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KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

TELECONFERENCE
March 10, 2021
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Della Trumble, Chair
Melissa Berns
Coral Chernoff
Natasha Hayden
Patrick Holmes
Richard Koso
Christopher Price
Sam Rohrer
Rebecca Skinner

Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

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

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(Teleconference - 3/10/2021)

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(On record)

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MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If you want to
go ahead and start with the roll call we can find out
who's online.

9

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11

12

MR. MIKE: Okay. This is Donald Mike,
Council Coordinator. I'll do a quick roll call of
Council members.

13

14

15

Pat Holmes.

16

17

MR. HOLMES: Here.

18

19

MR. MIKE: Rick Koso.

20

21

MR. KOSO: Here.

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23

MR. MIKE: Sam Rohrer.

24

25

MR. ROHRER: Here.

26

27

MR. MIKE: Christopher Price.

28

29

MR. PRICE: Here.

30

31

MR. MIKE: Coral Chernoff.

32

33

MS. CHERNOFF: Here.

34

35

MR. MIKE: Rebecca Skinner.

36

37

MS. SKINNER: Here.

38

39

MR. MIKE: Della Trumble's here.

40

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Natasha Hayden.

42

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(No comments)

44

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46

MR. MIKE: I seen Natasha on Microsoft
Teams.

47

48

And Melissa Berns.

49

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1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. MIKE: Melissa, are you with us.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MR. MIKE: And, Madame Chair, Mr.
8 Holmes, requested a subsistence report from Dave
9 Jackson for the Kodiak area, and I'm wondering if Dave
10 Jackson from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is
11 online.

12

13 MR. PAPPAS: That's James Jackson, sir.

14

15 MR. MIKE: James Jackson. I'm sorry,
16 James, but you are online, yes, is that correct?

17

18 MR. PAPPAS: Donald, this is George.

19

20 MR. MIKE: Oh, James -- okay, James
21 Jackson. So he may be available today, is that
22 correct, Mr. Pappas?

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MR. MIKE: Melissa Berns, have you
27 joined us yet?

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, all are
32 present except for Melissa Berns.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
35 Donald. Good morning everyone and welcome to Day 2 of
36 our meeting. I think just for housekeeping, Tina, are
37 you online, I want to make sure everybody knows what
38 your rules are that you'd like us to follow.

39

40 REPORTER: Yes. Please state your name
41 before you start talking and.....

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Or a court
44 reporter.

45

46 REPORTER:let's not put your line
47 on hold to answer another phone call because that
48 causes beeping before the hold meeting, and I think
49 we're good.

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Donald -- did
2 everybody hear her?

3
4 REPORTER: Is this better.

5
6 MR. MIKE: I can have Jared Stone
7 repost that teleconference information number. But,
8 anyway, if you are on Microsoft Teams, make sure that
9 that Microsoft Teams platform is on mute. The
10 Microsoft Teams is only for visual presentations. And
11 the teleconference, the 866 is the one we are primarily
12 recording the proceedings of this Council meeting. But
13 make sure you have that 866 number muted unless you're
14 speaking, so thank you everyone.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
17 Donald. All right, everybody, we'll go ahead and get
18 started this morning. I think the next item that we
19 have on the agenda are under U.S. Fish and Wildlife
20 Service Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. And
21 just for the record, too, if there's anybody in the
22 public that would like to testify, please let us know
23 and we will be happy to accommodate anybody.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 Go ahead.

28
29 MR. DELAHANTY: Good morning, Council.
30 This is Steve Delahanty, I'm the -- I'm in Homer. I'm
31 the Refuge Manager for Alaska Maritime National
32 Wildlife Refuge. I will keep a fairly brief report but
33 I did want to give the Council an update on our
34 activities, what we are planning for the coming year.

35
36 The first element is, like so many --
37 like all of us really, it's all been about Covid, so
38 that prevented us from doing most of our traditional
39 work last year, sailing the ship and visiting
40 communities and doing science and outreach and
41 education and things. We were able to do some small
42 bits but not the majority of it. We spent a lot of
43 time and effort this winter developing a safe and smart
44 operational plan, so we do plan to sail the ship. It
45 will be typ -- you know, not a typical year, we will be
46 -- we have, currently, no plans to visit any inhabited
47 communities, just trying to keep what we're calling a
48 Covid-safe bubble on our vessel and all participants
49 will quarantine for a very strict quarantine period
50

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1 before boarding the ship and all trips will begin and
2 end in Homer, so there'll be fewer, longer trips, but
3 we will be able to do much of our work and it's just
4 really important to us, to me and to the whole Fish and
5 Wildlife Service that we not only keep our own folks
6 safe but our communities that we work so closely with.
7 And of course we all know things are evolving quickly
8 with vaccinations and things so all of this is a bit
9 subject to change, but that's the plan that we have in
10 place right now. We will sail. We'll do much of our
11 wildlife monitoring work but we won't be able to do the
12 interactive work in communities that we really enjoy
13 doing. But we're excited that we'll at least be able
14 to do some of our work.

15
16 On another topic, I wanted the Council
17 to know we're continuing work on of a long-term
18 aspirational vision of a rat-free Aleutian Islands so
19 we've involved, oh, the Aleutian Pribilof Island
20 Association and both Adak and Atka have been involved
21 in this process along with various State and Federal
22 agencies. And just trying to figure out what it would --
23 how could we ever make such a thing come to pass. And
24 we are actively planning, trying to figure out -- we're
25 conducting a feasibility assessment for possible rat
26 eradication on looking first at Great Sitkin Island,
27 and so as part of that we have -- we're doing some rat
28 investigations this summer during our work kind of from
29 Kag Alaska Island, which is immediately east of Adak,
30 the string of islands connecting Adak to Great Sitkin
31 because we want to make sure that those islands don't
32 have rats on them. We know that Great Sitkin has rats
33 and we know that Kag Alaska has rats, we're hoping that
34 the islands in between do not have rats, that would
35 suggest that if we could actually eradicate the rats on
36 Great Sitkin that they wouldn't be able to repopulate
37 by island hopping their way back. So we're working on
38 that.

39
40 We also have obtained some funding to
41 -- that USDA has now for USDA scientists to study the
42 toxicant that is most commonly used in these rat
43 eradication projects because we want to understand
44 particularly the fresh water aquatic impacts of this
45 that have not been very well studied. So that work is
46 ongoing this summer.

47
48 Related also to, not only rats, but
49 non-Native introduced or invasive species in general,
50

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1 we have worked really hard to develop what we call a
2 bio-security plan, that's to try and prevent the
3 introduction of undesirable species accidentally to other
4 places that don't have them. So it's rats and mice,
5 but it's also seeds and, you know, all kinds of plants
6 and animals and things like that. So these are things
7 that we're doing ourselves, much more carefully
8 cleaning and inspecting our -- and sealing our gear, so
9 that's our focus, is we clean everything very
10 thoroughly, we inspect it to make sure our cleaning was
11 done correctly, and then we seal it tightly in a way
12 that undesirable things can't get back into the gear
13 and then that -- only then do we bring things to these
14 remote islands that we often visit. And we also will
15 be asking cooperators who are working with us on, you
16 know, other scientists or other people doing research
17 projects on these locations to comply as much as
18 possible with these bio-security measures. So we're
19 upping our game on that program.

20

21 And another topic I wanted to bring to
22 the attention of the Council is despite our lack of
23 ability to connect with people in the ways we would
24 like to in these Covid times, we're pretty proud of
25 doing a lot of online virtual education so we still
26 were -- you know, we still were involved with camps,
27 with culture camps in the ways that we could and our
28 education specialist, Kendra Bush, has been zooming in
29 to classrooms, doing environmental education remotely
30 and sending kits to classrooms to help people teach
31 about marine science and things. We have a -- in your
32 background written materials you can see these links,
33 but we have -- we created a three dimensional virtual
34 tour of our ship, Tiglax, and that's -- so it's kind of
35 a fun way that you can go in and see the various hidey-
36 holes in the ship and take your -- kind of a self-tour
37 of the vessel in kind of a virtual reality experience
38 and get little video interviews with crew members as
39 you go from place to place. We did something similar
40 in our visitor's center in Home because it has been
41 regrettably closed to the public for nearly a year now
42 and so we have a 3D virtual visitor center tour that
43 people can do, and we've expanded a lot of our outdoor
44 programming and things that people can do and a lot of
45 things that are on FaceBook that make -- just trying to
46 provide as much accessibility for people as possible in
47 a time when the normal face to face interactions
48 haven't been possible.

49

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1 And the last thing I'll mention and I
2 didn't have it in my background materials, but it came
3 up yesterday, is the Adak caribou issue. So I don't
4 have any new data for you, I didn't have a report
5 because I don't have any information newer than what I
6 submitted previously to the Council. But just by way
7 of a reminder, we were to conduct a survey on Adak and
8 Kag Alaska in 2019, a helicopter based survey and we
9 showed, you know, a pretty significant decline in
10 caribou presence. For years the caribou, when the
11 military was active on Adak, for many years the
12 population kind of roughly stayed around the 500 animal
13 level and then after that there was this big increase
14 in population and we had several counts that were in
15 the high 2000s, 2,800 animal range, this 2019 survey we
16 estimated about 1,200, animals on Adak. And I know, I,
17 and I'm sure Rick and others have heard information
18 about hunters, you know, generally they're just a
19 little bit harder -- have been harder to find. Now, I
20 think this year we heard from Rick yesterday that it
21 was a little for the locals because the non-local
22 hunters weren't coming in, in the same -- perhaps in
23 the same numbers but generally I've just taken casual
24 phone calls from people who have hunted there for many
25 years and said they weren't seeing quite as many
26 animals as the past.

