 worked half-time in subsistence, he has taken another
13 position, so that position is open. So I'm kind of
14 lacking help on the Kenai and there's a couple gaps in
15 communication in implementing the program over there.
16 That position's slated to be filled and I don't know
17 exactly where the hiring is right now but I'm excited
18 to get somebody to help with that side of the Forest.

19
20 I'll jump over to Unit 6, here around
21 Cordova, and talk about moose harvest. First, our
22 moose seasons have concluded. The cow season ended at
23 the end of October and 39 of 40 permits were filled and
24 the bull moose season ended at the end of December and
25 26 of 30 bull moose permits were filled.

26
27 We have a cost share agreement with
28 Alaska Department of Fish and Game where we fund survey
29 efforts for some of the wildlife that we hunts on and
30 most recently, this fall, a moose composition survey
31 was completed. The flights were done on November 28th
32 and December 4. 198 moose were observed, and from that
33 it indicated a bull/cow ratio of 24 bulls per 100 cows
34 and a cow/calf ratio of 20 calves per 100 cows.

35
36 As far as other Unit 6 hunts we issued
37 five Federal subsistence goat permits for Unit 6D.
38 There was no reported harvest.

39
40 And then I'll jump over to -- oh, and
41 then the black bear project. So we have a black bear
42 research project in Prince William Sound that we're
43 doing with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. We
44 ended up collaring 53 black bears in that project.
45 It's winding down, at least the field portion is
46 winding down now, we have just one batch of collars,
47 those that we collared in 2018 still out there, but
48 they will drop off this fall. Field work for this
49 coming season will include possibly changing out a
50

0256

1 collar or two in dens and recovering dropped collars.
2 We'll have several dropped collars to recover. And
3 data now is just starting, my partner with Fish and
4 Game is working on writing papers. We're currently
5 writing a paper on the trapping success and methods
6 that we used.

7

8 Jumping over to the Kenai.

9

10 Unit 7 for caribou, we issued 41
11 permits this fall and I don't have any reported
12 harvest. For moose we issued 45 permits in Unit 7 and
13 two bulls were sealed in that hunt. And mountain
14 goats, we had a new hunt this past fall that was
15 approved by the Council and the Board and there was a
16 drawing for two mountain goat permits and none of those
17 -- neither of those were filled. And I'm working with
18 Fish and Wildlife Service, Todd Eskelin right now for
19 the drawing for the 2021 season and we're, currently,
20 in Unit 7, going to offer three permits and those will
21 be in goat unit 338, which is Crescent Lake, 341
22 (Indiscernible) Mountain, and 339 Grant Lake. And,
23 yeah, we worked with Alaska Department of Fish and Game
24 to establish that quota, Jason Herreman helped work
25 that out.

26

27 That's all I have to report right now.

28

29 I'd be happy to answer any questions.

30

31 Thanks.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Milo,
34 that's good. Well, we got goat permits coming up,
35 okay. Any questions. Anyone on the Council got
36 questions for Milo on his report.

37

38 (Dogs barking)

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The dog's got a
41 question.

42

43 MR. BURCHAM: Yes, he does.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any questions for
48 Milo.

49

50

0257

1 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
2 Ed Holsten.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead,
5 Ed.

6
7 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, just a question to
8 Milo. Do you have any material to report on about law
9 enforcement efforts up at Russian River Falls that you
10 may be able to share?

11
12 Thanks.

13
14 MR. BURCHAM: I don't have anything to
15 report. And, again, my right hand man, Dave Pearson's
16 not working for us right now. He was working last
17 season and I know he did some patrols last season and
18 hopefully we'll have someone in place to help with
19 those patrols this coming year.

20
21 MR. HOLSTEN: Thanks Milo.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Any other
24 questions for Milo.

25
26 MR. HERREMAN: Mr. Chair, Jason
27 Herreman with Fish and Game if I may ask a question.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Certainly, go
30 ahead.

31
32 MR. HERREMAN: Yeah, Milo, I was
33 curious for those Cordova goat permits, how many of
34 those folks hunted and if they didn't hunt those
35 permits on the Federal side, did they pick up a State
36 permit and hunt those instead? And then also wondering
37 if you have numbers for how many folks hunted the Unit
38 7 permits that you guys issued?

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MR. BURCHAM: I don't have the numbers
43 of hunted in front of me right now so I can't answer
44 that question. Yeah, for either Unit 6 or Unit 7.
45 Yeah, I'm sorry about that but I don't have it in front
46 of me right now.

47
48 What was your other question, Unit 7
49 goats, hunted and Unit 6 goats hunted -- was there
50

0258

1 something else?

2

3 MR. HERREMAN: Yes. I was curious if
4 folks who had those Federal permits also picked up a
5 State permit and whether or not they hunted under the
6 State regs.

7

8 MR. BURCHAM: Okay. I have no way to
9 know that so, yeah, I can't answer that question.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

12

13 MR. BURCHAM: Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, maybe you
16 guys could work together and maybe figure out and maybe
17 get him some info if it becomes available, Milo.

18

19 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other
22 questions for Milo.

23

24 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, and I'll followup,
25 Jason, with some other issues that you sent me through
26 email, we'll talk here soon.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, good. Any
29 other questions.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, thank
34 you, Milo. How are you guys holding out, you need a
35 break or do you want to keep going here.

36

37 MS. CLAUS: Doing just fine.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You're
40 doing fine, I'm still holding up. So we're going to go
41 to the National Park Service.

42

43 MR. SARAFIN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
44 This is Dave Sarafin with Wrangell-St.Elias National
45 Park.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good morning,
48 Dave.

49

50

0259

1 MR. SARAFIN: Good morning. So in your
2 materials you should have a copy of the winter addition
3 of the fishery report for Wrangell-St.Elias. So
4 starting out -- and a lot of this information was
5 provided in the fall meeting so I'll try to be brief on
6 a lot of it.

7
8 You know, we are starting out with
9 projects we got planned this year. We are, again,
10 hoping to get Tanada Creek weir in operation. And
11 current news right now we do have job openings that are
12 presently open. They can be found on the Park Service
13 public site, nps.gov/wrst. These positions are open --
14 closing March 10th. So particularly if there's any
15 Slana residents or people that live in that area, it's
16 a local hire opportunity for those individuals.

17
18 We also have a -- planning to assist
19 the USGS this summer on a mercury -- tracing mercury in
20 the food webs for lake trout. This is kind of a
21 followup on some of the studies we'd done several years
22 ago that found some elevated levels of mercury in some
23 of the fish.

24
25 And moving on for the Copper River
26 Federal subsistence fish summary. We issued -- or the
27 Federal subsistence fisheries were open May 15th to
28 September 30th. We issued 216 Chitina permits, 377 for
29 Glennallen subdistrict, and one Batzulnetas. And I've
30 provided four tables in your materials that show
31 historical harvest and expanded based on the number of
32 returns that we've had so far and we are currently up a
33 little higher in our return percentage right now, we're
34 up to about 85 percent returns so far. So the numbers
35 have been -- changed a little but nothing substantial
36 from what's on the tables.

37
38 And for the season update, Matt Piche,
39 provided a good update on the Copper River salmon run
40 for 2020 so I won't go through all the details I have
41 in here. Just to mention, you know, the chinook salmon
42 goal likely, you know, not meeting that goal and then
43 with the sustainable goal for sockeye, it's right on
44 the edge and we're still working with getting data to
45 Fish and Game as we get some in here and -- for final
46 calculations, whether we met the minimum threshold of
47 the 360,000 for wild stock.

48
49 And, yeah, we issued no Federal special
50

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1 actions this year.

