

SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I
TELEPHONIC
October 7, 2020
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Encelewski, Chairman
Aaron Bloomquist
Ed Holsten
Andrew McLaughlin
Michael Opheim
Diane Selanoff
Gloria Stickwan
John Whissel
Dennis Zadra

Regional Council Coordinator, DeAnna Perry

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Telephonic - 10/7/2020)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I have 9:00 o'clock, 9:02, so I'm going to call the regular Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to order, October 7th, and we're doing this by teleconference. We also have a video there but it's just to look at so we could see each other. So hopefully this will work but I got us going so DeAnna, so you could go ahead and figure out the next step on the invocation, if Gloria's there, or someone else you've got there.

MS. PERRY: Okay, thanks, Mr. Chair. Just checking if Gloria Stickwan has joined us.

(No comments)

MS. PERRY: Okay.

I will go ahead and take the roll for the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council. When I call your name, if you can let me know you're present or here that would be great.

Edward Holsten.

(No comments)

MS. PERRY: Greg Encelewski.

(No comments)

MS. PERRY: Diane Selanoff.

MS. SELANOFF: Here.

MS. PERRY: Gloria Stickwan.

(No comments)

MS. PERRY: Dennis Zadra.

MR. ZADRA: I am here.

1 MS. PERRY: Michael Opheim.
2
3 MR. OPHEIM: Here.
4
5 MS. PERRY: Andy McLaughlin.
6
7 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Here.
8
9 MS. PERRY: Aaron Bloomquist.
10
11 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Here. Here.
12
13 MS. PERRY: John Whissel.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 MS. PERRY: Okay. So I know some folks
18 are on team so I just wanted to remind you that you
19 still need to call into the audio and I'll just remind
20 folks if you are on mute go ahead and take yourself off
21 mute on the phone and I'll swing back around to
22 doublecheck some Council members.
23
24 Ed Holsten, are you still with us.
25
26 MR. HOLSTEN: Yes, I am.
27
28 MS. PERRY: Thank you.
29
30 And, Greg, I know you were talking
31 earlier, are you still there.
32
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes, I'm here.
34
35 MS. PERRY: Okay. Gloria Stickwan,
36 were you able to join us.
37
38 (No comments)
39
40 MS. PERRY: Okay. And John Whissel.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 MS. PERRY: Okay. I saw John on the
45 video earlier but I don't see him now.
46
47 John Whissel are you with us.
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 MS. PERRY: Okay. Mr. Chair, we do
2 have seven Council members present and participating,
3 you do have a quorum so we could move forward.

4
5 MS. STICKWAN: Hello. Hello.

6
7 MS. PERRY: Gloria, is that you.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MS. PERRY: Gloria.

12
13 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, I'm here.

14
15 MS. PERRY: Okay. I see you're on
16 teams but you still need to call the video -- or call
17 the audio line.

18
19 (Teleconference interference -
20 participants not muted)

21
22 MS. PERRY: I'm getting quite a bit of
23 feedback, I'll just remind folks if you have your
24 computer -- hi, John, I see you now -- if you have your
25 computer speakers on you may want to turn those down.
26 Everybody should be listening to their audio on their
27 phones and that's going to help us not have some of the
28 feedback that we're having.

29
30 All right.

31
32 Okay. So, again, if you can hear me,
33 if you're on the teams, if you're on the video you'll
34 need to call into the audio.

35
36 (Teleconference interference -
37 participants not muted)

38
39 MS. PERRY: All of the audio team will
40 now be muted.

41
42 Okay. All right. So I see John and
43 Gloria so now we do have our full Council participating
44 and, Mr. Chair, again all nine Council members are
45 present by phone. If it's okay with you I'd like to go
46 ahead and do a little housekeeping notes for everybody,
47 this is kind of a new forum for all of us and if that's
48 okay with you I'll do that now.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, that would
2 be fine, DeAnna. If Gloria's here she could go ahead
3 and do our invocation just to get us started though.

4
5 MS. PERRY: Okay. Gloria, did you join
6 us on the phone?

7
8 (No comment)

9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, I guess
11 we'll come back to her. Go ahead, DeAnna.

12
13 MS. PERRY: Okay. Alrighty. So,
14 again, welcome everybody to our meeting, the Regional
15 Advisory Council meetings are usually held in person,
16 however, due to Covid19 and the limitations and
17 restrictions from that, we're conducting our business
18 by teleconference. It'll be a different platform for
19 us and we're going to be asking everybody's indulgence
20 and patience right up front because it takes a lot to
21 work these kinds of meetings behind the scenes to make
22 them smooth and engaging and that's one of the reasons
23 why we're also doing it by video. You know the public
24 participation in these meetings is key and I know that
25 we'll all be doing our best kind of in this
26 collaborative atmosphere that we can offer at the time
27 to make sure that the Council business is concluded.

28
29 So for folks on the phone, if you'll
30 hit star-6 when you're not speaking, that will place
31 you in mute and that will curtail some of our
32 distractions and our feedback and things like that. If
33 you're on team, which is our video component, I'll be
34 trying to keep an eye on that and muting everyone on
35 that end. Again, we have to capture everything for the
36 administrative record, by our court reporter, so we
37 have a dedicated audio line and that's why these are
38 split out. So I know it's a little cumbersome to do it
39 that way but that was our work around that. The video
40 is more or less available as a bonus. We know that a
41 lot of materials, a lot of data are given at the last
42 minute and folks are -- Staff are feverishly putting
43 their reports and things together and normally when you
44 walk into our meeting there's a handout table and you
45 can go and get that information right then. Of course,
46 with everybody living in different areas, that wasn't
47 able to happen, so hopefully we can give realtime
48 information by making the material available on line.
49 And, of course, we can email that to you after the

1 meeting as well.

2

3 So, again, sort of a cursory go around,
4 I know all the Council members are present. I'm going
5 to go back to the phones just to make sure that I've
6 captured everybody who has called in. I'll start first
7 with the agencies and, again, as I call yours, let me
8 know that you're on. It might be easier just asking
9 everyone instead of a free for all and asking who's on
10 the phone.

11

12 So far I have Jackie Keating from
13 ADF&G. Amy Craver from National Park Service. Robbin
14 LaVine from Office of Subsistence Management. Jason
15 Dye with Fish and Game Sportfish. Jordan Rymer, he's
16 with Forest Service. Dave Sarafin is on with Fish and
17 Wildlife Service. Lisa Maas, Office of Subsistence
18 Management. Jared Stone with Office of Subsistence
19 Management. (Indiscernible) with the Forest Service.
20 (Indiscernible) Forest Service. Milo Burcham Forest
21 Service. Daniel Donnelly Forest Service. Matt Piche
22 from the Village of Eyak. Tom Kron Office of
23 Subsistence Management. Jessica Warmbrodt with the
24 Forest Service. Todd Eskelin on the Kenai. And I know
25 of one person in the public, Tom Carpenter who's with
26 us.

27

28 So I'll go back and ask for Staff that
29 I don't know if you're on yet or not, and, again, if
30 you could let me go.

31

32 Dave Schmid, Regional Forester of the
33 Forest Service.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MS. PERRY: Okay.

38

39 MS. CELLARIUS: This is Barbara
40 Cellarius with the Park Service.

41

42 MS. PERRY: Hi Barbara.

43

44 MS. CELLARIUS: And Dave Sarafin is
45 with the Park Service as well.

46

47 MS. PERRY: Right.

48

49 MS. CELLARIUS: You indicated that he

50

1 was with.....

2

3

MS. PERRY: Oh.

4

5

(Phones cutting out)

6

7

8

MS. PERRY: Okay. All right. Do I have
Hannah Vorhees on the phone.

9

10

(No comment)

11

12

MS. PERRY: Steve (Indiscernible).

13

14

(No comment)

15

16

MS. PERRY: Ben Mulligan.

17

18

(No comment)

19

20

MS. PERRY: Mark Burch.

21

22

(No comment)

23

24

25

26

27

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30

MS. PERRY: Okay. One last call for
Staff folks. If I've not called your name or you
haven't spoke yet, if you could do that now just so
that we can have a complete records of participants.
Normally we have sign-in sheets at our meeting but, of
course, we don't in this environment.

31

32

So any other Staff that I haven't
called.

33

34

(No comments)

35

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MS. PERRY: So now I'd like to ask if
there are any other participants on line and I'll try
to do this alphabetically so that everyone's not trying
to speak at once. We are anticipating that there might
be quite a few folks calling in from the public. So
I'll ask if you could state your name, spell your name,
again, for the court reporter, your agency or group or
community that you represent and also if you could let
me know if you wish to provide testimony during the
meeting and for what agenda item. That will help us
run a smoother meeting a little bit later, once we come
to those agenda items.

So if your last name starts with an A

1 through G and you've not previously identified
2 yourself, can you please do that now?
3

4 MR. BUTLER: Yes, Mike Butler, M-I-K-E
5 B-U-T-L-E-R. I'm a Cordova resident and calling in and
6 I would like to make comment about the Federal
7 subsistence dipnet season on the Lower Copper.
8

9 MS. PERRY: Okay. So that's Proposal
10 21-10?
11

12 MR. BUTLER: Yes.
13

14 MS. PERRY: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
15 Butler. We will make note of that.
16

17 MS. FISCHER: Hi, this is Rachel
18 Fischer, R-A-C-H-E-L F-I-S-C-H-E-R with Chugach
19 Regional Resources Commission. And I do not wish to
20 provide testimony today.
21

22 MS. PERRY: Okay, Ms. Fischer, I'm
23 sorry I was muting someone and I didn't have an
24 opportunity to get your first name.
25

26 MS. FISCHER: Rachel, R-A-C-H-E-L.
27

28 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Rachel.
29

30 MS. CAMINER: Judy Caminer, J-U-D-Y C-
31 A-M-I-N-E-R, member of the public.
32

33 MS. PERRY: Hi Judy.
34

35 MS. CAMINER: Hi.
36

37 MS. BRUMMER: Hi, this is Christine
38 Brummer, C-H-R-I-S-T-I-N-E, and the last name's B-R-U-M
39 as in Mary, M as in Michael E-R. And I am a UAA
40 graduate student that's been working on a thesis that
41 has a case study that -- in the past, and I would like
42 to provide public testimony on the Moose Pass proposal,
43 it's RP19-01.
44

45 Thank you.
46

47 MS. PERRY: Okay. Thank you,
48 Christine.
49
50

1 Any other members of the public, if
2 your last name starts A through G, I'm just making note
3 of your name and your community and if you're wanting
4 to provide public testimony during the meeting.

5
6 MR. CARPENTER: Yeah, this is Tom
7 Carpenter with the Copper River Prince William Sound
8 Advisory Committee. I'd like to provide public
9 testimony on FP21-10.

10
11 MS. PERRY: Okay, thank you, Mr.
12 Carpenter.

13
14 MR. ESTES: Jeff Estes, Moose Pass
15 resident.

16
17 MS. PERRY: Okay. And, Jeff, will you
18 be providing any public testimony today?

19
20 MR. ESTES: Possibly, yes.

21
22 MS. PERRY: Okay. And do you know, off
23 hand, what proposals that'll be just so we make sure
24 that we call on you at that time?

25
26 MR. ESTES: On the rural determination
27 of Moose Pass area.

28
29 MS. PERRY: Okay. Any other public
30 joining us that their last name starts A through G.

31
32 MR. CARTER: Jesse Carter. I'd like to
33 provide testimony.....

34
35 MS. PERRY: Okay.

36
37 MR. CARTER:for the -- let's see
38 I'm looking at a note here, of the FP21-10.

39
40 MS. PERRY: Okay. And that was Jesse
41 Carter?

42
43 MR. CARTER: Jesse, J-E-S-S-E C-A-R-T-E-
44 R.

45
46 MS. PERRY: Okay, thank you. And
47 anyone else, last name starting A through G.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 MS. PERRY: Okay. Any public members,
2 if your last name starts H through O, if you could
3 identify both names and say what community you're from
4 and if you're going to testify, if you could do that
5 now.

6
7 MS. KOVALSIK: Hi, Chelsea Kovalsik with
8 Chugach Regional Resources Commission. And my last
9 name is -- well, my first name is C-H-E-L-S-E-A and my
10 last name is K-O-V as in Victor, A-L-C-S-I-K, and I do
11 not wish to provide public testimony.

12
13 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

14
15 Anyone else?

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MS. PERRY: Last names that starts H
20 through O.

21
22 MS. MILLER: Sarah Miller. That's S-A-
23 R-A-H M-I-L-L-E-R. I'm the environmental coordinator
24 for Native Village of Kluti-Kaah, and I do not wish to
25 provide public testimony.

26
27 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

28
29 Anyone else?

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MS. PERRY: Okay. So if your last name
34 starts with P through T, if you could identify yourself
35 at this time.

36
37 MR. MILLER: I'm sorry, I'm G through
38 M, I didn't.....

39
40 MS. PERRY: Okay.

41
42 MR. MILLER: Odin Miller with Ahtna
43 InterTribal Resource Commission and I don't wish to
44 provide public testimony.

45
46 MS. PERRY: Okay. I -- I heard that
47 you were from the Ahtna InterTribal Commission but I --
48 your phone was cutting out on my end and I didn't
49 actually get your name, could I ask you to repeat that

50

1 please.

2

3

MR. MILLER: Odin, O-D-I-N.

4

5

MS. PERRY: Oh, Odin, hi Odin.

6

7

MR. MILLER: Hi.

8

9

10

MS. PERRY: Okay. Anyone else, last name H through O, or P through T.

11

12

MS. STICKWAN: Gloria Stickwan.

13

14

MS. PERRY: Hi Gloria.

15

16

MS. STICKWAN: Hi.

17

18

19

MS. PERRY: And will you be providing any public testimony?

20

21

MS. STICKWAN: No.

22

23

24

MS. PERRY: Okay. Any public, last name P through T.

25

26

(No comments)

27

28

29

MS. PERRY: All right. And do we have anybody last name starting U through Z.

30

31

32

33

34

35

MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. My name's Darrel Williams, D-A-R-R-Y-L W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S. I'm with the Ninilchik Traditional Council. I'm on the agenda to provide the subsistence fishery report and I may or may not speak on other topics.

36

37

38

MS. PERRY: All right. You'll just let us know as we go through our agenda then.

39

40

41

42

43

Okay. So I think we have everyone that has called in identified, especially those that want to provide testimony. That'll help us out, again, as we move farther into our agenda.

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

As a reminder, we're trying out a companion videoconference with our official meeting teleconference and this is really to share visual information. There'll be no audio on that channel so obviously you all know the number to call in here, but

1 if you want to know the number to call for that video
2 link, it's 18004781456 and they can email that link to
3 you.
4

5 For public testimony there'll be time
6 for tribal and public comment on non-agenda items and
7 the Chair will announce these each morning. That'll be
8 an opportunity for those present as well as those
9 participating on the phone to speak to non-agenda
10 items. There will also be time for the public to
11 provide comments on the proposals that the Council will
12 deliberate. If you are not on the video conference,
13 again, I've got a starting list here, you can let us
14 know that you'd like to speak by unmuting your phone,
15 star-6, and letting us know. If you're on video
16 conference you'll note that you have a little hand
17 raise feature and if you hover over your screen
18 there'll be a bar that comes up at the bottom and if
19 you move over to this little ellipsis that says more
20 actions, you can click on that and there's the
21 opportunity to raise a hand, or on some computers if
22 you have the software you'll actually see a raised hand
23 icon on your bar so you can also try to get our
24 attention that way as well.
25

26 Usually we have sign-in sheets at our
27 meetings and, again, for those folks that may have
28 joined us in the last couple of minutes, I'll ask again
29 probably around lunchtime for names. In this
30 environment, it's really important for those speaking
31 at any time during this two day meeting to identify
32 yourselves, and, again, this is for the court reporter
33 for our administrative record and it's very helpful if
34 you spell your name.
35

36 Okay. I just want to see if Federal
37 Subsistence Board member and Regional Forester Dave
38 Schmid has joined us for our welcome.
39

40 (No comment)
41

42 MS. PERRY: Okay. Mr. Chair, I believe
43 that the Regional Forester wanted to provide some
44 welcoming comments. I know his time is limited this
45 morning so maybe it'll be a little bit later this
46 morning.
47

48 I'll turn it back over to you for our
49 next agenda item, Mr. Chair.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks.
2 Before we get started, Gloria, do you want to do an
3 invocation for us please.

4
5 MS. STICKWAN: Okay.

6
7 (Invocation)

8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
10 Gloria, very good. Okay, we got the roll call, we got
11 the -- I'm going to do a welcome. So the welcome --
12 DeAnna kind of covered the welcome because we had the
13 public here and then record them, so things might get a
14 little disjointed but I hope not. I would ask that
15 when everyone speaks it's one at a time and just take a
16 moment and make sure we're not talking over someone
17 when we come to public comments and stuff. As you know
18 there may be a time limit on that, we want to keep it
19 succinct and allow others to talk so that'll be the way
20 we'll try to go through that.

21
22 I want to welcome everyone, this is
23 kind of unsettled times, although it would be great if
24 we could meet person to person, it's really hard when
25 you can't see the person and see some of the compassion
26 and feelings that they express towards items and other
27 things so I hope you've all done well and had a good
28 summer. I'm not going to go on because we have a lot
29 of other stuff we're going to say but I just wanted to
30 give you a real warm-hearted welcome.

31
32 I'll try and keep us on task.

33
34 I look at this agenda, it's really a
35 fairly short meeting. I know the Cordova issue is on
36 there but it's really an issue that should be able to
37 be ferreted out fairly quickly.

38
39 Anyway, with that said we're going to
40 go ahead and move on.

41
42 My fellow Council members I want to say
43 greetings to you, I didn't get to formally see you and
44 say hi, but I'm glad you are all here and present. And
45 any time just if you need to get on, I'll stop and
46 we'll make sure that you're heard.

47
48 Great.

49
50

1 DeAnna, I don't there's any more
2 introductions. If you do get Dave on sometime just
3 stop me and we'll let him go ahead.
4

5 MS. PERRY: Okay, that sounds great.
6

7 (Teleconference interference -
8 participant placed line on hold, interference)
9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Council,
11 if you guys want to review and adopting the agenda.
12

13 MR. WHISSEL: This is John Whissel, I
14 move to adopt the agenda.
15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I got a motion to
17 adopt the agenda by John, is there a second.
18

19 MR. OPHEIM: Second, Michael.
20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Michael seconded.
22 Any discussion on the agenda.
23

24 (No comments)
25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, all
27 in favor aye.
28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.
30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is there any
32 opposed.
33

34 (No opposing votes)
35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. It carries
37 and we'll try and follow the agenda the best possible.
38

39 Next item, No. 6. We're going to review
40 and approve previous minutes. It's on Page 5.
41

42 MR. WHISSEL: Mr. Chair. John Whissel
43 moves to approve the minutes from the March 2020
44 meeting.
45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: March 4th and
47 5th, okay. John moved, is there a second.
48

49 MR. OPHEIM: I'll second, Michael.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Michael
2 seconds that. Any discussion.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing no
7 discussion on that all in favor of approval of the
8 minutes of March 2020 say aye.

9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed to
13 that motion.

14
15 (No opposing votes)

16
17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. The
18 minutes are approved, great.

19
20 Okay.

21
22 MS. PERRY: Greg. Excuse me, Mr.
23 Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

26
27 MS. PERRY: This is DeAnna. I am
28 getting a series of beeps on my end and I don't know if
29 everyone else is hearing that or if it's just my phone.
30 Is anyone else hearing that?

31
32 REPORTER: This is the court reporter.
33 So that happens when a participant is taking another
34 phone call, they put us on hold and then we're hearing
35 it. I can actually stop and call the operator to
36 remove them if you'd like me to.

37
38 MS. PERRY: If you would, yes. Because
39 I think that would be hard to.....

40
41 REPORTER: Okay, hold on just a moment.

42
43 MS. PERRY: All right.

44
45 (Pause)

46
47 REPORTER: Okay, I think it's gone.

48
49 (Pause)

50

1 REPORTER: Okay, I would go ahead and
2 move forward.

3
4 MS. PERRY: Thank you. Thank you
5 everybody for your patience. Mr. Chair, if you would
6 go ahead. Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you folks
9 for getting that fixed up.

10
11 We are now down to reports under the
12 Council members. So I'm going to just go through the
13 Council, and Ed I'm just going to start with you and
14 I'm going to start that way just because that's the way
15 we're listed in the deal. We'll go right down and skip
16 me, and get me at the end and we'll go through each one
17 of you if you want to go ahead and give a report.

18
19 Ed.

20
21 MR. HOLSTEN: Hello, this is Ed
22 Holsten. Good morning everybody.

23
24 I have just a quick update. In the
25 Cooper Landing area, we had a real good run of sockeye,
26 the first run, up at the falls. The second run was a
27 little late. They came in fairly strong but it was a
28 week or two late. And I think this is about the first
29 time -- not the first time, but I could probably count
30 on one hand the number of times I'd seen pink salmon in
31 the upper river and actually a couple of pinks in the
32 Russian River. Kind of the downside of the summer has
33 been the effects of Covid19 on our community. Princess
34 Lodge, big employer was shut down for the year and the
35 rumor has it Princess is going to sell their lodges in
36 the state. Guide business way down. B&B's way down.
37 So this is the second summer in a row, last summer we
38 had the fire really shut the community down. And then
39 with Covid this year, it's been kind of a double-whammy
40 for Cooper Landing.

41
42 The only other news around here is the
43 Cooper Landing bypass, which had been talked about for
44 about 40 years is under construction now. It's a five
45 year project and they're doing a lot of clearing.

46
47 But, anyway, that's about all I have to
48 say.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.
4 Good, if you have something later we'll just go ahead
5 and add to it.

6

7 We'll move on to Diane, if you're on
8 the line, you go right ahead.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MS. PERRY: Diane Selanoff.

13

14 MS. SELANOFF: Yes, sorry. Hi, good
15 morning everybody. This is a little bit different to
16 be having our meetings all so differently.

17

18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted)

20

21 MS. SELANOFF: At least we can do
22 business, at least, since March and April in many
23 different capacities.

24

25 But I want to say that our salmon
26 season was a little bit slow this year. It didn't seem
27 like the numbers were there in their normal abundance.
28 So being home and not traveling, a lot of people have
29 done a lot more subsistence fishing and gathering,
30 although I can say that it felt like the volume of fish
31 that were being caught for subsistence has been
32 extremely better but it was definitely noticed that the
33 salmon were reduced. And I'm not saying that because
34 more people were, you know, concentrating around
35 subsistence fishing, but in all it just (indiscernible)
36 -- but that's all I have.

37

38 I'm not going to keep you, I know we
39 have a long way to go.

40

41 Thank you, have a good morning.

42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Diane.

44

45 Okay, Gloria, do you want to go ahead.

46

47 MS. STICKWAN: Good morning. I want to
48 say we had low fish runs here, we didn't get very many
49 sockeyes or chinook. The water was high most of the

50

1 summer so that probably was may have been one of the
2 reasons. Had to stop and repair the wheel all summer.
3 The summer was not as hot as last year but -- and not
4 very many people got any moose either so we'll have a
5 hard year, I guess.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thanks, Gloria.
8
9 Dennis.

10
11 MR. ZADRA: All right. Can everyone
12 hear me?

13
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Loud and clear.

15
16 MR. ZADRA: Okay. Yeah, I guess I will
17 reiterate what Gloria had said about the weak salmon
18 runs. We definitely had a very weak run on the Copper
19 River. The commercial fleet only had five 12 hour
20 fishing periods the entire early season so -- and the
21 numbers were just not there and, you know, I don't
22 think we reached the minimum of escapement at Mile Lake
23 either so that's -- that's got to be addressed. And
24 the runs in the Sound were also relatively weak.
25 Sockeyes coming back to the Main Bay Hatchery were
26 pretty small and there wasn't that many of them. And
27 the Esther Hatchery with the chums, they struggled
28 getting their cost recovery and brood stocks. So we
29 did not have much time fishing on them either.

30
31 On a brighter note, it is a fantastic
32 berry season. We've had, from the salmonberries,
33 blueberries, all the berries seem to just really be
34 thriving and so that was gone. And we've definitely
35 seen an uptick in the number of black bears and also
36 that seems positive. Moose hunt -- the moose hunt
37 here, the local subsistence hunt went very well, and
38 it's still going on but everybody's doing very well
39 getting their moose.

40
41 So I guess that's all I have.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, that's
44 good. I'm glad they got the moose anyway, but that's
45 good, thank you, Dennis.

46
47 Michael Opheim.

48
49 MR. OPHEIM: Well, a couple of things
50

1 here. The Covid stuff hasn't really affected us, we
2 just got a few scares here at the end of the season, a
3 few locals kind of got a brush there but nobody's been
4 positive luckily.

5
6 We've had bear issues all summer it
7 seems like. We had a bad berry year. Salmon returns
8 weren't that good so bears were in town and they were
9 hitting garbage cans pretty hard. We couldn't seem to
10 train the people to keep the garbage inside or taken to
11 the dump in a timely manner so I think we had at least
12 one bear put down because of that. Kind of a bummer.
13 The person didn't use the meat, just dumped the
14 carcass. Fish and Game came over and had a talk with
15 the gentleman. And we've had one moose harvested in
16 the area. We haven't had any locals be lucky enough
17 here yet that I've heard. We've had probably six bears
18 harvested that we've tagged here at the tribe, so that
19 was kind of nice.

20
21 We had our fish weir in again. That
22 got blown out and we were all set to have a good run go
23 through there, probably 80 fish below the weir before
24 it blew out and that would have been a pretty big run
25 for us on that stream out there.

26
27 But not many tourists. You know we
28 never really closed the community down but, you know,
29 there wasn't too many people until later in the day.
30 In August, I think, we had about a normal return of
31 people in the community so that was really kind of
32 nice.

33
34 We have a clam project going there
35 working with the Alutiiq Tribe shellfish hatchery and
36 we're trying to do something to get our clams back.
37 And this year we went out in the field and we actually
38 found a few clams that we planted in our area and so
39 hopefully those will continue to grow and they'll
40 replenish our little bay here, would be nice for us.

41
42 And I think we have a few more rabbits
43 in the area, that was kind of nice. I guess our bloom
44 must be picking up. So we hope to see a few more of
45 those. Not too many spruce hens it seems like this
46 year.

47
48 But, yeah, it's been an interesting
49 year around here.

50

1 That's all I've got.

2
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty Michael,
4 thank you.

5
6 Andy.

7
8 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
9 Chair. From Prince William Sound southwest area down
10 here.

11
12 I could say that the silvers were
13 showing up late. There's actually still some trickling
14 in right now. It's been so much rain for the past
15 three or four weeks, all the humpies have been watched
16 out of the streams and -- but it was pretty thick with
17 them probably some hatchery strays in that overflow of
18 most of the local streams around here.

19
20 Blueberries were really incredible.
21 Salmonberries weren't so great down here at the lower
22 levels but if you'd go up about 500 feet elevation they
23 must have got a different pollination up there because
24 the salmonberries, mid-level up the mountains and
25 higher were just real thick and robust, but the ones
26 down low didn't do so hot.

27
28 Reflective of Diane Selanoff and Gloria
29 and everybody else's comments about the low salmon, our
30 reds didn't do so great this year, and the small size
31 they'd go right through gillnets. They' -- you'd see
32 your corks go but then they'd just move on through. So
33 the catch on reds was a lot less than normal.

34
35 Let's see, no clamming at all primarily
36 -- probably due to my input locally because of that
37 Kodiak death from the paralytic shellfish poisoning.
38 That's the same waters that flows through here like a
39 big river and then it flows on out to Kodiak. So we
40 knew that some stuff had happened in Yakutat on the
41 other side of Cordova from here and so anyhow no
42 clamming has been going on here. People are waiting
43 for the more safer winter months but the water being so
44 warm, that's a little iffy.

45
46 Very little seine boat activity in the
47 bay this year, commercial fishing wise. The village
48 here, due to Covid, closed all its borders so signs at
49 all docks, and nobody allowed to come and walk around
50

1 like a normal year.

2

3 I would say the bears have been on an
4 increase from that low of like three years ago. And
5 the deer population is probably not quite, if you took
6 an average of population of the past 20 years, it's
7 lower than the average, but it's better than it was
8 after that snowpocalypse like seven years ago.

9

10 Let's see, nobody went for goats yet
11 because you kind of wait for some snowy weather and
12 cold up top to push them down to where they're more
13 accessible. They get up in the cliffs where people
14 can't get to them early on.

15

16 And we've had such wet conditions here,
17 but it's been pretty mild and a few grouse, very few
18 grouse.

19

20 So that's it for Chenega Bay.

21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right, Andy,
23 thanks for a good report. Thank you.

24

25 Aaron.

26

27 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, thanks, guys,
28 can you hear me okay?

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Sure.

31

32 MR. BLOOMQUIST: All right. Well, I
33 spent the spring, summer and most of the fall in Copper
34 Center again this year.

35

36 The spring was really un -- kind of
37 unknown with all of the crazy Covid stuff, especially
38 since I run a guide business out there and it turned
39 out being relatively normal. There were quite a few
40 bears around and we were able to get a bunch of them.
41 Fewer rabbits. I've noticed other years, I think -- I
42 think we're kind of on the downswing of that. And we
43 saw lots and lots of furbearers all over the place when
44 we were running around in the spring.

45

46 Salmon season was kind of a mix really.
47 It seems like it was a little tougher to get reds in
48 the wheels. My local friends that do a lot of
49 dipnetting there from Copper Center and Gulkana, you

50

1 know, from boats and stuff, they were doing okay. They
2 were able to get enough but not anything crazy. The
3 Gulkana had a pretty low run of kings this year but not
4 exceptionally so compared to a few other years. But
5 the rest of the drainages in the valley actually had
6 really really good king salmon fishing. I think it was
7 probably of a factor of those poor guys in Cordova
8 being shut down all the time, a bunch of those kings
9 got through and the Klutina and other drainages were
10 good.

11
12 This fall it seems like it's been --
13 I've got my little baby on my lap here so she's
14 coughing in the phone, sorry about that. It sounds
15 like it's been a little bit tough. The weather was
16 garbage for the first part of moose season. The sheep
17 had a bad winter pretty much throughout the Interior,
18 probably worse, the farther north you go, the north
19 Wrangells was real bad, the south Wrangells was kind of
20 bad but not horrible. I was in there a few weeks ago
21 and not a lot of lands anyways.

22
23 Yes, she wants some input.

24
25 Caribou so far at least on the
26 Richardson Highway side there hasn't been very many of
27 them. I've heard some disappointment from local
28 friends in the valley there that have been wanting to
29 hunt with their families and the new wildlife special
30 actions that are in place right now that are letting
31 that happen from the Anchorage to the valley, lots of
32 people here in Palmer and Wasilla are disappointed with
33 it. So hopefully we lose that case in court.

34
35 It seems like there's no grouse this
36 year, at least the areas that I've been there's very
37 few.

38
39 And going into winter the weather's
40 been mild.

41
42 So that's all I've got.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks,
47 Aaron.

48
49 John, do you want to go ahead.

50

1 MR. WHISSEL: Sure. Hi, this is John
2 Whissel down in Cordova.

3
4 So the good news, our deer, we had deer
5 surveys here in the eastern Sound and they're looking
6 real good. It looks like our deer are continuing to
7 increase pretty quickly, especially on Hawkins Island,
8 maybe it's a little less on Hinchbrook. That data's
9 available from Fish and Game, Charolette Westing, did
10 deer pellet surveys and Milo helps with those too, and
11 so he's on the line here.

12
13 Berries. Oh my gosh, what a year for
14 berries. Blueberries are ongoing. I'm not sure if I
15 should say that outloud. We still can harvest
16 blueberries.

17
18 We just had a big storm here, we've had
19 a couple of big storms which is good. We got real warm
20 water out in the Pacific and we've had -- we just had
21 sort of Alaska style hurricane, cyclones coming in one
22 after the other into the Northern Gulf and any kind of
23 thing we can do to get those layers of water churned up
24 is going to reduce those sea surface temperatures of
25 our salmon. So I'm happy to see our terrible, terrible
26 weather that we've had and some damage to houses and
27 property, trees down and everything, but it's good for
28 the fish, which is needed. Because as Dennis said our
29 salmon run this year was horrible.

30
31 So we did make escapement. We had just
32 over a half a million fish go by the sonar. It was a
33 little bit of a funny year in that by the end of June
34 we had just barely made escapement by the end of June
35 and had another, you know, 200,000 or so, minimal
36 escapement being 350,000 fish, we had another 200,000
37 fish come in in July and that ratio is very different
38 from -- from normal. I mean it's not unusual to see
39 200,000 fish come in in July but not after, you know,
40 you barely get 300,000 passed in the first, you know,
41 three months of the fishery. So hopefully what that
42 means is we've got some good stock coming back to the
43 Gulkana Hatchery which is not met its restock growth
44 for the past several years and that's impacted the
45 fisheries out here for sure.

46
47 Sort of bad news for the President, and
48 good news for the future.