27
28 So that's my report.

29
30 We're excited to be sailing and getting
31 out and being a part of the Wildlife Refuge. I'm just
32 sad that so far, anyway, our plans don't include, you
33 know, visits to Akutan, or Atka or Adak or Unalaska or
34 Sand Point and these places, St. Paul, that we normally
35 take great pleasure in spending time in.

36
37 Thank you, very much.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
40 Steve. Are there any questions or comments for Steve.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Pat.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Steve, I want to
47 appreciate what you've been doing and I'm sorry things
48 have been tightened up. I -- particularly the
49 assistance you've given the folks at Atka and the trip
50

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1 out to Attu, and I guess I'd say that I was finally
2 able to get an Attu basket woven by a great-great-great
3 granddaughter from Attu, and that's something I never
4 could afford, never that the opportunity and I just
5 think it's swell that you're helping the folks out at
6 Atka. And I think your folks' trip a year ago up to
7 St. Matthew, that's going to add a lot of information
8 to the scientific world. And you folks are doing a
9 good job.

10

11 I did get a comment after last years
12 when you had that telephoto of caribou that might have
13 been dead loss on Adak and one of the locals that was
14 over hunting said that he saw quite a few hides in a
15 similar distribution to the photo.

16

17 Anyway, but appreciate your hard work
18 for you and your team and thank you very much.

19

20 MR. DELAHANTY: Thank you, Pat, for the
21 kind words. And just you mentioned the St. Matthew
22 trip, you know, when -- like all of us -- like everyone
23 else, the rest of the World, we're trying to make
24 lemonade out of lemons and so this year because we
25 thought it was not responsible to put our normal
26 science teams on St. George and St. Paul Islands, we,
27 instead, are going back up to the St. Matthew group and
28 are going to have a summer long field camp on Hall
29 Island to do seabird work there. So we're doing the
30 best we can.

31

32 So, thank you, and thanks for the
33 information about the caribou too. We -- it was never
34 clear to us on those photos whether what we were seeing
35 was, you know, winter loss, or remnants of harvested
36 animals, we were just seeing these hide marks on the
37 ground from the air.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
40 other comments.

41

42 MR. PRICE: Yeah, this is Chris. This
43 is Chris, I have a couple comments for Steve.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Chris.

46

47 MR. PRICE: Okay. Hi, Steve. Hey,
48 thanks for your report, and appreciate your efforts to
49 keep moving forward with your projects and what you

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1 guys do out here.

2

3 But I want to talk about the rat
4 eradication work you're doing. You know, you know we
5 have an issue with rats here in our community and in
6 some of our smaller local islands around the area that
7 we want to make sure we're protecting and so on. And
8 I'd just like you to consider, you know, looking around
9 here and working with us, the tribe, in terms of like
10 what type of technology or trapping or whatever it is
11 that you do that could be easily exported to a small,
12 you know, a community like ours to consider some of our
13 local issues with rats and how we could try to work on
14 that.

15

16 And then that's mostly it.

17

18 I was also wondering if you ever were
19 able to confirm the horse population on the south end
20 of Unalaska Island. That was my other question.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MR. DELAHANTY: Thank you, Chris. In
25 terms of the rats, the -- they're very challenged to do
26 -- a big challenge to deal with anywhere but 100 times
27 more complicated in places that have human populations
28 because, of course, priority one would be keeping
29 people safe. The state of the art, sadly, frankly, the
30 state of the art in the world for eliminating rats from
31 where they don't belong on an island is to use rat
32 poison, to use a toxicant, and so it's a very blunt
33 tool and to do it -- it has been done in the world in
34 places where people and pets and things live, but it's
35 much, much more complicated and so we're just -- our
36 basic strategy has been to think about -- Great Sitkin,
37 frankly, is the next smallest of the isolated islands
38 that have rats in the chain that doesn't have a human
39 population, so that's sort of why we went there next,
40 and it's also close to Adak so it makes the logistics
41 easier. But some day, some how, some way we would love
42 to work with Unalaska, with Adak, with Atka, and I
43 don't know when and how that will be. There is
44 research, not done by my organization, but by, you
45 know, kind of more pure research by genetic --
46 geneticists and scientists who work with animal
47 genetics to -- there's conceptual research on something
48 called gene-drive, which basically would potentially
49 allow you to introduce a smaller number of rats to a
50

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1 place like Unalaska or Adak and the offspring of those
2 introduced rats are all male only and they -- basically
3 you swap the population that way rather than actually
4 killing the animals, you just eventually prevent them
5 from finding a mate and they die-out naturally. But
6 that's years or decades in the future. But that's
7 probably, I don't know, that's where I have some hope,
8 I guess, for these really super complicated places like
9 Unalaska.

10

11 In terms of the horse situation, I
12 don't have any new information for you. You know
13 there's a large number of feral horses, basically, you
14 know, around the island and then that smaller -- the
15 smaller Summer Bay little herd was the one that our --
16 the Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges worked
17 many years ago on a gelding program to similarly
18 prevent that isolated herd from growing, and to the
19 best of my knowledge that's successful but I don't have
20 any new data on that. But the larger group is present.

21

22 MR. PRICE: Okay.

23

24 MR. DELAHANTY: And I get expressions
25 of concern from, you know, the corporation and such,
26 but I certainly don't have a solution for the issue.

27

28 MR. PRICE: Okay, thanks, Steve.
29 Appreciate your report.

30

31 MR. DELAHANTY: Thanks, Chris.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
34 comments.

35

36 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick.

39

40 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Hi, Steve. Yeah,
41 thanks for your work on Adak there. I know you guys
42 checked out Kag Alaska and you did see some more
43 caribou on Kag Alaska. I guess the question is, are
44 they increasing over there or are they staying pretty
45 much the same.

46

47 And the other question I had was, it
48 looks like our population on the caribou has dropped in
49 half from, I think it was 2008, where they had 2,300-

50

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1 some I think it was, I may be mistaken on that, but it
2 looks like we're getting down to a thousand, 1,200 now
3 and that's only been, what, 10 years or so. But we're
4 getting a lot more hunters coming in with -- they got a
5 boat that goes around the island now that brings in,
6 you know, 20, 30 people at a time and they go to the
7 south end of the island where the locals can't get to,
8 and so they get quite a bit of caribou there. And so I
9 was just wondering if -- do you think that there should
10 be some regulation put in place to maybe cut the
11 caribou quota down a little bit to make sure we don't
12 kill too many off here in the next couple of years.

13

14 MR. DELAHANTY: Thanks, Rick. And,
15 really, as recently as was it 2013, I think, was the
16 year when there was still 2,800 animals counted so, you
17 know, it's more than -- well, I should say less than
18 half -- the 2019 count was less than half of the 2013
19 count. Honestly, it's really common, it's frankly an
20 expected thing, based on previous experiences with
21 large hoofed animals on islands, that their population
22 builds, builds gradually over time and then it
23 accelerates really steeply and you get the -- as the
24 animals are reproducing and they have no natural
25 predators and things like that, they do great, but
26 because, by definition, on an island they're limited to
27 that one spot, they eat themselves out of house and
28 home and the population then crashes. So I don't think
29 that's an entirely unexpected outcome and I have no --
30 I don't have any evidence one way or the other but I
31 would speculate, I guess, that a population decline
32 probably has as much or more to do with, you know, a
33 decrease in preferred food availability and stress on
34 animals than it does on hunting regulations. And I
35 just don't think Adak is set up to support two or 3,000
36 animals for the long-term, I wouldn't expect that to be
37 the case. There are others on the call with Fish and
38 Game that know much more about caribou and ungulates
39 than I do but we've seen that happen on other sites,
40 St. Matthew Island is the most famous example but it's
41 not the only example where you end up with this little
42 small introduced population and it grows great guns,
43 and then they eat everything and then they suffer
44 severe winter loss and things like that.

45

46 So I hope we don't have that kind of
47 crash on Adak but it wouldn't be entirely unexpected if
48 it did happen.

49

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1 In terms of Kag Alaska, the 2019 survey
2 found 17 animals on Kag Alaska, so it's really early in
3 that growth period but, yes, it's more than the -- the
4 time before that, I think there were 7 animals or 8
5 animals, something like that, so it had about, you
6 know, doubled, and I expect that will continue to
7 happen. Kag Alaska, of course, is a lot smaller than
8 Adak and if that growth and then crash thing happens on
9 Kag Alaska it will probably happen more quickly than it
10 did on Adak.

11

12 MR. KOSO: Thank you, Steve.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
15 comments for Steve.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you Steve.
20 Just maybe one question. When you were talking about
21 the rats, did you include Adak, I know you talked about
22 the problems trying to do something in Unalaska, but
23 did you talk about Adak when you were going through
24 that list of communities, islands?