2

3 And the State has provided their
4 forecast for this next year and it's, you know, again,
5 below average run strength based on 10 years. I think
6 you've already gotten this material in some earlier
7 presentations.

8

9 So for Federal management this year,
10 you know, unless in-season run abundance indices prompt
11 concerns of meeting the goals, we anticipate all
12 Federal subsistence salmon fisheries of the upper
13 Copper River could be opened continuously from May 15th
14 through September 30th during the season.

15

16 So that concludes my report.

17

18 And if you have any comments I'm open
19 for comments, anyway -- or questions, I mean.

20

21 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

24

25 MS. STICKWAN: I'm just wondering will
26 he be able to sit in on the meetings when we discuss
27 the Chitina lower fishery proposal, FP21-10?

28

29 MR. SARAFIN: I can -- I will
30 definitely be available if I'm invited to that meeting
31 when you guys are having it.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

34

35 (Teleconference interruption -
36 participants not muted)

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, is there
39 any other questions.

40

41 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, Mr. Chair. This is
42 Ed Holsten. I have just a question.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead,
45 Ed.

46

47 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, on Table 1, I was
48 wondering if there's any explanation, I don't know if
49 there is one, for under fishwheel percent, it looked
50

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1 like it's really historically dropped, and on the other
2 hand dipnet percent really jumped up high; is that due
3 to water levels or access to fish or is there an
4 explanation for that?

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MR. SARAFIN: Well, I believe it's, you
9 know, the biggest factor is probably based on the
10 really low run strength we had so the -- you know the
11 fishwheels tend to be a similar number that are
12 operating each year and so the catch, you know, relates
13 a lot to the density of fish in the river throughout
14 the season. And we were at a low run throughout the
15 year. So when individuals aren't getting their fish
16 that way, having the dipnet as an alternate means
17 provides fish to some or those who do dipnet, you know,
18 don't have that simple -- just that direct relationship
19 to a spinning wheel, or the fishwheel just operating
20 and catching whatever percentage of that as it goes by.
21 I wonder if there's possibly some kind of an effect
22 from Covid concerns also may have contributed, but this
23 is speculating on my part, I guess, that perhaps with
24 some fishwheel use it's the gathering of several people
25 from different households to, you know, clean the fish
26 if there's a big harvest level at the time so -- and
27 people may have been tending to try to isolate a little
28 bit more from other individuals. So that could have
29 had some factor, I don't know so, that's two reasons
30 that I suspect anyway.

31

32 MR. HOLSTEN: All right, thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there
35 any other questions for Dave.

36

37 MS. EWAN: Mr. Chair, this is Faye Ewan
38 from Copper Center, Kluti Kaah.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead.

41

42 MS. EWAN: I've fished and I was born
43 and raised in Copper River Ahtna, and I've noticed a
44 lot of the dipnetters and people were not normally from
45 Federal subsistence side but the State of Alaska. When
46 the number was real low they still kept it going even
47 when we voiced our opinion and have a stake at fishing.
48 My fishing is sacred to me, it's not only customary and
49 traditional. I have a relationship with the salmon

50

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1 that comes home every year. We have a sacred ceremony
2 every year when the salmon comes back. We feed the
3 elders first. We have a ceremony where we have to do
4 things in our Ahtna way to get our salmon. What
5 heartens me is that it seems like we're talking on deaf
6 ears as traditional economical knowledge -- or
7 ecological knowledge and all the biological people that
8 goes out there -- biologists that goes out there and
9 relate to this, they only see salmon as numbers. Well,
10 salmon has something to do with my potlatches. It has
11 something to do with our little children that are born
12 that we have to teach them how to use that salmon, what
13 many ways we use the salmon.

14
15 I never hear not a thing in this report
16 about it except Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commissioner
17 supporting with data and stuff that you guys put in
18 there, but I never see nothing about what we say and
19 what we think. I think a moratorium should have been
20 set in five years ago, I keep talking about this
21 moratorium, that those people, if they can afford to
22 bring campers and fourwheelers and motors and boats out
23 here to fish, I think they can afford to go and wait
24 until the salmon is in a good run. Let the first two
25 weeks of salmon run by like they did before and you
26 will see some make it back to where they're supposed to
27 spawn.

28
29 And another thing, too, when the river
30 is high and low, you can see all the fishermen come in
31 from all over the country, go down to Chitina, that's a
32 big city, it really harms our traditional way of life.

33
34 Thank you for listening to me and you
35 guys keep up doing your good job.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 Tsin'aen.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks.
42 Okay, any other questions for Dave.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Dave.
47 Do we have Judy or Barbara or anyone else that's going
48 to follow up with you on a report?

49
50

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1 MR. SARAFIN: I believe they should be
2 online so thank you, Mr. Chair.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank.....

5
6 MS. CELLARIUS: This is Barbara.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:you, Dave.

9
10 MS. CELLARIUS:Cellarius, I'm the
11 Subsistence Coordinator for Wrangell-St.Elias National
12 Park and Preserve.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Go.....

15
16 MS. CELLARIUS: Yesterday.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:ahead,
19 Barbara.

20
21 MS. CELLARIUS: Yesterday Judy Putera
22 presented her report, however, I believe that we have
23 some Staff from Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the
24 Glennallen Office, and they might be able to provide a
25 little more information about the Unit 11 moose survey
26 that Judy spoke about yesterday.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We can
29 take.....

30
31 MS. HATCHER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 This is.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:that now, I
35 guess.

36
37 MS. HATCHER:Heidi Hatcher from
38 the Glennallen Office for the Alaska Department of Fish
39 and Game. Can you all hear me?

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I could
42 hear you.

43
44 MS. HATCHER: Great. My understanding
45 was that there were some questions and concerns about
46 the minimum count survey for moose that was done in
47 Unit 11 in November and so I just wanted to provide
48 some clarification for that.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: presentation
2 on the Park Service.

3
4 MS. CELLARIUS: Yep, this is Barbara
5 Cellarius again.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yep, go ahead,
8 Barbara.

9
10 MS. CELLARIUS: In the last couple of
11 pages of the written report that the Park submitted
12 includes some information about the Federal subsistence
13 hunting permits that the Park issued. I mentioned this
14 yesterday, I never know quite how much information that
15 I should -- how much detail I should go into because
16 you have some detailed tables in front of you so that's
17 -- I guess I would ask you whether you want me to go
18 over some of the information about the permits or if
19 you just want to review it yourselves and ask me
20 questions. We do issue permits for goat, moose, sheep
21 and caribou in Units 11 and 12. And so that's the
22 information presented in the tables. There are a
23 couple of hunts where the Superintendent has a
24 delegated authority to establish quotas and to close
25 the season when the quota is reached and that is also
26 described in the report.

27
28 So I guess would you like me to go over
29 the numbers or do you want to just review them
30 yourselves.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Barbara, I'd like
33 you to briefly go over the numbers, just for the
34 benefit, we do have new Council members and some of us
35 didn't get to totally read all the reports yet. So
36 maybe you.....

37
38 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay, so I.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: could just
41 give us an overview the best you can and we'll ask a
42 few questions.

43
44 MS. CELLARIUS: So, no, that's great.
45 So I'm going to skip over the Chisana Caribou Herd hunt
46 because that occurs in Unit 12. There is a Federal
47 moose hunt in the southern portion of Unit 11 and the
48 season is November 20 to January 20 (indiscernible -
49 breaking up) the quota was set for this season of seven
50

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1 bull moose. We issued.....

2

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted)

5

6 MS. LINNELL: I'm sorry, we're getting
7 a bunch of feedback and can barely hear you, Barbara.

8

9 REPORTER: Right. I was.....

10

11 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay, so (indiscernible
12 - breaking up).....