49
50

1 I'm not going to steal any of Matt
2 Piche's thunder, I know he's going to give a report
3 here. But our king salmon run, well, the last time we
4 had a pretty (indiscernible) sockeye run like this was
5 2018 and we were all sort of dazed by the pretty good
6 king salmon run we had that year, and this wasn't the
7 (indiscernible - cutting out).
8

9 Coho, they're still coming in right
10 now. Good fishing is sort of on out in Delta,
11 especially with everything being up, the water levels
12 being up from the storms. But I don't -- it doesn't
13 seem to me like the coho run is anything too
14 spectacular and we've had very much reduced
15 sportfishing pressure, I think. You still see some
16 folks that are renting cabins and boats out there but
17 it doesn't seem nearly as crowded as it normally is due
18 to Covid.
19

20 We were pretty safe in Covid. It was a
21 pretty tense summer getting started and we had some
22 very, very strict protocols here and very few cases
23 considering the amount of activity we had and so I
24 think Cordova did a really good job.
25

26 Our moose harvest out at the Martin
27 River is done now. Our moose population seem to be
28 continuing to thrive and grow despite increased harvest
29 pressure.
30

31 Aside from that I think our other
32 resources, sort of the shrimp, a pretty good year. It
33 seems like some people had some success shrimping.
34 People had some success with halibut. Jigging for
35 rockfish. Seems like some folks were getting some good
36 rockfish out there. So everything was pretty good
37 except for our salmon runs. I think the pink -- the
38 pink runs were not too terribly great either this year
39 out in the Sound.
40

41 So anyway that's the report from
42 Cordova.
43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right, thank
45 you John.
46

47 Well, if you'll indulge me I'm going to
48 go ahead and give you an update here of the Ninilchik
49 area, lower Peninsula. Covid here, we actually do a
50

1 pretty intense testing here at the Ninilchik clinic, in
2 fact, they do rapid testing. They got some funding and
3 they've done a lot for the lower Peninsula. A lot of
4 people come from Soldotna, the Homer area and so on and
5 so forth. We've tested some positives, not many in our
6 area but we've done thousands of tests, believe it or
7 not, a lot of them, and so we haven't been impacted too
8 bad other than everything kind of being curtailed
9 there. The one strange thing is, I don't know about
10 you guys' traffic but they must have all come to the
11 Peninsula because I've seen more doggone traffic this
12 year than normal years, which is interesting. But a
13 lot of our big events, like Salmonfest and Summer Clam
14 Scramble and so on and so forth, the Fair and all those
15 things were cancelled so that made it a little tough on
16 the community for businesses of course.

17
18 But on the other flip side of that, you
19 know, the tribe has done a tremendous amount of growth
20 here and they've done a lot of stuff with Covid. They
21 put in a new mobile clinic. We done a lot of
22 subsistence stuff. They've added on to the health
23 club, and for social distancing, spacing and so there's
24 just a lot of work and a lot of that that's going on.
25 We seem to get by with all the new, either Zoom or
26 Tunes or whatever and that's kind of a challenge, but
27 we're getting around.

28
29 But to get to the stuff of the hunting.
30 The new hunts, I know that came out for a vote, caribou
31 and so on. I know one guy got a goat. I know I drew a
32 tag for a caribou, unfortunately I didn't get up there,
33 I got a back problem but I was blessed to get a moose
34 with my son so that was good.

35
36 On the clams, our clam beach is still
37 closed and probably will be for awhile. People here
38 have to take boats and go across the inlet to go get
39 clams and my anecdotal report there is that they're
40 even starting to dwindle on that side. And I do -- I
41 flew over myself and dug over there. I was able to get
42 some, but nothing like before. They're definitely
43 going to be a problem there.

44
45 As for our fish year. If you was a
46 commercial fisherman it totally sucked, it was a
47 disaster. Especially for the setnetters, they were
48 closed almost the entire season. The drifters did very
49 poorly also. They had a couple periods but they didn't

50

1 amount to nothing. So some people would say the fish
2 were a little late, but there was just no reds. There
3 was some escapement in the Kenai, they met their
4 minimum escapement and then early August they started
5 putting out these numbers, that hundreds of thousands
6 were gone up around the 10th or 15th of August which if
7 anyone challenges that report, and that credibility, as
8 the river was flooded with pinks and there's a ton of
9 pinks early August, I pulled my gear, kegs and stuff
10 and the end of it was plugged with humps and that's
11 pretty much on schedule but humps seem to be getting
12 everywhere.

13
14 So the good news is our subsistence net
15 in the Kenai, the NTC folks, Darrel and Company, they
16 were able to fish that very hard when the fish were in
17 and we were able to fill all the permits for the
18 community so everyone that applied for a Federal
19 permit, we got them fish and so that was a good deal,
20 in excess of a couple thousand reds. So that worked
21 out well.

22
23 I will tell you on the flip side of
24 that, in the State educational net, was probably the
25 poorest year we've ever had here in Ninilchik. We had
26 literally one or two kings, caught very few kings, the
27 educational net did not produce, the one that -- the
28 community net did not produce. Kasilof did not
29 produce. The only thing that saved us was our Federal
30 fishery up on the Kenai, so that's been a godsend.

31
32 And I don't know what you guys'
33 problems are with the doggone spruce hens but they're
34 all over here. I had so many spruce hens you had to
35 shoo them out of the way to go hunting but there's
36 spruce hens everywhere around here so maybe they all
37 flew our way.

38
39 As for moose, you know, I'm giving you
40 the anecdotal stuff, I don't believe it was quite as
41 prolific as last year but it was good. A lot of people
42 were fortunate to get moose and a few big ones, too, so
43 that worked out pretty well.

44
45 But we're pressing on down here. We
46 did get a few additions to the community, the
47 community's grown a little bit. The general store that
48 the Native Association was sold to Three Bears, they
49 developed it and put in a big development there and
50

1 we're getting a lot of traffic and people in there.
2 Emergency services seemed to think that we need to be a
3 service area now, voted that in yesterday so we could
4 all pay taxes so we're all going to pay -- tax
5 themselves so a few of us will support the many, seems
6 to be the American way.

7
8 Anyway other than that, I think the
9 subsistence was pretty good overall for hunting moose
10 and sheep and all the stuff that we get. But we did
11 have a lot of restrictions, particularly when all the
12 -- we'll get into more detail as we go on. Darrel will
13 be giving us a report from Ninilchik or giving the
14 specifics on fishing later in probably a little more
15 detail.

16
17 (Teleconference interference -
18 participants not muted)

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.

21
22 And just as a side note, our berries
23 weren't that good. The few places where -- in fact
24 I've heard reports of bears being cranky around here
25 but we had a couple of people get attacked that --
26 there's a lot of bears around here. Anyway we've been
27 helping that population but there's still -- still a
28 problem.

29
30 Okay.

31
32 Now, we're going to go to public and
33 tribal comments on non-agenda items. If anyone's got
34 any comments on a non-agenda item we'll take it now.

35
36 REPORTER: The feedback -- if whoever's
37 not speaking could mute their line that would be really
38 appreciated.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Okay,
43 I am hearing none, we'll come back to that each
44 morning. We're going to move on to old business and
45 we've got an .805(c) report and it's an information
46 update, and, DeAnna, you want to give that to us.

47
48 MS. PERRY: Yes, I'd be happy to. In
49 interest of time I won't go into detail.....

50

1 (Teleconference interference - Loud,
2 Loud Phone Feedback - participants not muted)

3
4 REPORTER: I'm hearing quite a bit of
5 feedback on the phone so if we could all just take a
6 moment to make sure we're on mute, and, also sometimes
7 the proximity of your audio equipment, like if you're
8 on a speaker phone or a cell phone and you're close to
9 your computer speakers, sometimes that'll make the kind
10 of feedback I'm hearing. So if we could all maybe just
11 take a moment to do that, it's actually pretty ear
12 piercing at the moment, and it will not allow us to
13 hear the recording to be able to transcribe this
14 meeting. So could we all just take a moment and make
15 sure our equipment is not really near other equipment.

16
17 (Ear piercing Feedback)

18
19 REPORTER: Okay, one more time, check
20 mute please.

21
22 (Pause)

23
24 REPORTER: Okay, thank you.

25
26 MS. PERRY: So for the .805(c) update
27 in your meeting book starting on Page 11 is the letter
28 and the enclosure from the Federal Subsistence Board,
29 again, it's known as the .805(c) report. This report
30 provides the actions taken by the Board on proposals
31 affecting residents of the Southcentral region.

32
33 This is really just a formal
34 opportunity to bring your attention to those actions
35 in kind of a document form. It is for information only
36 and this is not a Council action. Again, in the
37 interest of time I won't go over all the actions, it's
38 pretty self-explanatory in the report. But if you have
39 any questions on any particular item on the consensus
40 or the non-consensus agenda items that the Board took
41 up, I'd be happy to address those. There were some
42 proposals where the Board accepted the Council's
43 recommendation and made further modifications. So,
44 again, in the interest of time instead of going through
45 all of these, if anybody has any specific question on
46 one I can address that at this time, or I can just let
47 you peruse the .805(c) report in your book if you
48 haven't already done so.

49
50

1 Okay.

2
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
4 DeAnna. If anyone has any questions they could bring
5 them up at comment time or just let DeAnna know and
6 myself, or whatever, but it is pretty self-explanatory
7 and I thank you for that.

8
9 We're ready to move on to new business.
10 But I think one thing that I'm going to try and do and
11 keep track of, is, I know even though we're in various
12 places and offices scattered from hell to breakfast,
13 we'll try and take a few courtesy breaks and stretch,
14 you know, sitting in a chair is hard to do, a Zoom
15 meeting or a team meeting, or phone meeting as long as
16 two hours let alone two days so let's take about four
17 minutes to get some coffee before we get into new
18 business and we'll just mute and we'll hang on, right
19 around four minutes, and we'll want to start again.

20
21 Sound okay.

22
23 IN UNISON: Sounds good.

24
25 (Off record)

26
27 (On record)

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We're going to go
30 into new business now. And we've got on the agenda,
31 the first thing is Southcentral Subsistence Fisheries
32 Harvest update.

33
34 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. I believe Dave
35 Sarafin is ready to provide that.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Let's go
38 ahead to Dave. Dave you got the floor.

39
40 MR. SARAFIN: Okay, good morning.
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, I've got the upper Copper
42 River Federal subsistence fishery -- well, the 2020
43 season summary for you here.

44
45 So the Federal subsistence fishery is
46 the upper Copper River were open from May 15th through
47 September 30th. We issued 217 Chitina subdistrict
48 permits; 377 for the Glennallen subdistrict; and one
49 for Batzulnetas area. And this is through September
50

1 4th those figures are. The actual harvest we do not
2 have for the 2020 season yet as we're just starting to
3 get reports in so that's not available at this point.

4
5 For the 2020 Copper River salmon run
6 strength and management actions.

7
8 During 2020 the commercial fishery was
9 really limited. ADF&G reported the total season
10 harvest through July 28th to be the fourth lowest
11 commercial harvest in the last 50 years for the
12 district. The ADF&G sonar at Miles Lake, it was
13 recording passage from May 19th through July 28th and
14 provided a season total estimate of 530,313 salmon
15 migrating up stream. That estimate is 85 percent of
16 the cumulative management objective of 624709 salmon
17 for that date. And ADF&G reported that to be the 12th
18 lowest season estimate on record since 1978.

19
20 So performance in the commercial
21 fishery and the in river sonar passage are primary in-
22 season assessment tools for managing the salmon return.
23 Overall returns of both sockeye and chinook were week
24 and in-river assessments of chinook salmon, along with
25 assumptions of up river harvest indicate the
26 sustainable escapement goal of 24,000 fish was likely
27 not met for this season. As well, the minimum
28 threshold of 360,000 fish of the wild stock sockeye
29 salmon sustainable escapement goal range of 360 to
30 750,000 was likely -- or may not have been achieved
31 this season. These will be assessed further as we get
32 harvest levels figured out a little better and hatchery
33 stock contribution.

34
35 So the State subsistence fishery in the
36 Glennallen subdistrict was open from June 1 through
37 September 30th. The other fisheries, they did place
38 management actions in place for the sportfishery and on
39 the personal use fishery in Chitina. No Federal
40 special actions were issued by the in-season manager
41 this season.

42
43 And that concludes my update but open
44 for any kind of questions.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, Dave, that
47 was (indiscernible - phone line cutting out) had a
48 rough season but good report and timely.

1 Do we have questions for Dave, anyone
2 on the Council, or anyone else?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, well,
7 thanks. We'll move on then to B, fisheries proposals
8 and closures review and OSM is going to talk to us on
9 that.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is there anyone
14 giving a report there?

15
16 MR. STONE: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
17 and members of the Council. This is Jared Stone, can
18 you hear me and see me okay?

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I could
21 hear you.

22
23 MR. STONE: All right. So my name is
24 Jared Stone and I am a fisheries biologist with the
25 Office of Subsistence Management. I am new to the
26 region and likely most of you haven't seen my face
27 before or heard my name, but I'll be assuming Scott
28 Ayers' position at OSM. So in other words I've got
29 some real big boots to fill. Scott, you know, will be
30 missed in our office but he's moved on to a new
31 position now and will be missed.

32
33 Today I'll be presenting fishery
34 proposal 21-09. The analysis begins on Page 15 of your
35 Council book. The Staff draft analysis can also be
36 found on our website under the Southcentral region
37 meeting materials.

38
39 Proposal FP21-09 submitted by the U.S.
40 Fish and Wildlife Service requests that the Federal
41 Subsistence Board revise the Federal subsistence
42 regulations for Kenai River chinook salmon in the Cook
43 Inlet area to replace the designations, early run and
44 late run, with actual specific dates.

45
46 The proponent states that this
47 administrative change will remove confusing and
48 outdated regulatory language about early and late run
49 chinook salmon. There is considerable geographic and
50

1 also overlap in run timing for both stocks within the
2 waters under Federal subsistence fisheries
3 jurisdiction, even though Federal regulations define
4 separate seasons and harvest limits leading to this
5 confusion. They suggest that this change will limit
6 confusion and achieve conservation for the species
7 throughout their residence in freshwaters and will
8 likely make it easier for Federally-qualified
9 subsistence users to understand when, where and how
10 they are able to be harvested -- harvest chinook salmon
11 in the Kenai River.

12
13 Chinook salmon runs in the Kenai River
14 drainage are categorized into early and late runs.
15 Chinook salmon entering the Kenai River prior to July
16 are considered early run fish and primarily spawn in
17 the tributaries, while chinook salmon entering the
18 Kenai River during July and August are considered late
19 run fish and almost exclusively spawn in the mainstem
20 Kenai River. Each run is managed independently due to
21 differences in run size, run timing and spacial
22 distribution of spawning fish.

23
24 While Kenai River chinook salmon are
25 managed as early and late runs, the two runs are
26 perhaps more appropriately delineated as mainstem and
27 tributary spawning groups. The early returning fish
28 are predominately tributary bound and are genetically
29 distinct from the later returning, mostly mainstem
30 spawners.

31
32 Harvest of Pacific salmon returning to
33 the Kenai River drainage occur in Federal subsistence
34 fisheries as well as State commercial, sport, personal
35 use and educational fisheries. Federal subsistence
36 regulations have provided for the harvest of fish in
37 the Kenai River drainage for rural residents of Cooper
38 Landing, Hope and Ninilchik since 2007. Management of
39 the Federal subsistence fishery occurs through general
40 and Cook Inlet area specific subsistence regulations,
41 as well as in-season management actions. A Federal
42 subsistence fishing permit is required for the harvest
43 of salmon, trout and char, and all harvest must be
44 reported to the Federal in-season manager. While the
45 Federal in-season -- I'm sorry -- while the Federal
46 subsistence regulations allow for the harvest of
47 chinook salmon from both runs, the actual harvest over
48 the years has been very low. That can be found in
49 Table 2 of the analysis.

50

1 There were closures in the place for
2 the retention of chinook salmon for the years 2013,
3 2014, 2015 and as well in 2020 which may have an
4 impacted this to some degree.

5
6 This proposal is administrative in
7 nature and would remove references to early and late
8 run from the portions of the Cook Inlet area Federal
9 subsistence fishing regulations for the Kenai River.
10 Many of the regulations currently in place use both of
11 these terms, as well as date ranges. In the locations
12 where just early or late run terms are used without
13 date ranges, these dates would be added for clarity.
14 If supported by the Board, this proposal would not
15 shorten or lengthen any seasons and would not increase
16 or decrease opportunity for Federally-qualified
17 subsistence users. These changes would reflect a more
18 accurate portrayal of the overlapping nature of these
19 two runs in this system and they make the complex
20 regulations in this area easier for users to
21 understand.

22
23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted - loud tapping noise)

25
26 MR. STONE: OSM's preliminary
27 conclusion is to support FP21-09. I'll give a brief
28 justification.

29
30 This proposed change does not alter
31 existing harvest dates or opportunities for Federally-
32 qualified subsistence users. Using dates alone to
33 indicate when chinook salmon can be harvested, rather
34 than early or late run designations, would provide a
35 more concise description of when chinook salmon could
36 be harvested from the Kenai River. This administrative
37 change would also continue the recent efforts to make
38 the regulations for the Cook Inlet area more user
39 friendly.

40
41 And this concludes our draft Staff
42 analysis of FP21-09.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, thank
47 you, Jared, very good. Question's for Jared while he's
48 here. Any Council member.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, next we're
4 going to go on to the consultation, is there any tribal
5 comments.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Darrel, are you
10 still on the phone?

11

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, this is
13 Darrel Williams, yes, I am.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I just
16 wondered if you had any comments on this proposal,
17 change of removing dates there, and it doesn't affect
18 the fishery.

19

20 MR. WILLIAMS: I don't think it's going
21 to affect the fishery and it may actually add some
22 clarity in defining when we're talking about the
23 seasons and closures and those discussions that we've
24 had in the past about the concerns for early run versus
25 late run fish. I know that the fisheries that we've
26 installed have a lot of consideration for chinook
27 salmon. We try to avoid areas where we know that
28 chinook stage and those kind of things so I think if
29 they're really successful in not engaging chinook, so I
30 think that this regulation will probably have a
31 positive impact to actually help clarify the meaning of
32 seasons and harvest.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm just
35 going on my protocol and I wanted to make sure you had
36 a comment on it, so if it gives us trouble I know who
37 to look for.

38

39 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Next
44 ANCSA corporations. Anyone. I run the Native
45 association here but I got no comments, I believe it's
46 neutral for us so we don't have a problem.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Agency comments.
2 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No comments.

7
8 REPORTER: I'm sorry, this is the court
9 reporter, can anyone else hear that crackling noise?

10
11 MS. PERRY: Yes.

12
13 REPORTER: Okay. Did you want me to
14 call the operator and have it removed or do you guys
15 just want to continue to go forward.

16
17 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. Perhaps we can
18 wait for a break to address that.

19
20 REPORTER: Okay.

21
22 MS. PERRY: We're kind of in a middle
23 of a proposal.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, it's not
26 bad on my end but we -- I could hear pretty good over
27 it.

28
29 REPORTER: Okay, we'll keep going.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: If it gets too
32 bad we'll stop and fix it.

33
34 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, no one from
37 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, how about the
38 Federal.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I said tribes
43 earlier, but there's another spot here for tribal.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any advisory
48 groups, other Regional Councils, anything, DeAnna or
49 anyone that's made any.

50

1 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. I know Barbara
2 Cellarius is on the phone and if she would like to
3 provide any Subsistence Resource Commission comments at
4 this time, from Wrangell-St.Elias.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. If it.....

7
8 MS. CELLARIUS: I believe.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:goes to.....

11
12 MS. CELLARIUS:there was.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:this
15 proposal that'd be good.

16
17 MS. CELLARIUS: We have comments on
18 Proposals 10 through 14 but not for No. 9.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
21 Barbara. We'll get you on the next one.

22
23 Any Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: How about the
28 Subsistence Resource, no, Barbara no, no. Is there any
29 written public comments, DeAnna.

30
31 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. There were no
32 written public comments received on this proposal.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
35 How about any public testimony, anyone want to testify.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Council
40 members, Regional Council recommendation. We need a
41 motion to adopt.

42
43 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I so move. Andy
44 McLaughlin.

45
46 MS. SELANOFF: I'll second.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Andy.
49 Is there a second to that.

50

1 MR. HOLSTEN: I'll second, this is Ed.

2
3 MS. SELANOFF: Yes, Diane, I'll second.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ed Holsten?

6
7 MR. HOLSTEN: Yes.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any discussion.
10 Any discussion on the matter before 21-09.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, all
15 in favor aye.

16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Opposed.....

20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think I went to
24 quick on oppose, I got ayes on both sides -- so all in
25 favor aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Opposed. Anyone
30 opposed to this, 09.

31
32 (No opposing votes)

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, so carries.
35 We didn't get into the discussion for justification
36 because we didn't have to -- everyone was in favor, so
37 thank you.

38
39 Okay. Let's go ahead and move on to
40 the order of the day, FP21-10, create new dipnet
41 fishery for sockeye salmon in the lower Copper River.
42 And I believe Milo and Daniel, are you going to be
43 talking to that.

44
45 MR. BURCHAM: Yes, this is Milo here.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

48
49 MR. BURCHAM: And I was just going to

50

1 do a brief introduction to this and I think DeAnna was
2 going to try to get a slide up or two.

3
4 First of all I just wanted to kind of
5 introduce the proposal, which most are probably
6 familiar with now, and make sure that people
7 distinguish between this and Special Action Request,
8 FSA20-04 that was received this spring and there's been
9 some confusion between the two. Special Action 20-04
10 submitted by Luke Borer this spring, was looking for a
11 Covid-related food security issue, looking for an
12 opportunity to harvest salmon because he wasn't able to
13 harvest salmon by joining in boats with multiple
14 households in the normal way this past spring. So he
15 submitted this proposal. The main difference between
16 the proposals -- first of all that was, you know,
17 basically just for this season, that would have taken
18 place just this season, but the area in -- being
19 considered is different between the two proposals.

20
21 The special action request was looking
22 for the Copper River, all the waters below Miles Lake
23 to below the highway bridge, that's showing on the
24 screen right now, and this proposal being considered
25 FP21-10 submitted by Jesse Carter and Bob Jewell is
26 much more limited in scope and this was by design.
27 They're looking for fishing area to be -- just a half
28 mile above and below the Copper River bridges and this
29 is, by design, basically addressing those people that
30 don't have boats. Although boats aren't prohibited in
31 this proposal it's basically a bank fishing opportunity
32 that he's proposing so that people without boats, and
33 that can't participate in the State subsistence gillnet
34 fishery could have access to Copper River salmon. So
35 that's the biggest difference between the two
36 proposals.

37
38 The special action was not -- did not
39 pass, it was -- it failed in front of the Federal
40 Subsistence Board this spring and we're taking up the
41 FP21-10, which would put this in regulation, a fishery
42 on the Copper in a -- a dipnet fishery on the lower
43 Copper in regulation, we're taking that up right now.
44 So that's the main difference between the two
45 proposals. By having the special action come up,
46 issues related -- that are in common with this were
47 raised and I just thought I would list the issues.
48 Most of these will be addressed in the analysis that
49 Dan Donnelly will present here but we had a common
50

1 interest, or common issues raised in letters that
2 included concerns of this fishery taking place below
3 the sonar which might interfere with management, salmon
4 conservation, specifically king salmon was a common
5 concern, and that a State personal use fishery might
6 follow this one. Those are comments that were raised
7 in opposition. Comments that were raised in support of
8 this were that there is limited opportunity for Copper
9 River salmon, especially for people that don't own
10 boats and that those that do own boats will have to
11 compete with the commercial fishery. Also it was said
12 that there was no support and plenty of opportunity.
13 And I just wanted to point to the letters that have
14 been received. Jesse Carter did a lot of leg work and
15 has drummed up 150 or 160 letters of support for this.

16
17 So, anyway, that's the introductions
18 that I have and Dan will present the analysis.

19
20 MR. DONNELLY: Thank you very much for
21 the introduction Milo. This is Daniel Donnelly. I'm a
22 fisheries biologist for the U.S. Forest Service out of
23 Cordova.

24
25 Going into the main points of FP21-10.

26
27 FP21-10 was submitted by Jesse Carter
28 and Robert Jewell of Cordova Alaska requesting the
29 Federal Subsistence Board implement a salmon
30 subsistence fishery in the lower Copper River adjacent
31 to the Copper River highway with a harvest limit of 15
32 salmon for the first two members of the household and
33 not more than five chinook salmon per household. The
34 harvest area would include waters of the Copper River
35 one-half mile up stream and down stream of the Copper
36 and the highway bridge to the east bank of the river
37 near Mile 38 to the west bank of the river near Mile 27
38 on the highway.

39
40 The rationale behind this, the
41 proponents' rationale for submitting the proposal is to
42 improve access to Copper River salmon by providing
43 residents on road accessible harvest area. Currently
44 Federally-qualified subsistence users fishing in the
45 Cordova area primarily to fill their subsistence needs
46 under a State of Alaska subsistence salmon fishing
47 permits. Participation in the State subsistence
48 gillnet fishery within the marine waters of the Copper
49 River/Flats district requires use of a saltwater
50

1 capable boat, fishing during commercial openers and
2 fishing during specific limited open periods which can
3 be a substantial barrier for many local fishers.

4
5 The effects of the proposal.

6
7 This new harvest opportunity may
8 generate new interest that has potential of expanding
9 the number of users and associated harvest but it would
10 shift some efforts from the State subsistence fishery
11 in the Copper River district and Federal subsistence
12 fishery in freshwaters of the Copper River Delta.
13 Total salmon harvest limit permitted per household
14 would not change.

15
16 Projected harvest would be up to 2,000
17 sockeye and 300 chinook salmon annually. And this
18 estimate is based on the Copper River district and the
19 State subsistence fishery taking into account a smaller
20 pool of qualified users and less efficient gear of
21 dipnets versus gillnets.

22
23 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
24 support Proposal FP21-10 with modifications to include
25 a requirement to report take of any salmon to area
26 managers within 48 hours of harvest. This modification
27 would address concerns that fish would be harvested
28 prior to being counted at the Miles Lake Sonar.
29 Harvest and escapement information indicate that
30 sufficient salmon are present to allow this Federal
31 subsistence fishery in the lower Copper River without
32 creating a biological concern.

33
34 And if we could get that draft put up
35 on the screen, please.

36
37 The proposal provides an opportunity
38 for Federally-qualified users in Cordova that do not
39 have access to a saltwater capable boat and drift
40 gillnet gear to fish for salmon in the lower Copper
41 River.

42
43 And I don't see that draft pop up but
44 -- oh, here we go.

45
46 So on your screens you'll see a draft
47 depicting the different user groups and the current
48 harvest levels, actually is a 10 year average harvest
49 level for sockeye salmon the Copper River. Extending
50

1 all the way on the right would be the projected harvest
2 if the fishery opened up 21-10. So that just kind of
3 gives an example of the scale of harvest from different
4 user groups in the river.

5
6 And with that, that concludes the OSM
7 analysis.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, are you still on
12 line.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, I was
15 on mute. Sorry, go ahead.

16
17 MS. PERRY: I believe Mr. Donnelly is
18 finished with his presentation, if we want to go
19 through the presentation procedure for proposals at
20 this time.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's where I
23 was going, I was on mute and you didn't hear me talking
24 about it.

25
26 MS. PERRY: Sorry.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's okay.
29 Here we go, we got the introduction. So next is
30 consultation with tribes, is there any tribes that want
31 to speak to this?

32
33 (Teleconference interference -
34 participants not muted)

35
36 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, this is
37 Darrel Williams.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Who is this?

40
41 MR. WILLIAMS: Darrel Williams.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hello, Darrel, go
44 ahead.

45
46 MR. WILLIAMS: You know I just wanted
47 to make a comment on this because going through the
48 proposal and looking at some of the issues, this is
49 really similar to a lot of the things that Ninilchik

50

1 faced when we were working on our fishery. I would like
2 to, you know, just make a couple of comments of some of
3 the things that I read in the proposal.
4

5 First, I always appreciate how the RAC
6 has supported subsistence and we do need to keep in
7 mind that subsistence is the law of the land, it is the
8 priority under ANILCA. It's always interesting when I
9 read through different proposals and I see that there's
10 points of contention that revolve around other things,
11 and I appreciate those points but the problem is is
12 that sometimes I think it leads away from the idea that
13 subsistence users need the opportunity to subsist. And
14 we need to remember, I think, on proposals such as
15 this, the subsistence users, themselves, is a very
16 small number of people and their harvest is generally a
17 very small number. I remember we were, at one point in
18 time in our process we had asked for one-tenth of one
19 percent to be allocated to subsistence harvest, it
20 never happened. So it's interesting about how people
21 start to frame that idea of how much is too much and
22 how subsistence takes away from other fisheries, and it
23 shouldn't work that way.
24

25 I'm also -- just to make a comment
26 about, there is an awful lot of discussion about stuff
27 that's been presented by the State and the mirroring of
28 State regulations. I always have kind of a little bit
29 of pause with that because mirroring the State
30 regulation is not providing subsistence priority. In
31 fact, Ninilchik had to make that determination through
32 legal action and that is good law today and is still
33 standing. So it's something that we need to consider,
34 I think, when we're looking at some of these proposals
35 when they get heated. So I think that other processes,
36 like the process that Ninilchik has gone through speaks
37 to some of these issues and I would be more than happy
38 to share more information about that but I'd also like
39 everybody to consider how that process has worked and
40 some of the things that we've established and
41 demonstrated. You know, for example, we were told that
42 we couldn't, you know, catch fish selectively using a
43 particular gear type, and all the users were saying yes
44 we could, yes we could, and we were finally given an
45 opportunity to demonstrate that and we have, and we
46 have for many years. You know, so I think that
47 deference to the user and being heard by a very small
48 group of people is a good thing.
49
50

1 I just wanted to speak to those points
2 because the subsistence process is important for
3 everybody and I've always thought the Southcentral RAC
4 does a fantastic job being able to address these issues
5 and I just wanted to share that because it is common
6 ground over the larger area for Southcentral.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
11 Darrel. Good points.

12
13 Is there other tribes that want to
14 address this proposal.

15
16 MS. LINNELL: Yes, sir, this is Karen
17 Linnell with Ahtna InterTribal.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Karen, you go
20 ahead you got the floor.

21
22 MS. LINNELL: Thank you. Are we
23 talking about Proposal No. 11?

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We're at 21-10.

26
27 MS. LINNELL: -10, yeah, that's the --
28 we're in a season of declines right now and it's been
29 happening for some time and until we get a handle on
30 the fishery and insure sustainable stock, I can't see
31 opening a new fishery for anyone at this point.

32
33 The folks that are local there in
34 Cordova and the folks here are opposed to -- on the
35 Copper River are opposed to the opening of this fishery
36 at this time just because of availability being an
37 issue.

38
39 And the other issue that I have is that
40 Staff, Forestry Staff called me after the comment
41 period had closed soliciting comments in support of
42 this fishery. So.....

43
44 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Really.

45
46 MS. LINNELL:we had this happen
47 here in the upper Copper River where it turns out that
48 it was Staff -- agency Staff that used the fishery, not
49 just the local residents so to me it's a little self-

1 serving and that's the way I feel that this is.

2

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted - substantial background noise)

5

6 MS. LINNELL: I'm not in favor of this
7 proposal, again, mostly and primarily because it is --
8 we're in a season of decline, the Gulkana hatchery
9 didn't even -- didn't reach half of their brood stocks
10 this year, they're at less than 50 percent at the last
11 report I saw, which is about a week old. They were
12 looking for an egg take of 30 million and they were at
13 13 million at the date of the report. So there is
14 something happening, though it says that we have record
15 numbers, or they say record numbers coming through that
16 summer, they're not getting to the spawning beds and we
17 need to get a handle on that. There are several more
18 proposals that are out here that would require daily
19 reporting and eliminate the (indiscernible) that's
20 happening on the dipnetting from boats and the use of
21 fish finders on the river. Those are all in an attempt
22 to get a handle on the fisheries that are up river so
23 that we can better understand what's going on, get a
24 better handle on it and get some daily reporting from
25 everyone, including subsistence fishermen. We have
26 similar proposals under the State system for all three
27 fisheries, personal use, sport and subsistence so that
28 we could get an accurate count of the harvest in-
29 season. Commercial fishermen have to do it daily, we
30 report -- we record our harvest daily on the -- on our
31 permits but the personal use and the subsistence is a
32 survey and/or at the end of the season.

33

34 So we -- like I said we're against any
35 new fishery at this time because I think we're at that
36 critical tipping point and I sure hate for us to turn
37 into a situation where subsistence is getting
38 restricted like the Yukon and the Kuskokwim Rivers. So
39 just our take on this is to vote no and we ask you not
40 to support this proposal at this time.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Karen.
45 Okay, we're going to -- let me get my little thing here
46 -- do we have any other tribes that would like to speak
47 to this proposal.

48

49 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. I'd just like

50

1 to remind everyone if you're not speaking, if you could
2 star-6 to mute your phone and then when you're ready to
3 speak star-6 will take you off mute. We are getting a
4 little bit of background noise.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I noticed
7 your cute little note on the thing there, thanks,
8 DeAnna.

9
10 Okay, how about ANCSA Corps, is there
11 any ANCSA Corps that would like to speak to this
12 proposal.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm not going to
17 speak on ANCSA, but I'll speak later.

18
19 Okay, agency comments.

20
21 Let's start with Alaska Department of
22 Fish and Game.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any comments from
27 the State.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I don't hear any,
32 how about Federal.

33
34 MS. STICKWAN: Barbara was supposed to
35 give the -- oh, I'm sorry, yeah, the SRC.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Yeah, I've
38 got here under Advisory Groups, or maybe she'll come up
39 next.

40
41 Any tribal.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Now, I'll
46 move on to the Advisory Groups comments, is there any
47 comments from any other Regional Councils.

48
49 MS. PERRY: No, Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Fish
2 and Game Advisory Committees.

3
4 MR. CARPENTER: Yeah, Mr. Chairman,
5 this is Tom Carpenter in Cordova, can you hear me okay?

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hear you loud and
8 clear, Tom, go ahead.

9
10 MR. CARPENTER: Well, it's good to
11 speak with you all again. I'm representing the Copper
12 River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee and have
13 for about 25 years. As a lot of you know I also served
14 on the Regional Advisory Council for 15 years with
15 several of you that are still on there, and I
16 appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today on
17 FP21-10.