25

26 MR. DELAHANTY: Thank you, Della. It's
27 on the list of islands where we know rats are present
28 and they are a huge problem, both, you know, for the
29 community as well as sort of biologically for the
30 Native wildlife and plants. But it would be in the
31 same group as, in my opinion, as Unalaska, or Atka,
32 where you have human communities, and that makes
33 potential rat eradication just way, way, way more
34 complicated. And -- but hopefully we will get to that
35 point where, you know, I may not live to see it but
36 that Adak wouldn't have rats and Unalaska wouldn't have
37 rats and the Aleutian Islands wouldn't have rats.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
40 then one more question just because I don't know the
41 answer to it. When people are going out -- guides are
42 going out to Adak with groups of people, are they
43 getting permitted from somewhere, from -- or are they
44 just going out on their own?

45

46 MR. DELAHANTY: Both things are
47 happening. So people can get to Adak and go hunt on
48 their own, but also there are people that operate a
49 conveyance, a charter business, you know, a transport

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1 permit basically to get people. Unless if they -- if
2 they actually want to guide people on the Federally-
3 owned land out there, on the National Wildlife Refuge
4 areas, they need a permit from this office, and we
5 would be happy to give them that, but so far there
6 hasn't been interest in that. There's been a
7 transportation service that people provide for a fee
8 and there are, you know, Coats Guard licensing rules
9 and I'm embarrassed to not know the answer to this, but
10 I think there's a Fish and Game, a State permit
11 involved, but I'm not positive of that. But unless
12 they go up on to the Refuge areas, the Federal land
13 areas, they don't actually need a permit from us. But
14 if they did want to do that we have a mechanism to
15 provide those kind of permits. Sort of -- a little --
16 you know, it's similar to what you heard from Maria
17 yesterday on Izembek on the waterfowl hunters, it would
18 be a similar sort of process to that.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
21 Any other questions or comments for Steve.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
26 Steve, for your good report.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

31

32 MR. HOLMES: Sorry, sometimes I forget
33 where my mute button is here. I was thinking it might
34 be interesting this morning to see if James Jackson
35 might be available to give a summary of subsistence in
36 the region because that will kind of give people a
37 little more of idea of what's happening and trends and
38 things like that and how it's managed.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
43 Donald brought that up earlier, James are you by chance
44 online?

45

46 MR. JACKSON: Madame Chairman, can you
47 hear me?

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I can hear you.

50

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1 MR. JACKSON: All right, great. This
2 is James Jackson, I am available if you guys would like
3 me to give you a brief summary of -- I can't give you
4 the regions summary for salmon but I can give you a
5 brief summary of the 2020 subsistence harvest in and
6 around the city of Kodiak if you guys would like that.
7 I don't have anything written down, this would just be
8 a brief monologue and then you guys could ask some
9 questions.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Well, do
12 you want to go ahead and do that now and then the next
13 two items we have -- or you can do this following the
14 Kodiak and the Izembek reports, and then do your
15 report, would that work?

16

17 MR. JACKSON: That would work fine,
18 too, I'm available.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Let's do
21 that then. Let's go ahead and move on to Kodiak
22 National Wildlife Refuge then on the agenda.

23

24 MR. PYLE: Good morning, Madame Chair
25 and members of the Council. This is Bill Pyle,
26 Supervisory Wildlife Biologist with Kodiak National
27 Wildlife Refuge. I will be reviewing some highlights
28 from our activity report for the period September 2020
29 through January 2021. And I would refer Council
30 members to the report that was mailed -- the activity
31 report was mailed as supplemental material by the
32 Office of Subsistence Management and hopefully you have
33 that in your reference.

34

35 So I'll speaking to that report and I'm
36 going to start with down at the bottom of Page 1,
37 talking about brown bear population assessment. No
38 surveys were conducted in 2020, however, we hope to
39 conduct the survey this year, a couple surveys. One is
40 our primary bear survey that yields information on bear
41 densities by region and we will pick up where we left
42 off a couple of years ago with the target of
43 Shearwater-Kiliuda area. And we have some operational
44 plans that we're proposing that require some regional
45 clearance in order to be able to do that, but that
46 survey would occur in May. And then typically we do
47 some surveys of bear composition in the summer, haven't
48 done those since 2019 and we're also preparing plans to
49 be able to do those this summer pending regional office
50

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1 clearance.

2

3

4 Another topic down towards the bottom
5 there and in the following pages I present information
6 on our berry monitoring. Among the berries we monitor
7 are blueberry and salmonberry, species of dietary
8 importance to brown bear and resident peoples. We've
9 been doing this monitoring since 2015. We have a few
10 preliminary results to share. And over the years we've
11 documented variation in the timing of ripe berry
12 availability of these two species, blueberry and
13 salmonberry. We've also documented variation in
14 abundance of these berries. In general, the variation
15 and the timing of availability corresponds with
16 variation in soil temperature which is a variable that
17 we also measure in these areas. And we're talking
18 about soil temperature of the preceding winter and
19 early spring and that, in general, is shown in the two
20 charts that follow that text on the report page there,
21 variation of timing of availability of those two
22 species. And so whereas the timing seems to be related
23 to the soil temperature, berry abundance actually seems
24 to be affected by not only winter temperatures but
25 other factors. For example, in 2017, we saw, in
26 general, widespread berry crop loss, and that seemed to
27 be associated with extreme cold and dry conditions.
28 And in the case of salmonberry, and there's a couple
29 charts on the following page that talked to the
30 variation and abundance of these two species, in the
31 case of salmonberry we've also seen large variation in
32 food quality. And best we can tell some of that
33 variation is not only related to temperatures but
34 related to the extent of pollination of salmonberry
35 flowers.

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So moving to Page 4 I'll be speaking
about Roosevelt Elk. And first I would like to
acknowledge the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and
our colleagues in the Wildlife Division. I consult
with them in regards to the status of elk and reindeer,
they pretty much manage the information base on those
and do the surveys. And in the case of mountain goat,
we work cooperatively with the Department on surveys.

So with elk, which is a species that's
managed both by the State and its regulations for
recreational sport hunting as well as under Federal
subsistence for the Refuge area, the Department then
survey, and it's typically in the later part of summer,

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1 pre-season, the 2020 elk survey indicated a population
2 size of 950 elk for Afognak Island and that includes
3 100 head in the Waterfall Herd, and that's the herd
4 that's on the Refuge. Regarding harvest, 105 elk were
5 harvested on Afognak Island in 2020, including 10
6 animals in the combined recreational sport and Federal
7 subsistence harvest from the Waterfall Herd.

8
9 Speaking with respect to reindeer or
10 feral caribou. Distribution is restricted to the
11 southwest end of Kodiak Island where suitable habitat
12 occurs. Over the last 20 years herd size has
13 fluctuated between 300 and 350 animals. And analysis
14 by the Department of harvest records indicate that 10
15 reindeer were harvested in 2020.

16
17 Mountain goat. In 2020 biologists with
18 the Refuge and Department surveyed approximately 70
19 percent of the none goat summer range on Kodiak Island
20 during August. Of the 2,392 goats counted, 1,868 were
21 adults and 524 were kids, and if we look at the ratio
22 of kids to adults, that's about -- equates to about
23 2,800 -- excuse me 28 kids per 100 adults, and that is
24 an index on productivity. And overall that's a pretty
25 high level compared to other areas in the state, 28 per
26 100. The Department issued 338 drawing permits and
27 1,079 registration permits. The registration permits
28 primarily are issued down on the southern half of
29 Kodiak Island in the Unit 480 hunting -- goat hunting
30 unit. And as of early February 151 goats have been
31 harvested by drawing permits, and another 163 were
32 harvested by registration hunt.

33
34 Next topic is Northern sea otter. The
35 Kodiak area counts were about nine percent of the
36 statewide sea otter harvest, and the pattern that we
37 see in that harvest, speaking specifically about
38 Kodiak, is the three communities, Kodiak, Ouzinkie and
39 Port Lions account for the bulk of the Alaska Native
40 harvest of otters, and that's a pattern that's pretty
41 consistent through the years.

42
43 Moving on to migratory birds. Jill
44 Tengeres, graduate student at Oregon State University
45 and Robin Corcoran, the Refuge's bird biologist made a
46 series of presentations at two conference venues. One
47 was the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in January, and
48 then more recently at the end of February to the
49 Pacific SeaBird group. And the focus of all these
50

0168

1 talks was regarding results of research here in the
2 Kodiak area of both Aleutian and Arctic terns.

3
4 Final bird topic is nearshore marine
5 bird mammal surveys. We currently have some proposals
6 that we've developed that'll be reviewed by the
7 regional office proposing to get back to some of our
8 survey work. A primary survey that we've done through
9 the years is one that addresses abundance and
10 productivity of nearshore marine birds and mammals and
11 we've proposed to resume work on that survey in June as
12 well as August 2021, and the target area will be
13 Afognak and Shuyak Islands.