13

14 REPORTER:just going to cut in.
15 If everybody could take a second -- hold on Barbara.
16 Hold on Barbara. If everybody could take a second and
17 please mute your phone, you're overriding Barbara's
18 presentation.

19

20 Go ahead, Barb.

21

22 MS. CELLARIUS: Am I coming through
23 more clearly now.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes, I think I
26 hear you clearer now.

27

28 MS. LINNELL: Yes, a little.

29

30 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay. I was sort of
31 trying to look at.....

32

33 MS. CLAUS: Mr. Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Who's wanting the
36 Chair, we're trying to -- we're listening to Barbara.

37

38 MS. CLAUS: This is Donna. And I'd
39 like to know what page this is, or where I can see
40 these reports, I can't find them in my paperwork here.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

43

44 MS. CELLARIUS: So Donna it was a
45 supplemental report that was emailed to you (breaking
46 up).

47

48 MS. CLAUS: Okay. Okay, I'll turn you
49 off and I'll go look there then. Thank you.

50

1 MS. CELLARIUS: And so I was mentioning
2 that we have a winter moose hunt in the south part of
3 Unit 11, there's a delegated authority to the
4 Superintendent to manage that hunt with a small quota.
5 We -- it's a very difficult area to reach and so we
6 don't have a lot of participation. We issued 8 permits
7 and we had one moose harvested. And then the most
8 popular, sort of the hunt that sees the most interest,
9 is the Unit -- well, two moose hunts actually in Unit
10 11, and the fall hunt for Unit 11 remainder we issued
11 156 permits, 68 people hunted and 15 animals were
12 harvested.

13
14 We have -- there's a goat hunt in Unit
15 11 that is typically a pretty low harvest hunt and we
16 issued 27 permits and had no animals harvested this
17 year.

18
19 There are several goat -- so most of
20 the sheep hunting in Wrangell-St.Elias occurs under --
21 with Federal regulations, the reporting requirement is
22 a State harvest ticket but there are some elder hunts
23 and typically Unit 11, the elder hunt is the one that
24 is the most popular and we issued 38 permits, 12 people
25 hunted and we had one sheep harvested in the Unit 11
26 elder hunt. We did issue one permit in the Unit 11
27 elder/junior hunt that had no harvest there. We do see
28 some participation in the Unit 12 elder sheep hunt,
29 which is in the Eastern Interior region. We issued 12
30 permits, we had four people hunt and one animal was
31 harvested.

32
33 On Table 2, if you're looking at the
34 tables, the other -- we have a special joint
35 State/Federal permit for the fall moose hunt in
36 portions of Unit 11 and 12 and this is -- generally
37 it's the lands along the Nabesna Road and then off of
38 the Nabesna Road some distance, and that's a pretty
39 popular hunting area. And so this permit can be issued
40 to both Federally-qualified subsistence users and folks
41 who qualify under State hunting regulations. And so
42 the table breaks down permits issued by the sort of the
43 total number which was 316 and then the number of
44 permits issued to Federally-qualified subsistence users
45 which was 173. A total of 26 animals were harvested in
46 that hunt area in 2020 and that's as of mid-January.
47 And I'd like to thank the Alaska Department of Fish and
48 Game Tok Office for providing the numbers. And then 15
49 of those 26 animals were harvested by Federally-
50

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1 qualified subsistence users.

2

3 So that's the wildlife harvest report
4 and I'll stop there and see if there are any questions.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any questions on
7 Barbara's presentation on those wildlife.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I think you
12 could continue.

13

14 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay, thank you, Mr.
15 Chair. So Karen Linnell mentioned a couple of projects
16 that they are working on with the Park so I won't go
17 into detail on those. That's the Ahtna ethnography,
18 and then the traditional knowledge projects about
19 caribou dynamics and winter environmental conditions.
20 We had a companion project to the winter environmental
21 condition project that is using remote censusing data
22 to look at patterns of river freeze-up, winter ice
23 conditions and breakup, and so that's an ongoing
24 project and we'll be -- when we have sort of the
25 results of that project we will -- we'll let you know
26 about that.

27

28 So I will stop there.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, are you on mute
33 perhaps.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes, I was on
36 mute. I'm here. Can you hear me now?

37

38 MS. PERRY: Yes. I didn't know if the
39 Council had any questions for Barbara.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, thank you.
42 I was muted there and didn't hear it, but any questions
43 for Barbara on her report.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, well, thank
48 you, Barbara.

49

50

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1 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I believe
4 we're ready to go to the BLM now.

5

6 MR. UBELAKER: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is
7 Brian Ubelaker with Glennallen Field Office.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead,
10 Brian.

11

12 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, sir. Good
13 morning, Council. I'll just give you a brief update of
14 the goings on in the BLM over the last year.

15

16 We do continue to work collaboratively
17 with Department of Fish and Game to monitor subsistence
18 resource populations among BLM and State lands within
19 GMU 13. Currently we do not have a permanent wildlife
20 biologist. Detailers, such as myself, I've been at
21 this for the last five months or so, are filling in
22 until a permanent biologist can be on site.

23

24 As far as our hunting for 2020 and '21
25 season of moose we have let's see 82 percent of hunt
26 reports returned out of 1,290 permits issued. That's
27 an increase from last year, we had 1,245 moose permits.
28 So far we have 62 bulls harvested, that's a 10.9
29 percent success rate out of 586 permits that were
30 attempted. Our five year average harvest is 81.

31

32 For our caribou hunt for 2020/21, we
33 issued 2,906 permits which, once, again, is an increase
34 over 2,789 for last year. Up to date harvest is 279
35 caribou, 175 male and 103 female and one unknown. That
36 leads us to an annual five year average harvest of 383.

37

38 And then on to the fun of issuing
39 Federal subsistence permits during the Covid19
40 pandemic. Our office has been closed and remains
41 closed to the public because of the pandemic. So last
42 year permits were issued over the phone to anyone who
43 has been issued a permit previously. Permittees had
44 the option of having their permits mailed to them or
45 they could schedule an appointment to pick up their
46 permits at the office. Delta Junction, in July, we had
47 hunters stay in their car and documents were ferried
48 back and forth by the Staff so they could be verified.
49 And all new hunters were required to make an

50

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1 appointment so regulations could be explained,
2 qualifying documents checked and permits signed. These
3 precautions were taken to limit the exposure to Covid19
4 of everybody involved in the process.

5
6 And then the final point I'll make
7 today regarding decision and emergency orders that
8 affected Federal subsistence hunting in 2020. On July
9 16th the Federal Subsistence Board approved Temporary
10 Wildlife Special Action WSA20-03 with modification to
11 close Federal public lands in Unit 13A and B to moose
12 and caribou hunting by non-Federally-qualified users
13 for the 2020/21 and 21/22 season. Staff at GFO
14 responded to numerous calls from the State hunters
15 wanting to know where they could hunt, others were
16 emailed the Office of Subsistence Management fact sheet
17 related to the closure and a copy of GFO's more
18 detailed Federal subsistence maps explaining the areas
19 that were closed to non-Federally-qualified users. The
20 greatest impact to State hunters seemed to be the
21 closure of the Gulkana and Delta Wild and Scenic River
22 Corridor portions of the Federal area because those
23 planning to access hunting areas by boat had to other
24 alternatives.

25
26 And on September 11th, 2020 an
27 emergency order was issued by Fish and Game to extend
28 the State season for caribou to allow additional
29 hunting opportunity for State hunters from September
30 21st through September 30th. And this is the third
31 year that the State has extended their caribou hunt,
32 which creates more potential for public safety concerns
33 and user conflicts but is also dependent on where the
34 caribou come through the area. GFO Office initially
35 received many calls from citizens asking about
36 extending the Federal caribou season and/or opening
37 early for the late season. They were directed to
38 contact OSM for directions on how to submit a special
39 action request. Many caribou remained in the unit
40 through December, which contributed to continued
41 Federal hunters (indiscernible).