18
19 This is the third time that this
20 proposal has come up in the last 10 years. Two of the
21 times I was on the RAC, this time I'm obviously not.
22 This has been a very controversial subject in Cordova
23 for a long time and actions that have happened in the
24 past regarding similar proposals to open a dipnet
25 fishery in the lower Copper River have either been
26 withdrawn from lack of support, which was the last
27 proposal that the Native Village of Eyak put in when
28 the village council withdrew the proposal because they
29 didn't have enough support within their own Native
30 community, and previous to that there was a proposal
31 that was put in that was -- the Regional Advisory
32 Council voted that one down.

33
34 This summer, as you all know we had an
35 emergency action that was based on Covid through a long
36 arduous process and really hard levels of
37 communication, a lot of it due to Covid, and the
38 offices not being opened. The Federal Subsistence
39 Board ultimately decided that there was no need for
40 them to take an emergency action for this summer.

41
42 So I want to give you all a little bit
43 of context to this and some of you may remember this
44 from the past. But about seven years ago after the
45 first proposal was put in, because the subsistence
46 fisheries down here were limited to State gillnet
47 fisheries, there was a compromise at the RAC meeting
48 and at the Federal Board meeting to allow for
49 subsistence opportunity on the Copper River Delta,

50

1 which means all tributaries that do not include the
2 mainstem of the Copper River, the rest of the Copper
3 River for several access points, several tributaries, a
4 couple of pretty good size rivers that for quite awhile
5 now, people that are Federally-recognized for
6 subsistence have had the opportunity to harvest fish on
7 those rivers under Federal subsistence either using
8 dipnet, rod and reel, might even be spear, I can't
9 remember if that's one of the methods that's allowed.
10 So there is ample opportunity in Cordova for
11 subsistence both on the State and Federal side and I
12 just wanted you all to be aware that these
13 conversations took place quite often and quite thought
14 out process that went into making these decisions and
15 trying to accommodate people the best way that they
16 can.

17
18 Since before Statehood, and until
19 today, there has never been a dipnet fishery, there has
20 never been any traditional use of dipnets on the lower
21 Copper River south of the Chitina dipnet fishery. It
22 has never happened. There has also never been
23 fishwheels, which is another concern that a lot of
24 people have going forward, once you pass one
25 regulation, methods and means change, access points
26 change, boundary lines change. The Advisory Committee
27 and a very significant portion of the Cordova community
28 feel that the Copper River is a fully allocated fishery
29 right now. Salmon runs the last four or five years
30 have been fairly weak. The escapement goals this year
31 were most likely not met. The Aquaculture Corporation,
32 which runs the hatchery in Gulkana and provides fish to
33 all users of the Copper River has not been able to get
34 its brood stocks for about three years now, which
35 ultimately leads to a real kind of dismal outlook going
36 forward, unless something dramatically changes.

37
38 So our position is creating a new
39 fishery that has zero precedent, zero historic value,
40 no traditional association with anybody in the lower
41 Copper River area seems kind of far-fetched to take
42 place and be put into regulations when we have
43 declining salmon populations.

44
45 I mean it's most likely that we will
46 not even come close to achieving our king salmon
47 escapement goal once again also.

48
49 So having said that, my final comment
50

1 would be please vote no on this proposal.

2

3 And I'd also like to state that it's
4 quite concerning to me as the representative for the
5 Advisory Committee, when the representative from Ahtna,
6 a few minutes ago spoke, that there was someone from
7 the Federal government that was calling trying to drum
8 up support for a public process. If they were doing
9 that under their own name, that's one thing, but if
10 they were doing that as a representative of a Federal
11 agency, that goes way beyond the line, and I hope that
12 somebody will address that if that really happened.

13

14 Thank you for your time. I'd be happy
15 to answer any questions. Appreciate your vote, please
16 vote no on FP21-10.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Tom.
21 Questions for Tom.

22

23 MS. STICKWAN: Gloria has a question.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

26

27 MS. STICKWAN: Do they get homepack and
28 how much homepack do they get from the commercial
29 fisheries?

30

31 MR. CARPENTER: Well, that's a good
32 question, Gloria. It varies from year to year
33 obviously. A large -- Cordova is a very large
34 commercial fishing port, so a lot of the people that
35 live here year-round participate in both subsistence
36 fisheries locally and because they commercial fish,
37 they bring tremendous amounts of their fish, when it's
38 open, in for homepack. The other thing to remember is
39 that the State of Alaska, during the last Board cycle,
40 three years ago, changed the regulation to allow for
41 subsistence activity -- all subsistence fishing prior
42 to three years ago had to be done in conjunction with a
43 commercial opening. As of three years ago, you're
44 allowed to fish every Saturday with no commercial
45 interference, pretty much from the beginning of the
46 season until the very end. So there is a tremendous
47 amount. And the interesting part about it is, when you
48 look at a year like this year, where we only had about
49 four or five commercial openers in the month of May and

50

1 June because the sockeye escapement levels were so low
2 and the sonar numbers didn't indicate there was more
3 opportunity for the commercial, when you look at the
4 ANS harvest, which are probably not out yet, on a year
5 like this, how much fish was brought in under the
6 auspice of subsistence versus what is usually
7 registered as homepacked, it's going to be tremendously
8 high because they have access to subsistence activities
9 even if the commercial season is closed.

10
11 MS. STICKWAN: Mr. Chair, I have
12 another question.

13
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Gloria, go
15 ahead.

16
17 MS. STICKWAN: Tom, I had heard that,
18 because of Covid, people were not able to go out to get
19 their fish because there's a hot spot down there, they
20 can't go out on their boats, what do you know about
21 that?

22
23 MR. CARPENTER: Well, I was kind of
24 involved when this emergency action came out, you know,
25 having served on the RAC for 15 years I absolutely do
26 want people to be able to have access to fish and game,
27 it's a high priority for me and that's why I served on
28 the RAC for so long. I looked at Covid this year and I
29 looked at the proposal, and to me it just didn't make
30 any sense. There's multiple avenues for accessing the
31 fisheries, not only on the Federal side but on the
32 State side also without having to get into a boat with
33 somebody else. I mean I did it myself three times this
34 year. I went by myself, in a river skiff, down Eyak
35 River, went out, caught some fish, came home. So
36 access to the fisheries and access to fish based on
37 Covid didn't really appear to be a really big problem
38 with most people that I talked to this summer.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thanks. Any
41 other questions for Tom.

42
43 MS. STICKWAN: We had.....

44
45 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Andy does.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I had two people
48 talking at once there, Andy, you have a question.

49
50

1 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
2 Chair. Yeah, I really respect Tom Carpenter's input
3 here on this kind of stuff, the wealth of knowledge
4 there, I readily admit.

5
6 I had a question for him about, you
7 know, so a million sockeye annually are caught, you
8 know, commercially on the Copper River Flats below the
9 sonar, right, and usually it's up to a 48 hour
10 reporting period or whatever, when they sell their fish
11 and what not, so there's tabs kept on those fish. Do
12 you see 2,000 -- the projected harvest of this fishery
13 is at or below 2,000 do you find that statistically
14 relevant in a million sockeye that are taken
15 commercially below there in relation to considering
16 like, you know, like the Katie John thing where, you
17 know, you're not allowed to be commercial fishing down
18 there, if somebody's subsistence up stream with a
19 fishwheel or whatever is going to catch them, do you
20 find that 2,000 fish -- I understand during a
21 conservation concern year when in-season management can
22 happen and fisheries can get shut down, is that 2,000
23 fish that significant to the overall red run on the
24 Copper River?

25
26 MR. CARPENTER: Thanks for the
27 question, Andy. Well, number 1, the estimates of 2,000
28 sockeye and 300 kings is really an unknown quantity at
29 this point. This has never happened before, I mean
30 ever. This has never happened, so we really don't know
31 if that's going to be accurate or not. You could
32 probably go back to some of the subsistence fisheries
33 up the Copper where dipnetting and fishwheels have been
34 a traditional means for a long time and probably look
35 at the numbers from 25, 30, 40 years ago and probably
36 at that point you could probably also say well these
37 numbers are really kind of irrelevant. But when you
38 look at the amount of harvest now that takes place
39 versus then, numbers change over time and regulations
40 change over time. What we're concerned about is,
41 number 1, creating a precedent with no historic value,
42 and when you look at a sockeye run like this year,
43 where we're probably not going to meet our in-river
44 goal for sockeyes and king salmon, where the commercial
45 harvest was very, very insignificant, I don't even know
46 what the number is but it's extremely low, and when you
47 put a new fishery into the river approximately seven
48 miles below the sonar station, where the State managers
49 are having to take the input from that and decide how

50

1 to manage the fishery, when you interrupt that it's
2 really hard saying what the long-term outlook could be.
3 In the big picture, 2,000, if it was really going to be
4 2,000 fish, is that really a huge consideration, it's
5 not about the fish, it's about precedence, it's about
6 historic value, it's about creating something that has
7 never been a traditional activity in this area and it's
8 about what's going to happen and what will be the
9 impacts to these fisheries up river, what's going to
10 happen to the Chitina dipnet fishery, what's going to
11 happen to the subsistence fisheries up river if it does
12 have a large impact going forward, because that is not
13 something that we really want to take part in.

14
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Andy, did that
16 answer your question?

17
18 MS. STICKWAN: I have a question.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I was
21 seeing if Andy was finished, just a second.

22
23 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I lost Andy, I
26 don't know. Okay, go ahead, Gloria.

27
28 MS. STICKWAN: Tom, do you know
29 anything about these 147 letters that were sent to us
30 yesterday, I received them yesterday and that's the
31 first time I've seen any letters from Cordova -- I
32 actually saw one that I got an email saying there was
33 147 signatures with the same form letter, with
34 signatures on it, and I've never seen that before; do
35 you know anything about it?

36
37 MR. CARPENTER: Thanks for the
38 question, Gloria. No, I don't. This morning was the
39 first time I've heard of that. I read the packet that
40 OSM sent out electronically. I saw that there was 11
41 letters in there from Cordova residents that were all
42 opposed to this. I'm not sure where the form letter
43 came from, I'm not sure who signed it, I was never
44 asked to sign it.

45
46 The other thing I would also like to
47 state that, you know, since I've been Chairman of this
48 Advisory Committee, and since this particular topic has
49 come up, none of the people that have ever put a

50

1 proposal in for opening this new fishery has ever come
2 to a meeting, has never asked to speak to us, has never
3 brought, you know, their opinions so that we could
4 consider it as a committee, and, you know, Cordova's a
5 small town, and, you know, when there's new ideas and
6 there's new things that want to be developed usually we
7 talk about it and then we make the best decisions for
8 the community. So having these letters dropped on you
9 yesterday, I really couldn't give you an explanation as
10 to how that happened.

11

12 MS. STICKWAN: Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hey, Tom, before
15 -- Gloria, I hope that answers your -- before you
16 leave, we're going to have probably a lot more
17 testimony, but I'd like to ask you, well, not
18 necessarily ask you but I want to make a couple points
19 just so you know. When you talk about local
20 advisories, I know we have the local advisory here in
21 Ninilchik, I serve on that also, and no one's ever come
22 to them with their Federal proposals because they
23 couldn't work very well with their local advisories,
24 they didn't support them. So, that, I guess I'm just
25 throwing out for what it's worth.

26

27 But to say it's never happened, you
28 know, before, I just wanted to tell you our experience,
29 you know. It never happened on the Kenai either other
30 than traditional fishing that was before they caught
31 us, but anyway the Kenai, you know, we had some of the
32 same issues. They said it's never happened, that we
33 were going to stop Copper Center -- basically Cooper
34 Landing, and we heard those things, you know, fully
35 allocated and so on and so forth, and you talk about
36 before Covid, well, this proposal came up in a meeting
37 in Cordova and it was supported by Eyak and it was
38 dropped a few years back and there was no Covid at that
39 time. One of the things that I got, Tom, that I'm very
40 concerned about is the king escapement, but I just want
41 your thoughts on, you know, I, as a Federal subsistence
42 Chairman, you know, I'm a commercial fisherman, I'm a
43 subsistence man, and I'm also a Federally-qualified
44 subsistence and I also do some sportsfishing at times,
45 but I know that subsistence is a preference and if
46 there's a shortage of time and people aren't getting it
47 then it's possible that some new fishery or something
48 needs to be adjusted, and my understanding of
49 everything is everything else should be closed until

50

1 those Federal subsistence needs are met.

2

3

4 So I'm just throwing those out as other
5 things that I see that I've been thinking about because
6 I don't want to -- you know, we shouldn't follow State
7 or ACs or all this other stuff, we need to look at the
8 whole picture and it also shows that there's very big
9 conservation possibly concern from all user groups.

9

10 So those are questions I have, Tom.

11

12

13 Thank you.

13

14

15 MR. CARPENTER: Well, I appreciate your
16 comment, Greg. And as you know I was there the whole
17 time when the Ninilchik negotiations were going on and
18 it took a multitude of years and I'm glad to know that
19 some of those concerns that you had in Ninilchik have
20 been remedied.

20

21

22 I think the big difference is is that
23 number 1, we're worried about poor runs, we're really
24 worried about king salmon harvest, and we're really
25 worried about access with boats, we're really worried
26 about creating and using means of harvest that have
27 never traditionally been used here. And the reason I
28 can say that, Greg, is because Cordova has always been
29 a commercial fishing town, generally speaking, and,
30 because the areas in which you were allowed to
31 subsistence fish in the past were in the rivers in far
32 different areas along the cut banks at the high water
33 mark, gillnets have always, always been the traditional
34 ways that people have harvested fish here. And,
35 because of the make up of the Copper River and the
36 geography and the turbidity and the silt and the ever
37 changing sand bars, number 1, it's very dangerous, and
38 number 2, it really is probably virtually impossible to
39 use a gillnet, which has been a traditional method and
40 I think that's probably why no one has ever actually
41 done it in the Copper River, they've always done it out
42 on the saltwater side because it's far more favorable
43 to have a positive outcome doing it that way.

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

So that would be my comment.

Anyway, I appreciate all your time and
good luck.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Those are great

1 comments, that helps me understand the demographics a
2 little better, Tom. And I appreciate to hear your
3 comments.

4
5 Is there any other Advisory Committee
6 groups that want to make comments.

7
8 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes, go ahead.

11
12 MS. CELLARIUS: This is Barbara
13 Cellarius and I have a comment from the Wrangell-St.
14 Elias Subsistence Resource Commission.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Oh, good, I had
17 you next, go ahead.

18
19 MS. CELLARIUS: I'm just going to give
20 a little more introduction with this comment and then
21 with the other comments on the other proposals, I'll be
22 more quick.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

25
26 MS. CELLARIUS: But I'm a Forest
27 Service employee and I provide Staff support to the
28 Subsistence Resource Commission for Wrangell-St. Elias
29 National Park and they requested that I provide this
30 comment.

31
32 The Commission is a Federal Advisory
33 Committee that represents subsistence users of Federal
34 lands within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
35 Preserve. They met Monday and Tuesday, the last two
36 days, and they reviewed the Federal subsistence
37 fisheries proposals for the Copper River and so I'm
38 going to be presenting those at this meeting.

39
40 So then I'll just move on to FP21-10.

41
42 The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
43 Subsistence Resource Commission unanimously opposed
44 FP21-10. Creation of a new fishery in the Copper River
45 will have the potential to affect upper Copper River
46 fisheries. This is a low year for both chinook and
47 sockeye salmon runs. And the SRC members have heard
48 reports about people not getting enough salmon.
49 Residents of Cordova have other opportunities to

50

1 harvest salmon whereas up river residents rely solely
2 on the upper Copper River fisheries. The written
3 public comments included in the proposal analysis
4 indicate opposition from several long-term residents of
5 Cordova along with the Native Village of Eyak with no
6 comments from Cordova in support of the proposal. In
7 the absence of local support there is no reason for the
8 SRC to support the proposal.

9
10 And that concludes their comment.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
13 Barbara. Is there questions for Barbara.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there
18 any other Resource Commission.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. DeAnna,
23 you want to give us a summary of the written public
24 comments.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You must have
29 quite a stack, huh?

30
31 MS. PERRY: Yeah. So, again, I wanted
32 to let everybody know that I have several comments that
33 I have received. I received several actually in the
34 last few days. So I have summarized most of them and
35 if you'll bear with me I have several windows opened on
36 my computer because we have gotten a lot of last minute
37 ones.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

40
41 MS. PERRY: So anyway we received
42 several comments on the proposal initially. 11 written
43 public comments in opposition were received on the
44 proposal within the OSM established written comment
45 period. Now that's the deadline for comments to be
46 printed in the meeting book. Those can be found in
47 your meeting book starting on Page 33, and a summary of
48 those comments:

1 The Ahtna Tene Nene' are concerned that
2 opening a new permanent fisheries in the lower Copper
3 River district would be detrimental to the upper Copper
4 River fisheries. Dipnetters in the lower Copper River
5 Delta may take too many salmon, and then Federally-
6 qualified subsistence users in the upper Copper River
7 district would not be able to harvest enough salmon.
8 In the past year those users did not have their
9 subsistence needs met.

10
11 The Cordova District Fishermen United
12 is concerned that a fishery placed upon -- or, below,
13 rather, the sonar site that is critical for the
14 management of all fisheries on the Copper River may
15 impact and skew escapement and run size data. They are
16 also concerned that there are three other harvest
17 opportunities in the Copper River Delta region for
18 subsistence users that do not require a boat in order
19 to participate and that this proposal does not specify
20 whether a subsistence user is allowed to dipnet from a
21 boat and does not specify a requirement for timely
22 reporting which is critical to sustainable management.

23
24 Steven Gildnes commented about the
25 increased expense to upgrade fishing vessels because of
26 volatile ocean conditions and that this has resulted in
27 less time fishing in recent years. He states that an
28 additional dipnet subsistence fishery here is
29 unnecessary, that there would be further escapement
30 data loss but additional patrols for ill-funded, under-
31 Staffed local State Troopers would be necessary and
32 that there is ample time and area to provide for local
33 subsistence needs.

34
35 Todd Ladd commented that he opposed the
36 proposal because it would negatively impact the Copper
37 River fishery.

38
39 Brandon Maxwell strongly opposed the
40 proposal.

41
42 Michael Mahoney stated he opposed this
43 proposal and that given the concerns of biologists,
44 managers and stakeholders that they have with king and
45 sockeye abundance on the Copper River, a new fishery on
46 lower Copper River would not be a good idea. He also
47 felt that Cordova residents have ample opportunity to
48 harvest salmon resources in the area.

1 The Native Village of Eyak shared that
2 their opposition to this proposal was based on direct
3 input from their members of which 52 are opposed and 21
4 were in favor. They state that given the weak sockeye
5 runs in the last two to three years they could not
6 support expanding in river fisheries at this time.
7 However, when substantial changes on the Copper River,
8 including timely reporting for all salmon harvested,
9 stock specific management and adequate law enforcement
10 for in river fisheries is known, the Native Village
11 Eyak would reconsider this position.

12
13 Thea Thomas strongly opposed this
14 proposal stating that subsistence users have more than
15 adequate opportunity through the State of Alaska
16 subsistence openers which occur three days a week and
17 the Federal subsistence opportunity on the Eyak River.

18
19 Ray Renner strongly opposed the lower
20 Copper River dipnet fishery and stated that Cordova
21 already has ample subsistence opportunities that are
22 currently under-utilized and there are other
23 opportunities for both people with boats and without.

24
25 Jack Stevenson strongly opposed the
26 lower Copper dipnet fishery because the Copper River
27 salmon currently face too much pressure already. The
28 commercial fleet has been managed strictly with few
29 openers with the small salmon runs, while the personal
30 use fishery continues on depleting the salmon up river.

31
32 The Copper River Prince William Sound
33 Advisory Committee opposed the proposal and finds that
34 the current rules for Eyak River, Ibeck Creek and
35 Alaganik Slough provide opportunities for multiple
36 species, harvest methods and they are easily
37 accessible. Adopting this proposal would change the
38 traditions surrounding subsistence in this area
39 forever.

40
41 In addition, since Friday, I have
42 received seven other unique comments in support of this
43 proposal. I'll provide a summary of those comments.

44
45 Lance Westing provided a three page
46 comment. He stated that some Cordova residents do not
47 have the opportunity to participate in the State
48 subsistence gillnet fishery on the Copper River Flats
49 due to time and cost, and having a dipnet fishery would

50

1 make access to the resource more equitable for
2 Federally-qualified subsistence users in the area. The
3 existing dipnet fisheries on smaller streams are
4 inappropriate, opening this fishery could potentially
5 resolve an overall less dead Copper River red and king
6 salmon and it does not seem plausible that this would
7 open the door to a similar situation occurring at the
8 mouth of Kenai or Chitina because logistics of a trip
9 from the road system to Cordova would be too much for
10 most people.

11
12 Mr. Westing specifically asks for this
13 Council to consider changes to this proposal as
14 follows:

15
16 Require the immediate release of any
17 king salmon. Eliminate the gaff and spear wording from
18 the proposal since the Copper River is heavily glacial
19 and species identification before spearing or gaffing
20 would be unlikely, plus it seems unnecessary while also
21 likely to resolve in maimed fish that get away.

22
23 Include all waters of the Copper River
24 down stream of the Million Dollar Bridge, but within
25 the current east/west confinement proposed. This would
26 spread out the effort if this option becomes popular.

27
28 And, again, that's a summary of the
29 comment from Lance Westing.

30
31 Aaron Bauman stated that dipnetting is
32 a traditional and effective means of gathering salmon.
33 He mentioned food security for Cordova area residents
34 who might not have the finances or connections to
35 commercially harvest fish, or boats and they might not
36 have subsistencegillnets. This access would provide a
37 positive way for local residents with lesser means to
38 directly help their family and community.

39
40 Kirsty Jerica mentioned that it is not
41 easy and safe to participate in the State subsistence
42 fishery and is not an option for many. Besides having
43 to have a boat and net to fish, the Copper River Flats
44 is an area where weather and mud flats characteristics
45 can make it a dangerous place to fish especially in an
46 open skiff. She mentioned negative interactions with
47 commercial fishermen and that a large percentage of
48 Cordovans do not have equal access to the resource and
49 are not informed on the public process to comment on

50

1 such due to language and culture barriers.

2
3 Kevin Kimber stated that with Cordova's
4 uncertainty of the Alaska Marine Highway System and
5 limited opportunity to harvest sockeye or king salmon
6 for subsistence unless they own an adequate boat and
7 possess the experience to navigate (indiscernible -
8 cutting out) fish the Copper River Flats, sockeye and
9 king salmon are State resources and Cordova should have
10 the right to fish for subsistence not just commercial
11 and with the high cost of living in Cordova, we have to
12 live a subsistence lifestyle or more and more people
13 will leave the community.

14
15 Mitch Daukin stated that managers have
16 shown that the fisheries can handle the potential extra
17 taking that this change would cause. It is important
18 to provide this resource to local subsistence users,
19 who don't have access to a boat to partake in State
20 gillnetting in Cordova. The small extra harvest will
21 have no impact on other users and subsistence users
22 have their right to the small piece of the Copper River
23 pie.

24
25 Lucas Borer, proponent of an emergency
26 special action to subsistence dipnet for Copper River
27 salmon on the Copper River earlier as a result of and
28 during the pandemic, which was not granted by the
29 Board. He stated that his special action earlier was
30 intended to be limited to only the time during the
31 pandemic was affecting the area. After seeing all the
32 activity against Federal subsistence dipnetting in the
33 lower Copper River and originating out of Cordova was
34 all directly or indirectly from commercial fishing, he
35 believes the Federal subsistence dipnetting in lower
36 Copper River should be allowed to happen with or
37 without a pandemic. Alaska subsistence is supposed to
38 be the first priority in the consumption of fish and
39 game.

40
41 Daniel Smelser states he is a young
42 person that relies on local resources and fish are an
43 important staple in his household. Due to weather
44 conditions and springtime work schedules, finding a
45 gillnet partner is not always possible. This new
46 opportunity would allow him to access the same fish but
47 in a safer way when by himself.

48
49 That's a summary of the most recently
50

1 received public comments that have been received, I
2 think, two days ago. Those were sent out to the
3 Council members, I believe by email dated Monday the
4 5th. And if anybody would like a copy of those I can
5 make those available. They were received too late to
6 be posted on the website or sent out as meeting
7 materials.

8
9 Around 150 individuals have submitted
10 letters with identical wording. I'll read that
11 language into the record. I did send this out Monday
12 to the Council, Monday evening and was able to make a
13 list of all the signatories by going through the
14 letters and I sent that out yesterday.

15
16 So I will read the language of this
17 letter that has been signed by those, I think, 147,
18 close to 150 individuals.

19
20 I am writing to express my support for
21 Fish Proposal 21-10. A proposal to allow a Federal
22 subsistence dipnet season on the lower Copper River.
23 Currently opportunities to harvest Copper River salmon
24 for subsistence are limited to a State subsistence
25 gillnet fishery on the Copper River Flats, which
26 requires a boat to access the fishery and is only open
27 three periods a week and typically requires competing
28 with the commercial gillnet fleet on two of those three
29 open periods. This would allow an opportunity to
30 harvest the healthiest and most nutritious salmon
31 available in our area by the rural residents that
32 depend on natural resources the most.

33
34 Again, that's the identical language
35 that was received on approximately 147 individual
36 letters signed by different folks.

37
38 I just received an email this morning.
39 I didn't have time to summarize this so I will just go
40 ahead and read this into the record.

41
42 This is a comment received by Bob
43 Jewell. To the Southeast -- or, sorry, Southcentral
44 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. I co-
45 sponsored this proposal to allow the rural population
46 of Cordova to have access to the resource that swims by
47 every summer. The reason that we wanted to do the
48 Federal proposal was to allow access to these fish only
49 by local residents that make their home here in Cordova

1 year-round. We understand that our commercial fishing
2 fleet drives our economy but we are asking -- but all
3 we are asking for is a few fish. We do not believe
4 that the small number of fish that local residents
5 could harvest would hurt the commercial fishery. Not
6 every Cordova resident has access to obtain the fish
7 out on the Flats. They do not have the ways and means
8 and quite frankly cannot afford it. The proposal would
9 amount to a little more than 2,000 fish out of the up
10 to two million fish that pass through here annually.
11 With Cordova having lost its access to the ferry system
12 our cost of living has increased significantly and
13 access to healthy foods has decreased. By allowing
14 local resident access to dipnetting, this would cut the
15 amount of money we need to spend annually on food and
16 increase access to a healthy food source.

17
18 I have a couple of questions that I
19 would like the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional
20 Advisory Council to answer at some time during this
21 proposal.

22
23 Why can't Cordovans have the Alaska
24 National Interests Lands Conservation Act rights that
25 all rural Alaskans are supposed to have?

26
27 How is it fair that the rural Alaskans
28 up stream who most live on the road system get this
29 access but not the folks of Cordova who have no access
30 in the summer besides airlines?

31
32 How is it that folks on the road system
33 that live in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kenai Peninsula and
34 anywhere else on the road system get access to fish but
35 not Cordovans?

36
37 Please answer the questions to the more
38 than 160 Cordovans who've signed this petition.

39
40 Sincerely, Bob Jewell.

41
42 Mr. Chair, I believe that concludes all
43 of the written comments that I have received thus far
44 on this proposal. Again, the written comments received
45 by the comment period deadline for printing in the book
46 can be found on Page 33 of the meeting book and, again,
47 I can provide any of these last minute comments that
48 have been received to anybody who would like to have
49 those, just email me at DeAnna, D-E-A-N-N-A.perry-P-E-

50

1 R-R-Y at USDA.gov. And, again, that's about the only
2 way we can make those available due to them just being
3 received.

4

5 Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
8 DeAnna, very good summarizing all the written comments
9 for and against. I think that gives us a lot to think
10 about.

11

12 I'd like to take about a five minute
13 break just before we start public testimony. We'll
14 take a five minute break, make it six, we'll be back at
15 11:30 and then we'll start with public testimony.

16

17 Okay.

18

19 (Off record)

20

21 (On record)

22

23 MS. PERRY: Can Dave Schmid talk to the
24 Council at this time?

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, it's a
27 little unusual during the proposal, but I understand,
28 so with the Council member's concurrence, let's go
29 ahead and have Dave go ahead and speak to us.

30

31 MS. PERRY: Did we want to.....

32

33 MR. SCHMID: Hi, good morning, Mr.
34 Chair. This is Dave Schmid. And I apologize for
35 crashing the meeting right in the middle of a proposal
36 here, I was not aware exactly where you were all at,
37 but I do very much appreciate the opportunity just to
38 welcome folks and make a couple remarks, or maybe touch
39 on a couple of issues here today, and I'm talking in
40 between other meetings.

41

42 So let me just begin, I will share,
43 again, I am Dave Schmid, I'm the Regional Forester with
44 the Forest Service here in Alaska. I've had the
45 delegated authority here of the Secretary of
46 Agriculture and I am a member of the Federal
47 Subsistence Board as well. I just wanted to start,
48 first of all, and acknowledge all of the work that you
49 all do as RAC members here. This is extremely

50

1 important work. It affects, certainly, people's lives
2 in rural Alaska. And, again, a little bit, my
3 background, I did spend about 25 years here in Alaska,
4 most of that time living in rural Alaska, both in
5 Southcentral, Cordova, as well as Southeast on Prince
6 of Wales Island, and it has been a priority of mine,
7 again, to work with our rural communities and
8 especially you all in representing Southcentral on the
9 Resource Advisory Council. Just really truly want to
10 thank you and, again, acknowledge the important work
11 that you are doing on behalf of rural residents and
12 others in that part.

13
14 Also just, gosh, got to thank you for
15 your commitment in serving under these difficult times,
16 of Covid. Seven months ago I certainly never thought
17 we would be where we are today and not sure we're all
18 going to be -- where we're going to be headed in the
19 future here, but it -- I think your efforts here of
20 trying to work virtually and come together to do this
21 important work is really, really important, and, you
22 know, it's the -- finding these ways. I thank DeAnna
23 for helping coordinate and supporting you all, and
24 these meetings don't work well. I know we -- we had
25 several Board meetings here with the Subsistence Board
26 over the course of the summer on a couple of issues and
27 our meeting taking up some regular business and they
28 were extremely long days at the other end of a phone.
29 So thank you for making the effort and conducting this
30 important business here.

31
32 I do know Okay. and I just really only
33 had maybe a topic here that's, I'm sure an interest to
34 the Council, it was interest across the state here of
35 Alaska in light of Covid and it was around food
36 security issues, both food supply chains and food
37 security, and across rural Alaska. And I know, as a
38 Board, we took a lot of public testimony from rural
39 communities, villages, interior villages, certainly
40 with a high level of anxiety with the pandemic and the
41 Covid virus but also certainly areas that -- especially
42 like in Southeast Alaska, not only was -- some of the
43 supply chain interrupted, the ferry service was -- on
44 top of that was not running, not supporting some of the
45 communities that it had in the past, and so we had
46 several proposals that came into the -- emergency
47 action type proposals that came into the Federal Board.
48 I just did want to share a little bit on how the Board
49 acted upon those and maybe touch on a little bit of
50

1 litigation that we're currently under.

2
3 But, again, hearing from folks, rural
4 residents throughout Alaska we had a number of concerns
5 and anxiety and issues. I know folks did reach out to
6 the State of Alaska looking for opportunities to hunt
7 and fish out of normal sport and traditional
8 subsistence seasons to ensure that they were getting
9 food. And so the Board set up a process. We looked
10 back, our attorneys and legal counsel, looked at
11 mechanisms within, authorities within ANILCA that would
12 provide us the authority to do that and entertain a
13 number of these special action emergency proposals.
14 And most of that was around the safety provision,
15 without going into details here in ANILCA, that we felt
16 and our Council [sic] felt that we certainly had the
17 authority to take action. Given the number of
18 proposals and the timeliness and the needs here last
19 summer, set up a process whereas we would delegate or
20 amend the delegations to the in-season managers, that
21 this was within their authority to open and close
22 seasons and establish harvest limits. We did set them
23 up with a checklist as well. And so they were to work
24 through that checklist, there were a couple of items in
25 there that required coordination with the State, the
26 State of Alaska. One of those was with State Fish and
27 Game. And the other was to coordinate with the State
28 -- there was a group called MassCaresAct, to seek
29 concurrence that there was either a food shortage, food
30 supply or supply chain issue, and if the State did not
31 agree, which was the case, I think, almost all
32 instances the State felt that there were not, actually
33 they're -- what they shared back with the in-season
34 managers were that they were not aware of any food
35 shortages in Alaska. If that was the case, that action
36 came back to the Board for action.

37
38 And, again, I'm kind of going a little
39 fast here but just wanted to share kind of the process
40 we went through so we did have a few of those that came
41 back initially to the Board to take action on and we
42 did. We took action in a couple of instances.

43
44 One was in Kake in Southeast Alaska.
45 Here the village of Kake -- Community of Kake, we did
46 go ahead and make the decision, I think it was a five
47 to one vote to support that and so the in-season
48 manager did go ahead and worked with the community, all
49 rural residents within the Community of Kake to

50

1 establish a hunt for, I think it was two moose and five
2 deer -- five buck deer. And so they did start moving
3 on that.

4
5 We took up a couple of other actions.
6 I know there's one in Southcentral there in Cordova on
7 the in-season -- there was a special action request for
8 dipnetting on the Copper River Delta as well and the
9 Board did not support that, given the authorities that
10 we were using under the special -- the emergency safety
11 provisions of ANILCA. I think some of the rationale
12 behind that was given that there was still jet service
13 into the community, there was still -- that we couldn't
14 quite get to the safety provisions in terms of
15 availability, that there were actual food supply
16 shortages.