14
15 Moving on to education outreach and
16 other noteworthy activity. The Refuge sent an
17 invitation to teachers and liaisons for students in
18 Akhiok, Old Harbor, Ouzinkie, Port Lions, Larsen Bay
19 and Karluk to participate in the 2022 migratory bird
20 calendar contest. This years theme is birds in
21 language and stories, in celebration of the way birds
22 communicate, ways people communicate about birds and
23 how we connect with each other. Two students, speaking
24 about the last calendar contest results, two students
25 Demi Alexanderoff of Old Harbor and Elijah McElewain of
26 Port Lions were among the many students that were
27 featured in the special 2021 poster calendar.

28
29 Next page, the topic is Kodiak Refuge
30 science and summer salmon camp. In 2020 Kodiak Refuge
31 Staff did not visit any communities after March and did
32 not host its salmon camp program. Nonetheless, we were
33 able to send out camp shirts to students provided by
34 camp partner Alaska Geographic.

35
36 To duck stamp art contest in January,
37 the Kodiak Rural school office invited the Refuge to
38 lead a program for the Kodiak Rural Afterschool Art
39 Club. Shelly Lawson, education coordinator for the
40 Refuge, let a watercolor and bird drawing exercise and
41 shared information about the nationwide junior duck
42 stamp art contest with students from Old Harbor,
43 Ouzinkie, Chiniak and Akhiok.

44
45 I'm going to skip the personnel update,
46 Michael Brady, Refuge Manager, will be speaking to
47 that.

48
49 And I will close by stating that we
50

0169

1 have a new Refuge cabin available for public use. The
2 cabin is located at Chief Cove on the Western Spiridon
3 Peninsula and it is now available to the public
4 including rural residents of the Kodiak area. It's one
5 of nine total cabins that we have available.

6

7 And so I appreciate the opportunity to
8 present to the Council and I will pass it over to
9 Michael Brady.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. BRADY: Thanks, Bill. Yeah, this
14 is Mike Brady, I'm the Refuge Manager at Kodiak
15 National Wildlife Refuge. And we have had some good
16 traction in the last few months to hire a few of our
17 vacant positions. One of them is the VC manager, which
18 as been vacant for a few years now and that's going to
19 be by Natalie Fath, she is not here yet but she'll be
20 from the Elk Refuge in Wyoming.

21

22 And we just recently got Erin Strand up
23 here and she's actually physically here in Kodiak, and
24 she's our new Park Ranger.

25

26 So some of the positions we haven't
27 been able to fill yet is the RIT position but, again, I
28 think we have good traction right now and that's been a
29 long time that that's been unfilled but I believe we
30 will get that filled this year.

31

32 The other position is our law
33 enforcement is now Jared Personia (ph) but he will not
34 be here until October. He is going through the Federal
35 law enforcement training right now as we speak. And
36 right now we have an acting from Kenai, Robert Barto is
37 helping us out with law enforcement here at the
38 station.

39

40 So that's all I have for vacancies and
41 Bill and I are available for any questions that you
42 guys might have.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
45 there any comments for Bill or Mike.

46

47 MR. HOLMES: I have a couple.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

50

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1 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, a couple here.
2 bill, I noticed -- you know we have Federal subsistence
3 salmon permits and I was wondering where most of those
4 are used and this is just kind of a question on the
5 whole subsistence things that we've been chatting about
6 on salmon this season. So where do they mainly fish?

7
8 MR. PYLE: Mr. Holmes, through the
9 Chair. Looked at the record for 2020 and could provide
10 a little bit more information on additional years,
11 would have to get back to the Council on that, if it's
12 of interest, but specifically in regards to 2020, where
13 a portion of the folks that we permitted reported,
14 almost half -- looking at the distribution of harvest
15 activity that primarily occurred about 50 percent there
16 in the Buskin area, and the reminder distributed in
17 three sites there on Afognak including Litnuk, Falls
18 Bay and Salazon Bay.

19
20 MR. HOLMES: Thank you. Okay, well,
21 that's an interest to me. And then I know you folks
22 have been active on the goat study group here for
23 Kodiak ever since it started, what, 15, 20 years ago,
24 and I think the last action the group took was
25 modifying the registration hunts and -- in order to
26 address the increasing population on the south end and
27 also to provide greater opportunity for the villagers
28 on the south end of the island and it looks like you
29 got a fair number on the registration hunt as well as
30 the drawings, and has the population slowed down a bit
31 or is that something that they should be thinking about
32 addressing again.

33
34 MR. PYLE: Mr. Holmes, through the
35 Chair. The last assessment we had was, I believe, a
36 couple years ago prior to the Alaska Board of Game
37 meeting and at that time putting the information
38 together in consultation with the Department and other
39 stakeholders, it looked like, in fact, we have had an
40 effect, as which was our goal, on the herd that
41 occupies the registration hunt area 480 down on the
42 western half of Kodiak Island. Prior to the
43 registration hunt that herd component was increasing
44 expeditiously and there was concern specifically that
45 the population would exceed habitat capacity, we would
46 end up with a crash, there would be ultimately fewer
47 hunting opportunities so specifically the purpose of
48 that registration hunt was to curtail growth, in and
49 fact on the basis of the best available data it looks
50

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1 like that's occurred. There was, you know, evidence of
2 some slight increase in the rate but it's definitely
3 changed and as you noted, Mr. Holmes, the harvest rate
4 is considerably high and it's certainly markedly higher
5 than it was prior to the initiation of the registration
6 hunt. By the way the latest changes were fairly modest
7 that were enacted by the Alaska Board of Game that our
8 current regulations extended the season in that area by
9 another two weeks to the end of March and also required
10 harvest of, you know, there's a bag limit of two
11 mountain goats that are allowed and the change in
12 regulations was to require that the second goat, if
13 harvested, one of the goats had to be a nanny.

14
15 So we continue to have concerns about
16 that population down there but it looks like we're
17 having an important effect that is helping us
18 accomplish the goal of stabilizing that herd.

19
20 MR. HOLMES: And I don't know if you
21 can answer this or maybe, Bill, maybe Melissa, but I
22 had heard that the local folks were able to increase
23 their harvest, is that the case, Old Harbor.

24
25 MR. PYLE: Mr. Holmes, through the
26 Chair. I don't have any specific information on that
27 but perhaps Ms. Berns could address that.

28
29 MS. BERNs: This is Melissa. I was just
30 speaking in reference when I did my -- can you hear me?

31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, we can
33 hear you.

34
35 MS. BERNs: Good. It's hard to tell if
36 you can hear me or not. Yeah, with there being less --
37 the deer population a little bit lower or the deer a
38 little bit more sparse in and around Old Harbor area,
39 people were accessing goats and harvesting goats a
40 little bit more this year was my observation. And I'm
41 not sure if Mr. Cry, or Mr. Svoboda might have more
42 information on those to report.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Pat,
45 are you good.

46
47 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. And last question I
48 have for Mike and Bill is with these proposals for
49 having sportfish gear be a legal subsistence harvesting
50

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1 tool on Federal waters and beings that involves the
2 Refuge, and then I don't know -- anyway, who will be
3 available to do enforcement on that because I don't
4 think the State would be enforcing a Federal
5 regulation.

6
7 MR. BRADY: I think we're still pretty
8 far from that, we've got to figure out what the
9 authority even is at this point so if it does come down
10 to it and we have to enforce it, you know, we do have
11 officers in the region and we will be getting, like I
12 said, our officer in October. But I still think
13 there's a lot of -- a lot of unanswered questions that
14 we need to work through with OSM and find out where
15 that authority is first.

16
17
18 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that's for sure.
19 Well, at least it'll give you guys justification to get
20 out of the office on a sunny day and go down to the
21 mouth of the Buskin.

22
23 Anyway, thanks a lot, bye.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
26 other comments or questions for Bill or Mike.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MR. PYLE: Excuse me, Madame Chair,
31 this is Bill Pyle again. I just wanted to point out I
32 encountered an error in what I reported to you
33 regarding reindeer and this error is also reflected in
34 the report. This regards reindeer, feral caribou, and
35 I said that 10 were harvested in 2020 and Nathan
36 Svoboda with the Department corrected me and said that,
37 in fact, 33 were harvested, which is probably at the
38 very high end of historic harvest levels. So that's
39 the correction.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
44 Okay, one more time, is there any other comments or
45 questions for the Kodiak.....

46
47 MS. HAYDEN: Madame Chair, this is
48 Natasha.

49
50

0173

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
2 Natasha.

3
4 MS. HAYDEN: Thank you. I was just --
5 there was a little bit of background noise when you
6 told us the location of the new cabin that's available
7 on Refuge land, can you tell us again where that was?

8
9 MR. PYLE: Certainly. And the cabin is
10 referenced in the last page of the Refuge's activity
11 report and the cabin is located in the Western Spiridon
12 Peninsula on the west side of Kodiak Island at a place
13 called Chief Cove.

14
15 MS. HAYDEN: Thank you.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
18 questions or comments.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
23 thank you for your report. So I have a question,
24 James, I had -- James Jackson, I had emailed Donald, I
25 don't know that he got my email, which agency are you
26 with?

27
28 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 This is James Jackson. I am the area management
30 biologist for commercial and subsistence salmon and
31 herring here in Kodiak.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. And
34 that's what I'm thinking, if we can, just go ahead and
35 have you give your report now because -- since we just
36 did Kodiak Refuge.