42
43 And with that I will open it up to any
44 questions if there are.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, well,
47 thank you. Questions.

48
49 (No comments)
50

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1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No questions.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, well,
6 thank you, Brian.

7

8 MR. UBELAKER: Thank you, very much,
9 sir.

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Okay,
12 now, we'll go to the Alaska Department of Fish and
13 Game.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyone out there
18 going to give a talk.

19

20 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, this is DeAnna.
21 I didn't have anyone specifically from Fish and Game
22 mention that they wanted to give a report but they've
23 engaged throughout the meeting on other agenda items so
24 I would assume if we don't hear from anyone at this
25 time they do not have a separate report to give.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, sounds
28 good. Yeah, we did engage with them so we'll go ahead
29 to the Office of Subsistence Management then.

30

31 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 For the record this is Katya Wessels, Acting Policy
33 Coordinator for the Office of Subsistence Management.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead,
36 Katya.

37

38 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Mr. Chair and
39 members of the Council.

40

41 First of all I'd like to thank you and
42 all the Council members for your service on the
43 Council. You're working representing subsistence and
44 commercial, sports users on this Council is very
45 important. This past year has been very difficult for
46 all of us and very complicated to deal with the Covid
47 environment but we persevere.

48

49 As you already know, we are holding all

50

1 10 Council meetings via teleconference. This decision
2 was made with the utmost consideration and concern for
3 the health and safety of Council members, families,
4 rural communities, the public and Staff, who are all
5 part of the Council meetings. The health and safety of
6 everyone is our biggest priority. The Center for
7 Disease Control and Prevention guidelines suggest that
8 people avoid travel and refrain from meeting in person
9 to minimize risk and to help prevent the spread of
10 Covid19.

11
12 The Regional Advisory Councils are the
13 foundation of the Federal Subsistence Management
14 Program. We recognize that holding face to face
15 Council meetings in rural communities across Alaska is
16 preferable for engaging the public most effectively.
17 The Federal Subsistence Management Program is fully
18 committed to resuming in-person Council meetings across
19 Alaska as soon as it is possible to do so safely.

20
21 Now, I would like to update you on the
22 OSM Staff changes.

23
24 Since your last Council meeting, the
25 following Staff changes have occurred.

26
27 Doctor Brent Vickers started as OSM's
28 Anthropology Division Chief in December.

29
30 And you already heard that Greg Risdahl
31 moved over to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [sic] in
32 January to be their Subsistence Program Leader and to
33 represent the Forest Service on the InterAgency Staff
34 Committee.

35
36 We are grateful to have experienced
37 people on the InterAgency Staff Committee that will
38 remain with the Program as advisors to their Board
39 member.

40
41 George Pappas who is normally the
42 liaison to the State Wildlife and Fisheries Programs is
43 currently acting OSM Fisheries Division Chief.

44
45 Steve Fadden came to us from the U.S.
46 Fish and Wildlife Refuges to be acting as the OSM
47 Wildlife Division Chief. And this position is in the
48 process of getting a permanent hire.

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1 Sabrina Schmidt who served as one of
2 the clerks at OSM, she took a promotion with the
3 military in January.

4
5 And, lastly, I, Katya Wessels, have
6 been Acting Policy Coordinator since January 3rd.
7 Additionally, I was just selected as the Council
8 Coordination Division Chief and will be starting in
9 this position in mid-March.

10
11 So that concludes the update on the
12 Staff changes.

13
14 I also would like to talk about the
15 Council appointments and applications.

16
17 Annual Council appointment process is
18 complex and takes about 15 months to complete. It
19 begins in September of each year when the Federal
20 Subsistence Board announces the open application period
21 for the Council membership. During a six month
22 application period the Program conducts extensive
23 statewide recruitment effort. The Program distributes
24 approximately 2,000 applications throughout Alaska via
25 mail and email to individuals, agencies and
26 organizations. Additionally the Program conducts
27 wide-ranging outreach through a variety of media
28 outlets including, but not limited to newspaper, radio,
29 TV, internet, FaceBook and public conferences. Last
30 year, in 2020, this effort resulted in 74 applications
31 to fill 62 vacated or expiring seats. After the
32 InterAgency Nominations Panel conducted the interviews,
33 the Federal Subsistence Board reviewed the applications
34 and forwarded their recommendations to the Secretaries
35 of Interior and Agriculture on September 4th, 2020. We
36 finally received, on January the 15th, 2021, the RAC
37 appointment letters signed by the former Secretary of
38 Interior. The original appointment letters were sent
39 by regular post and applicants whose appointments were
40 approved should have received them by now.

41
42 And just an overall overview, we
43 received full appointments on four Councils, which is
44 Kodiak/Aleutians, Bristol Bay, Seward Peninsula, and
45 Northwest Arctic. We received partial appointments on
46 three Councils, Eastern Interior, North Slope and
47 Southcentral, your Council. And three Councils,
48 Western Interior, YK-Delta and Southeast Alaska Council
49 did not receive appointments at all. As a result
50

1 together on all Councils there are 35 open seats. To
2 remedy this situation we're working with our Fish and
3 Wildlife Service Headquarter's office, with the
4 Department of Interior to see if we can get the
5 additional appointments considered out of cycle. The
6 application period for this year's 2021 Regional
7 Advisory Council appointments is open until March 12th,
8 the deadline was extended. By December 2nd of this
9 year we're going to have 62 open seats for appointment
10 or reappointment, and as of today we did not receive a
11 sufficient number of applications to fill these seats.
12 We are encouraging Council members, whose terms will
13 expire in December 2021 to reapply. I'm sure DeAnna
14 contacted you about this already, if your membership
15 expires this coming December. We also encourage other
16 rural Alaskans to apply for Council memberships.
17 Serving on a Regional Advisory Councils is the best way
18 to proactively participate in the Federal Subsistence
19 Management regulatory process and help sustain the
20 traditional way of life. Your participation on the
21 Regional Advisory Councils allows for better
22 regulations to be developed that satisfy the needs of
23 users in the region, and, at the same time, assures the
24 continued viability of fish and wildlife populations.
25 Please let your DeAnna or I know if you want to apply
26 or reapply or if you would like to nominate someone so
27 we can get the application form to you before the
28 deadline of March 12th.

29
30 So that concludes the presentation on
31 the RAC appointments and applications.

32
33 And now I would just like to remind the
34 Council also about the RealID requirements. We've been
35 talking with the Councils about these for the past two
36 years. The requirement to have the RealID has been
37 postponed to October 1st of this year, 2021. I would
38 like to note that all Council members will need to have
39 some kind of RealID to travel next fall if we resume
40 the in-person meetings and if you will need to travel
41 via airplane. If you don't have the correct ID, please
42 make sure that you get it before the fall 2021 Council
43 meeting cycle.

44
45 And lastly I would like to present an
46 update on the lawsuit from the State of Alaska.

47
48 On August 10th, 2020, the State of
49 Alaska filed a lawsuit against the Federal Subsistence
50

1 Board after it adopted emergency special action WSA19-
2 14. This special action allowed the village of Kake to
3 engage in a community harvest of two antlered moose and
4 five male Sitka black-tailed deer. Also included in
5 the lawsuit was Temporary Special Action WSA20-03 which
6 closed Federal public lands in Units 13A and 13B to
7 non-Federally-qualified moose and caribou hunters. As
8 part of the lawsuit the State asked the court to issue
9 two preliminary injunctions. One to prevent the unit
10 13 closure from taking effect and another vacating the
11 Kake hunt and prohibiting the Board from allowing any
12 additional emergency hunts related to the impacts of
13 Covid19. On September 18th the U.S. District Court
14 denied the State's request for a preliminary injunction
15 on the Unit 13 closure. The court found that, "because
16 the State has not demonstrated either a likelihood of
17 success or serious questions on the merits of its
18 claims, the court need not consider the remaining
19 elements of the preliminary injunction analysis."