17
18 The Board took another action as well
19 and this was, again, using that safety provision in
20 Southcentral, it was up in -- and we've been working on
21 this for some time, conflicts around moose and caribou
22 hunting in Unit 13 and the Board did take action this
23 summer to close parts of, I think it's 13A and 13B, the
24 Federal portions. It's actually not a lot of acreage
25 in the overall area but it was areas that there were
26 conflicts and safety concerns that had arisen. So did
27 close some of that hunt to non-rural, unqualified
28 users, 13A and B.

29
30 So those are some actions the Board
31 took. I did mention, and I'm sure you're aware that
32 the State of Alaska did file a complaint August 10th on
33 these actions and there were three parts of that
34 complaint. One was the hunts on Kake, which I had
35 mentioned, as well as closing the area Units 13A and
36 B, and there was another point in the complaint about
37 how the actions were delegated to the field. And they
38 also filed for a preliminary injunction to do that, or
39 to halt those actions. The judge has ruled on one of
40 those preliminary injunctions in favor of the Federal
41 government and the actions the Board took and that was
42 for Units 13A and B. And so the case will move forward
43 on the merits. The judge, from what I recall, thought
44 that one of the criteria for that was whether the State
45 would win on the merits and didn't feel that that was
46 the case in supporting it.

47
48 And, anyway, I don't believe there's
49 been a ruling on Kake, although that's essentially moot

50

1 as the hunt had already taken place, they did harvest,
2 I think the two moose and five deer and those were
3 shared with 130 some households in Kake.
4

5 And so as the litigation, I'm not
6 prepared or allowed to share strategy moving forward
7 here but it is still under litigation and we'll be
8 working forward with that.
9

10 But, anyway, I did want to just share
11 those and I will hang on as much as I can participate,
12 or listen in on the meeting, but, Mr. Chair, I don't
13 know if there were any specific questions you might
14 have had of me. Again, I just appreciate you taking
15 the time and letting me interrupt your meeting, to,
16 one, welcome everyone in this kind of crazy environment
17 we find us in and just update a little bit on those
18 actions that we took over the course of the summer.
19

20 So back to you, Chair, thank you.
21

22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Dave.
23 If you have a brief question I'll entertain it for
24 Dave, if not, we need to get back on our proposals, I
25 don't want to lose the continuity. But, thank you,
26 Dave, I realize schedules are important, we were trying
27 to make a time certain for you and it didn't work out.
28 Hopefully in the future we could accommodate you for
29 better timing.
30

31 But, anyway, we'll move back --
32 anything for Dave, real quickly.
33

34 (No comments)
35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
37 We're going to get ready, DeAnna has a little bit of
38 prep work to call just so we don't break our total
39 continuity, we're going to at least start the public
40 testimony process here on the proposal, 21-10. And,
41 DeAnna, I'm not sure if you're ready to start calling
42 them up to speak yet or not.
43

44 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair. Again, our
45 proposal process is Page 14 and we just went through
46 the summary of written public comments before we took a
47 break and then heard from Board Member Schmid. So that
48 brings us to public testimony. And before we start
49 opening up the lines I just wanted to let folks know,
50

1 of course, we realize there's a lot of interest on this
2 particular proposal so for this public comment, to try
3 to make it a smooth meeting and make sure that
4 everybody has an opportunity to speak, we're going to
5 do the -- going by the alphabet thing, your last name
6 starting with -- to try to save 20 people talking all
7 at the same time, and we are asking that people limit
8 their public comment to five minutes in the interest of
9 time, again, because there is a lot of people out there
10 who would like to give testimony and, of course, we're
11 limiting the comments to this specific proposal, Fish
12 Proposal 21-10. And at the very beginning of the
13 meeting three people identified themselves as wanting
14 to testify on this proposal so I'll start with those
15 folks.

16
17 Mr. Chair, if you're ready to move on.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That would be
20 fine, DeAnna, you go ahead and take the three that
21 signed up first.

22
23 MS. PERRY: Thank you. So Tom
24 Carpenter, I know you were speaking on behalf of the
25 Advisory Committee earlier, I wanted to revisit and
26 make sure if you wanted to provide a personal comment,
27 that you could do so at this time.

28
29 MR. CARPENTER: Yeah, thank you. This
30 is Tom Carpenter, 501 Sunnyside Drive in Cordova. Yes,
31 I did speak earlier, that was on behalf of the Advisory
32 Committee.

33
34 I would just like to say for myself
35 that I'm not in favor of this proposal. I think that
36 there is adequate subsistence opportunity both on State
37 and Federal sides. I think the Federal Board has made
38 changes in regulations over the course of the last six
39 or seven years to provide that opportunity. I think
40 that the potential impacts of creating a new fishery on
41 the Copper River in light of weak salmon runs,
42 especially king salmon runs would potentially impact
43 not only the ability for management to do its job in-
44 season, but to potentially impact the up river
45 subsistence users in the long-term.

46
47 So I'll leave it at that, thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Tom.

50

1 Questions.

2
3 (No comments)

4
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, DeAnna,
6 let's go to the next one.

7
8 MS. PERRY: Okay. I believe the next
9 person on the list was Jesse Carter, I hope I have that
10 correct. If you would spell your name, if you're still
11 on, and go ahead with your comment. Jesse Carter.

12
13 MR. CARTER: Yeah, Jesse Carter, C-A-R-
14 T-E-R. And I proposed the proposal. And I live at 504
15 Cancel Avenue, Cordova, Alaska and I've been a resident
16 for over 30 years. And I'd like to let you know that
17 when I came to Alaska I married into a fisher family, I
18 was a owner/operator myself, gillnetting the Flats and
19 I've also participated in just about in and around
20 Cordova including area stated (indiscernible - not
21 speaking directly into phone).

22
23 I put this proposal in and I want to
24 let you know where I'm coming from because I've always
25 heard why we shouldn't have this proposal. Why do they
26 get to do it up river. Why shouldn't we have it here.
27 It's always been a little political and I never
28 understood why. I put this proposal in in search of a
29 reason that I want to find a reason why we don't need
30 this proposal. I want to find a logical reason why we
31 do not need the proposal for the people of Cordova.
32 And I could not find one. I could not find a good
33 reason based off of data, the expected catch that we
34 would take. The questions that I would ask, I've asked
35 Board members, of Native Councils, fishermen and I
36 could not get a good answer other than king
37 conservation, which I understand, based off the data
38 that the -- what I've researched and concluded.

39
40 Cordova has -- we have an access
41 problem. People cannot access the Flats. I know from
42 fishing out there that it can be dangerous and I know
43 that you need to know what you're doing. If you have a
44 skiff you're not just going to go running out to the
45 Flats, (indiscernible) the water and think you're going
46 to catch fish, there's a lot of dangers out there. You
47 need to go (indiscernible) when the tide changes, you
48 have waves that come in, there's a lot of things that
49 could go wrong out there. So that is very dangerous if
50

1 you don't know what you're doing. And I know Tom
2 mentioned about going out there and having no issues
3 but he's a commercial fisherman and he's very
4 experienced and he knows what he's doing. That's a
5 different story than someone going out and trying to
6 buy a very expensive skiff and trying to go out and get
7 some food for their freezer.

8
9 Another thing, I hear that we've got
10 the resources all around us, well, we don't. We don't
11 have the resources of the reds or kings. We have
12 (indiscernible - cuts out) that you can sportfish in,
13 we have a pretty good silver run and silvers are easy
14 to catch on rod and reel, but I'd like someone to tell
15 me who's ever put a dipnet in the Eyak or Alaganik what
16 their success was because I've done it a few times,
17 that's a slow moving clear river and you really cannot
18 catch reds there. I've tried it several times and I've
19 talked to a lot of other people, I'm sure that catch is
20 very, very, very low. And the other thing is, is the
21 people that do that, they take a skiff down river
22 because they have the resource to get down there.

23
24 The economics on Cordova, you know, is
25 there a need, here in the unknown process of our ferry
26 system, we have no idea what the ferry system is going
27 to do. If I want to leave Cordova, you know, on a new
28 ferry schedule, I may have to stay in Anchorage for two
29 weeks, and then you're talking two weeks trying to rent
30 a hotel in Anchorage and live up there while you try to
31 collect a few groceries and that's a hardship, that's
32 for people who can afford to do it, but if you can't
33 afford to do it you're stuck with buying groceries in
34 our stores at 70 to 100 percent mark up. Very
35 expensive. So I think there is definitely a need for
36 this resource for Cordova and the biological impact, I
37 don't see them, that's minute, very small.

38
39 So I really think Cordova deserves
40 this. The support that I've had on collecting
41 signatures from people and trying to ask opposing
42 opinions, I've gotten support from fishermen, I've
43 gotten support from Native tribal members, actually
44 quite a bit of support from the general community. We
45 have a large Filipino community and I had a guy come up
46 to me thanking me, thank you so much for doing this
47 because we need this, you know, there's a lot of people
48 hurting in Cordova and you just don't go out to a river
49 and think you're going to put your net in and just come
50

1 a red or a king or anything, it's not going to happen.

2

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted - background talking/music)

5

6 MR. CARTER: And another thing, too
7 just kind of talk about the access. I heard the
8 village residents, the proposal, and, you know, one
9 thing I noticed this year is that they bought, you
10 know, a lot of processed fish from the canneries and
11 they're giving it out to their tribal members, you
12 know, vacuum sealed frozen fillets, and they handed a
13 lot of fish out to the tribal members, and I applaud
14 them for that, I'm not against it, I think it's a great
15 thing. But that leaves the rest of us out where we
16 can't get any of those fish. And the other thing is
17 there's also a program that they have to where if you
18 want to go subsistence fish on the State, there's a
19 boat that's provided, there's a, I believe, a skipper
20 that's provided and they have a net, and then they'll
21 take you out if you're a tribal member to get your
22 reds, if that doesn't speak louder than words that
23 people don't have the access to get their own fish,
24 then I don't know.

25

26 So I ask that you please vote on this
27 proposal. There's people in this community that need
28 it. I'm involved in food drives. I understand the
29 large portion of Cordova and for those that need this
30 resource and I would like a good argument against it
31 that's not political, we're talking a minute amount of
32 fish, minute.

33

34 So another story I'd like to say is I
35 remember when I was out sportfishing and I remember
36 this mother, she was trying to catch humpies with a
37 fishing boat to feed her kids. Well, I bet those kids
38 deserve the good protein on the red salmon,
39 (indiscernible - cutting out/background noise) and
40 there's no reason why we shouldn't have it.

41

42 And please, and many other people this
43 is a political battle, and it's not an issue of whether
44 we should have it or not because we all know the
45 answer. As far as 149 signatures, more than half of
46 those signatures represent family members, the whole
47 family, not one person. Would you want me to go back
48 out there and get every mother and kid to sign it I
49 will, I'll get you 500 signatures. To say there's no

50

1 support for this is ridiculous.

2

3

That's about all I got.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Jesse,
you made some great points. Is there any questions for
Jesse while we got him.

7

8

9

(No comments)

10

11

12

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, DeAnna, do
you want to go to the next one.

13

14

15

MS. PERRY: Yes, Mike Butler, Mike
Butler, if you're still on you can give your testimony
at this time.

16

17

18

(No comments)

19

20

21

MS. PERRY: Okay, Mr. Butler if you're
on just want to make sure that you're not on mute, if
you star-6 your phone it should unmute.

22

23

24

MR. BUTLER: Thank you. Can you hear
me now?

25

26

27

MS. PERRY: Yes, thank you.

28

29

30

MR. BUTLER: Oh, I'm sorry, yeah, my
name is Mike Butler, I live at 705 Eighth Street here
in Cordova. I've been here 20 years. So I'd like to
speak in support of this proposal.

31

32

33

34

First of all let me say that Jesse
brought me -- to get a signature, one -- a letter to
sign and I took a copy and made copies of it and then,
you know, two very brief conversations in the next
couple of evenings collected a dozen more signed copies
of the letter of people supporting it. There is very
strong local support. And to suggest that there isn't
is looking at a very narrow special interest view. And
I think it more -- like Jesse said if we needed, we
could get 500 signatures on this, if it -- if people --
most people aren't even aware that this is happening,
this has all happened and my awareness of it in the
last week.

35

36

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48

The second -- one comment I'd like to
make about our -- about the impact that this would have

49

50

1 on either the subsistence fisheries up north or the
2 commercial fisheries, is I think that this would be
3 completely negligible, you would not be able to tell it
4 happened. First of all to the counting in the fish
5 counters, 100 percent of the fish caught by subsistence
6 would be reported so you'd have an accurate number.
7 And my understanding is it needs to be within 48 hours,
8 but you could have it as accurate as any other numbers
9 we have on what's happening with that activity.

10
11 The other thing is that if you look at
12 the numbers of fish that are already caught off shore,
13 this is -- initially proposed to be -- or the numbers,
14 say would be half of -- or almost half of what they're
15 catching so far, even if this doubled what they were,
16 it would still be insignificant relative to the
17 commercial fishery and the fishery up north.

18
19 So in conclusion, what I'd like to say
20 is that I appreciate the comments made by a number of
21 Council members that subsistence fisheries -- or
22 subsistence is a priority and the first priority that
23 the residents have access to the resource and like
24 Jesse says it's a lot more difficult to catch fish when
25 you're not a commercial fisherman than it is for -- you
26 know, for the people who are in the industry and that
27 this could be done safely, it could be done
28 responsibly, it could be done accountably and I would
29 really encourage you to vote yes for this proposal.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Mike.
34 Okay, questions for him.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: DeAnna, you
39 probably have a pretty good list yet, I'll just check
40 with the Council members, I know some of us probably
41 want to take a break for lunch, it's high noon, I don't
42 want to break our concentration but we may have to. We
43 could keep going or we could break now, or we could
44 come back at 1:00. Any comments. Any wishes.

45
46 MS. STICKWAN: I would like to break
47 for lunch.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well, I

50

1 realize we're in the middle of public testimony and
2 we'll keep it over lunch, but we'll get back, let's try
3 just about -- oh, give us an hour, five minutes after
4 1:00 and we'll get started again and we'll continue our
5 public testimony on Fish Proposal 21-10. If you got
6 any questions for me, just give me a text.

7

8 (Off record)

9

10 (On record)

11

12 MS. PERRY: I just wanted to do a quick
13 call around to make sure all of our Council members are
14 still on.

15

16 Michael Opheim, I did get your message
17 so I know you're on line and on team.

18

19 Ed Holsten, are you back with us.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MS. PERRY: Greg Encelewski, are you on
24 yet.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Diane
29 Selanoff.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MS. PERRY: Gloria Stickwan, are you
34 back with us.

35

36 MS. STICKWAN: I'm on line.

37

38 MS. PERRY: Thanks, Gloria.

39

40 Dennis Zadra, are you back with us.

41

42 MR. ZADRA: Yes, I'm here.

43

44 MS. PERRY: Great.

45

46 Andy McLaughlin, are you with us.

47

48 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Here.

49

50

1 MS. PERRY: Okay. And, Aaron
2 Bloomquist.
3
4 MR. BLOOMQUIST: I'm here.
5
6 MS. PERRY: Alrighty and I see you're
7 also still on video.
8
9 John Whissel.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 MS. PERRY: Okay. Ed Holsten, have you
14 rejoined us.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 MS. PERRY: And Greg Encelewski.
19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: DeAnna, I'm on
21 the line, I wasn't going to answer for five minutes
22 though but I'm here.
23
24 MS. PERRY: Okay, alrighty. It looks
25 as though, Mr. Chair, we're getting -- hang on just a
26 minute here I'll try to mute everyone. I'm getting
27 some reports that folks are having a little bit of
28 trouble reconnecting so if it's okay with you I'll
29 continue to check for the Council members for just
30 another moment or two.
31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, for sure,
33 and let me know when we got them all. Thank you.
34
35 MS. PERRY: Ed Holsten, have you gotten
36 back in.
37
38 (No comments)
39
40 MS. PERRY: Diane Selanoff.
41
42 MS. SELANOFF: Yes, I'm here.
43
44 MS. PERRY: Hi, Diane.
45
46 MS. SELANOFF: Hi.
47
48 MS. PERRY: And John Whissel, are you
49 back with us.
50

1 MR. WHISSEL: Yep, I'm here.

2
3 MS. PERRY: All right, John, thank you.
4 So one more time for Ed Holsten, have you rejoined us.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 MS. PERRY: Mr. Holsten, is that you?

9
10 MR. SARAFIN: That was Dave Sarafin
11 with the Park Service.

12
13 MS. PERRY: Okay, thanks, Dave.

14
15 MR. SARAFIN: Sure.

16
17 MS. PERRY: Ed Holsten.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MS. PERRY: Okay, Mr. Chair, currently
22 you have eight of your nine seated Council members on
23 the line if you'd like to proceed. We broke for lunch
24 as the Council was taking public comment on Fish
25 Proposal 21-10.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, that'll be
28 fine. We'll go ahead and proceed, Ed should be here
29 shortly, I believe I told him 1:05 so we'll be fine.
30 Yes, we're in the middle of public testimony. We had a
31 fair amount so far and DeAnna I'm going to let you to
32 continue to go through and make your call as you've got
33 it alphabetically or however you're going about that
34 public testimony.

35
36 MS. PERRY: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 Again, as a reminder for folks, we are going through
38 our process listed in the meeting book on Page 14.
39 We're at public testimony. We have heard written
40 public comment summaries and we've also heard from
41 three individuals giving real time public testimony.
42 And so those were the three that I had on my list from
43 morning that wished to speak. Since we have so much
44 interest on this proposal, and trying to make sure that
45 everybody has a chance to speak kind of in an orderly
46 fashion, I'm going to just start calling for people
47 whose last names start with an alphabetic -- from the
48 alphabet so that, again, we can not have 20 folks
49 speaking all at once and in the interest of time we are
50

1 asking that you limit your comments to five minutes at
2 this time so that we make sure everyone has the
3 opportunity to speak.

4
5 So with that said, if there is someone
6 on the line who would like to give a public comment,
7 your last name starts with an A through G, could you
8 please identify yourself.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MS. PERRY: And I know folks are
13 phoning in and they're immediately putting themselves
14 on mute, which we appreciate, just remember to push
15 star-6 to unmute your phone and again we're accepting
16 public testimony from anyone at this point who has a
17 last name starting with A through G.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MS. PERRY: Okay, hearing none at this
22 time, if your last name starts with H through O, and
23 you'd like to provide public testimony on Fish Proposal
24 21-10, again, that's H through O, go ahead and identify
25 yourself at this time.

26
27 MR. KOCAN: Heath Kocan.

28
29 MS. PERRY: I'm sorry, say again.

30
31 MR. KOCAN: Heath Kocan, H-E-A-T-H K-O-
32 C-A-N.

33
34 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Kocan, go
35 right ahead with your public comment, please.

36
37 MR. KOCAN: All right, thank you. I
38 wanted to thank the Council for taking up this
39 proposal. Unfortunately I just wanted to state my, my
40 opinion, that I think the two Council members, John
41 Whissel and Dennis Zadra don't represent the community
42 on this proposal. I know, you know, John Whissel, I
43 know he works for the tribe on this issue, and Dennis
44 Zadra is a commercial fishermen in alliance with the
45 industry on this issue. I understand this is a highly
46 political issue and process but I think looking at just
47 some actual numbers, I haven't really heard any good
48 arguments, you know, from the different special
49 interest groups as far as, you know, they all say well
50

1 there's not enough fish, they want maybe no one should
2 be fishing, but I think looking at some actual numbers
3 instead of everyone's opinion kind of paints another
4 picture, at least for me.

5
6 I come from an engineering and math
7 background so that's what I'll be looking at. And when
8 you look at the actual numbers, you know, if you're
9 looking at the total -- well, at least the numbers that
10 were given to me from the Forest Service, you know, you
11 look at the averages from 2010 to 2019, you know, if
12 you just look at those numbers, you know, the
13 commercial harvest have 54 percent of all the fish, the
14 State up river 9 percent, Federal up river .9 percent,
15 the projected amount of fish that we would get down
16 here with the dipnet proposal is .08 percent. Again,
17 you look at the Federal up river, they're getting
18 almost one percent, we would be not even a tenth of a
19 percent of the total allowable catch. And even if
20 somehow Cordova was -- we'd have to expand about 10
21 times -- our community would literally have to grow 10
22 times the amount of people we have now to even harvest
23 the amount of fish that currently up river with the
24 Federal subsistence permits that they harvest. And
25 another way I like to think of it is if you invert
26 things, if you look at it the other way, you know if we
27 had a fishery here -- I mean if there was no commercial
28 fishery here in Cordova and if we were currently, you
29 know, catching .08 percent of the allowable catch and a
30 bunch of commercial guys came and said, well, we want
31 to have a commercial fishery, it would be really hard
32 to say no so from my end -- you know, I'm not a
33 commercial fisherman and I may not even do the dipnet,
34 I have my own little boat and I go up there and I
35 gillnet and sometimes I get fish and a lot of times I
36 don't, but there's a lot of people in this community
37 that this affects them very much, not everyone has a
38 boat, not everyone has a big gillnetter that they can
39 go out and catch all their fish on.

40
41 So I'd just really like the Council to
42 look at -- take everyone's opinion but also look at the
43 numbers because I think they paint a much greater
44 picture of will this actually work and how is it going
45 to affect the fishery and the answer is, when you look
46 at the numbers, it's not.

47
48 So that's all I ask.

1 So thank you for your time and have a
2 wonderful day.

3
4 REPORTER: Thank you, sir, could you
5 please spell your last name.

6
7 MR. KOCAN: K-O-C-A-N.

8
9 REPORTER: Thank you.

10
11 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Kocan, for
12 your testimony.

13
14 MR. KOCAN: Have a good day.

15
16 MS. PERRY: Again, if -- thanks, you as
17 well. If any of the folks on the line, if your last
18 name starts with an A through O, if you'd like to
19 provide public testimony at this time, please go ahead
20 and identify yourself.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MS. PERRY: In case you're on mute, if
25 you'll star-6 that'll take you off of mute, again,
26 anyone with public testimony and your last name starts
27 with an A through O.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MS. PERRY: Okay, hearing no more, if
32 your last name starts with a P through T, as in Tom, if
33 you'd like to provide public comment on Proposal 21-10
34 at this time, go ahead and identify yourself.

35
36 (Teleconference interference -
37 participants not muted)

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MS. PERRY: Any public testimony. If
42 your last name starts with a P through T, you can do
43 that at this time.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MS. PERRY: Hearing none, if your last
48 name starts with a P through Z, feel free to provide
49 your public comment at this time.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. PERRY: Okay. For those of us that
4 have just joined, I've heard a few folks chiming in
5 here recently, again, we're on Fish Proposal 21-10.
6 The Council is accepting public testimony, we have gone
7 through the alphabet but we'll just open it up if there
8 is anybody else who would like to provide a public
9 comment on this proposal please go ahead and identify
10 yourself at this time.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: DeAnna, at this
15 time if you don't have any more public testimony there,
16 did Jesse want to speak again, you mentioned he had a
17 comment.

18

19 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair. The
20 proponent, Jesse Carter, I don't know if he is -- was
21 able to stay on the line but Mr. Carter, are you still
22 on the phone?

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, well, I
27 just wanted to make sure we got all of it. So anyone
28 else with public testimony.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We're
33 going to move down to No. 7, Regional Council's
34 recommendation. I'll open it up to the Council members
35 to make a motion.

36

37 MR. WHISSEL: Mr. Chairman, this is
38 John Whissel. Move to adopt FP21-10.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, John,
41 is there a second.

42

43 MR. HOLSTEN: I second, this is Ed.

44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Ed Holsten,
46 seconded.

47

48 Any discussion.

49

50

1 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, this is Ed Holsten.

2
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Ed.

4
5 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, I wholeheartedly
6 support this proposal based, you know, on what we've
7 heard and what OSM has come up with. There's
8 sufficient salmon present in the Copper River area to
9 support a dipnet fishery. As one of the previous
10 callers said, 2,000 fish is basically .08 percent so
11 virtually will have no impact, very little minimal
12 impact on the salmon runs. And I think it really opens
13 up the opportunity for Cordova residents to be able to
14 get their salmon without having to get a boat, go out
15 and try gillnetting in the Flats which is a costly and
16 somewhat dangerous measure for the local residents to
17 do. I think there will be very very little negative
18 impact so I wholeheartedly support this proposal.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.
23 We'll go ahead, as long as we're on discussion,
24 whatever next Council member who wants to talk to the
25 proposal it's open, the floor.

26
27 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, this is Aaron.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Aaron.

30
31 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Okay, all right, I
32 guess it's me. Sorry about that guys, I got fumble
33 fingers with the mute. Yeah, this is Aaron. I just
34 agree with what Ed said. I think there's very little
35 impact here. The only objection I've heard was from
36 competing user groups that take, oh, geez, I mean the
37 commercial fishery probably takes a hundred times,
38 maybe a thousand times more fish than this one will
39 take, and the up river user but, you know, I've done
40 the fishwheel Federal permit, I'm not really a
41 dipnetter, although I'm very familiar with it and most
42 of my friends, that's how they get their fish, and I
43 also do sportfishing up there, but this is a little bit
44 of a fish. And we've heard from, you know, through
45 written and other -- from 160-plus families out of a
46 community with just about 2,000 people in it that say
47 we need other opportunities and I think it's really
48 reasonable to do this and let them get out there with
49 some dipnets and it's safe, you know, this is -- that

50

1 part of the world is no joke in a boat and if you're
2 not seasoned in a boat, you probably shouldn't be in
3 one down there and they can do this from the bank if
4 they want to although I think it would be a little bit
5 challenging on them flat bars and stuff for dipnetting,
6 from what I know of dipnetting, but people should be
7 able to try and they will get some fish.

8

9

So I'm going to support this one.

10

11

12

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Aaron.
Who would like to be next.

13

14

15

MR. OPHEIM: This is Michael.

16

17

18

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I think I
heard Michael first, I believe, go ahead, Michael.

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

MR. OPHEIM: I'm going to support the
FP21-10. I don't see a concern for the stock of the
salmon, the reporting of 48 hours seems reasonable, you
know, people have cell phones, computers now so that
shouldn't be a problem. You know this gives more
opportunity for the Federal subsistence user to get out
there and get some fish. You know maybe there's an
aging population like here that can't get out in a boat
anymore or their boat might be too leaky or something
to get out, but, you know, this gives a little bit more
expansive way to get there and get that resource.

31

32

33

So I think I will definitely be
supporting this proposition.

34

35

36

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
Michael.

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. SELANOFF: All right. I'm going to
be in support of this proposal also.

Listening to the testimonies today
from, you know, the different groups and I'm a bit torn

1 because there's a lot of heavy non-support of this
2 proposal but as a subsistence user myself, I can't help
3 but reflect back to when my mother was subsistence
4 fishing and she was a single parent and didn't have
5 access to a vessel so she was dependent on the kindness
6 of others to take her to the fishing grounds to get
7 pinks, to get humpies, to get whatever they could, and
8 so I think of these individuals in their attempt to
9 subsist and get fish to provide for the winter. When
10 you're going out on a vessel, there can only be so many
11 people on a vessel, and it is a very dangerous area so
12 my support is for this proposal because I have
13 personally seen how other people struggle to get to an
14 area where they can fish themselves and not be
15 dependent on others.

16
17 So that's my -- that's how I'll be
18 voting, thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
21 Council members, who would like to speak next.

22
23 MR. ZADRA: This is Dennis.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Dennis.

26
27 MR. ZADRA: Okay. Well, I'm going to
28 be in opposition to this proposal and pretty much for
29 the reasons Tom Carpenter elaborated on. The taking of
30 the fish themselves, the people of Cordova, I do not
31 see that as the danger at all, I'm not -- you know I'm
32 a commercial fisherman but I'm not worried about that.
33 My concern is, and I've attended Board of Fish meetings
34 for quite some time, that this precedent is going to
35 open up the door for a personal use similar fishery
36 down on the river and I think it will be capitalized on
37 by charter boat operators that can actually run from
38 Chitina and now participate in this. And it seems --
39 maybe it seems far-fetched for some, but like I said if
40 you sit in Board of Fish and you see the trend -- the
41 way it is going in the State, it's very uneasy for me.
42 And the river is not doing good, you know, everybody
43 can see that from up river to us to all of that, we
44 really need to figure out what's going on with the
45 returns and all and to try to interject this at this
46 time, I just don't think is a good idea.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
49 Dennis.

50

1 MS. STICKWAN: Gloria.

2
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Who else would
4 like to talk.

5
6 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria Stickwan.

7
8 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, Andy too.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

11
12 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to say I'm
13 opposed to this proposal. I do believe that -- I heard
14 that they have three fish creeks to fish in, they can
15 catch sockeyes and chinooks in there. In the upper
16 Copper River, we only have the Copper River mainstem to
17 fish, to catch sockeyes and chinooks. All summer long
18 we've had email contact with our local fisheries
19 biologist here in Glennallen, they did close
20 sportfishing, they closed the personal use fisheries in
21 June, I believe, they had to report their catch because
22 there was a conservation concern for the fisheries. I
23 got an email July 29th, which is -- they said they were
24 catching -- the final count was 130,313 and that is
25 below the objective of 94,000 to 396 below the
26 objective for that date. So -- and I received emails
27 that said that we may or may not make the chinook
28 harvest escapement goals and that's what I have.

29
30 Up here I've heard reports from many,
31 many people about not being able to catch any fish,
32 maybe one fish a day, two at the most, the most at
33 five. It was very hard. People did not meet -- get
34 their subsistence needs up here met this summer and
35 there was no fishery -- Copper River Delta fishery
36 going on this summer. Again, you heard that the
37 Gulkana brood stock has met only half of their brood
38 stock going up the Gulkana River to spawn, so you know
39 very well that there's going to be another conservation
40 shortage of fish, sockeyes this summer, probably a
41 shortage of chinook as well, and to add a new fishery
42 -- they say 2,000 fish isn't very much, it will have an
43 impact on our area. We don't know how long this will
44 last, this conservation concern of chinook and sockeyes
45 and we will not have our subsistence met up here, and
46 if we don't have it met, we're going to have to go
47 through an .804 criteria, nobody wants to do that, but
48 it's probably going to have to be done if we don't get
49 our share because we're going to do something, we're
50

1 not going to sit back and do nothing. Those early fish
2 are wild stock, and the early runs go up to Tanada
3 Creek, they have a weir up there and that weir shows
4 how much fish are returning in the early -- very early
5 run, it's a good indicator for the Board of Fish, they
6 -- they depend on that count to make decisions as well
7 as the sonar count.

8
9 This, I think, you know, how well is
10 the rangers down there doing enforcement, could there
11 be an overlimit catch because nobody's watching. I
12 know up here in Copper River we don't have hardly any
13 enforcement and there are people who may or may not be
14 getting their much fish, I don't know, but maybe the
15 same thing could be happening down there. I'm just
16 concerned about a dipnetting fishery and being
17 overcaught, and I do believe they have homepack to
18 catch fish, and I do believe they have subsistence
19 State fisheries to fish in.

20
21 And we were required to have a deadline
22 of submitting comments. There was a notice put out, a
23 deadline to write your comments. I see discriminatory
24 practices being done here, where we had to have a
25 deadline to put comments in, but, yet, these other
26 people can put comments in at the last minute, I mean
27 to me that's -- that's discriminatory why that was
28 allowed.

29
30 I just think this fishery should not be
31 done right now because of the conservation concern.
32 I'm very concerned about the up river fishery and how
33 we will be impacted by this new fishery. We may not
34 catch any fish -- I know that I caught -- I use a
35 fishwheel and I shared my fishwheel -- our family
36 fishwheel with other families and friends and I shared
37 my harvest and I didn't get hardly 20 fish and I shared
38 what I got.

39
40 The conservation concern is very
41 concerning to me about -- right now we didn't meet the
42 objectives for sockeye, we're probably not going to
43 meet the objectives for chinook. One of the questions
44 we ask for justification is, is there a conservation,
45 is it detrimental to subsistence, is there a biological
46 reason; yes there is right now, there is.