37
38 MR. JACKSON: Yeah, absolutely, Madame
39 Chairman, I'm ready and available.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I would
42 say go for it.

43
44 MR. JACKSON: Okay, thanks. Again, my
45 name is James Jackson. I'm the Kodiak salmon and
46 herring commercial and subsistence management
47 biologist. And, again, this will be just a brief
48 monologue with regard to the 2020 Kodiak salmon fishery
49 around the city of Kodiak.

50

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1 We sometimes get all these Kodiak
2 subsistence salmon stocks and fisheries divided out
3 into so many different projects and Federal and State
4 fisheries, it's kind of nice sometimes just for
5 perspective to actually have a look at the actual
6 fishery which is broken out into all these different
7 stocks.

8
9 So so far we have about 70 percent of
10 the 1,300 subsistence permits returned from last year.
11 So far about 15,000 salmon have been reported. When
12 all is said and done it'll likely be close to around
13 17,000 salmon which is better than 2019, but well below
14 average, which was typically, prior to the previous
15 three years, somewhere between 25 and 35,000 salmon so
16 down quite a bit. So obviously subsistence salmon
17 fishing around Kodiak has been down for the past three
18 seasons, as we all know, last year subsistence fishing
19 was weak again, however I will say we were able to meet
20 our escapement goals.

21
22 Particular to the Board, restrictions
23 were needed on Karluk to achieve king salmon escapement
24 goal and in Saltry over there in Ugak, which is a State
25 fishery but it's nice to know about anyways, you know,
26 both goals were met, but those were the two restriction
27 that we had to have last year.

28
29 With regard to sockeye, which makes up
30 the majority of the subsistence harvest around Kodiak,
31 second is silvers, but I'll just go through by stock.

32
33 Litnuk was weak, but the escapement
34 goal was met and no subsistence restrictions were
35 needed.

36
37 For perspective, since we're going to
38 be talking about this in the future, with regard to
39 other stocks around the island of Afognak, the
40 subsistence harvest on all those other runs was a bit
41 mixed. Little Afognak was really good again.
42 Thorsheim harvest was particularly large, nearly a
43 thousand fish were almost taken out of the Thorsheim.
44 Paul's Bay was weak. And Molina was also fairly weak.

45
46 Jumping away from Afognak, as Kelly
47 reported earlier, the Buskin was fairly weak but,
48 again, the goal was made and no restrictions were
49 needed.

50

0175

1 Jumping over to Ugak, Pasagshak was
2 weak but the escapement goal was also met and no
3 subsistence restrictions were needed.
4

5 Like I said earlier, Saltry was weak,
6 and restriction is were needed to achieve the
7 escapement goal but most of that really had to do with
8 extremely dry conditions in the fall and less to do
9 about the abundance of fish. It was not a particularly
10 strong run but if we'd have had a normal amount of, you
11 know, rain, like we used to have, it would have
12 probably been a lot easier to achieve the escapement
13 goal.
14

15 Again, the hatchery planted fish at the
16 village of Ouzinkie, it looks like it's a pretty big
17 success. Several thousand sockeye were harvested at
18 the village of Ouzinkie again, and hopefully that
19 project can continue in the future and supply the
20 village with some consistent fish. Since the
21 Aquaculture Association was not able to stock sockeye
22 over in Settlers Cove for Port Lions the past several
23 seasons because Litnuk the previous few years was weak,
24 it's not surprising that last year's return over there
25 was weak.
26

27 Now, that's -- obviously there's a lot
28 more subsistence fisheries in and around the island of
29 Kodiak, but those represent the areas where the
30 subsistence harvest reports were the largest. And we
31 don't do any formal forecasting particularly for these
32 small stocks for a variety of different reasons. But
33 one bright light I might shine is there were some
34 positive indicators for Litnuk, so for Afognak Lake,
35 which had a very large amount of one ocean jacks last
36 year, which could be indicative of a decent return for
37 this season.
38

39 And that is my very brief overview of
40 the subsistence fishery around the city of Kodiak, and
41 I'll be -- I'm available for any questions from now to
42 the rest of the meeting.
43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
45 questions, Pat.
46

47 MR. HOLMES: Yeah. James, that's
48 really good to know all those details on subsistence
49 fisheries. And one of the questions we're looking at
50

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1 on our Council, as you know, is the introduction of
2 sportfish gear for subsistence, and I was wondering has
3 there ever been a case here where the runs have been
4 weak that have left sportfishing operational when the
5 subsistence has been reduced or harvest has been cut
6 back?

7

8 MR. JACKSON: Through the Chair. Mr.
9 Holmes, no, not to my knowledge.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Because it seems
12 that my recollection things are managed simultaneously
13 with a good linkage between the Refuge folks and your
14 shop and then with the sportfish folks under Tyler and
15 Witteveen, so anyway I think things work pretty good.

16

17 Thank you, sir.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
20 other comments or questions for James.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
25 James.

26

27 MR. LAWSON: Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Now, I'm -- go
30 ahead.

31

32 MR. LAWSON: This is Tyler Lawson with
33 CommFish here in Kodiak. I could give a brief synopsis
34 about the Peninsula and Unalaska subsistence if you
35 would like at this time.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I would -- I'll
38 go ahead and say go ahead on this if it's okay with
39 everyone else.

40

41 MR. LAWSON: Sure. So we just kind of
42 pulled up some raw numbers here real quick for 2020.
43 We just finished finalizing the 2019 numbers, we kind
44 of lag one year behind because it takes awhile for
45 those permits to trickle back into us.

46

47 So for example, so far this year for
48 the Peninsula, we received back about 75 percent of
49 those permits but over in Unalaska we've only received

50

0177

1 about 44 percent of those permits. So for 2020 I can
2 kind of give you some rough estimates for places. If
3 you have any questions about like Reece Bay, or Thin
4 Point, or Mortensens since I have some of those numbers
5 in front of me.

6
7 And then those 2019 numbers, which are
8 more formalized will be coming out here shortly with
9 our area management report and we can forward that to
10 the Council once that comes out. But if you guys have
11 any particular questions about any of those places I
12 could do my best to answer those now.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Are
15 there any questions or comments.

16
17 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, subsis -- Madame
18 Chair, through the Chair, this is Pat. It seems like
19 on reference on the Peninsula Chignik has been terribly
20 weak. Kodiak has not had the most sterling returns on
21 sockeye in particular, has that trend seemed to extend
22 out on the Peninsula, Cold Bay and then out to
23 Unalaska.

24
25 MR. LAWSON: Yeah, I'd say in general
26 last year our sockeye numbers were down throughout that
27 area. And in response to the Chignik situation, we had
28 quite a few closures around the DoughBoys and elsewhere
29 to try to kind of compensate there.

30
31 But, yeah, in general, south Peninsula
32 and out to Unalaska -- we talked about McLees
33 yesterday, most of those stocks seem to be a bit low
34 for last year.

35
36 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
39 other questions or comments.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
44 Tyler. Since we're kind of doing -- I'm wondering at
45 this point, if you want to go ahead, Nate, and do your
46 report.

47
48 MR. SVOBODA: Sure. Can you hear me
49 okay.

50

0178

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

2

3 MR. SVOBODA: All right, thanks Madame
4 Chair, and thank you Advisory Committee for your time
5 today.

6

7 I'm going to start off by talking a
8 little bit about the brown bear harvest. As many of
9 you probably know our spring 2020 harvest was
10 significantly reduced due to Covid. We pretty much
11 closed down the season for non-residents, although it
12 still remained open for residents. We had greatly
13 reduced participation. In the spring of 2020 we
14 harvested -- 19 bears were harvested, of those 14 were
15 male or 74 percent, five of which were female. There
16 were no subsistence bears harvested in the spring of
17 2020. Similarly there were no trophy bears shot in
18 2020 and the largest skull that was harvested in spring
19 of 2020 was just under 28 inches. So overall it was a
20 pretty reduced season compared to previous years but
21 that wasn't too surprising due to all the Covid
22 restrictions.

23

24 However, fall of 2020 was a little bit
25 closer to normal, I guess. Still not up at the harvest
26 numbers that we've had in the past but in the fall of
27 2020, 55 bears were harvested. Of those, 46, or 84
28 percent were male and nine of them were female. There
29 was one subsistence bear harvested in the fall of 2020
30 out of Old Harbor. And we did get a number of large
31 bears harvested in the fall of 2020. We did have 5
32 Boone and Crockett bears, and for those that don't
33 know, those are bears that exceed 28 inches in their
34 skull measurements, both the width and the length added
35 together. The largest skull harvested in fall 2020 was
36 29.5 inches which is pretty good size.

37

38 With regard to bears in and around
39 town, the level of bear activity this past year was
40 significantly reduced compared to previous years. We
41 still had a few problem bears in and around town but
42 despite the mauling that we had this summer, bear
43 activity was way down overall.

44

45 The Kodiak -- as many of you might
46 know, the Kodiak Borough implemented a new solid waste
47 management plan that took effect last July. Some of
48 those changes in that management plan require that all
49 dumpsters and rollcarts be bear resistant. That seems

50

0179

1 -- it's a little early to tell but that seems to have
2 made a pretty significant difference with the number of
3 bears coming into town and getting into rollcars. So
4 we'll continue to see how that goes but it seems pretty
5 promising and it's certainly a step in the right
6 direction.