20
21 Two months later on November the 18th,
22 the Court also denied the State's motion for a
23 preliminary injunction on the Kake hunt after Judge
24 Gleason concluded that the State had not demonstrated a
25 likelihood of success on the merits, raising serious
26 questions on the merits of its claim, or demonstrated
27 any likelihood of irreparable harm.

28
29 While these rulings on preliminary
30 injunction are encouraging, they do not resolve the
31 litigation. Settlement negotiations between the
32 Department of Justice, the DOI Solicitor's Office, the
33 USDA Office of General Counsel, and the State are
34 ongoing. The parties have agreed to delay the court
35 proceedings while these discussions are underway.
36 Barring a settlement, the Solicitor's Office now
37 estimates that the briefings should be complete in
38 summer 2021 and that the court will issue its decision
39 in late summer.

40
41 Based on legal guidance, Program Staff
42 does not comment on any active litigation directed
43 against the Federal Subsistence Board beyond what has
44 been set forth here.

45
46 And this concludes my presentation so I
47 would be happy to answer any questions.

48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Katya.
2 That's a very good report, and detailed. You answered
3 my questions on the Council's seats and out of cycle,
4 maybe getting some appointments, that's really
5 important. So, thank you.

6
7 Any questions for Katya.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any Council
12 members, questions.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, we
17 thank you for your report.

18
19 Spasibo.

20
21 MS. WESSELS: Pozhaluysta. Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We
24 confirmed our future meetings, DeAnna, so we're done
25 with that. We got to select the winter 2022 meeting
26 date and location, did we skip that yet.

27
28 MS. PERRY: We haven't approached that,
29 Mr. Chair. But if I could, I would like to remind the
30 Council that we talked about setting the fall meeting
31 yesterday and I just wanted to see if there was any
32 interest in possibly forming a working group to gather
33 information on FP21-10, like over the summer, to bring
34 back to the Council at that fall meeting. If so, we
35 would need a motion to form a working group. Just
36 throwing that out there, I know that some Councils do
37 utilize working groups and wanted to make sure that
38 this Council knew that was an option for them and I'll
39 leave it at that.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we
42 discussed that. It was Sue's call. I've discussed
43 that too, and I originally offered maybe a small
44 working group to put together the details and I thought
45 that might be helpful, but on the other hand, you know,
46 the whole Council needs to be involved in it and I
47 think most of the leg work behind the scene wouldn't
48 actually require a working group so it's up to the
49 Council if you guys want to. I thought about that
50

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1 working group and what they would do, you know, and
2 what they could perform, most of that will be done by
3 Staff and others, but it's up to the Council.

4

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyway, anyone
9 got an opinion, if not we'll go ahead and move on and
10 figure out this winter 2022 meeting.

11

12 MR. WHISSEL: Mr. Chair, this is John
13 Whissel. I don't particularly feel that there's a need
14 for a working group but if the other Council felt like
15 there was I'd be open to participating in it.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Yeah,
18 John, I think I'm, you know, kind of neutral on that,
19 it could work both ways. But I think ultimately it has
20 to be the whole Council, because we're going to
21 deliberate it, that's the whole purpose of the joint
22 meeting. So I think we're going to accomplish what we
23 need to in that joint meeting. And you heard Sue
24 report yesterday she thought we could get through it
25 there, and so I'm hoping that will be fine.

26

27 MR. WHISSEL: I agree.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, okay.
30 Okay. Any other comments.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: If not, DeAnna,
35 what do we have for a selection of the 2022 meeting.

36

37 MS. PERRY: Okay. So for those folks
38 who are on Teams, Stephanie's going to pull up the
39 amended winter 2022 meeting calendar. The one in your
40 book -- we've had a couple meetings this cycle already
41 so the one in your book on Page 66 has been filled in a
42 little bit.

43

44 So I am just looking at what's on
45 screen here and I think -- let me see if I can pull up --
46 well, let me do this, this will probably be easier,
47 bear with me for just a second.

48

49 (Pause)

50

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1 MS. PERRY: Okay. I'm going to show
2 this on the screen for those folks who are on Teams.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It disappeared,
5 it was there.

6
7 MS. PERRY: Yeah, that was the one that
8 wasn't filled in, so.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No, the filled in
11 one came up and then disappeared. I thought it was
12 filled in, it was filled in from the book one that's
13 for sure. Holy smokes.

14
15 MS. PERRY: All right, so for those who
16 don't have access to Teams, if you're looking at your
17 calendar in the book on Page 66 we can fill in February
18 8th and 9th, the Bristol Bay RAC has those two dates.
19 February 14th and 15th, Northwest Arctic. February
20 16th and 17th, Western Interior. So that means that
21 that week is out of play for us to choose since there's
22 already two Council meetings there. And then I just
23 learned that North Slope picked March 8th and 9th, and
24 that does not show on this calendar I have on the
25 screen, we just found that out late yesterday. So
26 March 8th and 9th would be one Council meeting that
27 week, so that would be in play for the Council.

28
29 So we're looking at picking a couple of
30 days for the meeting as well as a location, Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay,
33 anyone want to throw out a date. It looks like to me
34 it's got to be the end of February/first week of March
35 or the latter part of March. This works good but
36 latter March is a little closer to spring, or early
37 March, or either one. Anyone have a preference.

38
39 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, this is
40 Angela Totemoff.

41
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead,
43 Angela.

44
45 MS. TOTEMOFF: What about February 10th
46 and 11th.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: February 10th and
49 11th. That would be only one meeting with Bristol Bay,
50

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1 would that work, DeAnna?

2

3 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair, it would.

4

5 MS. TOTEMOFF: I make a.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Any
8 objections to that as a choice.

9

10 (No objections)

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, if you want
13 to put that down as a choice, a first choice, February
14 10th and 11th, DeAnna, I think we could try that.

15

16 MS. PERRY: And I believe Angela was
17 making that motion, I just wanted to confirm that with
18 her and then we would need a second.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, it was.....

21

22 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you. Before I
23 make that a motion.....

24

25 MR. WHISSEL: Second.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:suggestion
28 but yeah.....

29

30 MS. TOTEMOFF:I'd also like to
31 put -- sorry, excuse me, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, you're
34 fine, if you want to make it in a motion now we can.

35

36 MS. TOTEMOFF: I just wanted to throw
37 out February 22nd and 23rd to the Council as well.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

40

41 MS. TOTEMOFF: If there's a preference
42 between those two.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I haven't looked
45 at my '22 calendar yet but.....

46

47 MS. TOTEMOFF: If there's no.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:all of my

50

0280

1 calendars are filled up so it don't matter.

2

3 MR. WHISSEL: Mr. Chair. I prefer the
4 earlier date. This is John Whissel.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You like
7 the earlier. Anyone else have a preference.

8

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, Angela,
13 would you make a motion for the 10th and 11th then.

14

15 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair, yes, so
16 moved.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, is there a
19 second.

20

21 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded. Any
24 other discussion.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All in favor for
29 the February 10th and 11th 2022 meeting, aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

34

35 (No opposing votes)

36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. There we
38 go, DeAnna, that works.

39

40 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, I didn't get who
41 seconded that, if they could tell me.

42

43 REPORTER: Andy.

44

45 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, that was Andy.