47
48 The next thing we're going to do is
49 closure, and nobody wants that -- I don't want to do
50

1 that, I don't want to see that done, that's going to
2 cause hard feelings. So think about that when you
3 vote. Now is not the right time to do this.
4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
6 Gloria. I got a couple more here, we got John and
7 Andrew, whichever wants to go first -- Andy.
8

9 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Go ahead, John.
10

11 MR. WHISSEL: Okay, that works. Where
12 to start. This issue is one, I know, all too well. I
13 know there's many Board members who saw me sitting at
14 the other side as the proponent of this issue two years
15 ago when the Native Village of Eyak put it forward and
16 then withdrew the proposal at the meeting on which it
17 was to be voted.
18

19 This is a very, very, very hot topic in
20 our town and it divides the community. I want to push
21 back on some of the things that were put forward
22 regarding the state of things a little bit just because
23 we're on the record here. Escapement into the Copper
24 River past the sonar is sitting above a half a million
25 fish right now with a minimum threshold of 365 and
26 never before have we harvested 200,000 fish in the
27 river so it's very likely we've met our minimum
28 escapement goals for sockeye in this fishery. King
29 salmon, we haven't released any data on king salmon
30 yet. I've heard a couple people making some comments
31 based on the idea that king salmon escapement hasn't
32 been met. I'm not here to give preliminary numbers or
33 data on king salmon but I can tell you that that's not
34 assured, it's -- it'll be close but we're within an in-
35 river number that certainly are hitting the low target
36 for chinook salmon -- it's possible.
37

38 Just so we all have the right context.
39

40 Finally, I'd like to just go on the
41 record and state very clearly regarding the lack of any
42 traditional use of the lower Copper River. It's the
43 Native Village of Eyak's strong position that there is
44 some traditional use of the Copper River, the lower
45 Copper River to collect fish, that's not part of the
46 tribes objection to this proposal and it's somewhat
47 dangerous to make the assertion that that part of the
48 river has no traditional use and we've never used it,
49 emphatically, yes, the lower river has been used
50

1 traditionally and I want that stated on the record as
2 well. That doesn't amount to support, though, from
3 the Native Village of Eyak for this proposal.
4

5 I know the pros and the benefits to
6 this proposal and I know the cons probably better than
7 anybody. Every need demonstrated is true, the lack of
8 access, if you look at the people that have spoken in
9 opposition to this proposal, every one of them owns a
10 boat, probably with the exception of one or two who are
11 deckhands on commercial vessels. It's very good access
12 if you have the means to get out there and no question
13 I'd rather take my boat to the Flats to get my salmon
14 than dipnet on the Copper but I have three fishing
15 boats, I have access. Nevertheless I caught one salmon
16 this year and put it in my freezer.
17

18 It's a tough year and it's made tougher
19 by the fact that this issue always comes up when we are
20 at historic lows for our sockeye runs so it -- it's
21 extra insulting to people who make their careers on
22 this run and we cannot ignore the fact that Cordova is
23 a thriving community. It is because of the commercial
24 fisheries here. It's a big part of this community and
25 clearly it's a big part of this discussion.
26

27 When we got 150-plus letters yesterday,
28 there was a lot of attention paid to that. There was
29 certainly a reassessment at the tribe to see if that
30 moved our position at all, as the tribe's comment on
31 this proposal states we did a full amount of outreach
32 especially considering when we did that outreach we
33 were new into the Covid pandemic and just sort of
34 figuring out how to have these sorts of meetings that
35 we're doing right now and spoke to an awful lot of
36 tribal members, and the position was clear at that
37 time, and I can say that with a reassessment the
38 tribe's position hasn't moved, that we're opposed to
39 the proposal because the issues that the tribe is
40 concerned about are somewhat different, I think, than
41 the issues others are.
42

43 Gloria hit one. Enforcement in river.
44 There are so few law enforcement officers at the State
45 and Federal level looking after these fisheries.
46 That's something that needs resources, needs money and
47 it deserves a lot of attention and there's some real
48 concern about expanding fisheries in the river when
49 there's so little oversight of those fisheries with
50

1 potential for abuse is there.

2
3 The way our resources are managed is a
4 little bit more crude than we would like right now and
5 I don't mean that to be at all insulting to the
6 managers but the tribe has long been and when we get
7 into this stuff here, our priority information needs,
8 you'll see this reflected there, that the tribe, for
9 about the last 10 years or so has been very focused on
10 trying to bring management of chinook and sockeye on
11 the Copper River to the stock level and away from
12 managing an entire -- a single escapement goal for the
13 entire system. That nuance is available to us we just
14 need to hammer it out, we're working towards that goal.
15 And I think we'll be able to justify increased access
16 to resources as we get increased resolution to what the
17 stocks are but there's still some inherent danger to
18 having the stock being so low and trying to fly ever
19 closer to just meeting that minimum number, you know,
20 getting in the river, there's a lot of concern right
21 now where our stocks are. This likely would be a
22 different discussion if we were talking about it, you
23 know, five or six years ago when we had a million fish
24 in the river.

25
26 So for that reason I'm going to vote no
27 on this.

28
29 But there's an issue here that really
30 needs to be worked out and there's a lot of reasons to
31 support this. There are people here that don't get
32 their fish. They're just -- Jesse Carter was right
33 when he said there's people out there catching pink
34 salmon and also not pink salmon in the greatest shape
35 and chum salmon because that's what we have access to.
36 Yes, there is the ability to dipnet on some sockeye
37 runs, there are no king runs that we can harvest here.
38 There's one small king run from the hatchery but it's
39 not adequate to feed our community. The sockeyes don't
40 run in included water, when you can dipnet the sockeye,
41 a hot day when the streams are way up and the water is
42 cloudy when you can get yourself some sockeyes, but
43 generally the streams where they're running aren't very
44 well suited to dipnetting. So it's true that we rely
45 on our coho, I have some great concerns about our coho
46 runs. They have not been thriving lately and I think
47 there's a real issue here that is not being addressed
48 by the comments or what we're hearing, but one of the
49 issues is that Cordova relies on coho salmon from the
50

1 Delta for subsistence and they're harvested at a high
2 rate. There's a real tendency to look upon
3 sportfishermen, especially from out of town, as the
4 major harvesters of that resource, but it is not, it is
5 us. And there's a real problem with relying on your
6 very lax salmon run and a much smaller resource as your
7 primary and only source of salmon. I'd be much more
8 comfortable if the community's fallback plan for bad
9 years like this one, where there aren't enough sockeyes
10 was to go get some coho in the fall rather than have
11 everybody wait for the last run and if they don't come
12 in, we're in trouble. There's a lot of issues here.

13
14 So what's happened in the last day
15 though is a real eye opening that this is an issue that
16 needs to be addressed. I spent the majority of the
17 last day or so working with our tribal leaders and
18 working with commercial fishing leaders and regardless
19 of what happens today I think we're going to have a
20 fair, high proportion of our community quite upset with
21 the outcome and it's going to come back, I'm sure, next
22 year. So NVE is going to get back involved in this.
23 We're going to work with CDFU and we're going to put
24 something together that -- put some resources towards
25 assessing the community subsistence needs and how we
26 want to address the issue, bring something back here,
27 likely something back before the State as well so that
28 we're in control of this. Our community has always
29 done better when we sort through differences amongst
30 ourselves and then bring those solutions that we come
31 up with to Boards such as this than when we brought our
32 differences to Boards such as this and ask the Board to
33 mediate.

34
35 I've been involved in this, in
36 negotiating fisheries, legislations and regulations for
37 quite some time on behalf of the tribe and it's one
38 consistent thing I've seen throughout, is when
39 communities come together to come up with a solution,
40 it works way better than when they just ask us to
41 mediate on that.

42
43 So given that situation and that
44 reality, the tribe's position being where it is, I'm
45 voting no. I can tell you my heart isn't 100 percent
46 in that no. I'd like to take the time to point out
47 that Heath Kocan is right, we have the tribe -- the
48 tribal community is represented on this Board, the
49 commercial interests are represented on this Board, but

50

1 the average person in Cordova is not, but I'd also like
2 to point out there are several vacancies on this Board
3 and I would hope that somebody who would like to
4 represent the citizenry of Cordova is willing to step
5 forward and do that because I think it would be a
6 welcome voice here.

7
8 That said, I would like to modify my
9 motion if I -- I don't recall, was it Mr. Opheim who
10 seconded -- if my seconder is willing, I'd like to
11 include the modification that OSM suggested to include
12 48 hour reporting, so I want to adopt -- reword my
13 motion to adopt FP21-10 with the modification of
14 requiring 48 hour reporting as recommended by OSM.

15
16 MR. OPHEIM: I'll still second that.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, as long as
19 you seconded it. John you said an awful lot there on
20 both sides so I understand the dilemma.

21
22 Next we got Andy.

23
24 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
25 Chair. What a roller coaster back and forth on this
26 one for FP21-10. You know allowing this subsistence
27 opportunity, you know, for under-served people, that
28 being people without boats, okay, we're talking
29 qualified Federal subsistence users to harvest a very
30 highly monitored amount of salmon from what typically
31 has been an abundant fishery resource, okay. Now, our
32 job on the Southcentral RAC is to follow ANILCA, okay,
33 so we got these multiple use groups, up river, down
34 river, okay, and those things are also like in-season
35 management driven, okay. I believe a lot of the
36 information that's been coming out is some
37 misunderstanding, or misinformation. I would encourage
38 Ms. Stickwan there to start the process, make a motion
39 on the .804 analysis, so if it does get to a
40 conservation concern or already is for the past three
41 years, escapements being met though, I mean at some
42 point in time get that .804 analysis done by the OSM
43 folks there. We ran one here a long time ago about
44 Kings Bay moose so, you know, it kind of gives you a
45 precedence to use the resource long before the State of
46 Alaska allowed the dipnet fishery in Chitina, or
47 whatever. You know, I fished the upper Gulkana and got
48 no reds this year, it kind of blew my mind. I've done
49 that for about 10 years and, you know, this year my

1 dipnetting -- my gillnetting out here for subsistence,
2 I got 22 fish, okay, and I gave away 11, I kept 11 reds
3 for myself, that's about the worst I've ever done on
4 reds, okay.

5
6 So, anyhow, all user groups are using
7 this resource, you know, and when managed properly
8 there's not a biological concern, so everybody's
9 jumping at this years numbers and kind of, you know,
10 realizing, oh, we don't want to apply conser --
11 everybody's got a conservation concern but all these
12 user groups have to adapt accordingly and that's
13 including the commercial fishery on the Flats below
14 this. When I ran my numbers there's about a million
15 fish are used a year by the commercial fishery and
16 they're talking 2,000 sockeyes from this, it's not .8,
17 it's .002, it's two-thousandths of a percent, okay, is
18 what we're talking about. So the numbers, the
19 statistical relevance of this is not that much. And
20 regarding in-season management, that's like a nothing.
21 Very reminiscent of allowing the gillnet on the Kenai
22 for Ninilchik, okay.

23
24 So I would modify this and say no
25 kings, you know, release all kings, you know, and then
26 I think this is an important food gathering
27 opportunity, you know, for under-served people, okay.
28 We could even go so far as to modify this and say no
29 boats because I know up stream that's how Ahtna's
30 always -- there's been some issues up north where boats
31 are kind of a big issue, maybe just make this from the
32 bank only, you know. There's, in my opinion, a much
33 lesser importance, State personal use dipnetting
34 fishery up in Chitina, you know, that is going to have
35 to adapt to the annual run abundance of the parameters
36 that this fishery will help provide a data point for,
37 you know, it'll not just be the sonar counts but it's
38 going to help see what the numbers are, it's like a
39 finger on the pulse of what's going on that year for a
40 tiny drop in the bucket. You know, the commercial
41 harvest fishery already does that to a degree out on
42 the Copper River Flats, which is also down river, okay,
43 and they also have a reporting process, so I'm totally
44 in support of the 48 hour requirement for reporting so
45 that the managers can get their numbers timely and that
46 allows for like a weekend, somebody got them on a
47 Saturday they got to get the numbers in on a Monday,
48 you know.

1 So bottom line to me is it's a food
2 resource that should Federally take precedence over any
3 State personal use resource, you know, and considering
4 the State stuff with the Katie John kind of notion of
5 what happened with fishwheels way up river, you know, I
6 mean the commercial fishery also has to -- if there's
7 money to be made out there in the salt water then
8 people up stream should be allowed to get some food and
9 it's a small amount. So definitely I see opposition in
10 this fronted by a lot of well organized commercial
11 fishing interests, you know, and -- and, you know, I
12 said my peace about the numbers but let's see -- yeah,
13 so to my knowledge, okay, the projected harvest, okay,
14 would be like the equivalent of not opening the Flats
15 for about two hours during an opener. So if they did a
16 22 hour opener instead of a 24 hour opener, that's the
17 amount of fish we're talking about that would get these
18 people their fish, you know, dipnetting on the river
19 there. So 2,000 fish is pretty small, okay. And I
20 have conservation concerns about the kings that's why I
21 said I would just drop kings altogether and just say
22 only reds, okay. There's a user group up stream and
23 the impact to that, you know, they're also living by
24 ANILCA rules but if they get this, you know, .804
25 analysis done, you know, they'll take precedence over
26 the entire everything.

27
28 So that being said the projected
29 harvest is pretty minuscule, man, 2,000 and this is in
30 a typically very large multiple use well managed
31 fishery, definitely something's going on out in the
32 ocean that's making statewide salmon stocks low but
33 that doesn't mean a user group shouldn't be able to get
34 some food in their freezers.

35
36 So, you know, considerations, I think,
37 might be omitting boats, okay, ensuring that there's
38 in-season management with this 48 hour reporting thing.
39 Modify the harvest, make it no kings. Heck if that's a
40 big enough concern about the infinite amount of reds
41 that may some day be taken, how about 10 fish per
42 household, you know, so 10 reds, no kings and 10 reds
43 per household, get it over with from the bank.

44
45 So anyhow there's my two cents worth
46 and -- or 20 cents worth and I'm going to be voting for
47 with hopefully some modifications.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Andy, you
50

1 got a lot more than 20 cents worth but you did good so
2 thank you. I believe I got everyone except myself.

3
4 There's procedures on here of through
5 our discussion, our justification before we take a vote
6 and I could state how I would vote but I don't know
7 that it's going to matter, my vote, because I think the
8 majority in favor.

9
10 But I do want to reiterate a couple of
11 things. One is that decisions should be -- on other
12 fisheries and users should be limited to solely meet
13 the mandates of ANILCA. Andy is 100 percent correct,
14 our job is to see the subsistence user gets their fish
15 and there's definitely an under-served group there that
16 need fish and don't have the boat or the accommodations
17 to go out so if I was to have to vote I would have to
18 vote in the preference of the subsistence user. Other
19 than that there's been a couple things that I just want
20 to clarify. There was one of the people coming down
21 the river with boats, this is for Cordova residents
22 only and it's for Federal-qualified users there only so
23 we don't want to mix that up. And the limits go
24 against their total count. There's ways and Andy
25 really hit on a lot of them, no boats, releasing kings,
26 ensure the enforcement. I know on the Kenai, and I'm
27 not trying to compare it to the Kenai but we have such
28 strict regulations, we have to have an operation plan,
29 has to be approved by the in-season manager, they could
30 shut us down for any reason, we don't get kings, we
31 don't make escapement, we got X number we could take, I
32 really feel there's a need there and there's a request
33 of qualified subsistence users so therefore we'll go
34 forward with the vote.

35
36 But before we do we're supposed to give
37 a justification for it so the justification generally
38 should be with the maker of the motion in favor of it
39 but I'm just going to go through some of the things
40 just so we all know what our justifications are.

41
42 Is the recommendation consistent with
43 established fish and wildlife principles, management
44 principles. I think we could say that.

45
46 Is the recommendation supported by
47 substantial evidence such as biological and traditional
48 ecological knowledge. Everyone used the river at some
49 time, we kind of cleared that up.

50

1 Will the recommendation be beneficial
2 or detrimental to subsistence needs, and I think we
3 covered that.

4
5 If a closure -- this doesn't have to do
6 with a closure so we'll skip that. Discuss whatever
7 relevant factors were mentioned by OSM.

8
9 So there we have the proposal for us,
10 all the Board has deliberated, we got to talk on it,
11 I'm going to go ahead and leave it open before we vote
12 on it. DeAnna, I don't know if we need to do a roll
13 call vote or if you -- by phone it's pretty hard to
14 figure out who's voting so if you want to go through
15 them that would be fine with me.

16
17 MS. STICKWAN: Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

20
21 MS. STICKWAN: It seems like we're
22 going to be out voted here, I would like to make a
23 friendly amendment not to have any votes and ten reds
24 and no king salmon, release king salmon.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. That's an
27 amendment, is there a second to that.

28
29 MR. ZADRA: Dennis here, I will second
30 it.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Dennis
33 seconds it. Okay, voting on the amendment, all those
34 in favor aye.

35
36 MR. WHISSEL: Do we get discussion on
37 that Greg?

38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, you do but
40 we're going to limit that discussion, is that John.

41
42 MR. WHISSEL: Yeah, it's John. There
43 are some issues with the amendment I think we need to
44 open our eyes to before we throw it in just like that
45 without a discussion because it will have -- it will
46 fundamentally change the entire fishery if we do the
47 limits that way so we should unpack that a little bit.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm

50

1 talking a little bit and when I say little, you know,
2 we've discussed all the issues so it shouldn't take a
3 lot. But go ahead, do you want to talk to it, go
4 ahead.

5
6 MR. WHISSEL: Yes, sir. So the issue
7 that I see with throwing in a 10 fish limit and a no
8 king, it's not the conservation on that but this
9 proposal is written to fold this fishery into two other
10 existing fisheries that all share single limits. And
11 that being the State gillnet fishery and the Delta
12 Federal subsistence fishery. So you're allocated by
13 household members, that allocation of salmon that you
14 can collect by any of the two -- the now two existing
15 State and Federal subsistence and this proposal would
16 add a third opportunity and area to collect that same
17 limit so we leave things sort of untied if we decoupled
18 those because that's the basis of the proposal. And
19 actually what we'd end up doing if we decouple them is
20 creating a separate limit allowing the harvest of even
21 more fish than before.

22
23 Also traditionally these are household
24 limits and not individual limits and the permits are
25 all written per household, not per individual, and so
26 to throw in a 10 person individual limit would create a
27 lot of confusion I think by the people that use it.

28
29 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, Andy here.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I don't
32 know that they're cumulative John but I don't think
33 that's going to -- wherever you take your fish you're
34 taking it out of your total take but I'm sure it needs
35 to be clarified.

36
37 MR. BLOOMQUIST: I've got a comment
38 too, this is Aaron.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Aaron.

41
42 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, I keep muting my
43 phone when I'm supposed to be turning it on. Hi, I
44 mean this amendment is just -- it's not equitable.
45 It's actually ridiculous on its face when we're looking
46 at the fact that these same users with a dipnet in the
47 upper Copper River are limited to 500 fish per family,
48 all 500 of those can be kings -- well, no they got --
49 they can be -- if it's a dipnet they can only be five

50

1 of them, in a fishwheel they can be as many as they
2 want. They can use both. You know, if we're looking
3 at a subsistence fishery where people need to meet
4 their needs, I would think that their needs are
5 probably similar even though they're 90 miles down
6 river and I'm going to vote aga -- I just think, gosh,
7 if people are looking to feed their family, 10 reds is
8 not -- although there are more resources in Cordova
9 obviously than the Copper Valley in some respects, in
10 other respects there's, you know, we have caribou in
11 the valley and they don't but, you know, there's --
12 it's just not enough, it's two user groups once again
13 making a motion to restrict another user group that's
14 already going to have minuscule harvest.

15
16 That's all I got.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, good
19 points. Okay, anyone else want to speak to the
20 amendment.

21
22 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, this is Andy
23 here. I would just say that if that modification with
24 those limits like the no kings and the 10 reds goes
25 through, it just seems the wording in the way the
26 regulations are written about how those numbers are
27 added to -- it wouldn't be excluding the as written way
28 of how those are coupled with those other harvest bases
29 but instead it's plain and simple, you know, no kings
30 and that makes sense to me and some type of limit, 10,
31 15, something -- something would stop this notion of
32 who knows in the future, how many households, I mean
33 there's a finite number of homes and people in Cordova
34 and at some point in time if it's an X number of fish
35 that they get per household then that's going to cap
36 that and keep it at this low half of a percent harvest
37 of the entire run by far.

38
39 MR. BURCHAM: This is Milo, can I make
40 a comment?

41
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead Milo,
43 maybe you could help us, go ahead.

44
45 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, just to clarify,
46 because I have a little question about what was just
47 proposed.

48
49 Are we talking about a household limit
50

1 of 10 or a personal limit of 10 because a household
2 limit of 10 would be a drastic change over what was
3 proposed and an individual limit of 10 would be a minor
4 one. The way that the limits appear in this proposal
5 is based on individual, that there is a household cap
6 on kings and actually I have to qualify that a little
7 bit. The individual limits have somewhat of a
8 limitation by household. The first two people in a
9 household can keep 15 salmon and 10 for every
10 individual in a household after that and there's a cap
11 on five kings per household.

12
13 So when you make this proposal or this
14 -- propose this modification be very careful on how you
15 word it, I wasn't certain which way you guys were going
16 with this.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's a good
19 point, Milo. I looked at it as 10 per head, but you
20 know the devil's always in the details. So the main
21 thing I want to make sure is that we're not -- got this
22 idea like John was talking of that it adds another
23 portion, another add on to another fishery and I don't
24 believe that -- you can only get so much as a total.

25
26 MR. WHISSEL: Well, Greg, this is John.
27 Again, if we decouple it and say that there's going to
28 be a limit that we're establishing for this fishery,
29 the State fishery remains and the oppor -- an
30 individual could then go out and harvest on both limits
31 and so the overall take from the resource could go up.
32 When the intention here seems to be to limit the
33 access. And to me the simplest thing to ensure that
34 overall equitable distribution of the resource to
35 households is to simply leave it tied to the other two
36 limits so that it's simply an extension of area on the
37 two existing limits we're already fishing.

38
39 MR. BURCHAM: And I would add that
40 that's an important consideration of the proponent,
41 too, that it's not adding to overall number of fish
42 that could be harvested in a household, that it's
43 coupled with existing limits, cumulative with other
44 limits that are out there.

45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yep, you said a
47 lot, and that was my understanding all along, but,
48 thanks, and hopefully everyone else agrees with that.

49
50

1 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

2
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

4
5 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I don't know where
6 this uncoupling idea came from, I wouldn't have thought
7 -- I thought all along it's like a compensatory harvest
8 rates that kind of affect those other ones that they're
9 tied to. So that makes sense to me.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, that's the
12 way it always works down here so I just assumed it was
13 that way but you should never assume anything in this
14 business.

15
16 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, so I think in
17 support of no kings, ask Ms. Stickwan, it was no kings
18 and 10 limit per head, not household, is that what she
19 had in mind?

20
21 MS. STICKWAN: Yes, I didn't want to --
22 I wasn't clear on my motion, didn't want to increase
23 the harvest, I was trying to limit it -- I wasn't
24 clear.

25
26 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well, we
27 got the amendment for 10, as I understand it, per
28 individual and no kings?

29
30 MS. STICKWAN: That limits it, right,
31 and decouples it, right?

32
33 MR. WHISSEL: This is John. Gloria,
34 I'm not sure who you're asking. I would say it would
35 decouple it and then increase the harvest, it increases
36 each household's opportunity to catch fish. You'd have
37 greater -- every person could harvest more fish.

38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we're not
40 going there.

41
42 MS. STICKWAN: Well, I have a question.

43
44 MR. WHISSEL: That would be the
45 outcome.

46
47 MS. STICKWAN: The Ibeck Creek, and the
48 three creeks where they catch the fish right now, does
49 that -- I don't know Cordova too well but does that

50

1 drain into the Copper River and that would be the
2 fishery that would be going up into the Copper River?

3
4 MR. WHISSEL: No, but currently the
5 limit, if you collect -- if you catch subsistence fish
6 on the Delta Federal subsistence fishery that would
7 count against your limit that's shared between Copper
8 River and that fishery as well as the State gillnet
9 fishery out front. I believe that decoupling the two
10 if the -- it the idea is to limit harvest and create
11 more opportunity to harvest by creating separate limit,
12 that's -- that's what I see happening here. It seems
13 like we're hoping for one outcome but what we're going
14 to vote on is going to be something that's going to
15 accomplish the opposite.

16
17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, let's go
18 through the Chair. We need Gloria to clarify your
19 motion of what you want. What we're talking about is,
20 is there's only going to be one limit per individual
21 and whether you've been getting them the outside or
22 this new fishery or dipping or wherever, they're only
23 allowed X amount. And your motion with 10 evidently
24 goes in conflict with what they're allowed in other
25 areas so let's see if we could straighten that out, and
26 no kings.

27
28 MS. STICKWAN: Okay, I'll make my
29 motion -- withdraw my motion and say no king -- no
30 boats.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Does the
33 second agree with that.

34
35 MR. ZADRA: Yes, I do.

36
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
38 So now we got no kings, no boat on the amendment.

39
40 Any other discussion on it.

41
42 MR. WHISSEL: This is John Whissel,
43 would no boats be no fishing from boats but you could
44 use boats to access Federal lands or -- or there's
45 another way we do, say moose hunts in a non-motorized
46 way where you have to contact the road surface to
47 access the area.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You're a

50

1 complicated guy, no boat is no boat. But anyway if you
2 guys want to debate that too, go ahead.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 REPORTER: I'm sorry, who was that
7 speaking?

8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That was John,
10 wants to know if you could use a boat to go access even
11 though you can't use it to fish, could you use it to go
12 up river to access it or whatever, he's got a valid
13 point I guess.

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right, let me
18 ask you, when you say no boat, that's no fishing from
19 the boat, correct?

20
21 MS. STICKWAN: No boat. No fishing
22 from a boat.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Because
25 there's two different things. John is thinking that
26 you could possibly use a boat to go up to your fishing
27 -- where you're going to fish and then fish from the
28 bank or whatever. You want no boat, period, no access
29 period with boats or -- I think we're getting two
30 things confused here. I just -- no fishing from a boat
31 would be good for me.

32
33 MS. STICKWAN: No boat.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. No boat or
36 kings, that's the amendment.

37
38 MR. WHISSEL: No fishing from a boat
39 and no kings?

40
41 MR. BLOOMQUIST: So is that no fishing
42 from a boat?

43
44 MS. STICKWAN: No boat. I don't know
45 how else to make that clear.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No boat, period.

48
49 MR. WHISSEL: No boats is not clear.

50

1 I'm sorry -- so are you saying no fishing from a boat,
2 you can't harvest a fish while you're on a boat, you
3 have to be on the bank?

4
5 MS. STICKWAN: You don't have a boat
6 you can't fish from a boat.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It means no boat,
9 period.

10
11 MR. BLOOMQUIST: You're not allowed to
12 harvest a fish from a boat, is that what we're voting
13 on?

14
15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No. You're --
16 no, no, she made a motion for no boat.

17
18 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. Perhaps it
19 would help if Gloria could state her entire motion so
20 that the Council's clear on what they're voting on
21 because.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think she did a
24 couple times but we could do it once more. Gloria, if
25 you want to repeat your motion go right ahead.

26
27 MS. STICKWAN: I said -- I made a
28 friendly amendment to have no kings and no boats.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, that's the
31 way I heard it, okay, and the second agreed with that.

32
33 MR. ZADRA: Yes, I do.

34
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. So that's
36 the amendment before us. So if there's any more
37 discussion I will take it briefly, if not we're going
38 to take a vote on that amendment.

39
40 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, this is Aaron
41 again. I'm still opposed to both of them just for
42 reasons of fairness and equability. Other people can
43 keep kings.

44
45 REPORTER: And who is this?

46
47 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Aaron.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Aaron.

50

1 Yeah, every other fishery in the entire drainage can
2 take kings and use boats, both State and Federal so.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Sure. Okay.
5 Your point's well taken. Anyone else.

6
7 MR. WHISSEL: I'd sure like to vote for
8 the no kings but because I don't understand what I'm
9 voting for -- this is John Whissel, sorry. I don't
10 understand what I'm voting for when we're just simply
11 saying two words, no boats, and I haven't had a clear
12 answer when I'm saying does that mean we're not allowed
13 to harvest fish from a boat but boats can otherwise be
14 used in the process.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: So I'll clarify
17 it for you. She says no boat, that means no boat is
18 used period. No fishing from a boat. No taking the
19 boat up river. No boat to access. It's a dipnet
20 fishery, no boat. That's the motion.

21
22 MR. WHISSEL: Gotcha.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Those
25 reasons that Aaron stated and others, that that might
26 not be the best thing, but.....

27
28 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:anyway
31 that's the amendment we got before us.

32
33 MR. WHISSEL: Can I ask to split those
34 two to be voted on separately?

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You could but I'm
37 not going to allow it because we got a motion and a
38 second and we're getting way carried away here so let's
39 vote on this, if it carries or passes we'll entertain
40 another motion.

41
42 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Call for the question.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Question's been
45 called for, all in favor of the amendment that Gloria
46 presented, no boat and no kings, let's try it, signify
47 by saying aye.

48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 MS. STICKWAN: I call for a roll call.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Roll call's been
4 called for, you want to go ahead and do the roll call,
5 DeAnna.

6

7 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is a
8 roll call vote on Fish Proposal 21-10, this proposal
9 has been amended by Gloria Stickwan to state that there
10 is no boats to be used in fishing or access, and no
11 kings to be harvested.

12

13 Diane.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We're only voting
16 on the amendment, just so you know that.

17

18 MS. PERRY: Right. That -- that's the
19 amendment to the proposal.

20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.

22

23 MS. PERRY: You bet.

24

25 Diane Selanoff.

26

27 MS. SELANOFF: In favor.

28

29 MS. PERRY: Gloria Stickwan.

30

31 MS. STICKWAN: Yes.

32

33 MS. PERRY: Gloria Stickwan, I didn't
34 get your vote, sorry.

35

36 MS. STICKWAN: I made the motion so I
37 vote yes.

38

39 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

40

41 Dennis Zadra.

42

43 MR. ZADRA: I support the amendment.

44

45 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

46

47 Michael Opheim.

48

49 MR. OPHEIM: I oppose the amendment.

50

1 MS. PERRY: Thank you.
2
3 Andy McLaughlin.
4
5 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Aye.
6
7 MS. PERRY: Okay.
8
9 Aaron Bloomquist.
10
11 MR. BLOOMQUIST: No.
12
13 MS. PERRY: John Whissel.
14
15 MR. WHISSEL: No.
16
17 MS. PERRY: Ed Holsten.
18
19 MR. HOLSTEN: No.
20
21 MS. PERRY: And Greg Encelewski.
22
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Did you get Ed?
24
25 MS. PERRY: Yes, he just voted no.
26
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, you got a
28 majority no anyway, okay, well, I'll make it a super
29 majority -- no.
30
31 MS. PERRY: Your vote is no, Greg?
32
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes.
34
35 MS. PERRY: Okay, the motion fails 3/6
36 [sic] -- or I'm sorry, 3/5 [sic] and that would bring
37 us back to voting on the motion by John Whissel
38 which.....
39
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We're back to the
41 original motion. We've had to date, we've had
42 discussion, we've had justification, if anyone's got
43 any last comments I'll entertain it, if not, we're
44 going to vote on the main motion for Fish Proposal 21-
45 10.
46
47 I'm assuming you're going to want a
48 roll call on this.
49
50

1 MS. SELANOFF: Can we have the main
2 motion reread.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

5
6 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. This motion is
7 on Proposal 21-10 requesting the Federal Subsistence
8 Board implement a salmon subsistence fishery in the
9 lower Copper River adjacent to the Copper River Highway
10 with a harvest limit of 15 salmon, other than pink
11 salmon, with not more than five chinook salmon per
12 household using dipnet, rod and reel, spear or gaff
13 only and includes the modification as proposed by
14 Office of Subsistence Management to include a
15 requirement to report take of salmon to area managers
16 within 48 hours of harvest.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, very good,
19 thank you, DeAnna.

20
21 MS. PERRY: And I'm prepared to take a
22 roll call vote, Mr. Chair, if you'd like.

23
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I would like,
25 please proceed.

26
27 MS. PERRY: Okay, thank you.

28
29 Aaron Bloomquist.

30
31 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yes.

32
33 MS. PERRY: John Whissel.

34
35 MR. WHISSEL: No.

36
37 MS. PERRY: Andy McLaughlin.

38
39 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Aye.

40
41 MS. PERRY: Michael Opheim.

42
43 MR. OPHEIM: Aye.

44
45 MS. PERRY: Dennis Zadra.

46
47 MR. ZADRA: Nay.

48
49 MS. PERRY: Gloria Stickwan.

50

1 MS. STICKWAN: No.
2
3 MS. PERRY: Diane Selanoff.
4
5 MS. SELANOFF: In favor.
6
7 MS. PERRY: Greg Encelewski.
8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: In favor.
10
11 MS. PERRY: And Ed Holsten.
12
13 MR. HOLSTEN: In favor.
14
15 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. This motion
16 passes 6/3.
17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, well, I
19 know that's a tough one, but, 6/3 and I think there's
20 ways to work on it. So I thank you all that testified,
21 the patience on that, it took us quite awhile, a half a
22 day, so we got a half a day left to finish our meeting.
23
24 Let's -- I'm kidding you guys.
25
26 Let's take a 10 minute break, okay.
27
28 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Sounds good.
29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we'll be
31 back in 10 minutes. I got about 14, a quarter after so
32 10 minutes will be 24 after.
33
34 (Off record)
35
36 (On record)
37
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We'll go ahead
39 and move on then. DeAnna, are you ready to move?
40
41 MS. PERRY: Yes, I am. Would you like
42 me to take a roll call to make sure all the Council
43 members are back or do you want to move right into Fish
44 Proposal 21-11?
45
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I don't think
47 they went far so I think we could move right into Fish
48 Proposal 21-11.
49
50

1 MS. PERRY: Okay. Hannah Vorhees is
2 standing by to present on that proposal. Hannah
3 if.....

4
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Welcome
6 Hannah, you go right ahead.
7

8 MS. VORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
9 Good afternoon. For all four proposals -- first off my
10 name is Hannah Vorhees and I'm an anthropologist with
11 the Office of Subsistence Management. And all four
12 proposals I'll be presenting next were submitted by
13 Kirk Wilson of Glennallen and would apply to the
14 Federal subsistence fishery in the upper Copper River
15 district.
16

17 In this first presentation I will
18 present background information that's pertinent to all
19 four proposals. For brevity the other presentations
20 will be shorter and I'll ask you to keep the general
21 background information in mind throughout.
22

23 First I'll be presenting Fisheries
24 Proposal 21-11 which begins on Page 79 of your book.
25 The analysis can also be found on the Federal
26 Subsistence website under the Southcentral region
27 meeting material.
28

29 Fisheries Proposal 21-11 requests that
30 the Board require that in the upper district daily
31 harvest of salmon be recorded and reported to the
32 agency issuing the permit within three days of harvest
33 and that reports must be made for any day that fishing
34 gear is in the water. The proponent believes that
35 obtaining accurate in-season information would help to
36 protect against the possibility of over harvest.
37

38 This proposal would apply to waters
39 within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of
40 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The
41 upper Copper River district is made up of two
42 subdistricts, the Glennallen and Chitina subdistricts.
43 The upper Copper River district is the traditional
44 territory of the Ahtna Athabascans and some
45 contemporary communities with customary and traditional
46 use determinations in the Copper River drainage.
47 Salmon make up most of the subsistence harvest.
48 Fishwheels are the predominate gear in use and harvest
49 by fishwheel accounts for most of the subsistence
50

1 harvest of fish by communities in the region.