7

8 For those who may remember, I think I
9 provided a couple updates in the past about a program
10 we started a few years ago working with the Kodiak
11 Brown Bear Trust, the Alaska Waste, as well as Kodiak
12 High School students where we kind of provided
13 resources for the high school students, particularly
14 the welding students to modify dumpsters around the
15 island to be bear resistant. I just wanted to report
16 that that program, although Fish and Game really isn't
17 involved anymore, that program continues on to this
18 day. Brown Bear Trust and Alaska Waste continue to
19 provide resources to the high school for the students
20 to get involved in their community and change these --
21 modify these dumpsters so they're bear resistant. So
22 that's pretty exciting to know that that's still going
23 on.

24

25 With regard to our survey, as Bill
26 mentioned, we do joint intensive aerial surveys with
27 the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and Alaska
28 Department of Fish and Game. Unfortunately last year
29 in 2020, the aerials did not occur due to many of the
30 Covid restrictions that were ongoing at the time. So
31 as Bill pointed out, we do have plans to do the spring
32 survey so we will keep you updated on that.

33

34 As far as the education component,
35 which I always like to give you guys a little update.
36 As many of you know in 2019 Fish and Game worked with
37 the Old Harbor school on a year long place based
38 learning opportunity that focused on Kodiak brown
39 bears. We worked together and developed lesson plans
40 on things such as bear ecology and life history, as
41 well as the cultural and economic importance of bears
42 to the Old Harbor community. That has pretty much
43 wrapped up. The students and their instructor, Mr.
44 Jeff Bechtel, presented at the 2009 Board of Game
45 meeting in Anchorage, which I know I've shared with you
46 guys in the past, but what I did want to point out is
47 there was a second component of that education program
48 that included the cleaning, preserving and the
49 reconstruction of a full grown brown bear skeleton. So

50

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1 with the help of the Old Harbor students and actually
2 some folks from the military who were working down at
3 Old Harbor at the time, we were able to acquire a
4 large, you know, 10 foot, trophy sized bear, that was
5 shot in defense of life or property, and in 2019 we
6 worked with the students to clean that up as much as we
7 could and then we buried it down in Old Harbor with the
8 hope that the skeleton would be cleaned in the coming
9 year. So we planned on doing that last year but
10 largely due to Covid restrictions the project was
11 postponed until hopefully this summer. So we hope to
12 keep that underway.

13

14 And most recently pretty -- the Kodiak
15 National Wildlife Refuge has expressed interest in also
16 working with us on the project. So that's pretty
17 great, the more people we can have getting involved,
18 the better. So we plan to do that this summer. We're
19 also hoping to increase and expand the student
20 involvement. We'd like to get either Kodiak Junior
21 High, or perhaps the high school students involved for
22 the reconstruction. It's going to be a pretty big
23 undertaking but I think it will be pretty exciting for
24 the students and a nice addition to the community once
25 it's complete.

26

27 I usually like to give you guys an
28 update on the research that we have ongoing but
29 considering time I'll hold that off until the end and
30 then you can let me know if we have time or if you want
31 a quick update on that or not.

32

33 Moving on I'll address black-tailed
34 deer. 2019 harvest was pretty average compared to our
35 five year average, 5,541 deer were harvested on the
36 island in 2019. As I mentioned, pretty similar to the
37 five year average. Although we'll see how the 2020
38 harvest plays out. As many of you know we had a fairly
39 significant overwinter kill of deer last winter. We
40 don't have any real solid numbers or good estimates on
41 the number of deer that were killed due to winter
42 severity, but our anecdotal evidence which includes
43 reports from transporters, hunters and guides as well
44 as many of our own observations suggests that it -- you
45 know, we estimate 60 to 70 percent loss of the deer
46 population in some of the harder hit areas of the
47 island. Certainly not everywhere throughout the
48 island, but in some of these harder hit areas it was
49 pretty rough for them. The good news is, deer

50

0181

1 population, as you know, typically recovers fairly
2 quickly and at least so far this winter has been
3 relatively mild so we anticipate and certainly hope for
4 a quick recovery of that population.

5

6 Moving on to elk, I won't try to -- try
7 not to reiterate a bunch of things that Mr. Pyle stated
8 earlier but as he pointed out, in 2020 the harvest of
9 elk was 105, of those 58 were males and 47 were
10 females. This is pretty similar to the last few years.
11 Our five year average, we harvest about 100 elk a year,
12 roughly. But there seems to be an increase in
13 interest, certainly harvest is slowly creeping up there
14 but the population has been slowly creeping up there as
15 well so there's really no areas of concern on our end.

16

17 One thing we would like to do is to
18 increase the cow harvest in some areas, specifically
19 Raspberry Island. So one of the things we're going to
20 be looking at in the next year or so is potentially
21 implementing a registration hunt for cows on Raspberry
22 Island, which hasn't occurred in the past. Raspberry
23 Island is typically our -- what we look at as kind of
24 our trophy bull area and so we haven't had a lot of cow
25 harvest on the island. We've been trying to reduce the
26 number of cows for the last couple of years but just
27 haven't been successful so now we're considering
28 potentially opening that up to a registration hunt. So
29 we'll see how that goes.

30

31 The population overall is pretty
32 stable, perhaps slightly increasing in some areas. As
33 Bill mentioned, I think our hard count last year was
34 somewhere around 950 animals. Of course we don't count
35 all of them, or we presume that we don't count all of
36 them, so we're estimating the population to be
37 somewhere probably around a thousand to 1,200 animals.
38 I won't get into the ratios, Bill kind of touched on
39 those. So in the essence of time I won't reiterate all
40 that.

41

42 I will move on to mountain goat
43 harvest. As Bill pointed out in 2020 there were 314
44 goats harvested and so far 151 of them were from the
45 drawing and 163 were from the registration or the RG480
46 which many of you know is pretty much the western side
47 of the island, or the southern half of the island. I
48 won't reiterate the survey information. As Bill
49 mentioned we covered about 70 percent of the goat -- of
50

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1 our known goat range last year during the surveys. But
2 the numbers were fairly consistent the last few years.
3 And as many of you know and Bill mentioned, we've been
4 making efforts the last few years to slow population
5 growth. For instance, we, a couple years ago,
6 introduced a two goat bag limit in the registration
7 hunt area down on the southern area. As Bill
8 mentioned, one of those two must be a nanny, we also
9 lengthened the season. So we've been taking
10 incremental steps to try to slow that population growth
11 and it seems to be somewhat effective. I think some of
12 the areas we're still seeing slight increases but I
13 think slowly chipping away at slowing population
14 growth, it seems to be pretty successful so far.
15 Currently we don't have any mountain goat research
16 underway. There's a project that we started a few
17 years ago but it kind of fell through. You know, we're
18 going to kind of revisit that and see if that's
19 something that we can consider here in the near future.

20
21 Regarding caribou or feral reindeer.
22 As Bill pointed out, and then corrected himself, in
23 2020 so far the harvest has been 33 animals. This is a
24 little concerning. we've seen quite an increase in
25 caribou harvest on Kodiak Island the last four or five
26 years. You know as Bill mentioned the population has
27 been relatively stable between 300 to 400 animals,
28 historically. But the increase harvest is somewhat
29 concerning. We've pretty much doubled the harvest
30 compared to historical numbers or at least the recent
31 history. Yeah, pretty much doubled the harvest in the
32 last five or six years compared to the last 15 or 20
33 years. So there are some concerns regarding this high
34 -- this high harvest the last four or five years. We
35 have noticed a pretty significant increase in interest
36 in hunting caribou on Kodiak Island, so the other thing
37 we're considering is making -- currently the caribou
38 harvest is just a harvest ticket, so anyone can come to
39 the office at any time, pick up a harvest ticket and go
40 out during the season and shoot a caribou. There's no
41 real restrictions on it so far. But what we're looking
42 at is potentially making that a registration hunt so we
43 can close it down with emergency order if necessary, or
44 at least have another mechanism to monitor the harvest
45 and hopefully be able to react in a timely manner.

46
47 So that's mostly-- pretty much all I
48 have here. I would be happy to provide an update on
49 our bear and elk research project if you're interested,
50

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1 but I'm also happy to just answer any questions that
2 you might have.

3

4 So, thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Nate.
7 Any questions or comments for Nate.

8

9 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, this is Coral.
10 Madame Chair.

11

12 MR. SVOBODA: Hi Coral.

13

14 MS. CHERNOFF: Hi, Nate. Thank you for
15 that report. I just had a question about how many bear
16 this year since we didn't have a spring/summer
17 commercial hunt, how many -- what's an estimate of that
18 number of bear that didn't get taken this year?

19

20 MR. SVOBODA: Sure so in the -- so
21 pretty much the spring, right. So typically in any
22 given year we harvest between, you know, it varies, but
23 generally between 180 and 220 animals, roughly around
24 there. In the spring of '20, as I pointed out, we only
25 harvested 19 bears and in the fall we only harvested
26 55. So it's a little under half of what we typically
27 harvest. You know those numbers do vary from year to
28 year. But we harvested a little bit under half of
29 what's typically harvested.