46

47 MS. PERRY: Oh, thanks, Andy. I didn't
48 recognize you, appreciate that.

49

50

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1 And a location, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hawaii.

4

5 MR. WHISSEL: Second.

6

7 MS. TOTEMOFF: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
8 make a motion.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, seriously,
13 are you going to make a motion on location.

14

15 MS. TOTEMOFF: Yeah, I'd like to make a
16 motion for Anchorage.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there a
19 second to the motion for the Anchorage meeting in
20 winter of 2022.

21

22 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded. Was
25 that -- who was that?

26

27 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Andy.

28

29 MS. PERRY: That was Andy, I believe.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's what I
32 thought. Andy has two voices on my phone. Anyway,
33 thank you, Andy. Any other discussion.

34

35 MR. WHISSEL: Yes, this is John
36 Whissel.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All in favor aye
39 for Anchorage.

40

41 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair. I'm
42 sorry, I.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

45

46 MS. PERRY:believe John wanted to
47 speak before we took the vote.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, John, go

50

0282

1 ahead.

2

3 MR. WHISSEL: Yeah, we missed our
4 meeting in Cordova and that's regrettable, we'd have
5 loved to have hosted you but there's no need to visit
6 Cordova in the winter let's just wait until the spring
7 and we'll invite you back.

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I agree.
10 We want when the kings are running.

11

12 MR. WHISSEL: Then you want the winter.
13 Or I could just give you a call.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, there's --
16 I really want to go to Chenega and get those clams.

17

18 Okay, are we good with Anchorage then.

19

20 MR. WHISSEL: Yes, sir.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think I heard a
23 motion and a second and then we went back and had
24 comments and so it sounds like we're good with
25 Anchorage. So all in favor aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

30

31 (No opposing votes)

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we got that
34 date and the location. Before I go on to Council
35 closing comments, is Sue Detwiler available. We were
36 going to offer you to speak and introduce to our
37 Council for those that don't know you.

38

39 MS. DETWILER: Yes, can you hear me and
40 see me?

41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I can hear you
43 and I can see you, welcome.

44

45 MS. DETWILER: Oh, right, thank you.
46 Well, thank you, DeAnna, and thank you, Mr. Chair for
47 letting me hop in at this last minute before you close
48 your meeting. I've been on the meeting all morning. I
49 really appreciate the robust discussion and information
50

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1 sharing that has gone on. This is actually my first
2 time with the Southcentral Council since I've been the
3 new Assistant Regional Director for Subsistence. And
4 so just -- I don't want to get too much into detail.

5

6 I've been -- I will look forward to
7 meeting folks more at the next -- at the next in-person
8 meeting that we have. But I will say that this isn't
9 my first time in the Subsistence Program, I did work in
10 OSM starting actually before it was OSM in 1989, right
11 before the McDowell Decision, and I spent 10 years in
12 the Federal Subsistence Program and OSM as the Program
13 developed and the structure developed. And so I had
14 that initial experience with OSM and I must say I'm
15 very happy to be back again. And I would also say -- I
16 just want to appreciate everybody for working with us
17 as we try to get through the -- trying to meet on
18 teleconferences, it's not ideal, you know, we had -- as
19 we -- as DeAnna mentioned this morning there's a lot of
20 technological challenges and it's just not the best
21 situation for getting to know folks and being able to
22 exchange information and share information in person
23 about the issues that are going on so just appreciate
24 your forbearance and your flexibility in working
25 through the issues. And am definitely looking forward
26 to when we can get back to normal working and
27 operational systems once this pandemic has worked it's
28 way -- worked through its course.

29

30 So anyway I will look forward to
31 meeting everybody more in person and having a little
32 bit more time to get to know each other at your next
33 meeting, hopefully this fall, so thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you,
36 Sue. And congratulations on your new job there,
37 actually, and we appreciate you and everything you do
38 so if we have questions we're going to be calling on
39 you.

40

41 Anyone got a question for Sue, if
42 not.....

43

44 MS. STICKWAN: I got a.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:we're going
47 to go ahead and move on to our comments here in a
48 minute.

49

50

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1 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, I believe
2 someone was trying to speak but I couldn't figure out
3 who it was.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I thought I
6 heard something to but I don't hear it -- did someone
7 have a comment or question for Sue.

8
9 MS. STICKWAN: No, but I do have a
10 question.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

13
14 MS. STICKWAN: Not for her.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

17
18 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria. I was
19 just wondering, yesterday we talked about adding AITRCs
20 comments and more research to our -- they provided
21 comments, written comments to DeAnna, and it was given
22 to her and I just found out that it was emailed and
23 I've been in another meeting and trying to listen to
24 this one at the same time, and so I would like to see
25 those comments added.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I think we
28 discussed it before and we weren't sure if these were
29 appropriate to put in our meeting at this time. We
30 talked about it this morning.

31
32 DeAnna, didn't we go through that?

33
34 MS. PERRY: Yes, we did. I made
35 mention about the paragraph that I had sent out to
36 everyone from Karen and in our annual report we are
37 asking for some specific scientific data, I think
38 that's where the conversation was coming from,
39 although, you know, this is different than what we had
40 already asked in our annual report. The Council has
41 already voted on that annual report so we could either,
42 you know, withdraw that or make another motion to add
43 this language if folks would want to do that.

44
45 MS. STICKWAN: I would like to make a
46 motion to add the comments that AITRC submitted, they
47 were submitted -- I think we should add it to the
48 letter.

49
50

0285

1 MS. PERRY: So you want a letter or the
2 annual report, Gloria?

3
4 MS. STICKWAN: Added to the annual
5 report.

6
7 MS. PERRY: Okay.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

10
11 MS. PERRY: And, Mr. Chair.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We're kind of out
14 of cycle on that, Gloria, but I'll allow it because I
15 know what you want there and I think we've already
16 addressed this. I'm not in favor of it necessarily
17 because I think the report comes from us, but you have
18 made a motion. Is there a second to that motion.

19
20 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Could you explain the
21 motion again, please, Mr. Chair.

22
23 MS. STICKWAN: It's just to add more
24 research data on the Copper River is my understanding.

25
26 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: And it was a
29 letter from AITRC that was trying to get put into our
30 annual report and we kind of went through it yesterday
31 and we felt the annual report comes from the Council
32 and we take all the suggestions we can but we didn't
33 feel that, you know, they should telling us what to put
34 in our annual report, but as a Council member, that's
35 fine, so that's -- that's whatever you guys choose.

36
37 MS. STICKWAN: Well, as a Council
38 member I'm asking to do that and it wasn't a letter,
39 it's just comment.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

42
43 MS. PERRY: So, Mr. Chair, I'm not sure
44 if all the Councils had an opportunity to look at that,
45 if not I'd be happy to read that.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, why don't
48 you go ahead and read that, DeAnna, and let's make sure
49 everyone understands what Gloria's asking us to add to
50

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1 the annual report.

2

3 REPORTER: Okay, before you.....

4

5 MS. PERRY: Okay.

6

7 REPORTER: Okay, hang on, DeAnna,
8 before you do that. So.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We don't have a
11 second to the motion so it's technically dead for now.

12

13 REPORTER: Right. Okay, Greg, I just
14 wanted to clear that up before DeAnna started. Okay,
15 go ahead, DeAnna.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, thank you,
18 Tina. Because the motion is if someone wants to second
19 it then we'll get into it, if it doesn't the motion
20 fails so.

21

22 REPORTER: Correct.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: So let's go there
25 first. Is there a second to Gloria's motion.

26

27 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
28 Ed. I'll second.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Ed, it's
31 seconded. Okay, now we could go into some discussion.
32 Go ahead, DeAnna.