2

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Next I'll give you some biological background.

The 2020 Copper River salmon runs were weaker than expected resulting in significant restrictions of the commercial gillnet fishery near the mouth of the river and in the Chitina subdistrict personal use fishery. By the end of the season both the sockeye and chinook salmon run likely did not meet the sustainable escapement goals of 24,000 chinook salmon and 365 sockeye salmon. Since 2010 chinook escapement estimates range from a low of 12,485 in 2016 to a high of 42,204 in 2018.

There is currently no in-season reporting requirement in the State subsistence and personal use for Federal subsistence fishery in the upper Copper River district. Under Federal subsistence permits reporting to the National Park Service is currently required by October 31st by mail, in person or over the phone. In the State Glennallen subsistence fishery the reporting date is also October 31st by mail or in person. And the State Chitina personal use fishery reports are required by October 15th and as of 2020 must be submitted on line. It's also worth noting that fishwheels must be kept by operators every 10 hours. For all Federal subsistence permits in the upper Copper River district fishers must keep -- they must already keep accurate daily records of their catch, show the number of fish taken by species, location and date. This proposal would not require that new information be collected.

Next I'll talk about some potential effects of this proposal.

Adopting this proposal would place an additional burden on those fishing under Federal subsistence regulations in the upper Copper River district to report their harvest within three days. If adopted the reporting timelines for Federal subsistence users would be significantly stricter (indiscernible) fishing under State subsistence permits in the Glennallen subdistrict or State personal use permits in the Chitina subdistricts. This proposal would make in-season phone or internet access a precondition for participating in a subsistence harvest in compliance

1 with regulation.

2
3 One alternative that has been
4 recommended is three day in-season reporting to be
5 voluntary. This additional burden would probably not
6 bring the desired conservation benefit as fishing under
7 Federal public makes up a relatively small portion of
8 the overall harvest in the upper Copper River. The
9 estimate of sockeye, chinook and coho salmon
10 subsistence harvest under Federal permits in the upper
11 Copper district is only about eight percent of the
12 overall subsistence and personal use harvest between
13 2010 and 2019. This partial would not be very useful
14 or actionable in the absence of comprehensive in-season
15 recording under State permits. While the
16 recommendations make recording voluntary would ease the
17 impacts of this proposal of users it would further
18 limit the utility of the data for management action.

19
20 And further in years of low abundance
21 the first conservation steps would usually
22 (indiscernible) at the commercial harvest of the mouth
23 of the fishery -- or the mouth of the river, excuse me,
24 while rather than limiting Federal subsistence.

25
26 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
27 oppose the proposal.

28
29 Thank you, and, please let me know if
30 you have any questions.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
33 that was good.

34
35 Okay, we've had an introduction and
36 we've talked about it so let's talk about is there any
37 tribes that want to talk to it.

38
39 MS. LINNELL: This is Karen Linnell
40 with the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission.

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

44
45 MS. LINNELL: Yes, we're in support of
46 this proposal. In a recent meeting, a salmon synthesis
47 held in February of this year we had commercial
48 fishermen, subsistence users, sport use guides, and
49 personal use fisheries folks present and we had talked

50

1 about one of the things that would help with better
2 management of the salmon is having daily reporting. We
3 understand commercial fisheries have daily reporting
4 but to better understand what's happening up river it
5 would be good to have daily reporting and we were all
6 in agreement. This was one of our top priorities from
7 that salmon synthesis and we are working with Kirk
8 Wilson who was a sportfish guide, who submitted this,
9 he was at that synthesis and decided to take the lead
10 on submitting the proposal.

11
12 Native Village of Eyak was present at
13 that symposium synthesis as well and the round-table
14 that we had there, the working group, we had Department
15 Staff there as well and we think the more information
16 that is available, the better for managing, data is
17 necessary for in-season management. This is not only
18 happening here on the Federal side, I don't want
19 anybody to say that this is a harder restriction than
20 what's happening on the State side, proposals have been
21 submitted to the Board of Fish to implement daily
22 reporting requirements for personal use subsistence and
23 sportfishing.

24
25 So this is something that came from all
26 of the user groups that were in attendance at that
27 meeting. We had the Department of Fish and Game and
28 the National Park Service Staff there, we had fisheries
29 biologists, we had the local managers, we had CommFish
30 Division there as well as their boss out of Fairbanks
31 as well. So like I said, this is one of the priorities
32 that came out of there to better understand while we're
33 on a decline we need to have more information and this
34 is one of the factors that we're looking at.

35
36 For me, OSM tends to say that this is a
37 further restriction than what is offered under the
38 State as their justification for opposition, and I
39 think that that's not good enough of an excuse. We're
40 relying on State management for the fishery and that is
41 what has been happening on the Yukon and the Kuskokwim,
42 we rely on State management information and not
43 collecting our own. And so this is a way to try and
44 get a handle on things and better understand what's
45 happening on the river. We don't want to get to the
46 point where we're restricting harvest for subsistence
47 uses.

48
49 So I would urge you to pass this
50

1 because we're going to go from this to the Board of
2 Fish and require them to have the same requirements on
3 the Copper River under State regulation.

4
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Karen,
6 well, thanks. Yeah OSM has on Page 92 that Federally-
7 qualified subsistence users would be significantly
8 stricter for them than for those fishing under State
9 subsistence permits or even personal use in the Chitina
10 district so you definitely got to get the State to
11 participate too, I hate to see more restrictions on the
12 Federal versus State. Good comments on the proposal.

13
14 MS. LINNELL: And, you know, to me
15 that's not looking out for the resource, it's saying
16 well how come Jimmy can do this and I can't, you know,
17 that's not a good enough reason for me. We need to try
18 to really manage the resource and take the reins here.
19 We've been deferring to the State and they get to
20 participate in the InterAgency Staff Committee meetings
21 and give recommendations there and I don't agree with
22 that. This is a Federal management system and the
23 State shouldn't have a say in that but we also need to
24 be -- kind of lead the way. And, you know, I am one of
25 those subsistence users and I write my numbers down
26 every day on my permit but it's not getting turned into
27 the State until, you know, October. So the fishing
28 season's over by then because the fishing season ends
29 September 30, well, I have until next week to turn it
30 in. And so it was an extremely poor year and I shut my
31 wheel off early because it was -- I wanted to see more
32 escapement on the north end, my fishwheel is in the
33 headwaters there at Chistochina. There's only one area
34 above me and that's at Slana and Batzulnetas, at Katie
35 John's camp. They didn't fish that much either.

36
37 We want to make sure that we allow for
38 the escapement and we want to have -- like I say, this
39 is was a collaborative effort and decision that was
40 made at that meeting.

41
42 Thank you, sir.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Karen.
45 Yeah, it sounds like the State's still delinquent
46 though so we'll discuss it further here. Thank you.

47
48 Is there any other tribes want to speak
49 to this proposal.

50

1 MS. EWAN: Mr. Chair. This is Faye
2 Ewan from Native Village of Kluti-Kaah, Copper Center.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Great to hear
5 you, go right ahead, speak up.

6
7 MS. EWAN: I do subsistence, a
8 traditional Ahtna -- my ancestors grew up and lived on
9 the Copper River for centuries, way before the State of
10 Alaska and the Federal government even became involved
11 in our fishing. We haven't gotten our tribal
12 allocations and the State and the Federal did. We need
13 to be at the table with the negotiations and the things
14 that are happening up here.

15
16 As a fishwheel user and a traditional
17 Ahtna, cultural and the way I preserve and the way I
18 teach my great-grandchildren how to live off the land
19 and how to be land stewardship and our traditional way
20 is really affected by this low count of fish because
21 right now with all the potlatches and stuff we have
22 coming up we're going to run short. We don't even have
23 enough to feed our communities, our traditional people
24 that -- even our people that lives in the cities we
25 share our food with them because that's our traditional
26 way. Even if we met the quota of 500, we have like 50
27 families that will have to take 10 (ph) of that fish to
28 feed themselves and that didn't happen this year.

29
30 First of all, I asked the State of
31 Alaska to shut down the personal use dipnetting in June
32 months because we could tell it was a low count, we
33 didn't start fishing until June 17 here in Copper
34 Center, all of us fishwheel users, maybe there was one
35 family that ran their wheels but they weren't catching
36 nothing and the fish we did catch was poor and
37 unhealthy and most of it was so soft that we couldn't
38 even use it. The king salmons were coming up with
39 scars and they had stomachs -- lines on their stomachs
40 like a tiger and these are un -- things I've never seen
41 and I fish here since I was a kid, since when I was a
42 baby with my mother and my father here.

43
44 And this economic development, as far
45 as I'm concerned if them people in Cordova, they need
46 emergency hunting and fishing that's okay. The State
47 of Alaska is out of the Constitution. ANILCA says that
48 we could hunt and fish in time of shortage. But I
49 think if they did a moratorium on this fishing we could
50

1 probably build up this fish in two years. As far as
2 the biology and the scientists and them, they don't
3 know our traditional law and rights as traditional
4 people do, as indigenous people here in the Copper
5 River, we know what the economic (indiscernible) our
6 system's going to be like. Even with the king salmon,
7 when there's too many of it, we shut our wheels down,
8 we do not overtake, we don't overfish, but I seen all
9 summer long there was fishing boats, when they shut
10 down the personal dipnetting down in Chitina, they came
11 up to the upper Copper River and started fishing the
12 Copper River all across our fishwheels and guess what,
13 in July, August, we didn't catch more than 200 fish,
14 but where was our fish, but these people were over
15 there making lots of money off of our land and our
16 rivers and here we are suffering. And I feel bad
17 because I have people from all over the nation say even
18 one fish is a lot of fish to somebody that when you're
19 hungry and that's the way you grew up, that is part of
20 us, we are fish tail people here. That's part of our
21 clan. We have a lot more in history too. Traditional
22 fishing and hunting, more than dipnetters and
23 commercial fishers, anybody, for us it comes down to
24 cultural customary use and traditional use. Ahtna, I
25 can prove with the history of our people that the
26 fishing is overfished and not being managed by the
27 government and you're affecting my way of life as an
28 indigenous woman of Ahtna (indiscernible).

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, thank you
33 very much. Good report.

34

35 REPORTER: Can you please spell your
36 name, ma'am.

37

38 MS. EWAN: Faye Ewan. And I fished
39 here for 66 years.

40

41 REPORTER: Thank you.

42

43 MS. EWAN: When I was in my mom's
44 stomach. My mom was the one that started ANILCA.

45

46 REPORTER: Thank you.

47

48 MS. LINNELL: The spelling of her name
49 is E-W-A-N.

50

1 REPORTER: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
4 I'm not sure about the early reporting but anyway that
5 was really good information and I know it's a problem.
6 So I entertained that and I liked that, so that's good.

7

8 Anyway is there anyone else on the
9 tribal side who wants to speak to Fish Proposal 21-11.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any ANCSA
14 corporations.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Alaska
19 Department of Fish and Game. You've been taking a lot
20 of heat, you guys want to speak up.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Anyone there,
25 State?

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Nope. Okay,
30 Federal agencies want to address this.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other tribal.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Advisory Group
39 comments, other Regional Councils. Was there anything?

40

41 MS. PERRY: No other Regional Councils
42 commented on this proposal, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. How
45 about Fish and Game Advisory Committees, is there any
46 report there?

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, was
2 there any Subsistence Resource Commissions that have
3 any comments.

4
5 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

8
9 MS. CELLARIUS: This is Barbara
10 Cellarius.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
13 Barbara.

14
15 MS. CELLARIUS: The Wrangell-St. Elias
16 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission opposed a
17 modified version of FP21-11 with a vote of 2 in support
18 and 6 opposed. The modification would have made the
19 in-season harvest reporting optional.

20
21 The SRC noted that a similar proposal
22 has been submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries for
23 consideration in relation to State managed fisheries,
24 which accounts for the majority of the total salmon
25 harvest in the upper Copper River.

26
27 Federal subsistence represents a very
28 small portion of the total Copper River salmon harvest
29 and requiring in-season reporting by Federal
30 subsistence users will be a burden to people who don't
31 have phones to call in their harvest report. There was
32 also general opposition to imposing a restriction that
33 would only apply to subsistence users. The requirement
34 to report even when harvest is unsuccessful is onerous.

35
36 And then with respect to the proposed
37 modification to have reporting be optional, there was
38 concern that it wouldn't functionally work and would
39 make the regulations more complicated.

40
41 And that concludes the SRC's comment.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you
44 very much. Good comments.

45
46 Any other Resource Commissions or
47 anything.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: DeAnna, do you
2 have a summary of the written public comments?

3
4 MS. PERRY: I do, Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, go right
7 ahead.

8
9 MS. PERRY: Thank you. Five written
10 public comments were received in support of this
11 proposal. They can be found in your meeting book
12 starting on Page 95.

13
14 The Ahtna InterTribal Resource
15 Commission strongly feels there is a need for more
16 timely harvest data in the up river subsistence and
17 personal use fisheries. During years of low abundance
18 this could provide more granular data on the fishery
19 enabling more adaptive management decisions making it
20 -- also helping to build trust and consensus between
21 fisheries management and interested local public.

22
23 Michael Mahoney supports the proposal
24 stating good in-season management requires current data
25 and that with modern communication options there is no
26 reason why this timely reporting would be too
27 burdensome.

28
29 Thea Thomas strongly supports this
30 proposal and commented that it was important to limit
31 over harvest in the Chitina dipnet fishery and to
32 acquire timely data on the harvest.

33
34 Ahtna Tene Nene' supports the proposal
35 to have it optional to have Federally-qualified
36 subsistence users to report fish harvest within three
37 days to the Federal agency. They should not be
38 burdened with unnecessary regulations. A few of these
39 users may not have cell phones to make a reporting and
40 they are not harvesting the bulk of sockeyes and
41 chinook in the Copper River.

42
43 Bonnie Yazzie supports this proposal
44 because this would require in-season reporting and
45 there is a need to know exactly what is being taken in
46 order to accurately manage the fishery.

47
48 Again, that's a summary of the written
49 comments received on the proposal. For the comments in
50

1 their entirety you can read those starting on Page 95
2 of the meeting book.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
7 Thank you. Alrighty, do we have any public testimony
8 at this time on Fish Proposal 21-11.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, hearing
13 none I'm going to move on then. Regional Council's
14 recommendation. We'll entertain a motion to adopt.

15

16 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, this is Ed, I'll
17 make that motion to adopt 21-11.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: 21-11, Ed, thank
20 you. Is there a second.

21

22 MR. OPHEIM: This is Michael, I'll
23 second.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Michael, second.

26

27 MR. OPHEIM: Yep.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. It's been
30 moved and seconded, we will open for discussion. Does
31 anyone want to address their thoughts on this on the
32 Council.

33

34 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Greg, this is Aaron.
35 I have a question for Fish and Game, or maybe for Dave
36 before we get to deep into it.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That's fine. If
39 Dave would answer or Fish and Game would come up,
40 that'd be good.

41

42 REPORTER: Okay, and who is this?

43

44 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Aaron.

45

46 REPORTER: Thank you.

47

48 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Aaron Bloomquist.
49 It's probably more for Fish and Game, if anybody's

50

1 listening, since they seem to be the -- well, they
2 don't seem to be, they are the in-season manager in
3 these fisheries in the Copper. You know, us sportfish
4 guys, we've had mandatory weekly reporting with our log
5 books up until a couple of years ago and they got rid
6 of that, frankly, because it was useless in-season
7 because Fish and Game didn't even tabulate the log book
8 data until often -- a lot of times we didn't even have
9 it for that winter's Board of Fish meetings. I mean it
10 was way, way, way, way delayed and I think most of the
11 reason for that was they figured it was relatively
12 insignificant in the Copper because, you know, it's not
13 like the Kenai where sportfishermen take huge
14 percentages. But my question for Fish and Game and
15 maybe Dave can give his input, too, is will we use this
16 data? I mean will this be actually used for
17 management? I hate to see us get into a situation
18 where we're burdening people and opening them up to
19 citations for not reporting every day if the management
20 agencies are not going to actually -- I mean obviously
21 they use it in the commercial fishery on a real-time
22 basis, but the commercial fishery takes way more than
23 all the rest of the fisheries combined, and, you know,
24 they're the gage, I guess, if you will, of what's
25 coming into the river.

26
27 So, anyway, that's my question, will
28 Fish and Game use it, and I'm guessing Dave's answer is
29 going to be the Feds aren't going to use it, but I'd
30 like to hear the answer.

31
32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

33
34 MR. SARAFIN: This is Dave and I'm
35 standing by in case Fish and Game wants to respond to
36 that if they're on line here but otherwise I can take
37 over.

38
39 MR. BOTZ: Hey, this is Jeremy Botz
40 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Cordova.
41 And as the Department representative, I guess on the
42 line, I don't really feel like I can kind of speak for
43 Mark on this one, because I'm assuming this really is a
44 -- as it applies to in-river fisheries. But as was
45 previously mentioned we -- it is an important aspect of
46 commercial fisheries management, you know, adaptive
47 management in-season, utilizing the reported harvest
48 data. But as far as how, you know, Sportfish Division
49 would utilize the information in-season, I really --

50

1 yep, I don't want to speak for Mark.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Dave, do
4 you want to speak.

5

6 MR. SARAFIN: Sure. Yeah, you know,
7 Federally we are managing too, throughout the season
8 we're monitoring all the actions of the State harvest
9 that comes in, the Miles Lake Sonar, everything we can
10 get, and so in-river harvest information is an
11 important thing to have if we could. You know there
12 are concerns of, you know, compliance with that and
13 whether we're really going to get it or not and also
14 the major thing is that, you know, the Federal harvest
15 is only eight to 10 percent, maybe, of the harvest in
16 the Copper River. So it's much more important that we
17 were getting it from State harvest. And, you know, the
18 State does have their -- they utilize historic harvest
19 patterns in, you know, Chitina throughout the year that
20 have occurred and it would be something that they would
21 have to adapt, you know, their system on how they're
22 tracking everything, but I do believe it would be
23 beneficial if we had something and we had good
24 compliance in it and it'd be good to have both Federal
25 and State, but then, you know, there are patterns of
26 poor compliance with harvest reporting that could
27 compound the situation where even though the intent's
28 to have as much harvest reporting, you know, the amount
29 that we're actually getting would be a challenge to
30 decipher also. So there are challenges but it would be
31 good to have.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, good.
34 Anyone else got a comment on that proposal.

35

36 MR. WHISSEL: Mr. Chairman, this is
37 John Whissel.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, go ahead,
40 John.

41

42 MR. WHISSEL: You know, we saw a Board
43 of Fish statewide proposal that would require reporting
44 within, I want to say it was 72 hours, it was a very
45 short window across fisheries, that was -- that failed
46 but it had pretty strong support from our region. And,
47 you know, there is a -- I forget, maybe it was Karen
48 Linnell mentioned, there is a proposal in front of the
49 Board of Fish in this cycle to bring parody with what's

50

1 being proposed here. And, overall, you know, I think
2 the trend of our discussions is that we're trying to do
3 more with less, we're having declining salmon
4 populations and we're going to have to start scaling up
5 what we're looking at so that we have more of our data
6 in real time as our ability to process those data
7 increases.

8
9 You know, we don't have that
10 requirement for the, you know, State subsistence
11 fishery down here until that Board of Fish proposal
12 passes but, you know, when I go subsistence fishing I
13 call Jeremy and tell him what I caught usually and I
14 think he appreciates that. I know others do too. And
15 I feel like they're doing some outreach thing, you
16 know, it's not required but if you guys want to phone
17 in what you caught and where you fished it can only
18 help. But, again, Jeremy's using data that way all the
19 time.

20
21 I guess what I'm weighing, what I'm
22 balancing here is I don't -- the spear tip of this
23 transition to more timely reporting, I think there's a
24 lot of support across all users of the Copper River for
25 it. But, you know, I'm encouraged to hear what Dave
26 said, it leans me towards voting yes, both Dave and
27 Jeremy's answers because that's the real question to
28 me, with let's do it but let's not place a burden on
29 people if the data isn't going to be useful.

30
31 From what I saw at the statewide
32 meeting, I saw a lot of local support for the statewide
33 requirement and the rest of the state was very opposed
34 to it and I think that's probably got a very high
35 chance of passing at the State level this time around
36 -- at the local level for that region.

37
38 So I think I'm going to be in favor of
39 this one. It's a longstanding priority of the Native
40 Village of Eyak to bring parody to reporting but to do
41 it intelligently with the greatest gains to be made --
42 I just think that because of the way the cycle's work
43 out we may end up being the first, but I hope it would
44 encourage the State to follow suit. I think we could
45 make a great benefit that way.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks
48 John. Any other comments.

49
50

1 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, this is Ed.

2
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Ed.

4
5 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, just a couple quick
6 comments. I'm going to support this proposal. I
7 really agree it will provide timely in-season data.
8 And I don't believe it's a burden. In our dipnetting
9 area here on the Russian River and parts of the Kenai,
10 which is used by Cooper Landing, Hope and some folks
11 from Ninilchik, we have a 72 hour reporting to U.S.
12 Fish and Wildlife and it's not a big deal. It's kind
13 of an automated system, you phone in and give your
14 name, permit number, method of harvest, where you got
15 it and it's worked out really well and I think it's
16 important data.

17
18 So that's all I got to say.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thanks, Ed, good
21 comments. Anyone else got any comments.

22
23 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, this is Aaron
24 again, just to follow up on Dave.

25
26 I guess I'm on the fence on this one
27 because I agree with everything he just said, if the
28 information gets used. I hate to see us burden, and
29 he's right, it's not a burden, but it's not a major
30 burden but it is something of a burden when you have
31 people, you know, the majority of which maybe -- maybe
32 not the majority but a lot of them are going to forget
33 at times and be open up to citations and that kind of
34 stuff and I think it's worth it if ADF&G uses it, I
35 don't think it's worth it if they don't and I think
36 it's likely that they won't, especially with all their
37 budget cuts right now.

38
39 But I mean I support the concept, I
40 guess and I'll probably vote in favor, but I hate to
41 see this on the Federal users when I actually think
42 there is a minuscule, at best chance, once you get all
43 the Fairbanks dipnetters and stuff involved at the
44 Board of Fish process, that the Board of Fish tells
45 everybody that they have to report daily, I just don't
46 think it's going to happen but that's just me rambling.

47
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you
49 for those comments.

50

1 Does anyone else on the Council got a
2 comment.

3
4 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria.

5
6 MR. OPHEIM: This is Michael.

7
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
9 Michael. Yeah, I was probably going to vote in favor
10 of this. I mean we just voted in favor of 48 hour
11 reporting, 72 hour reporting doesn't seem that bad.
12 Everybody's got cell phones, things like that, so it
13 seems like that's not too burdensome. So, you know, I
14 think if it's used data, in-season and is helpful, I
15 think that would be great so yeah I'll be voting in
16 favor of this one.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty,
19 Michael. Anyone else.

20
21 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, this is Dennis.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Dennis.

24
25 MR. ZADRA: Oh, I just want to say I am
26 in support of this, too, and I'm just hoping that it
27 will set precedent for the State fisheries to follow
28 suit.

29
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
31 Anyone else.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, I'll make a
36 couple comments unless there's anyone else -- and I let
37 them go first.

38
39 MS. STICKWAN: I'd like to speak.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm going to let
42 you all know I'm on the fence with this and the only
43 reason I'm on the fence is because I don't like the
44 subsistence users to have a stricter guideline than the
45 State, and I think the State is delinquent in this.
46 And I would support it also and I would support it
47 because of Karen's testimony and there's a lot of
48 benefit in us taking the lead and doing something that
49 may enhance or be able to control our Federal fishery.

50

1 Just because the State wants to be asses about it and
2 don't want to do it, that doesn't mean we should be
3 that way.
4

5 So I do think it creates a little
6 burden, and it goes a little against my grain, but if
7 you guys tie me up I'm probably going to have to vote
8 in favor of it so just letting you know.
9

10 Thank you.
11

12 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria.
13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.
15

16 MS. STICKWAN: I kind of think it
17 should be optional to have reporting. It would be kind
18 of a burden for local people here, Ahtna people to
19 report, getting reports back kind of is -- I've had to
20 call people -- I get notices from Fish and Game to
21 report and I've had to call people to tell them please
22 return your permit, to help them out, to get permits
23 returned, so it will be hard to get permits back,
24 reporting back from some people.
25

26 That's why I kind of think it should be
27 optional.
28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.
30

31 MR. BLOOMQUIST: That being said, you
32 know, we could always let AITRC do it -- if Fish and
33 Game can't do it, or Wrangell-St. Elias can't do it,
34 maybe give the money to AITRC and let them do the
35 reporting.
36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Interesting,
38 okay. Anyone else.
39

40 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, Greg, Andy here.
41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Andy.
43

44 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, just real quick.
45 I'd like to concur with the things you said there, it
46 kind of goes against the grain for me on making
47 something a little more strict than what the State is
48 but, you know, I don't think we should follow suit just
49 because they're doing something wrong, that we should,
50

1 I believe that the more data points we can gather to
2 help manage these resources in a real time basis,
3 rather than at the end of the season where it's oops,
4 there wasn't enough escapement or something like that,
5 where I also think there would be a higher level of
6 accountability at the State level for their managers if
7 our Federal managers sent them an email on such and
8 such a date and said, hey, here's what our numbers even
9 though our numbers are tiny compared to the State take,
10 those managers then had that correspondence in their
11 hand and would be held a little more accountable to e
12 able to make some management decisions that were less
13 political and more practical for these resources to be
14 conserved.

15
16 For example, State of Alaska biologist,
17 I participate in a lot of moose and caribou
18 registration and they have 72 hour, you got to report,
19 and sometimes you're floating down a river or you're
20 out in a plane or wherever, I mean you could be far
21 away but you still have that requirement so if you got
22 to jump through that hoop and State biologists already
23 do that for, I think just a matter of time, where
24 eventually the State of Alaska's going to have to
25 comply and get some more quicker management decisions
26 about things.

27
28 So I think I'm going to have to be in
29 support of this even though I really don't like the
30 fact that it's more restrictive on our Federal users
31 than the State.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good comments,
34 thanks, Andy.

35
36 Anyone else.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we got a
41 motion, we got a second. Someone want to take a crack
42 at the justification.

43
44 Justification, is the recommendation
45 consistent with established fish and wildlife
46 management principles. Yes.

47
48 Is the recommendation supported by
49 substantial evidence, biological, traditional

50

1 knowledge, we've had a lot testify to that so I would
2 say yes.

3
4 And you guys jump in if I'm missing
5 something.

6
7 Will the recommendation be beneficial
8 or detrimental to the subsistence needs and users. It
9 will be beneficial and it will be detrimental, so, yes.

10
11 If a closure involves, that's not going
12 to get there -- discuss what other relevant factors
13 were mentioned by OSM and we kind of -- we went through
14 that. So I think our justification is found, we
15 justified it on all of the points listed in the
16 justification guidelines. So I'm ready to take a vote
17 if you guys are ready to go, if there's no more
18 comments.

19
20 MR. HOLSTEN: Question.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. All in
23 favor of Fish Proposal 21-11 signify by saying aye.

24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is there anyone
28 opposed.

29
30 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, this is Aaron, I
31 think I changed my mind -- no.

32
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, well, good
34 we got one no.

35
36 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

39
40 MS. PERRY: I'm hearing some other
41 conversation and we might want to do a roll call just
42 to make sure the record's clear.

43
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's pretty clear
45 to my ears and I'm 72 but, anyway, yeah, you could do a
46 roll call.

47
48 MS. PERRY: Just to preserve the record
49 I would appreciate that, Mr. Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, you do some
2 preserving.
3
4 MS. PERRY: John Whissel.
5
6 MR. WHISSEL: Yes.
7
8 MS. PERRY: Aaron Bloomquist.
9
10 MR. BLOOMQUIST: No.
11
12 MS. PERRY: Andy McLaughlin.
13
14 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Aye.
15
16 MS. PERRY: Michael Opheim.
17
18 MR. OPHEIM: Aye.
19
20 MS. PERRY: Dennis Zadra.
21
22 MR. ZADRA: Aye.
23
24 MS. PERRY: Gloria Stickwan.
25
26 MS. STICKWAN: I would prefer to make
27 it optional so I guess my vote would be no.
28
29 MS. PERRY: Diane Selanoff.
30
31 MS. SELANOFF: Yes.
32
33 MS. PERRY: Ed Holsten.
34
35 MR. HOLSTEN: Aye.
36
37 MS. PERRY: Greg Encelewski.
38
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Aye.
40
41 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, this motion
42 passes seven -- or sorry 6/2.
43
44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, did you
45 miss someone.
46
47 MS. PERRY: Yeah, I thought I heard
48 Gloria speaking so that's why I asked for a roll call
49 just to make sure.
50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, 6/2 is
2 eight, and I thought we had nine of us here.

3
4 MS. STICKWAN: I counted seven in favor
5 to oppose.

6
7 MS. PERRY: I -- my apologies, 7/2.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm just picky,
10 okay, thank you, good job. 7/2. Okay, we're ready to
11 move on, next on the list we got Proposal 12 and we're
12 ready for the introduction of that proposal.

13
14 MS. PERRY: That would be Ms. Vorhees
15 again.

16
17 MS. VORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

20
21 MS. VORHEES: This is Hannah Vorhees.
22 And the next two proposals are interconnected. Like
23 the last proposal these were submitted by Kirk Wilson
24 of Glennallen. The first two deal with dipnetting
25 technology and practices and the last one deals with
26 fish finder, which are used in combination with boats
27 and dipnets are specific (indiscernible) Federal
28 subsistence regulations in the upper Copper River
29 district.

30
31 Fisheries Proposal 21-12 starts on Page
32 405 of your book and requests that the Federal
33 Subsistence Board prohibit the use of monofilament and
34 multifilament mesh dipnet before August 15th in the
35 upper Copper River district. Before this time dipnet
36 rigging would be limited to braided and elastic mesh.
37 The deponent raises concerns about the use of dipnets
38 with monofilament or multifilament mesh in terms of its
39 effects on survival rates of chinook salmon that are
40 entangled and then released.

41
42 Please keep in mind the background
43 information I presented in my previous proposal, which
44 largely still apply.

45
46 Specific to this proposal it's worth
47 noting that in subsistence study interviews conducted
48 in 2013, residents of rural Copper River basin
49 communities shared their observations based on local
50

1 knowledge that chinook salmon runs have declined in
2 comparison to long-term baseline. Some residents
3 have.....

4
5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted)

7
8 MS. VORHEES:a practice of
9 avoiding or protecting chinook when possible and
10 voluntarily remove chinook from fishwheel boxes if
11 these fish still have a chance of survival.

12
13 Fishwheels are the predominant gear in
14 use by Federally-qualified subsistence users in the
15 upper Copper River district where those who would have
16 to adhere to this change in regulation. Harvest by
17 fishwheels accounts for most of the subsistence harvest
18 of fish by communities in the region. For example, in
19 2013, Gulkana residents took 91 percent of their salmon
20 harvest in edible weight by fishwheel and Tazlina
21 residents took 88 percent of their salmon harvest by
22 fishwheel.

23
24 Of note, a similar proposal to this one
25 has been previously considered by the State Board of
26 Fisheries. This proposal would have applied to the
27 State Glennallen subsistence fishery and the State
28 Chitina personal use fishery. In 2017 the Board of
29 Fish rejected a proposal submitted by the Wrangell-St.
30 Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission
31 which would have prohibited the use of monofilament of
32 gillnet mesh or dipnet.

33
34 (Teleconference interference -
35 participants not muted)

36
37 MS. VORHEES: The rationale of this
38 proposal is to reduce.....

39
40 (Teleconference interference -
41 participants not muted)

42
43 MS. VORHEES: The rationale of the
44 proposal was to reduce mortality of chinook caught in
45 dipnet.....

46
47 (Teleconference interference -
48 participants not muted)

49
50

1 MS. VORHEES: The proposal was rejected
2 because the Board did not find that banning the mesh
3 would increase survival of chinook because it would
4 reduce fishing and create a hardship and because it
5 would create an exception in the statewide regulations.

6
7 Next, I will talk a little bit about
8 the potential effects of this proposal.

9
10 This proposal would, again, place an
11 additional burden on Federally-qualified subsistence
12 users who would likely have to replace their dipnet
13 meshes and/or nets. The gear specification would make
14 Federal subsistence regulations pertaining to dipnet
15 use more restrictive than State subsistence and
16 personal use regulations for the upper Copper River
17 district. There's also the question of whether this
18 proposal would have the intended conservation effect.
19 Effects of catch and release on chinook mortality in a
20 system like this are often (indiscernible) user.
21 However, regardless of these effects, this proposal
22 would likely not have a large conservation effect
23 because of the small percentage of the dipnet fishery
24 being conducted under Federal subsistence regulations.
25 Fishwheels are the predominate gear, dipnetting under
26 Federal (indiscernible) makes up a small percentage of
27 overall dipnetting. For example, in the Chitina
28 subdistrict where dipnetting predominates Federally-
29 qualified subsistence users accounted for just one
30 percent of all permits between 2010 and 2019.

31
32 Furthermore, the Federally-qualified
33 subsistence users who do use dipnets with monofilament
34 material could continue to do so under State
35 regulations in the Glennallen subsistence and Chitina
36 personal use fisheries. This proposal would bring
37 Federal regulations for the area in step with the
38 conservation practices and perspectives of some
39 Federally-qualified subsistence users, but the burden
40 on all Federally-qualified subsistence users would be
41 high and the conservation benefit would likely be
42 limited. State subsistence and personal use fisheries
43 would provide the most effective regulatory context for
44 this proposal.

45
46 And so the OSM preliminary conclusion
47 is to oppose.