30

31 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. And then
32 another question, when are those available -- are those
33 -- so are they doubling up on the harvest, like this
34 coming spring and fall?

35

36 MR. SVOBODA: No. No, no, this spring
37 and fall will pretty much be, I guess, quote/unquote,
38 normal, if you will. We're not increasing the number
39 of permits. We're not doing any of that. It's going
40 to be pretty much standard, as we had in the past. And
41 those permits, right now, I believe the spring permits
42 are available right now. The fall won't be available
43 until later on this summer.

44

45 MS. CHERNOFF: Same for the big game
46 guides who already had clients who were not able to
47 hunt last year?

48

49 MR. SVOBODA: Yeah. So -- just so you

50

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1 know, so in the spring of 2020 the non-resident hunters
2 who had a permit for the spring of 2020 the Board of
3 Game made a decision to -- which is the first time
4 they've ever done this, they made a decision to allow
5 those hunters the opportunity to transfer their tags to
6 the spring of 2021. So all the non-resident hunters in
7 the spring of '20 had the opportunity to transfer their
8 permits to the spring of 2021. Similarly, the resident
9 hunters who drew permits for the spring of 2020,
10 because the drawing had already occurred for the
11 residents of the spring of '20 and '21, those residents
12 had the opportunity to transfer their permits to the
13 spring of 2022. So all the individuals who did receive
14 permits in the spring of 2020 and couldn't make it due
15 to Covid did have an opportunity to have their permits
16 transferred to a future season.

17

18 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you, Nate.

19

20 MR. SVOBODA: Sure.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
23 other questions or comments.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Pat are you
28 online.

29

30 MR. HOLMES: Yes, ma'am.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I was just
33 checking because I lost my screen on the computer.
34 Okay, Nate, unless there's any other questions or
35 comments, thank you for your report.

36

37 MR. SVOBODA: Yes, thank you, Madame
38 Chair.

39

40 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, this is Coral, I
41 have one more thing.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead. Go
44 ahead, Coral.

45

46 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, Nate, I just want
47 to thank -- I think you're involved in the brown bear
48 organization that helped with the bear proof
49 containers. I know that's been ongoing for many years

50

0185

1 to get bears off of our streets and out of our
2 neighborhoods and hopefully that's what is helping to
3 keep the bears out of town. I want to thank just
4 everybody for the work that they've done on that. I
5 know it's appreciated by the residents and, you know,
6 we had bears wandering up by the main school and we
7 have them by the preschool and it's appreciated, all
8 that effort that was put in to have that happen.

9
10 So I just want to say thank you to
11 everyone who was involved with that. And, thank you,
12 that's it.

13
14 MR. SVOBODA: Thank you, Coral.
15 Through the Chair. I appreciate the nice comments.
16 And as you point out, you know, this is certainly a
17 multiple person effort, you know, it certainly wasn't
18 just me, it certainly wasn't just the Solid Waste
19 Advisory Board, or the Kodiak Island Borough, we had a
20 lot of good input from our community members and I
21 really got to hand it to the community for taking that
22 issue seriously and be willing to make these changes,
23 you know, not -- it's not the most convenient for
24 everybody but I think overall people realize it's best
25 for our community. So I also appreciate everyone's
26 efforts, so, thanks, Coral.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Nate
29 and Coral. Just a comment, Nate. We've had the --
30 King Cove, the city put the bear dumpsters into a grant
31 one time to Denali Commission many years ago and I'll
32 tell you bears are pretty -- it's interesting how the
33 smaller section lids on these big dumpsters, they won't
34 really touch, but the big part in the front, they'll
35 push that big part of that lid up and flip it over.
36 It's -- they will get to where they want to. It's a
37 battle. It's a battle.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MR. SVOBODA: Pretty determined, yep.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

44
45 MR. SVOBODA: Thank you, yep.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. I think
48 we'll go ahead and move on to Izembek National Wildlife
49 Refuge.

50

0186

1 MS. FOSADO: Good morning, Madame
2 Chair, and members of the Council. Thank you for your
3 time today and I look forward to providing an Izembek
4 update. For those of you who don't know me, I am Maria
5 Fosado, the Refuge Manager. I arrived in Cold Bay last
6 June so I'm coming up on a year here pretty quick.
7 Prior to arriving in Cold Bay, I worked for the Fish
8 and Wildlife Service in Minnesota.

9
10 So before I get started I'd also like
11 to refer members of the Council to the supplemental
12 materials, A, which were provided, and then I'll go
13 ahead and get started.

14
15 Izembek had some pretty exciting news
16 regarding Staffing updates. We have Patrick Mcgrath,
17 Jr. has joined our team. He started in November and is
18 the administrative assistant here. In addition to
19 Patrick we are also getting a wildlife biologist, she
20 actually arrives in Cold Bay today and will be starting
21 next week. So that is pretty exciting news for
22 Izembek. And with those two Staff additions we'll have
23 five permanent full-time employees working here out of
24 Cold Bay.

25
26 I will go ahead and move on to caribou,
27 and this is Page 1 and it'll carry over into Page 2 of
28 the supplemental materials, A.

29
30 The Federal subsistence caribou hunt in
31 Unit 9D runs through March 31st and it runs
32 concurrently with the ADF&G sporthunt. The seasons are
33 still ongoing and therefore we currently do not have
34 any harvest data available. Caribou Unit -- the
35 caribou hunt for Unit 10 Unimak to-date, that is -- to-
36 date, our office has not received any harv -- excuse
37 me. We received one report but it was a report of no
38 harvest and that's all we have received to-date at our
39 office.

40
41 As far as the winter SAP caribou
42 survey. Unfortunately due to Covid constraints and
43 Staffing constraints we were unable to conduct the
44 winter survey this year so stay tuned and we hope to
45 continue that in the coming year.

46
47 Moving on to waterfowl. Migratory
48 Birds was able to conduct the age ratio -- the brant
49 age ratio survey. Big thanks to them. They actually
50

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1 contracted that out this fall due to Covid. The age
2 ratio survey assesses the number of juvenile brant and
3 provides the only assessment of annual productivity in
4 the population. It's an important monitoring tool for
5 assessing population trends as identified in the
6 Pacific Flyaway Management Plan for brant.
7 Observations were made on 40 flocks spread across
8 Izembek Lagoon during a 13 day period, which
9 encompassed October 11th through November 1st. The
10 model 2020 estimate of juveniles was 13.6 percent. And
11 I also attached the table for folks who wanted to
12 reference past years. But this was -- this report was
13 courtesy of Migratory Birds. This table shows the raw
14 data and the models annual estimate, the average family
15 size was 2.62 juveniles based on an assessment of 59
16 families, and that's on Page 2 of your materials. And
17 it goes on to Page 3, the table does.

18
19 Migratory Birds was also able to
20 conduct the winter brant survey. That survey surveys
21 as the Alaska component of the annual Pacific Flyaway
22 winter brant surveyed as outlined also in the Pacific
23 Flyaway Management Plan. The 2021 Alaska winter index
24 is 56,563 brants and represents the sum of two
25 components. The first being the average of three
26 replicate indices of Izembek Complex conducted on the
27 2nd, 3rd and 5th of February. And the second is a
28 single brant count of Sanak Islands and that was
29 conducted on February 3rd. The 2021 index represents
30 the highest in the history of the survey, so that's
31 pretty exciting news. That's the highest number of
32 brant that we've surveyed and we're pretty excited
33 about that. And I've also attached the table courtesy
34 of Migratory Birds. That goes on to Page 4 of the
35 supplemental materials.

36
37 So Alaska currently comprises the
38 second largest geographic component of the winter brant
39 survey with an approximation of about 30 percent.
40 Mexico representing the largest about 55 percent. And
41 the remaining birds about 15 percent occurring along
42 the Coast of California, Oregon, Washington and British
43 Columbia.

44
45 Moving on to Page 5 of the supplemental
46 materials, I would like to apologize, in reviewing this
47 report yesterday I noticed that our waterfowl harvest
48 report is incorrect. I'm uncertain where the
49 discrepancy materialized but I do want to note that
50

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1 everything listed under the Izembek 2020 migratory
2 waterfowl harvest, please disregard, it's incorrect.
3 I've pulled the commercial guide reports and will
4 review the information and I would be happy to correct
5 that and send out an updated report on the waterfowl
6 harvest. And if Donald Mike would be the appropriate
7 POC I would be happy to do that, so my apologies.

8

9 However, the client use days reported
10 remain the same, and those were provided yesterday.

11

12 For 2020, those client use days for all
13 three commercial permitted guides were 347 total client
14 use days.

15

16 Moving on to brown bear, consecutive
17 brown bear hunts have been authorized on the Alaska
18 Peninsula by the Alaska Board of Game as a result of
19 the Covid 19 pandemic. The spring brown bear season
20 for Unit 9D for both residents and non-residents will
21 be open from May 10th through May 25th. The spring
22 brown bear season for Unit 10, which is Unimak Island
23 for both residents and non-residents will be open from
24 May 10th through the 31st. After the spring season
25 both units will revert back to the regular fall
26 rotation and corresponding season dates.