33

34 MS. PERRY: Okay. Yeah, I just wanted
35 to put that out there to help to see if someone wanted
36 to make a second on it, it's kind of hard if you don't
37 have it in front of you. I know if people are
38 participating on Teams they probably don't have the
39 ability to also pull up their email.

40

41 So the language that was forwarded to
42 me from Ms. Linnell says:

43

44 The 20/21 preseason estimates indicate
45 that the sockeye and chinook will be below the most
46 recent 10 year average by 37.4 percent and 22.4 percent
47 respectively. Given the low runs on the Copper River
48 in recent years it is imperative to conduct more
49 research on the Copper River salmon fisheries to better

50

1 inform management of these crucial subsistence
2 resources. The Office of Subsistence Management should
3 prioritize funding research into factors that could
4 help to explain these declines, including escapement
5 levels and quality, in-season harvest, drivers of
6 mortality, among others. Members of both the
7 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council and the Federal
8 Subsistence Board have mentioned the need for more data
9 on the record at public meetings this year. We believe
10 tribes and Alaska Native organizations should receive
11 particular consideration for research funding, both as
12 a way of promoting social equity and to give agencies
13 that represents rural residents a meaningful role in
14 the process of managing Alaska fisheries.

15

16

Mr. Chair.

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I'm a little nervous with the first sentence just simply because I don't know that the Council is in a position to confirm those numbers and since this is the Council speaking to the Board, I think it would be prudent for us to be able to confirm those if we are going to be having this in our annual report.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I agree, DeAnna, that was my point and that came up yesterday. And so that's why the Council goes through great lengths to prepare their annual report and debate it, and we've done it and, you know, outside comments and help, we like to incorporate that but there's a time for that, those letters should come ahead of time, they should come when we have time to fully debate that and that was my position yesterday. I mean others had different positions, but I hate to put something in a report that we can't confirm or we can't verify.

So it's up to the Council to vote on this, we've got a motion and we got a second. So if it goes, it goes, if it doesn't, it doesn't, but you guys all hear the thing, if there's any comments or questions we'll take them and then we'll go for a vote.

MR. WHISSEL: Mr. Chair. I don't think it's -- I think it would be appropriate for AITRC to send a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board and I support the content of this letter but I don't believe it's appropriate for us to add this to our annual report in this manner.

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1 So I'll be voting against it, though I
2 appreciate the spirit, but (indiscernible).

3

4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think I feel
5 the same way. So any other comments.

6

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, DeAnna, do
11 you want to.....

12

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

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:take a roll
17 call vote on this or do we just.....

18

19 MS. PERRY: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I think we
20 would need to do roll call but I believe, maybe that
21 was Angela that was trying to further discuss.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

24

25 MS. PERRY: We should probably give her
26 opportunity to comment if that was her, or whoever it
27 was.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: There was two
30 people talking at once.....

31

32 MS. TOTEMOFF: Not to hold
33 anything.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:and then --
36 Angela, did you have a comment before we take a vote?

37

38 MS. TOTEMOFF: Yes, thank you. Not to
39 hold anything up, I was going to share the same
40 sentiments as the comment before.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Could you repeat
43 that.

44

45 MS. TOTEMOFF: Yeah, sorry. Not to hold
46 up anything else, I was just going to share the same
47 sentiment as the comment that was made before me.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.

50

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1 Thank you. Anyone else.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: If not, let's go
6 ahead and, DeAnna, you could call the vote.

7

8 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
9 is a motion made by Gloria Stickwan, seconded by Ed to
10 add the proposed language received by Ms. Karen Linnell
11 to our existing annual report that was approved
12 yesterday by the Council.

13

14 So I'll go with the voting.

15

16 Diane Selanoff.

17

18 MS. SELANOFF: Nay.

19

20 MS. PERRY: I'm sorry, I didn't quite
21 catch it, Diane, I'm sorry.

22

23 MS. SELANOFF: I'm voting against.

24

25 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

26

27 Gloria Stickwan.

28

29 MS. STICKWAN: Yes.

30

31 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

32

33 Angela Totemoff.

34

35 MS. TOTEMOFF: Nay.

36

37 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

38

39 Donna Claus.

40

41 MS. CLAUS: Nay.

42

43 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Donna.

44

45 Andy McLaughlin.

46

47 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Nay.

48

49 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Andy. I wasn't

50

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1 sure if you were here with us.

2

3 Aaron Bloomquist. I'm not sure he was
4 able to join today.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MS. PERRY: Aaron, are you there,

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: John Whissel.

13

14 MR. WHISSEL: No.

15

16 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

17

18 Paula Nicklie, were you able to join us
19 today.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MS. PERRY: Okay.

24

25 Ed Holsten.

26

27 MR. HOLSTEN: Nay.

28

29 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Ed.

30

31 And Greg Encelewski.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Nay.

34

35 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Greg. The
36 motion fails 1 to 7.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. And,
39 Gloria, I would encourage you and I talked to Karen
40 myself, but she could certainly send that letter to the
41 Federal Subsistence Board.

42

43 MS. STICKWAN: Okay, thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

46

47 Okay, DeAnna, I'm ready to go into
48 closing comments so don't come up with anything else.

49

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0291

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: If you've got
4 something you can. Is there anything we missed?

5

6 MS. PERRY: In review of the agenda,
7 Mr. Chair, I believe we've hit all the action items and
8 appreciated all the agency reports today so I think
9 we're ready for closing comments unless anyone else
10 from the Council has anything to say.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I think
13 you did great, DeAnna, but I'm going to go ahead --
14 once again I just use my list by the way it's run so Ed
15 you get to be first again.

16

17 MR. HOLSTEN: Okay, Mr. Chair. It was
18 a good but frustrating meeting since we're not in
19 person but I appreciate all the work you've done and
20 DeAnna's done to help this share our way through all
21 this information.

22

23 I'm looking forward to the fall joint
24 meeting because I've got really problems with 21-10 the
25 Copper River proposed dipnet. I mean this is a new
26 fishery, subsistence fishery for the Copper River area
27 and in my opinion it's going to have a very minimal
28 impact on the overall run in the upper river area, you
29 know, perhaps -- I don't know if it's us, but somebody
30 ought to be taking a look at Chitina (ph)/State/public
31 use fisheries, which has a huge impact on fisheries to
32 the Copper River. Anyway that's just my opinion, I'm
33 looking forward to that meeting to see if we can't work
34 this out. I hate to see proposals being given and then
35 end up having to compromise and backtrack, but that's
36 just my opinion.

37

38 But thanks everybody, I appreciate all
39 the agency reports.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.
44 Next, we're going to go to Diane.

45

46 MS. SELANOFF: Thank you. As usual
47 very good meeting. Just a reminder to everybody, you
48 know, get vaccinated so we can all meet again as a
49 group because it's -- I'm really thankful that we have
50

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1 this opportunity to meet now, it may not be in person
2 but it's -- I think we get a lot more done when we're
3 all face to face and would just encourage everybody to
4 get their vaccine as soon as they can. And, again,
5 very good meeting, very enlightening. I appreciate all
6 the reports that were provided.

7
8 And one of the things that we didn't
9 talk about so much was, you know, with the lack of -- I
10 notice the lack of subsistence hunting or gathering or
11 processing due to the fact that -- of Covid, and people
12 trying to maintain social distancing, and as you know
13 as a family we like to go out together, whether it's
14 our, you know, extended family, to hunt and gather.
15 But I did notice that was on the decline this past
16 year.

17
18 So anyway thank you, again, for the
19 opportunity and that's it.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Diane.
22 That's good comments. Yeah, the Covid kind of put a
23 tailspin on everyone. Thank you.

24
25 Gloria, you want to go.