48
49 This concludes my presentation.
50

1 Thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right, thank
4 you.

5
6 Okay, report Board consultation,
7 tribes, we got a tribe that wants to speak to this 21-
8 12.

9
10 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman. This is
11 Darrel Williams with Ninilchik. I agree with the OSM
12 preliminary conclusion that making subsistence gear
13 more restrictive would reduce the ability to have a
14 meaningful preference.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Gear.

19
20 MS. LINNELL: Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

23
24 MS. LINNELL: This is Karen Linnell
25 with Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission representing
26 eight tribes on the river.

27
28 I just want to say that we're in
29 support of this proposal. Traditionally we dipnet from
30 the shore and there is many archival photos and what
31 not to that effect but we're seeing an increase in the
32 number of boats on the river. We're concerned over the
33 erosions because of the number of boats that we're
34 seeing. There's some people with some very poor
35 neighborly etiquette that go near boats, or near
36 fishwheels, causing wakes, some of those wakes can get
37 the fishwheel off kilter and cause it to jam or get
38 stuck, people are on their -- checking their wheels
39 when they go by and, again, causing the possibility of
40 them to fall off of their fishwheel into the river; our
41 river is very unforgiven. Already we lose one to two
42 people a year from dipnetting and the folks dipnetting
43 from boats are able to target the salmon while they're
44 held up during high water and we've noticed that it
45 used to be that after a high water event and the water
46 started to drop that we would see a big, big run come
47 and we're not seeing that anymore. And some of these
48 boats have fish finders and I think that's an
49 unnecessary tool for subsistence fishing on this river.
50

1 We have similar proposals, again, like
2 this on the State side to limit and restrict those
3 fisheries because of the conflicts that we're seeing.
4 There's user conflicts arising from this as well. We
5 have Faye Ewan from Native Village of Kluti-Kaah who
6 probably could speak more to this, they come by her
7 fishwheel quite often. I'm on the upper end of the
8 Copper River so I don't see it as much but our friends
9 and family in Tazlina and Klutina area are seeing quite
10 a bit of conflict. A few years ago there was even a
11 gentleman who shot at a tribal member's fishwheel
12 causing damage and that -- that person, that tribal
13 member shares her fishwheel with nontribal citizens,
14 all from the Copper Center area, it's not just her
15 wheel, they share together and so it's not just a
16 tribal versus nontribal issue here we're talking about,
17 a pretty significant change in the fishery on this
18 river. It is not a customary and traditional practice
19 of the folks here on the river to fish from boats. And
20 then when they are dipping from the boat, the boats are
21 under movement and that is trawling, especially if
22 they're using those fish finders to target them.

23
24 So we urge you to support this proposal
25 and pass it as presented.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Karen.
30 I think this proposal's specifically to monofilament
31 but a lot of other points you made are.....

32
33 MS. LINNELL: I'm sorry, I'm on the
34 wrong one. The monofilament one, again, we had talked
35 about this and AITRC has met with Chitina Dipnetters
36 Association some years ago and we talked about this as
37 a possibility, reduce the mortality when there are
38 restrictions for kings.

39
40 This year it went down to one king that
41 they were able to retain and that, to me, was a -- you
42 know, we talk about the possibilities of the
43 monofilament and multifilaments nets and it was
44 something that we thought if we could address the gear
45 type maybe that would help with the mortality.

46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
48 Any other tribes on the monofilament Fish Proposal 21-
49 12.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any ANCSA
4 Corporations.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Agency comments.
9 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I don't suppose
14 you'd comment because they use it all in the State.

15

16 Okay, Federal.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Other agencies.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Other Regional
25 Councils, any?

26

27 MS. PERRY: No other Regional Councils
28 commented on this proposal, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Fish
31 and Game Advisory Committees.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Subsistence
36 Resource Commissions.

37

38 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair. This is
39 Barbara Cellarius.

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
42 Barbara.

43

44 MS. CELLARIUS: The Wrangell-St. Elias
45 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission opposed
46 FP21-12 with a vote of one in support and seven
47 opposed.

48

49 In the experience SRC members who have

50

1 commercial fished net material doesn't make a
2 difference in whether the fish become entangled in a
3 net. When one member commercial fished one summer for
4 example salmon were often gilled in an inelastic
5 braided net. Net or mesh size in their experience was
6 a bigger factor than the material.

7
8 Another concern is the lack of
9 availability of dipnets made from alternate materials.

10
11 The person who supported the proposal
12 cited testimony on both sides with some saying that
13 monofilament nets cause damage and expressed concern
14 about avoiding any potential negative impacts to the
15 fisheries.

16
17 And that concludes the comment.

18
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
20 Barbara. Any other Resource Commissions.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, a summary
25 of written public comments, DeAnna.

26
27 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair. Five
28 written public comments in support were received on
29 this proposal, they can be found in your meeting books
30 starting on Page 124. I'll give a summary of those
31 comments.

32
33 The Ahtna InterTribal Resource
34 Commission supports this proposal and states that it
35 would promote greater survival rates among chinook
36 salmon caught in nets and then released back into the
37 river and dipnets constructed with inelastic seine
38 style mesh and the traditional Ahtna style made with
39 inelastic mesh are effective at catching salmon.

40
41 The Commission further suggested a
42 modification to this proposal, language such as you may
43 not use dipnet that is rigged with monofilament or
44 multifilament mesh before August 15th when the majority
45 of the chinook run has passed into the upper Copper
46 River. Before this time your dipnet must be rigged
47 with braided and braided is actually struck out,
48 inelastic mesh. Depleting [sic] the word braided
49 before inelastic mesh.

50

1 Again, that was a summary of the Ahtna
2 InterTribal Resource Commission comment.

3
4 Michael Mahoney supports this proposal
5 stating that these changes would be helpful in
6 protecting our king salmon. All of these practices are
7 not customary and traditional and have resulted in much
8 higher efficiency levels of harvest.

9
10 Thea Thomas strongly supports this
11 proposal and as stated before, she commented that it
12 was important to limit overharvest in the Chitina
13 dipnet fishery and to acquire timely data on the
14 harvest.

15
16 Ahtna Tene Nene' supports the proposal
17 to disallow a dipnet that is rigged with monofilament
18 or multifilament mesh before August 15th because after
19 chinook are released with this type of dipnet it causes
20 undue harm or death and they may not reach spawning
21 grounds if they are harmed or weakened. As management
22 objectives weren't met in fiscal year 2020 we need to
23 do what can be done to protect them.

24
25 Bonnie Yazzie supports this proposal.

26
27 And that's a summary of the written
28 comments received on this proposal. Again, for the
29 comments in their entirety you can read those starting
30 on Page 124 of the meeting book.

31
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, thank
35 you. Public testimony. Is there anyone who would like
36 to testify to Fish Proposal 21-12.

37
38 MR. MILLER: Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

41
42 MR. MILLER: This is Odin Miller with
43 Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission.

44
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, go
46 ahead.

47
48 MR. MILLER: I just wanted to very
49 briefly speak in support of this proposal, sort of to

50

1 add on to some of the comments that Karen just made.

2

3

4 I was sort of part of the team that
5 helped developed some of these proposals. And I think
6 part of where we got the idea for this proposal was in
7 our conversations with local stakeholders who had sort
8 of seen the dipnetting happening down in Chitina and,
9 in particular, there was a guide on the Copper River
10 that I spoke with who expressed concern about having
11 seen a lot of relatively inexperienced dipnetters with
12 monofilament dipnets getting king salmon badly tangled
13 up in the dipnets and struggling to untangle them and
14 taking many minutes and he expressed that this wasn't
15 nearly as much of an issue with the standard kind of
16 dipnet material.

16

17

Thank you.

18

19

20

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Any
other public testimony.

21

22

(No comments)

23

24

25

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, we'll
move to Regional Council's recommendations, motion.

26

27

28

MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, this is Ed, I'll
make that motion to adopt -- where am I, 21-12?

29

30

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes.

31

32

MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, 21-12.

33

34

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Anyone
second.

35

36

37

MR. BLOOMQUIST: Aaron seconds.

38

39

MS. PERRY: I believe it was seconded
by Aaron.

40

41

42

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Who, Aaron, it
must be on silent on my phone, I didn't hear him, okay,
Aaron. Thank you, Aaron.

43

44

45

46

Okay, we're open for discussion, 21-12.
Council members, any discussion.

47

48

49

MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, this is Michael.

50

1 Yes, I would oppose this as well. It just seems like
2 creating a bit of a burden on the fishermen trying to
3 decide which place you're going to be in, which dipnet
4 you're taking or, you know, if you cross the line with
5 the wrong dipnet or something there, getting yourself
6 ticketed or something. So it -- I don't know, I don't
7 care much for it. It did sound like the issue with the
8 issue with the entanglement was the length of the mesh,
9 the bag there, so maybe that needs to be shortened up,
10 causing less damage to the fish, easier to release.
11 And I think, you know, the State and Fed regs wouldn't
12 match up, you know, with one using, what is it non-
13 braided line and one using monofilament and everything.
14 It sounds like it would be kind of just all convoluted
15 there.

16
17 So I would, definitely, at this point
18 be opposing it.

19
20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right, thank
21 you, Michael.

22
23 Anyone else.

24
25 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, this is Ed.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Ed.

28
29 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah.

30
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

32
33 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, real short comment.
34 Is there any data on damage, I mean real data on damage
35 using monofilament versus non-monofilament. You know
36 this came around with barbed hooks and barbless hooks
37 and so studies were undertaken showing the difference
38 in mortality rates. I was wondering, is there anybody
39 out there know of any data on this issue?

40
41 That's all.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks, Ed.
44 Anyone want to comment on that?

45
46 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, this is
47 Darrel Williams with Ninilchik.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Darrel,

50

1 you know about that.

2
3 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, we went through a
4 very long process and there is data about gillnet
5 injury and survival rates. The interesting part to me
6 on this proposal is we're not really talking about the
7 right things when we're talking about injuries to fish.
8 Generally, it's not about the filament it's about the
9 mesh size. So where the net actually engages on the
10 fish, whether it's in the gills or by the dorsal fin or
11 the pectoral fin, the size of that mesh is really the
12 important part. And there is quite a bit of data out
13 there and it refers to deselective harvest of using
14 gillnets.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, good
19 point, you made my point.

20
21 Any other Council member.

22
23 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, this is Aaron.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Aaron.

26
27 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, I think there's
28 some misunderstanding. I've heard it a few times here
29 in the actual dynamics of it. So I have a lot of
30 history with this proposal. The first time I ever saw
31 this proposal it was before the Board of Fish and I
32 wrote it. It wasn't an original idea of mine, I got it
33 from a guy that actually used to be a dipnet charter
34 guy down in Chitina and had brought it up to me. But
35 it's not whether or not the fish are gilled, it's not
36 like a gillnet fishery, it's how much they get tangled
37 and it's just the fact that those fine meshes allow a
38 fish to be tangled to the point where it's virtually
39 impossible to let them go in the water, you drag them
40 in the boat, or up on the bank, and they flop around
41 and it takes a couple of -- I mean it doesn't matter if
42 you're an experienced dipnetter or not, it's just the
43 reality of this stuff. And you may be surprised at
44 what I'm going to -- whether or not I'll support this.
45 But I've probably netted, I don't know, a thousand king
46 salmon in braided nets that are meant for sportfishing,
47 and I have a huge basket on my net just simply because
48 it gives me more room to work in the thing and I would
49 say one in several hundred is tangled to the point

50

1 where it takes me more than a minute to get it out of
2 the net. And after that guy showed me -- or told me
3 about it, I went down there and I watched, you know, in
4 a run when there was lots of kings that year, this is a
5 decade or more ago, I watched the guys on the bank pull
6 in king after king after king and flop them around in
7 the gravel sometimes for 10 minutes to the point where
8 they're not going to die, they're dead, and it was
9 entanglement in these nets with the mesh that's just --
10 it's just fine and it grabs on everything, and so I
11 wrote that proposal.

12
13 And with all that said, I don't support
14 this just for Federal users. They are efficient, they
15 catch fish better, less fish get away. Yes, you can
16 catch a bunch of fish in braided mesh nets but they
17 work better, they're lighter, especially in a river
18 like the Copper that's running so fast, there's a lot
19 less drag on a monofilament mesh net than on the other
20 types. You know, I'd be in favor of this if it was for
21 everybody across the board but, you know, again, like I
22 said in the last proposal, the Chitina Dipnetting
23 Association and others have a big voice at the Board of
24 Fish and I'd be shocked if the Board of Fish would pass
25 this. They about crucified me when I suggested it 10
26 years ago so I'm not going to be in support of it.

27
28 But it's not the mesh size, it's not
29 the -- it's just the fact that those kind of dipnets
30 are tangly and they grab on all the fins and everything
31 else.

32
33 Anyways, that's my two cents, thank
34 you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Anyone
37 else got a comment.

38
39 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria.

40
41 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Andy does.

42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, I think
44 Gloria first and then Andy.

45
46 MS. STICKWAN: I'm going to support
47 this proposal because I have attended Board of Fish
48 meetings and I've heard testimony that fish are being
49 damaged through this and the person that wrote this was
50

1 a big guide and he's on the Klutina and he's seen a lot
2 of years of being a guide and the damage to the fish.
3 Once you damage a fish it gets weak and it doesn't --
4 it isn't -- it's so weak it may not even reach its
5 spawning grounds to spawn because of the damage.

6
7 I just think that we need to do
8 something to get more fish to the spawning grounds and
9 if we can do something, such as this, to help the fish,
10 I think we should.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
13 Gloria. Next.

14
15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
16 Chair. Andy McLaughlin here. You know, again, one of
17 those things not necessarily on the fence on, I haven't
18 netted a thousand kings but there's only three that I
19 know of on the Kenai River where I've done my own red
20 salmon sockeye dipnetting and on those three kings they
21 weren't allowed to be retained at the time and they all
22 went into the boat and it's like, oh, man, got a king
23 but got to get this sucker back in the water, and in my
24 opinion it's not the material, it's the time out of
25 water is the issue. You know, you got some people that
26 are just less apt to be able to grab fish and take care
27 of business. Certainly mesh size, if they get gilled,
28 that's a big issue. I could tell you with my driftnet,
29 sometimes there's a fish that I don't want in my
30 driftnet and I don't remove those fish out of the water
31 hardly at all, just at the edge of the boat, and I
32 disentangle them and some of them are wrapped deep man
33 and spun around, went back through the mesh twice and I
34 get them out of there, as long as they stayed in that
35 water, I'll point them off in the direction that I
36 don't want them to be in and they'll dart away from the
37 net or slowly swim, you know.

38
39 But I was with Ed on is there data
40 thing, and I was with Darrel on the mesh size is a big
41 factor. But I, myself, from my own personal
42 experience, am not thinking that material has a lot to
43 do with it, but I'm not a Copper River dipnetter over
44 there, you know.

45
46 So, anyhow, that ease of use, if we're
47 making a way for Federal subsistence users to catch
48 fish more efficiently, those multi-strands -- there's
49 less drag, they go through the water quicker, it's a
50

1 most efficient way to catch a fish if they're
2 dipnetting.

3
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Andy.
5 Good comments. Anybody else want to comment on it.

6
7 MS. LINNELL: Mr. Chair. This is Karen
8 Linnell. I had forgotten to mention that there's
9 similar proposals to this going before the Board of
10 Fish this year.

11
12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, yeah, well,
13 we're in Council deliberations but thank you, Karen.

14
15 Anyone else on the Council want to talk
16 to this motion.

17
18 MR. WHISSEL: Mr. Chairman, this is
19 John Whissel.

20
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, John.

22
23 MR. WHISSEL: I'm inclined to support
24 this proposal. I think it's imperfect. I do agree mesh
25 size is important.

26
27 We looked at this very closely when we
28 put the lower river dipnetting proposal that was
29 rescinded in two years ago and just from memory, I
30 could be slightly off here, our proposal asked for one
31 inch mesh and braided line and not monofilament. I
32 could not, for the life of me cite the research -- it
33 was asked whether there was some research, but that
34 came from our fisheries department doing some work to
35 try to determine which methods of harvest in a dipnet
36 do the least amount of harm to king salmon and put them
37 in the best possible position to be released.

38
39 So one of the things I think -- there's
40 a difference between, you know, a drift gillnet or a
41 set net versus something in a bag, and I know when I've
42 seen -- you know, we've been witness to a lot in Wood
43 Canyon and some -- there's definitely a -- a lot of the
44 release has to do with skill, but you see some pretty
45 ruthless highgrading and, you know, people especially
46 fishing on -- (indiscernible) faces that just kind of
47 turn their net inside out and start shaking and fish
48 held up just by a gillplate, I mean when you're cutting
49 in with single strands, I know I've done the wrong

50

1 thing with my fishing lines and had it cut into my
2 finger before, monofilament cuts pretty easily.

3
4 So I want to start moving in the
5 direction of being more conservation minded, I don't
6 want to put undue burdens on Federal subsistence users
7 but I think these are the things we're going to have to
8 do in order to conserve our king species and I wish the
9 State would go first, but I don't think it's likely so
10 I'll be in support of this but looking closely to do
11 something with mesh size which I think is likely more
12 important.

13
14 Thanks.

15
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there
17 anyone else on the Council who would like to talk to
18 it.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Before we
23 vote I'm going to make a couple comments of my own, my
24 observation.

25
26 I've fished all my life with gillnets
27 and different type of gear and generally what we do
28 when we want to catch kings, we use nine inch gear, of
29 course they don't allow that anymore we can only use
30 six inch, but if we want to catch a king we'd make sure
31 we used the biggest mesh possible because four inch,
32 4.5, 5 inch, Darrel is exactly right, mesh size plays a
33 lot. And, yes monofilament is tricky and it'll catch
34 them quick, and it has a lot to do with skill.

35
36 But we're here to provide a subsistence
37 preference, and a subsistence use for subsistence
38 fishermen and they have a right to get that fish and
39 they have a number of fish they got to get. And if
40 there's some incidental misfortune and a fish dies well
41 then that's to be understandable in some cases. But I
42 certainly can't support this in good faith and put a
43 burden on the fishermen, not at this time. Anyway, I
44 think it's something we're going in the wrong direction
45 and we're really trying to restrict our Federal
46 subsistence users. To me, they're out there to get the
47 fish, if the fish ain't there, then there's other user
48 groups that need to be shut down and other things, and
49 the preference needs to go to the subsistence

50

1 fishermen.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

6

Okay, we got a motion, we got a second,
we had discussion and justification.

7

8

9

10

11

The justification, we'll go through the
points again, if someone wants to -- recommendation
consistent with established fish and wildlife
principles, we talked the pros and cons.

12

13

14

15

16

Recommendations supported by
substantial evidence or biological traditional, we
talked about that also from various tribes and other
things and their take.

17

18

19

20

21

Will the recommendation be beneficial
or detrimental to subsistence needs. That's kind of
where I was talking to. But I think it would be
detrimental.

22

23

24

If a closure's involved, we're not
going to do that.

25

26

27

28

Discuss what other relevant factors are
mentioned by OSM, I think we kind of covered that.

29

30

31

32

So we need to restate the final motion,
we just moved to adopt it as presented, 21-12, and so I
think we're ready for a vote.

33

34

35

DeAnna, do you want to call for a vote,
or do you just want to vote.

36

37

38

MS. PERRY: I can do a quick roll call,
Mr. Chair.

39

40

41

42

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44

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46

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48

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, go ahead.

MS. PERRY: All right.

Ed Holsten.

MR. HOLSTEN: Oppose.

MS. PERRY: Diane Selanoff.

MS. SELANOFF: Oppose.

1 MS. PERRY: Gloria Stickwan.
2
3 MS. STICKWAN: Yes.
4
5 MS. PERRY: Dennis Zadra.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 MS. PERRY: Dennis, are you on mute, by
10 chance.
11
12 MR. ZADRA: Oh, yes, I'm sorry, I
13 support the proposal.
14
15 MS. PERRY: Thank you.
16
17 Michael Opheim.
18
19 MR. OPHEIM: Oppose.
20
21 MS. PERRY: Andy McLaughlin.
22
23 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Oppose.
24
25 MS. PERRY: Aaron Bloomquist.
26
27 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Oppose.
28
29 MS. PERRY: John Whissel.
30
31 MR. WHISSEL: Support.
32
33 MS. PERRY: And Greg Encelewski.
34
35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I oppose.
36
37 MS. PERRY: Okay. The motion fails. 3
38 to 6 -- 3 yeas, 6 nos.
39
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, thank
41 you. Well, how about time for a stretch, take a five
42 minute and let's take a stretch before we move to the
43 next proposal.
44
45 (Off record)
46
47 (On record)
48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: So let's go ahead
50

1 and move on, we're on Fish Proposal 13, request the
2 Board prohibits fishing with dipnets from boats and
3 crafts floating in the river in the upper Copper River
4 district submitted by Kirk Wilson, and we'll see who's
5 going to present this to us.

6
7 MS. PERRY: That would be Hannah
8 Vorhees again.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Hannah, you
11 may go ahead.

12
13 MS. VORHEES: Thank you. All right,
14 next I'll be presenting Fisheries Proposal 21-13, which
15 begins on Page 135 of your book.

16
17 This proposal requests that the Federal
18 Subsistence Board prohibit fishing with dipnets from
19 boats or crafts floating in the river in the upper
20 Copper River district. Like the others presented so
21 far it was submitted by Kirk Wilson of Glennallen.

22
23 The proponent believes that the
24 increased popularity of dipnetting from boats since
25 2010 combined with the high numbers of fish that each
26 subsistence dipnetter can harvest could be contributing
27 to the depletion of some salmon stocks.

28
29 First I'll give you some background,
30 local and traditional knowledge. Dipnetting of sockeye
31 salmon, and to a lesser extent, chinook salmon,
32 traditionally took place from platforms built over the
33 river, access to fishing sites was limited by
34 territorial jurisdiction, part of the traditional
35 management system. Ahtna Elder Katie John reported the
36 loss of several stocks of Copper River salmon in her
37 lifetime which she called missing fish. In Katie
38 John's testimony, motorized boats and the noise they
39 bring can disturb fish in and of themselves, rather
40 than just being a vehicle for fishing. Today
41 fishwheel's are the dominate gear in use by Federally-
42 qualified subsistence users in the upper Copper River
43 district, who are those individuals who would have to
44 adhere to this change in regulation.

45
46 As noted in my previous presentation,
47 harvest by fishwheel accounts for most of the
48 subsistence harvest of fish by communities in the
49 region.

50

1 Next I'll review some current events.

2
3 Of note, a similar proposal has been
4 previously considered by the State Board of Fisheries.
5 In 2017 the Board of Fisheries rejected a proposal
6 submitted by the Ahtna Customary and Traditional Use
7 Committee that would have prohibited dipnetting from
8 boats in State subsistence and personal use fisheries
9 for the Glennallen subdistrict. The Board's rationale
10 for rejecting the proposal was that there was not a
11 conservation concern for these salmon and this
12 regulation would have had a limited impact.

13
14 Next I'll discuss the potential burdens
15 and benefits of this proposal.

16
17 The proposal would make Federal
18 subsistence regulations pertaining to dipnetting more
19 restrictive than State subsistence and personal use
20 regulations for the upper Copper River district. The
21 majority of salmon taken by Federally-qualified
22 subsistence users in this area are taken by fishwheel
23 rather than boats, as I've stated, because boats are
24 not widely used to fish for salmon under Federal
25 subsistence permits. Adopting this proposal would have
26 little effect on the practice of concern and little
27 conservation effect in practice.

28
29 Users could continue to dipnet from
30 boats under State regulations in the Glennallen
31 subsistence and Chitina personal use fisheries. The
32 State subsistence and personal use fisheries may
33 provide the most effective regulatory context for this
34 proposal.

35
36 And the OSM preliminary conclusion is
37 to oppose.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. All
42 right, you guys heard it, their presentation. We'll
43 start off with report from tribes, anyone want to come
44 up -- or there's no place to come up, we're all on the
45 phones, go ahead and speak up.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any tribes for
50

1 Fish Proposal 21-13.

2

3 MS. LINNELL: Yes, this is Karen
4 Linnell with the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Karen.

7

8 MS. LINNELL: Representing eight tribes
9 on the Copper River. I wanted to reiterate that we're
10 very concerned about the rise in dipnetting from boats,
11 whether it be from Federally-qualified users and/or
12 State users, the process is getting to be -- it's
13 fairly recent, we've seen a marked decline in fish
14 getting into wheels after the water drops. They are
15 able to target the eddies and things where the -- the
16 salmon hold up during high water. We believe that this
17 could be one of the reasons that we've seen such a
18 decline in what's getting to the salmon -- to the
19 spawning beds. As we are in a season of decline, I
20 think that we need to take every precaution that we
21 can. We're not saying to cut off their ability to
22 dipnet entirely but to restrict a method. They still
23 have other options for methods that they can use and
24 you have every authority to recommend, and the Federal
25 Subsistence Board has every authority to provide
26 regulation on methods and means.

27

28 When those boats are under movement
29 they are trawling. The definition of trawling is a net
30 in the water and under movement with a boat, and that's
31 what's happening, and we'd like to, you know, do what
32 we can to work to turn this trend around and help our
33 populations recover.

34

35 There are proposals to this on both the
36 subsistence and personal use fishery regulations going
37 to be before the Board of Fish at their next meeting,
38 so this is just not a Federal only, we're trying to get
39 ahead of this thing here because there is a marked
40 increase in boats on the river and then we're looking
41 at the habitat as well and the concerns for the
42 habitat.

43

44 So I'll answer any questions if you
45 have any. You have my written comments before you, so
46 thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Karen.
49 Any questions for Karen before she goes too far.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there
4 any other tribal comments that would like to talk on
5 the issue, 21-13.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any ANCSA
10 Corporations.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Agency comments.
15 How about Alaska Department of Fish and Game, if it's
16 coming up to their Board meeting, maybe they've got a
17 thought.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, it sounds
22 like they hung up.

23

24 Any Federal Agency comments.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: How about any
29 more tribal comments.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Advisory groups,
34 other Regional Councils. Was there any DeAnna.

35

36 MS. PERRY: No, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. How about
39 Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, how
44 about Subsistence Resource Commissions, Barbara you got
45 something.

46

47 MS. CELLARIUS: I do, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

50

1 MS. CELLARIUS: The Wrangell-St. Elias
2 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission opposed
3 FP21-13 with a vote of one in support and seven
4 opposed.

5
6 Commission members were generally not
7 concerned about the practice of dipnetting from boats
8 by Federally-qualified subsistence users, although
9 concern was expressed about the increasing occurrence
10 of dipnetting from boats by (indiscernible - phone cuts
11 out) subsistence State (indiscernible - phone cuts out)
12 upper Copper River. The number of Federally-qualified
13 subsistence users fishing from boats is limited. Some
14 SRC members noted, however, that people dipnetting from
15 boats should be restricted before fishwheel users in
16 times of low salmon numbers.

17
18 The Commission also noted a need for
19 information about harvest by gear types. That would
20 have been important information to include in the
21 proposal analysis.

22
23 That concludes the comment, Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
26 Barbara, good comments.

27
28 DeAnna, do you have a summary of the
29 written public comments on this proposal.

30
31 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Five
32 written public comments in support were received on
33 this proposal, they can be found in your meeting book
34 starting on Page 153. A summary of those comments:

35
36 The Ahtna InterTribal Resource
37 Commission strongly supports this proposal and states
38 there is significant opposition to the dipnetting from
39 boats practice among Copper Basin locals. Dipnetting
40 from boats is not a customary or traditional use of the
41 resource and these harvesters would be able to target
42 salmon resting in deep parts of the river giving them a
43 competitive advantage over both fishwheel users and
44 dipnetters who fish from shore.

45
46 Michael Mahoney supports this proposal,
47 again, stating that these changes would be helpful in
48 protecting our king salmon. He addressed Federal Fish
49 Proposal 21-12, 13 and 14 all at the same time, stating

50

1 that all of these practices were not customary and
2 traditional and have resulted in much higher efficiency
3 levels of harvest.
4

5 Thea Thomas strongly supports this
6 proposal and as stated before commenting on 21-11, 12,
7 13 and 14, that it was important to limit over harvest
8 in the Chitina dipnet fishery and to acquire timely
9 data on the harvest.
10

11 Ahtna Tene Nene' supports the proposal
12 because fishing from a boat or other craft floating in
13 the Copper River has an advantage over dipnetting from
14 shoreline and fishing from a boat moving down river is
15 essentially trawling for fish. Fishing in areas where
16 salmon rest also enables fishermen to harvest an
17 abundance of salmon at one time. Enforcement would be
18 a challenge that may result in more salmon harvested
19 that are reported.
20

21 Bonnie Yazzie supports the proposal
22 because dipnetting from boat is not customary or
23 traditional way of getting salmon and it creates an
24 unfair advantage of the resource that isn't dipnetting
25 it's trawling. She heard that dipnetters with boats
26 were limiting out this year while many fishwheelers
27 were struggling.
28

29 That's a summary of the written
30 comments received on this proposal. Again, for the
31 comments in their entirety, they start on Page 153 of
32 your meeting book.
33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35

36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
37 DeAnna. Alrighty, we will open it up to public
38 testimony on 21-13.
39

40 MS. KNIGHTEN: Mr. Chair, Mercedes
41 Knighten.
42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes, go ahead.
44

45 MS. KNIGHTEN: Hi, I would like to
46 address Proposal 21-13 and possibly 14.
47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'll let you
49 address 21-13 for now.
50

1 MS. KNIGHTEN: Okay, thank you. So I
2 reside in Copper Center. My fishwheel, if you were on
3 the highway would be on Mile 103.7 Old Richardson
4 Highway. I inherited this camp from my grandmother so
5 it's been in our family for at least 30 years that I
6 know of.

7
8 I recognize an influx of boats,
9 dipnetting from boats, and traffic from boats. I camp
10 at my camp for the summer. I put a camper there and
11 stay there. One of those reasons is, we're also
12 experiencing theft from boats, so not only did it -- I
13 mean that's not a reason why I stay there but I stay
14 there because that's where I've stayed every summer for
15 most of my life but now it's become necessary because
16 of the issues of boats. The line up river drifting
17 down and pulling fish in with dipnets, I can see this
18 across from my fishwheel, there's a nice island over
19 there, nice pool where the fish can hold up and this
20 summer we had a lot of high water so we had a lot of
21 fish holding up waiting for low water and, you know,
22 they sit in those holes to rest. So dipnetters are
23 able to find -- these dipnetters from boats are able to
24 find these holes. I believe it's not a traditional
25 customary practice to fish in this manner. I also know
26 some of these boat owners and they're also using a
27 fishwheel while dipnetting at the same time. I've also
28 seen people dipnetting at the mouth of the Klutina to
29 the Copper -- or from the Copper, I'm sorry, where the
30 Klutina meets the Copper. I believe this doesn't give
31 the opportunity for the fish to make it to the spawning
32 areas.

33
34 And that is my testimony, you know, I
35 see this with my own eyes. My family is staying down
36 there. We're using these fish for supporting our
37 families in Native homes and non-Native homes and all
38 over the state, and sometimes out of state. I have
39 numerous aunts and uncles that I like to travel to
40 visit and take fish to my aunts and uncles that can no
41 longer travel to Alaska.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 REPORTER: Can you please state and
46 spell your last name.

47
48 MS. KNIGHTEN: K-N-I-G-H-T-E-N.

49
50

1 REPORTER: Thank you.

2

3 MS. KNIGHTEN: And I'm sorry if I
4 didn't say it specifically, I am in support of this.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Okay,
7 next public comment -- testimony, excuse me.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, hearing no
12 more public testimony I guess we'll move on. Regional
13 Council's recommendation. Do we have a motion.

14

15 MS. STICKWAN: Move to adopt Proposal
16 21-13.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
19 Gloria. Gloria moved to adopt, is there a second.

20

21 MR. WHISSEL: I second, John Whissel.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: John Whissel
24 second. Okay, it's been moved and seconded to adopt
25 Fish Proposal 21-13 so it's on the table for discussion
26 and I'll open it up to the Council members. You guys
27 go ahead, the first one go ahead and state your name
28 and we'll listen to your comments.

29

30 MR. OPHEIM: Mr. Chair, this is
31 Michael.

32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
34 Michael.

35

36 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, it seems like, I
37 don't know it would be kind of -- I don't know the word
38 I want to say here, a bit limiting on how the Federal
39 subsistence fisher could harvest their fish. It seems
40 like, you know, if they're able to get in and get out
41 using, drifting on a boat with the dipnet, the
42 efficiency of that to harvest their fish quickly seems
43 pretty good to me. You know it's -- there's talk of it
44 not being traditional from a boat but neither was the
45 fishwheel until the early 1900s or something there, so
46 -- or whatever it was back there so, you know, a lot of
47 these are new and introduced fishery methods and some
48 are better than others. But it seems like we don't
49 want it to be a burden on our fishers to not be able to

50

1 harvest in a quick and easy method.

2

3 So I would be opposing this proposal.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.

6 Who would like to.....

7

8 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Andy here.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:speak to

11 the.....

12

13 MS. STICKWAN: Gloria.

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:proposal

16 next.

17

18 MS. STICKWAN: Hello.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is that you

21 Gloria?

22

23 MS. STICKWAN: Yes.

24

25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go right ahead.

26

27 MS. STICKWAN: I support this proposal.

28 This fishery, fishing from a boat is gaining, I believe

29 it is gaining in popularity about fishing from a boat

30 using a dipnet as well as using finders to go there,

31 and they may be taking more than their harvest and

32 nobody -- and we don't have much enforcement in the

33 Copper River. OSM rangers have to come out and enforce

34 on the Copper River because of the Sturgeon Case, I

35 haven't seen them yet and they're not likely to come

36 out here and enforce anything. So we really don't have

37 a handle on how to -- how many fish people are catching

38 or harvesting. There could be an over abundance of

39 harvest and we don't know. And the other thing is this

40 is just one more new fishery that's gaining in

41 popularity that's going to impact our fishery, the

42 fishwheel.