26
27 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria. I just
28 want to say this was a good meeting. I hope to see
29 everyone at an in person meeting at the next meeting.
30 Hope you all have a good summer and be safe. And thank
31 you, Staff, and all the agencies for giving us reports
32 and information, just want to say thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
35 Gloria. Thank you.

36
37 Angela, you're up next, welcome, and we
38 always go around the table and we kind of give our
39 closing comments, I'm sure you picked right up on it so
40 you're up.

41
42 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 I just want to thank the Staff for running a tight knit
44 meeting. DeAnna, you've put a lot of work into this, I
45 really appreciate your hard work. Mr. Chair, thank you
46 for your leadership. You ran a really great meeting
47 and I appreciate your direction that you provide to the
48 group. And I'm looking forward to working with you
49 guys over the next year.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you
2 very much. We look forward to working with you too,
3 so, yeah, that's great.

4
5 Donna.

6
7 MS. CLAUS: Yeah, if I can remember to
8 unmute, mute, unmute. I am so overwhelmed by
9 everything and all of you and all of your knowledge and
10 I'm sorry I don't know so many things but I will get
11 there and it's been a pleasure. I actually feel very
12 privileged to be with all of you, you all have inspired
13 me in one way or the other. And I wish you all a
14 fantastic summer and we'll see you next time, maybe
15 I'll know more.

16
17 Bye-bye.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Bye-bye, thank
20 you.

21
22 Andy. I think he had to go get his
23 shot but maybe not, you there, Andy.

24
25 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I'm back, I got the
26 shot.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You didn't
29 fall over yet, uh, okay, go right ahead.

30
31 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I got back up a
32 little bit ago. Yeah, thank you. Yeah, I kind of miss
33 the in person networking that happens at in person
34 meetings, I think this was an amazingly good meeting
35 regardless. Thank you, Greg, for Chairing and running
36 things so smoothly. It's fascinating that it could
37 actually go that pretty good streamlined. And, of
38 course, huge thanks to DeAnna for the organization of
39 everything to do about it and I really appreciate that
40 hard work OSM does. Such a wealth of information from
41 all participants, you know, including data, you know,
42 organizations, you know, certain programs, RAC members,
43 new and old.

44
45 And, yeah, I concur with Ed's comments
46 about the Copper River thing. A couple thousand fish,
47 minimal impact, it's kind of silly that it's going to a
48 lot of extra effort on that.

49
50

1 But also I'll get the letter that I
2 read earlier at the beginning of today, the Prince
3 William Sound issue about bag limit, season timings,
4 and harvest limits not being met via State regulations,
5 requesting a methodology to try to figure out how to
6 get Federal coverage of the marine waters of Prince
7 William Sound, I'll get that letter to DeAnna.

8
9 Anyhow, stay safe, do your part, get a
10 vaccine.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, thank
13 you, Andy. Yeah, I've got two of them so I'm done for
14 now, hopefully. Good report, good talk.

15
16 Okay, Aaron is not with us, I think,
17 DeAnna, I'll mention his name, that it was on my list.

18
19 John, you want to go next.

20
21 MR. WHISSEL: Sure, I'll go next.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

24
25 MR. WHISSEL: Well, first of all,
26 thanks a lot for a very well run meeting. I think this
27 one was a little less stressful than the last one which
28 was our first teleconference meeting, for me, at least.

29
30 DeAnna, thanks for all the cat herding
31 you do and our pep talk this morning, I think it
32 inspired us to all conduct ourselves in a little bit
33 more professional and according to Roberts Rules as we
34 are supposed to, so a special thanks for that.

35
36 Thanks everybody from the public who
37 participated, everybody from the Department of
38 Agriculture, Department of Interior, Department of Fish
39 and Game, I don't know there's probably Natural
40 Resources folks in there, I don't know all the visitors
41 we had for sure, I hope I didn't miss anybody, but you
42 guys enrich our meetings and make it so that we can
43 fill any gaps of knowledge we have very quickly and
44 very efficiently and with accurate information, which
45 is what we rely on to make the judgments that we're
46 asked to make. So to all the support Staff that gets
47 us that information so fast and so timely and also the
48 Staff who distributes the information that we throw at
49 them at the last minute, my thanks.

0295

1 Greg, I might not have had the patience
2 that you had to be so even tempered and level headed to
3 do this meeting when things are getting noisy but I'm
4 glad you're our Chairman, thank you.

5
6 That's it for me.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, John.
9 Thank you, appreciate all your comments. They were
10 very good and I appreciate all the RAC members. Did
11 Paula join us or not.

12
13 MS. PERRY: I don't think so, Mr.
14 Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well, that
17 brings us around to the end here, to my comments and I
18 have a few comments I just wanted to make.

19
20 First and foremost I want to thank all
21 the Council members because you're the ones that do all
22 the work along with us and everyone else. And all the
23 agencies, public that we've mentioned. There's -- the
24 new members, you know, I just want to say thanks both
25 to of you here, you know, because in my time, and I've
26 been here a long time, Angela and Donna, and I have --
27 your participation and involvement has been really
28 outstanding for a first meeting so I thank you for
29 that.

30
31 Anyway, I look forward to this joint
32 meeting and hopefully we could come to consensus. I
33 mean I've had good meetings with Sue and stuff and I
34 think, yeah, hopefully we'll work that out. And I
35 wanted to make sure we give DeAnna thanks because she
36 did a lot of work, and really technical, to keep us on
37 track, and keep the meeting supported all the time.

38
39 So I was going to make a big deal about
40 Council appointments but Katya covered that well and it
41 sounds like they're going to try and get some out of
42 cycle things for that. So hopefully we could get some
43 more appointments and fill it out and that would be
44 really good.

45
46 As you know, I think everyone has had
47 enough of this Covid and hopefully we could get out and
48 do some fishing, and have a great summer. I wish that
49 to all of you and look forward to our fall meeting.

50

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1 The other thing is the Federal
2 Subsistence Board. I just wanted to mention, you know,
3 I know they do their duty and they work and I've sat
4 in, it's been frustrating, they don't always agree with
5 our policies and what we put to them but I do know that
6 this Council over the many, many years I've been here
7 and seen it, is the avenue to get the public involved,
8 get all the testimony, we hear all the ifs, buts and
9 whys, and so I really appreciate all the hard work that
10 goes into it. And so we just keep on track, we keep
11 them informed and we need them and so it's symbiotic,
12 and, you know, our relationship that we work together
13 and I thank everyone.

14
15 And, DeAnna, I don't know if there's
16 anything else, but I don't see anything so unless you
17 have something there, someone I missed, I'm going to go
18 ahead and ask for an adjournment motion.

19
20 MR. WHISSEL: Move to adjourn, Mr.
21 Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I got a
24 motion to adjourn, is there a second.

25
26 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been
29 seconded by Andy. You guys have a great summer, all in
30 favor, aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We stand
35 adjourned. Not recessed, we're all adjourned now so go
36 out and hunt and fish.

37
38 MR. WHISSEL: Thank you.

39
40 MR. HOLSTEN: Thanks, Greg.

41
42 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thanks everybody, bye.

43
44 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, have a good
45 day.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: And you too,
48 everyone. Tina, thanks, good recording job.

49
50

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1 REPORTER: Thanks, Greg.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Great. Karen,
4 you on there, go ahead.

5

6 MS. LINNELL: I'm just saying goodbye.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, goodbye,
9 thank you, Karen.

10

11 DeAnna, bye, thank you.

12

13 Okay, everyone, and all those agencies
14 that have to report to, you know, have a good time. I
15 got a new manager on the Kenai, I got to watch what I
16 do now.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 REPORTER: Okay, I'm hanging the phone
21 up.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
24 folks.

25

26 (Off record)

27

28 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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