43

44 We have a Board of Fish proposal that

45 states that they want to extend their fisheries one

46 point past where the line is now, half a mile down,

47 because there's too many boats on the river. I'm just

48 saying that because there's an impact -- there's

49 getting more and more of an impact on our fishery

50

1 because of fishing from a boat, because of personal
2 use. Federal fisheries is just another new way of
3 getting fish from a boat and it's, you know, they may
4 be going to where there's small eddies where fish are
5 stuck during high waters or the rest of the evening and
6 they may be getting a lot of fish and nobody knows. I
7 mean the conservation concern is very important to me
8 and to all people on up river. I wish you could have
9 seen our fishery and how much we caught. I mean it was
10 really low, and it's going to be that way next year.
11 We know it's going to be that way next year because the
12 brood stock hasn't reached the Gulkana Hatchery. I mean
13 the numbers were more than halfway low -- I mean half
14 of what it was and it's going to be that way again.
15 And how many years will it be that way. And the more
16 we allow fisheries to be able to get more fish it's
17 going to impact us on the Copper River with our
18 fishwheel.

19
20 I support this proposal.

21
22 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Andy here.

23
24 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, are you still on
25 the line, I just want to make sure.

26
27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I'm still on the
28 line, sorry I was on mute. I said thanks Gloria and I
29 told Andy to go right ahead but you couldn't hear me
30 because I was muted, so now you can hear me.

31
32 Go ahead, Andy.

33
34 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Alrighty, thank you,
35 Mr. Chair. I really, you know, hate to say it but we'd
36 be doing a disservice to Federal users, if we're bound
37 to follow ANILCA, then, you know, where the buck stops
38 at the dang State, with all the numbers that the State
39 ones are doing. So I oppose this because it's a small
40 number of Federal users doing this, okay.

41
42 Now, I feel sincerely for these Ahtna
43 people that are testifying and I suggest that if
44 they're thinking just Federal users are in these boats
45 that are competing with the fishwheels and the
46 shoreline dipnetters then ask for an .804 analysis.
47 That's what Robbin LaVine with anthropology there does,
48 is she's going to have to crunch some data and there at
49 some point in time the Federal managers can say, you

50

1 know what you Federal folks, you ones in the boats
2 don't get to do it because these other people take a
3 precedence because historically a long time ago they
4 were the ones using it, okay. So, again, I'm urging
5 the suggestion, this .804 analysis, you have to do it
6 for each specific regulation and then you put it out
7 there and that's what OSM does, you know, but us as the
8 RAC, we're bound to defend subsistence users and at
9 least make them be able to do the things that the State
10 folks are doing.

11
12 This puts me to mind of on the Kenai
13 when the manager over there was like, you know what
14 we're not going to allow Federal people to use bait for
15 kings, but the State people were still allowed to use
16 bait, you know, and it's like, no, that's not how it
17 works, the Federal takes precedence. So, you know,
18 have an .804 analysis run.

19
20 But, I'm sorry I'm going to have to
21 oppose.

22
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you,
24 Andy. Good points. Who would like to speak to it
25 next.

26
27 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Aaron here.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Aaron.

30
31 MR. BLOOMQUIST: All right, yeah,
32 hopefully I don't get too long-winded on this one.
33 This one is one I've got some passion about.

34
35 You know, I've pretty much done my
36 subsistence fishing in the Valley with a wheel, or with
37 hook and line over the years but I've kind of smelled
38 this thing brewing for the last year so I took it upon
39 myself to go with some friends this year and try
40 dipnetting from a boat. And I'm passionate about this
41 because like literally the families that are my three
42 best friends in Copper Center and in Tazlina, they --
43 this is the way they do it, some of them for three
44 generations, you know, they've got grandpa and daughter
45 and grandkids on the boat dipnetting. So, you know,
46 definitely many decades worth of history here.

47
48 But there's a lot of misinformation and
49 I just want to address a few of them.

50

1 Number 1 is enforcement. I keep
2 hearing enforcement, enforcement, enforcement. The
3 vast majority of the take with this method and, you
4 know, dipnetting from shore even, is in the State
5 fishery at Chitina. There is a Trooper at Chitina
6 probably six days a week all summer watching these
7 people. And they issue some citations and they, you
8 know, there's not a whole lot else to do in the Valley
9 but the Troopers put an effort in that so there's, you
10 know, maybe State Troopers would be a good group to
11 have address us because I've heard this for years that
12 there's no enforcement over these people, and, yeah,
13 it's easy to get away with just about anything in this
14 arena in the state, but Chitina is probably more well
15 enforced than anywhere, and that's State stuff, so it's
16 a little bit of an aside here.

17
18 I'm just going down my list.

19
20 Boat erosion was brought up. Anybody
21 that's ever been on the Copper River in late April or
22 early May, actually you can't get on it in late April,
23 but May 10th it breaks up about every year, would just
24 laugh at anybody that said anything about boat erosion
25 because there's chunks of ice the size of your house
26 going down river taking out cottonwoods that are three
27 foot on the butt, and the banks are totally scoured on
28 both sides of that. And there's -- so that's a red
29 herring that's, you know, maybe being overused.

30
31 To the trawling thing, it's kind of the
32 same thing, I mean, you have a few hundred fishwheels
33 up and down the river that are pushing into the waters
34 scooping at fish, too.

35
36 So the bottom line is, this is not a
37 method with Federal subsistence that is used by a lot
38 of people. You know there's probably a few dozen
39 families that use it in the Valley but they depend on
40 it, they don't have property on the river, they don't
41 -- you know, it's mostly farther up river users,
42 they're not Chitina users, they're Copper Center,
43 Tazlina, Gulkana even and they do depend on it. They
44 don't want to drive all the way to Chitina and battle
45 the hordes of State people down there so they've got a
46 boat or a skiff or whatever and they go down and they,
47 you know, they work at it. It's hard work. It's a
48 heck of a lot harder than sitting, standing by watching
49 a fishwheel. I've done that a lot. And it opened my
50

1 eyes this year when I jumped on a boat with some
2 friends of mine and held that dang net down in the
3 water, it was poor fishing, it's actually harder at
4 high water. Somebody was saying it was easier at high
5 water, I did it about three or four times this summer
6 and it was much easier when the water was down. But
7 it's a lot of work, I got about a half an hour in my
8 arms to hold one of them nets down in the water.
9

10 You know I think the fact that there
11 are quite a few families in the Valley that use this
12 method under Federal subsistence which bears out with
13 the SRCs recommendation, you know, at the 7 to 1
14 against this proposal, and I do see a problem with
15 increasing boat dipnetting and there's a couple of
16 reasons for it.
17

18 Number 1, there's 50 fewer fishwheels
19 or so at Chitina because people can't get to where they
20 used to put fishwheels so a bunch of those people
21 shifted over to boat dipnetting, some of them went
22 elsewhere with fishwheels but a lot of them didn't,
23 they just dip it now.
24

25 The second and most concerning one to
26 me is the commercial operators at Chitina. There's
27 numerous commercial operators that are having State
28 subsistence users pay them to go fishing and I don't
29 see how hiring a guide in any way shape or -- and I am
30 a guide, I mean not that kind of guide, but I don't see
31 how any way, shape or form, that's subsistence. And I
32 think that's what we need to go after is, you know, is
33 should guided subsistence uses be allowed, and I think
34 there's -- from the people I've talked to there's a lot
35 of support within the State, maybe at the Board of Fish
36 to say, you know, this is a subsistence use. If you're
37 going to do subsistence do it yourself. And there's
38 hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people that are
39 hiring these guys that, you know, go out. They know
40 where the good spots are. I think the fish finder
41 thing is a bit of a red herring. I've probably spent
42 more time between Chitina and Copper Center on a boat
43 than anybody in the last 10 years and I have a fish
44 finder on my boat and it never works in that water when
45 you're bouncing up and down. They don't -- maybe
46 there's a good one that can or something but I haven't
47 found one yet.
48

49 I'm missing one of my points.
50

1 The last point I had was mentioned by
2 Karen, I think, and -- or Ms. Knighten there, there is
3 more pressure at these river mouths and I find it
4 concerning. And I was -- you know, it's kind of
5 traditionally been a place where locals and others are
6 sportfishing more than anything because you've got
7 clear water that go out into the Copper from that and,
8 you know, usually there has never been a lot of people
9 at these areas and now there's -- a lot of times
10 there's somebody in a boat dipnetting there and a lot
11 of times they're State subsistence users with a
12 commercial operator and it is concerning.

13
14 So long story short, I'm not going to
15 support this proposal for Federal subsistence users.
16 I've got three or four families that I'm really close
17 to but this is the way they get their fish and they are
18 Federal subsistence users in the Copper Valley and, you
19 know, I think it would be a heck of a burden for them
20 to find another way to do it at this point. I mean I'm
21 sure they could probably find a friend that has a place
22 to put a fishwheel but that's not how they've done it
23 for decades.

24
25 So I'll shut up now.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You did
30 your research, you did good, that's what we need. We
31 get good feedback there, I appreciate that -- those
32 comments.

33
34 Is there anyone on the Council who
35 would like to speak to it also, any other Council
36 members.

37
38 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, this is Dennis.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Dennis.

41
42 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, and I appreciate
43 Aaron's comments, too. I can see that. But, again,
44 I'm in support of this proposal. The Federal
45 subsistence users are not the problem, you know, but I
46 think it's important that we do this to try to set
47 precedent, you know, it needs to come down to the -- at
48 the State level, which has been highly unsuccessful
49 with all the efforts but this is a step in the right

50

1 direction.

2

3 If we can't turn it over -- if we can't
4 get it turned over at the State level, you know,
5 there's nothing to say that we can't reverse this
6 decision next time until the -- if the State's not
7 going to do it there's no sense in punishing the
8 Federal users but I am going to support this proposal.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
11 Dennis. Anyone else.

12

13 MR. WHISSEL: Mr. Chairman, this is
14 John Whissel.

15

16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, John.

17

18 MR. WHISSEL: Well, I kind of feel the
19 same way as Dennis but I'm actually going to oppose
20 this one. I generally agree with all the rationale for
21 putting it in and I think it's something that needs to
22 be addressed. I don't want to see our users -- this is
23 too big a cross I think to put our users on and what
24 it's likely to do is just move them over to the other
25 fisheries and not really have a resource impact. But I
26 would certainly like to see our body write a letter to
27 the Board of Fish in support of the State level
28 proposal and if the State did impose those sorts of
29 restrictions I would definitely reconsider following
30 suit here at the Federal level.

31

32 I think it's just too big a change to
33 put on such a small group and restrict them more than
34 they have. I would like to vote for it but I think
35 it's not quite ready yet.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, John, thank
38 you. Next one, anyone else.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, before we
43 get ready to take a vote, I guess if everyone's spoke,
44 I'm just going to say a couple brief things.

45

46 John, I think he is right on, it's
47 definitely too big of a cross to bear for a few
48 subsistence users that shouldn't be restricted. I have
49 to disagree that we set a precedence. We're not here

50

1 to set a precedence, we're here to provide Federal
2 subsistence to our users and, you know, as Aaron talked
3 about in quite detail, you know, we have not that many
4 Federal users but they really depend on those boats so
5 we need the State to step up and do something about
6 this. And I would support writing the letter, I think
7 that's a great idea for a start.

8
9 But I certainly can't support putting
10 more restrictions on our subsistence users. So that's
11 my comments.

12
13 Anyway, we've had a full bite and we've
14 had justification, and when we do the justification
15 sometimes we could put it in the motion but these have
16 been pretty debatable pros and cons so there's no clear
17 cut majority on a lot of them.

18
19 But anyway are the recommendations
20 consistent with established fish and wildlife
21 management, yes.

22
23 Is the recommendation supported by
24 statistical evidence and biological, traditional and
25 knowledge, we heard all sides of that back to the
26 1800s.

27
28 Will the recommendation be beneficial
29 or detrimental to subsistence needs. I think probably
30 a little of both but definitely some detrimental.

31
32 If a closure is involved, will the
33 populations be -- we're not at that point yet and
34 hopefully we don't get there.

35
36 Discuss whatever relevant factors are
37 mentioned with the OSM and I think we did that.

38
39 I'm going to restate the final motion,
40 it was to adopt, and it was just a straight motion to
41 adopt Fish Proposal 21-13. So did you want to do a
42 roll call, DeAnna.

43
44 MS. PERRY: Yes, Mr. Chair. And based
45 on the testimony from the Council members, it does look
46 like there are differences of opinion so a roll call
47 would probably be preferable.

48
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, thank you,

50

1 that'll be fine so I'll let you go ahead and do that.
2
3 MS. PERRY: Thank you.
4
5 Michael Opheim.
6
7 MR. OPHEIM: Oppose.
8
9 MS. PERRY: Dennis Zadra.
10
11 MR. ZADRA: Oppose.
12
13 MS. PERRY: Gloria Stickwan.
14
15 MS. STICKWAN: I support.
16
17 MS. PERRY: Gloria Stickwan are you on
18 mute by chance?
19
20 MR. BLOOMQUIST: I support the proposal
21 as written.
22
23 MS. PERRY: Thank you.
24
25 Diane Selanoff.
26
27 MS. SELANOFF: Oppose.
28
29 MS. PERRY: Ed Holsten.
30
31 MR. HOLSTEN: Oppose.
32
33 MS. PERRY: Andy McLaughlin.
34
35 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Oppose.
36
37 MS. PERRY: Aaron Bloomquist.
38
39 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Oppose.
40
41 MS. PERRY: John Whissel.
42
43 MR. WHISSEL: Oppose.
44
45 MS. PERRY: And Greg Encelewski.
46
47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Oppose.
48
49 MS. PERRY: Okay, motion failed 1 to 8,
50

1 one yes, eight nos.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
4 Okay, let's move on to the fish finders and let's see
5 if they really work. I've never used one but I can
6 tell you a story about how I find my fish, I drive out
7 and I look at two points, and I'm in the middle of Cook
8 Inlet, I look at Humpy Point and I look at Homer and I
9 keep driving until I see the hills in the back and then
10 I know I'm just in the right place, drop my hook and go
11 fishing. But that's old school, I guess. I'm not from
12 the Division, but let's go on to Fish Proposal 21-14.

13

14 MS. PERRY: Hannah Vorhees will make an
15 encore performance.

16

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: What was that?

19

20 MS. VORHEES: Thank you, DeAnna. This
21 is Hannah Vorhees again, anthropologist with OSM.

22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. You.....

24

25 MS. VORHEES: I'll be presenting.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:go right
28 ahead.

29

30 MS. VORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 I'll be presenting Fisheries Proposal 21-14, which
32 begins on Page 164 of your book. This proposal was
33 submitted by Kirk Wilson, and requests that the Federal
34 Subsistence Board prohibit use of on board devices that
35 indicate bathymetry and/or fish locations also known as
36 fish finders while fishing from boats or other
37 watercraft in the upper Copper River.

38

39 The proponent states that the use of
40 electronic devices enables fishers to locate and target
41 specific holding areas for sensitive salmon stocks.
42 Fish finders are usually used in combination with boats
43 and dipnets.

44

45 I'll move quickly into the effects of
46 this proposal since we've covered a lot of background
47 information on similar and related proposals today.

48

49 This proposal would bring Federal

50

1 regulations into align with some Federally-qualified
2 subsistence users fishing practices and conservation
3 ethics. However, if this proposal adopted, Federal
4 subsistence regulations for changing the use of gear
5 would be more restrictive than State subsistence or
6 personal use regulations for the upper Copper River
7 District. Adopting this proposal would also probably
8 not lead to the proponent's desired conservation
9 outcome because fishing under Federal subsistence
10 permits in the upper Copper River District is dominated
11 by fishwheels. Fishing from boats is less common.
12 Federally-qualified subsistence users are the ones that
13 would have to adhere to this regulation (indiscernible)
14 dipnet from boats (indiscernible) fish finders in
15 significant enough numbers to make this an effective
16 conservation intervention.

17
18 Federally-qualified subsistence users
19 could continue to use fish finders on boats under State
20 regulations in both the Glennallen subsistence and
21 Chitina personal use fisheries.

22
23 And the OSM preliminary conclusion is
24 to oppose.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.
29 All right, we just had the presentation and now on 14
30 here, so let's move on to tribal -- no, excuse me,
31 tribes. Any tribe would like to give a report.

32
33 MS. PERRY: Excuse me, Mr. Chair, this
34 is DeAnna. We're getting a lot of background noise,
35 some typing and such so if people could remember to
36 mute their phones, star-6, that would be great.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
41 DeAnna. Once again, tribes.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: ANCSA
46 Corporations.

47
48 MS. LINNELL: This is Karen Linnell
49 with the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission

50

1 representing eight tribes in the Copper River.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, go ahead,
4 Karen.

5

6 MS. LINNELL: We are opposed to the use
7 of fish finders.

8

9 We had submitted a proposal similar to
10 this to the Board of Fish a few years back. They said
11 that -- and it was Adriel Payton (ph) who said that
12 it's needed to read the river. On this river, if
13 you're not looking ahead of you and paying attention to
14 where you're going you're going to end up on a sand bar
15 or hitting a piece of driftwood. The fish finders
16 aren't going to help you. It's a fast moving river.
17 It's not a slow wide river. It's very braided in many
18 areas. So for safety reasons it's not a help. It's
19 specific to targeting salmon.

20

21 And especially when they're held up
22 during high water. You know, Mr. Bloomquist talked
23 about, you know, dipnetting for half an hour and we
24 went down to Native Village of Eyak's Camp last year
25 and we were able to -- on the way back we were watching
26 for dippers as we were coming up river and just in
27 those few minutes as we were passing them, watching
28 them put their net in the water and drift down and
29 catch and come back up and -- it -- and so they were --
30 I feel that they had targeted that hole because of a
31 fish finder. And so I think that this is not fair
32 chase as you would call it, or equitable or any of
33 that.

34

35 And, we, again, are looking at
36 conservation concerns. We have proposals similar to
37 this that have been submitted to the Board of Fish and
38 we actually request your support on those proposals as
39 well on the State level -- actually for all of these
40 proposals that you've been taking up and you said it's
41 not fair, you wish you would see something happening on
42 the State side, I really would hope that you would
43 submit a letter as comments to the Board of Fish for
44 their review.

45

46 But this, in particular, I think is
47 something that you know it's an unnecessary tool and
48 that it should be removed from and put on the illegal
49 gear list.

50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Karen.

4 We'll go ahead, is there any other tribes, I'll go one

5 more time, that want to speak to this proposal.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any ANCSA
10 Corporations.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: How about the
15 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any Federal
20 agency comments.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any tribal
25 comments.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We're
30 going to move on then to is there any other Regional
31 Councils that submitted anything.

32

33 MS. PERRY: No, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. How
36 about Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: None.
41 Subsistence Resource Commissions.

42

43 MS. CELLARIUS: This is Barbara
44 Cellarius.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
47 Barbara.

48

49 MS. CELLARIUS: Wrangell-St. Elias

50

1 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission supports
2 FP21-14 with a vote of five in support and three
3 opposed.
4

5 Justification for supporting the
6 proposal included an increase in fishing from boats,
7 which some characterized as a new fishery and with it
8 an increase in the number of people using fish finders.
9 Using fish finders allows people to target areas such
10 as eddies where fish are resting and catch more fish.
11 Although one of the members who opposed the proposal
12 questioned the effectiveness of fish finders in
13 locating many fish in the silty waters of the Copper
14 River.
15

16 That concludes the comment.
17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, thank
19 you.
20

21 All right, DeAnna, do you want to do a
22 summary of written public comments.
23

24 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25

26 Five written public comments in support
27 were received on this proposal and can be found in your
28 meeting book on Page 180. A summary of those comments:
29

30 The Ahtna InterTribal Resource
31 Commission supports this proposal and states that fish
32 finders enable boat-based fishers to target schools of
33 fish and this targeting contributes to the likely
34 overfishing of salmon. This proposal would be unlikely
35 to have negative impacts on many Federally-qualified
36 subsistence users. And restricting fish finders.....
37

38 (Teleconference interference -
39 participants not muted)
40

41 MS. PERRY:to merely encourage
42 inexperienced fishers to develop the knowledge and
43 experienced requisite for fishing on a swift dangerous
44 river such as the Copper.
45

46 Michael Mahoney supports this proposal.
47 Again, stating that these changes would be helpful in
48 protecting our king salmon. As a reminder, he was
49 addressing Proposals 12, 13, and 14. Stating that all
50

1 of these practices are not customary and traditional
2 and have resulted in much higher efficiency levels of
3 harvest.
4

5 Thea Thomas strongly supports this
6 proposal. Again, her comments were directed towards
7 Proposals 11, 12, 13 and 14. It's important to
8 overlimit harvest in the Chitina dipnet fishery and to
9 acquire timely data on the harvest.
10

11 Ahtna Tene Nene' supports the proposal
12 stating that allowing use of fish finders and they
13 encourage fishermen to find ideal spots on the Copper
14 River to overharvest salmon. Everyone should be
15 concerned about allowing fish finders due to the
16 condition of the fishery this past summer. There was
17 low sockeye and king salmon runs.
18

19 Bonnie Yazzie supports the proposal
20 stating that boaters with fish finders have used the
21 excuse that they need them to navigate the river
22 channel. These fishers need to learn the river
23 channels. Using fish finders to find salmon is taking
24 unfair advantage.
25

26 That's, again, a summary of the written
27 comments received on this proposal. For the entire
28 comments you can refer to Page 80 of your meeting book
29 where they start.
30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
34 DeAnna.
35

36 All right, we're going to go ahead and
37 open up public testimony on Fish Proposal 21-14.
38 Anyone want to testify to anything on fish finders.
39

40 MS. KNIGHTEN: Mr. Chairman, this is
41 Mercedes Knighten.
42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes, go ahead.
44

45 MS. KNIGHTEN: I am in support of this
46 proposal because I believe, like others have already
47 said, they're able to use these fish finders to sit on
48 top of schools of fish and target the fish while
49 they're held up resting and waiting. And I feel like
50

1 this isn't giving the fish a fair chance to get up the
2 river because they could be overharvesting and flushing
3 (ph) out the fish by doing that.
4

5 I also wanted to state that this summer
6 I was actually curious about this dipnetting from a
7 boat and went on a boat with someone with a fish finder
8 to see how the system worked, and then -- I refused to
9 dipnet because I'm so opposed to this process, but I
10 can -- we could clearly see fish and they knew where
11 the holes were because they had been doing this fishery
12 every day and then pulling in their limit so it is very
13 interesting -- it was very interesting to me to see it
14 so that I could actually testify that I can, you know,
15 I'm a witness to that it being used and it being used
16 successfully.
17

18 Thank you, very much.
19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Okay,
21 does anybody else want a public testimony.
22

23 All right, I'll go to the Regional
24 Council then, we're going to go for our recommendations
25 and we'll entertain a motion to adopt.
26

27 MR. WHISSEL: Mr. Chairman. Move to
28 adopt FP21-13 [sic].
29

30 REPORTER: And who was that?
31

32 MS. STICKWAN: 21-14.
33

34 MR. WHISSEL: John Whissel.
35

36 REPORTER: Thank you.
37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: 14.
39

40 MS. STICKWAN: 21-14.
41

42 MR. WHISSEL: Oh, sorry, 21-14, woops,
43 I just looked at my book.
44

45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.
46

47 MR. WHISSEL: Move to adopt FP21-14.
48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there a
50

1 second.

2

3

MS. STICKWAN: I second.

4

5

MR. HOLSTEN: This is Ed, I second.

6

7

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: DeAnna, who do
you got for second.

9

10

11

MS. PERRY: I believe Gloria beat you
to the punch Ed.

12

13

14

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Gloria
versus Ed, okay Gloria seconds, okay.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

Okay, we got a motion and second to
adopt 21-14 that deals with the fish finders. We've
heard public testimony, we've heard some discussion pro
and con, mostly that they don't work, they were con,
but then someone said it works very well. So let's go
ahead and see what the Council members -- I'll open it
up to you for discussion.

23

24

25

MR. WHISSEL: Mr. Chairman, this is
John Whissel. I have a couple of points.

26

27

28

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, John.

29

30

31

32

33

34

MR. WHISSEL: I've spent a fair amount
of time looking at salmon on sonar on the Copper River
and I've spent more time than anybody rightly should
trying to run a boat on the Copper River in all kinds
of conditions, from extremes of low water to extremes
of high water.

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I've used the kind of off the counter,
off the shelf fish finders before to try to find fish,
granted we're not dipnetting but that shouldn't matter,
and it's really variable. There's a great deal of
variety in what's available. But most -- most fish
finders that you're going to find, the average person's
boat, don't show you anything that's going on in the
water once your boat starts moving. Moreover, it's
pretty true -- I forget who made the comment, but it's
pretty true that if you're relying on a GPS to find
your way through the Copper River, particularly through
any sections that are braided or have sand bars, you're
just looking at what was behind you and you're going to
run into a sand bar, the only way to get through that

1 river is to read the river. You can -- to be on a
2 whole different side of the Valley in a matter of a
3 couple of hours, a trip up and down, it really is more
4 of a hinderance in a lot of a situations to be glued to
5 a GPS, to think that there is any one route to learn
6 through that river, it changes so quickly.

7
8 So that said, there are some pretty
9 impressive sonars out there these days, and if you're
10 willing to shell out 10,000 bucks on a sonar, you can
11 look at the fish. Our lab has a \$200,000 sonar that's
12 the same one they use to count the fish at Miles Lake
13 and, you know, if we get everything dialed in just
14 right we can -- well, we can count the scales on there,
15 there's incredible detail. The technology exists, it's
16 just a matter of how much money you're going to drop on
17 it. But I think that there is going to be a great
18 breadth of experience in what sonar is like on the
19 Copper River, and I think everybody's position is that
20 there are certainly people that are going to have boats
21 that can see the fish real well and people that are
22 going to see absolutely nothing.

23
24 What I'm really am not sure about is
25 how you'd enforce this. Because people do use maps and
26 navigation systems. People's engines, you know, appear
27 on a screen, or a head's up display. There's wireless
28 sonar that you cast with a fishing pole. I'm not sure
29 how this -- how easily something like this could be
30 enforced but I guess that's not really too important
31 for us in deciding what the regulation should be. But
32 I mean I certainly don't have to stretch my mind too
33 far to think that somebody could quick switch over to
34 their GPS on a, you know, multi-function display which
35 is what most people have and just make it look like
36 they were never looking at sonar. And by that same
37 rationale, even if they're not using sonar, you could
38 go out before you go fishing and there's sonar
39 technologies that allow you to make a rapid map of the
40 bathymetry so you could just go out and scan an area
41 that changes quickly, get the bathymetry, plunk it into
42 your GPS and you're essentially doing the same thing as
43 if you're looking for deep holes.

44
45 So I mean I think I'm behind it in
46 spirit and I'll vote for it but I really, I don't -- I
47 hope it does some good but I really think it's going to
48 be pretty limited in what it can offer in terms of
49 conservation.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good points.
2 Very good points, thank you, John.

3
4 Next, anyone want to address some
5 comments to it.

6
7 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yes, I'll do some,
8 this is Aaron.

9
10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Aaron.

11
12 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, I think John
13 kind of hit on a lot of what I was trying to get at
14 when I was talking before, you know, there are sonars
15 out there just about anywhere. But the ones that are
16 on most people's boats -- you know both of my boats
17 have fish finders on them, they came with them. They
18 don't really work worth a crap in the river, the only
19 thing I use them for is when I'm coming up to a bank
20 and every once in awhile I'll look at the depth just to
21 see how deep it is for parking so I don't slough rocks
22 up into my jet, mostly in the bigger boat, you know,
23 the little ones it doesn't really matter.

24
25 But the bottom line is that there's,
26 you know, actually I'm trying to think three of the
27 four families that I know well that use for sure have
28 fish finders on their boats because they also use them
29 in Prince William Sound, but they're not this high
30 dollar kind of -- you know, they're the couple hundred
31 dollar version that, you know, these are not like an on
32 and off kind type of thing, they go through the hull,
33 there's wires and all that stuff, to take them off
34 every time they go dipnetting it's kind of ridiculous.
35 But I think, again, for the Federal subsistence user
36 this is a red herring. There are not any kind of
37 volume -- I'd be surprised if there was a single
38 Federal subsistence user that have the high-tech kind
39 of fish finder needed for this. Now, there may very
40 well be a couple of those guides down at Chitina that
41 are drifting the bluff down there that have good fish
42 finders and can actually see fish on the bottom but
43 that's not the people we're talking about here, we're
44 talking about, you know, people in the Valley that are
45 getting their winter fish and they're running around in
46 an 18 foot boat, it's not a -- and they know how to run
47 the river, they don't need them for running the river.
48 Those of us that run the river as many days as most of
49 these people, they know how to -- they're totally

50

1 useless for running the river. So on that side is also
2 a red herring.

3
4 But that's my peace, thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks.
7 Anyone else.

8
9 MR. OPHEIM: Yes, this is Michael.

10
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead,
12 Michael.

13
14 MR. OPHEIM: On FP21-14 here, you know,
15 I think restricting the ability of our Federal
16 subsistence fishers to get in and out and quickly and
17 successfully harvest a fish would be a hardship so I
18 think I would be opposing this. You know if they can
19 find fish with them, you know, that's great, but it
20 doesn't sound like they really work too well in the
21 high volume silty water there. But, yeah, it seems,
22 you know, there's not really a concern it seems like.

23
24 Conservation-wise, that they're
25 creating specifically and -- so, yeah, I'll be in
26 opposition of this proposal.

27
28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
29 Michael. Anyone else like to talk to it.

30
31 MS. STICKWAN: This is Gloria. Again,
32 we don't know how many fish people are catching or what
33 they report and whether it's the truth or not. We do
34 know that the brood stock is not meeting -- more than
35 half has not reached the Gulkana Hatchery, we know that
36 for a fact, it hasn't reached it. We're not going to
37 have -- we're going to have a conservation next year.
38 To prevent that from happening we should do everything
39 we can to help the spawning fish to reach up in the
40 upper Copper River, and this is a way of trying to get
41 at that, is to get fish up the river to spawn to
42 protect our fishery, we should be doing everything we
43 can to protect the fishery.

44
45 This is just another way of -- and who
46 knows what kind of fish finders they have. Maybe they
47 have a \$6,000 one that can see fish, we don't know
48 that.

49
50

1 I'm going to support this proposal as
2 written because I have concerns about our fisheries on
3 the Copper River. There's going to be a conservation
4 concern next year, I believe there will be.

5
6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks,
7 Gloria. Anyone else.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, hearing
12 none I'll make my one comment and then we'll move on
13 and we'll take a vote.

14
15 I really don't see how this is going to
16 help the conservation much but I really don't want to
17 put any more restrictions on the subsistence user and I
18 don't think the subsistence users use fish finders but
19 that's just me, I mean probably a few.

20
21 The one thing that I wanted to state
22 and the only point I want to make is if we're going to
23 be wanting to do a conservation concern and we're
24 concerned about brood stock not making their
25 projections, you know, that needs to be put on other
26 user groups. It needs to be put on commercial, sports,
27 other things, you know, and the Federal subsistence
28 user very last. I think we're targeting this wrong.
29 We're not looking at the Federal Program to set a
30 standard, we're supposed to have a priority to get fish
31 to our people.

32
33 So I just wanted to state that.

34
35 But, anyway, I'm ready to take a vote
36 if you guys are.

37
38 MS. PERRY: Roll call vote, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yes, please,
41 DeAnna.

42
43 MS. PERRY: Thank you.

44
45 Dennis Zadra.

46
47 MR. ZADRA: I support.

48
49 MS. PERRY: Michael Opheim.

50

1 MR. OPHEIM: Oppose.
2
3 MS. PERRY: Andy McLaughlin.
4
5 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Oppose.
6
7 MS. PERRY: Aaron Bloomquist.
8
9 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Opposed.
10
11 MS. PERRY: John Whissel.
12
13 MR. WHISSEL: Support.
14
15 MS. PERRY: Ed Holsten.
16
17 MR. HOLSTEN: Oppose.
18
19 MS. PERRY: Diane Selanoff.
20
21 MS. SELANOFF: Oppose.
22
23 MS. PERRY: Gloria Stickwan.
24
25 MS. STICKWAN: Support.
26
27 MS. PERRY: And Greg Encelewski.
28
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I oppose.
30
31 MS. PERRY: Okay, this motion fails 3
32 to 6.
33
34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well, that
35 puts us at a pretty long day. I got just about 5:00
36 o'clock. I don't know, we got quite a bit of stuff to
37 do tomorrow, do you want us to stay three days, DeAnna,
38 is that what you told me?
39
40 MS. PERRY: I don't think my fingers
41 can quite type for three days.
42
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No, I was kind of
44 kidding you. We do have some stuff tomorrow. We plan
45 on starting tomorrow at 9:00 o'clock. We'll start
46 right off the bat with the crossover proposals and then
47 we'll move on through the agenda. We do have the Moose
48 Pass one rural determination, I don't know how long
49 that'll take, but I would ask everyone to be conscious
50

1 of time and we'll try and keep this succinct and on
2 task. And we do have the agency reports, and we do
3 want to be able to hear those. So hopefully we'll
4 finish up and hopefully we'll be done early afternoon
5 tomorrow, it looks like there shouldn't be any problem
6 that I see unless we get hung up and who knows. But
7 anyway we will finish up tomorrow even if it's late.

8
9 So I would say everyone have a
10 wonderful night. I think we did a good job and thank
11 you much, and I'll dial in at 9:00.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 (Off record)

16
17 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)
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