27

28 And that brings us to the upcoming
29 field season. Unfortunately if I had a crystal ball
30 I'd be able to tell you exactly how that was going to
31 pan out. We're currently working with some of our
32 partners to review our Covid mitigation plans and we're
33 working to follow the Fish and Wildlife Service Covid
34 guidelines that have come out as far as field work and
35 field operations.

36

37 So we've been in communication with
38 both USGS as well Dr. Tuula Hollmen of Alaska Sealife
39 Center on the two specific projects that I've provided
40 a summary for on Pages 5 and 6, and those would be
41 eelgrass sampling as well as the Steller's Eiders
42 project. So those conversations are ongoing, we're
43 hopeful that we will be able to carry out some of our
44 field season work but we'll have to continue working
45 through that process to see what approvals and what we
46 can actually deem feasible and safe for folks to carry
47 out this upcoming field season.

48

49 But those are the current conversations

50

0189

1 we're having. We're still going to be reviewing our
2 internal surveys such as the annual stream bear survey,
3 et cetera, so we're hopeful but that's still in the
4 planning stags.

5

6 So with that, that is the end of my
7 report and I would be happy to try and answer folks
8 questions if there are any.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
11 Maria. Are there any questions or comments for Maria.

12

13 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, Della, this is
14 Rebecca.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
17 Rebecca.

18

19 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thanks. Maria, you
20 said that the information for the waterfowl in the
21 report was incorrect, can you give us a sense of the
22 general nature of what was incorrect.

23

24 MS. FOSADO: I'm sorry, can you hear
25 me?

26

27 MS. SKINNER: Yes, I can hear you.

28

29 MS. FOSADO: Rebecca, through the
30 Chair. Thank you for the question. I can provide some
31 clarity. I reviewed the hunter days and that grabbed
32 my attention, the hunt days, excuse me, and so I
33 started looking at the additional numbers and the
34 harvest of brant and cackling geese, Canada geese in
35 there is incorrect. The 1,579 brant, based on the
36 client use days and the number of clients would be an
37 overharvest, so I real quickly, and I didn't want to
38 throw out any preliminary information but I real
39 quickly pulled all the hunter reports, the harvest
40 reports that we received and with real quick crunching
41 I came to about 400 total brant that were harvested by
42 the three commercial permitted guides and their
43 clients. And so essentially I would like everything in
44 that section to be disregarded. And like I said I'd be
45 willing to send out an updated report, which is the
46 waterfowl harvest, once I have a chance to verify my
47 quick calculations.

48

49 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you, yeah,

50

0190

1 that was very helpful. And I would certainly like to
2 see the updated report if you are able to put that
3 together.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MS. CHERNOFF: Della, this is Coral.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

10

11 MS. CHERNOFF: Hi, thank you for the
12 report. I had a question. Yesterday you referred to
13 the clients as -- you had that number of 347 client use
14 days, and then on here, even though this information we
15 have is wrong, it's referred to as -- it's broken down
16 as 127 guided hunters totalling 216 hunt days. Would
17 the hunt days be the same as client -- the client use
18 days that you referred to yesterday?

19

20 MS. FOSADO: Thank you. Through the
21 Chair. The client use days are essentially a
22 calculation of the number of guided hunters multiplied
23 by the number of days each guided hunter hunted. If
24 that clarifies. So in theory there could be one person
25 that's being guided, they're here, they're in Cold Bay
26 for a duration of six days, that one client, the total
27 number of client use days for that client would be the
28 total number of days that they physically hunted, so if
29 that person was for six days and hunted all six days it
30 would be six client use days.

31

32 MS. CHERNOFF: So would that be like
33 where it has -- would that -- so that would be the same
34 as the 216 hunt days, the hunt days is the total client
35 -- because I was trying to -- well, because on here,
36 if.....

37

38 MS. FOSADO: Yes. Yes.

39

40 MS. CHERNOFF:if you have this
41 127 guided hunters totalling 216 hunt days that's less
42 than two hunts per guided hunter, which doesn't really
43 add up to me, because I thought usually if people take
44 a trip, they're usually there for five or six days. So
45 those numbers weren't.....

46

47 MS. FOSADO: Right.

48

49 MS. CHERNOFF:adding up so I was

50

0191

1 wondering what -- yesterday we had talked about client
2 use days which I assumed was, guided hunters, times the
3 days, and so now I'm just confused about the different
4 ways these are presented.

5

6 MS. FOSADO: And that is correct. The
7 totalling 216 hunt days would be the equivalent of the
8 client use days except for the -- as I mentioned, that
9 216 is incorrect in the report.

10

11 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay.

12

13 MS. FOSADO: But what was reported out
14 yesterday as far as.....

15

16 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay.

17

18 MS. FOSADO:the 347 client use
19 days is the correct figure. So the 216 hunt days is
20 incorrect. It would be the equivalent of the client
21 use days and the client use days that were reported out
22 yesterday for 2020 for the three commercial guides.....

23

24 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay.

25

26 MS. FOSADO:is 347.

27

28 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. And so do you
29 have an average, what would be the average hunt days,
30 or is there one, five, six days?

31

32 MS. FOSADO: It depends, and all I have
33 available is last years, or this past waterfowl hunting
34 season and.....

35

36 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay.

37

38 MS. FOSADO:it was an unusual
39 one, in that, it was Covid and commercial flights to
40 Cold Bay were actually only coming in on Wednesday and
41 Saturdays and so folks that were coming out were
42 limited to scheduling their flights to those two days.
43 And being that I've been here less than a year I don't
44 know that that's representative of what has happened
45 historically when we were serviced by Ravn and there
46 was flights, I think daily.

47

48 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay. And I was
49 wondering if I could request that when we get the new

50

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1 correct information, if we could have that -- the
2 number of guided hunters, instead of just the total
3 client use days, can we get the number of guided
4 hunters and also total use days?

5

6 MS. FOSADO: Yes.

7

8 MS. CHERNOFF: Okay, thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Are you good,
11 Coral?

12

13 MS. CHERNOFF: I am good, thank you,
14 Della.

15

16 (Teleconference interference -
17 participants not muted)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
20 questions.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
25 Maria.....

26

27 MR. KOSO: Hey, Della, this is Rick, I
28 got a couple questions there.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, go ahead,
31 Rick.

32

33 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Hi. I just got some
34 questions on the caribou. This 2020, I don't know if
35 you did a survey, I don't think so, but it looked like
36 you had around 3,000 animals, I think it was in '19
37 caribou 9D, and what is it, 400-some to 500 animals on
38 Unimak Island, which is 10, are those still
39 maintaining, is it -- it looks from the years past
40 there it looked like the Unimak Caribou Herd is
41 improved by, it look like close to 50 percent and 9D
42 looks like they came up, oh, I would say 60, 70 percent
43 from what it used to be. Now, is that still holding
44 true?

45

46 MS. FOSADO: Thank you. Through the
47 Chair. Thanks for the question, Rick. My
48 understanding of the caribou population in Unit 9D is
49 that it is increasing, I don't have the exact number

50

0193

1 right off hand and perhaps someone from ADF&G is on the
2 line that could answer that. Unit 10 is Unimak, is
3 also showing an increase, but I don't have the
4 percentages right off hand, and, again, I'll take a
5 pause to see if someone from ADF&G can answer the
6 population questions regarding caribou on Units 9D and
7 10, which are.....

8
9 MR. BURCH: Madame Chair, this is Mark
10 Burch from.....

11
12 MS. FOSADO:all appearing
13 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech)

14
15 MR. BURCH:the Department of Fish
16 and Game.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Mark.

19
20 MR. BURCH: Yes, Dave Crowley is
21 available on the phone and I believe he's on the agenda
22 here real soon so it's up to you whether you would want
23 him to respond to questions at this point or give his
24 report here when it comes up pretty quickly.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, I think we
29 can -- if it's okay.....

30
31 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Madame Chair, I'll
32 just wait for his report. I have one other question
33 though before we move on. You know, you got 9C and E,
34 I think is it -- yeah, C and E there on the wolves, you
35 got like 300 to 350, to 550 wolves and I don't see any
36 estimates or a survey done on 9D, do you have some
37 numbers for 9D for the wolves.

38
39 MS. FOSADO: Through the Chair, I'm
40 sorry, on wolves, was that the question?

41
42 MR. KOSO: Yes, ma'am.

43
44 MS. FOSADO: Population estimates on
45 wolves?

46
47 MR. KOSO: Yes, for 9D.

48
49 MS. FOSADO: Again -- for 9D, I do not
50

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1 but I'll defer that question again to ADF&G, if someone
2 would be able to answer that.

3

4 MR. KOSO: Okay. I'll just wait for
5 the report, thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Is
8 there any other questions or comments for Maria in
9 regards to Izembek.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Maria, when you
14 are -- this is Della. When you are revising the
15 migratory waterfowl harvest report and then we talked a
16 little bit yesterday about the three permits, and then
17 the subpermits under those permits, can you kind of lay
18 those numbers out so we have a better idea of how many
19 people are hunting under those -- how many guides are
20 hunting under those three permits, I think it would be
21 helpful to understand.

22

23 MS. FOSADO: Madame Chair, I would
24 absolutely be able to do that.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
27 hopefully, I know when I go through on the 17th, if
28 you're around, if I get in early enough, the flight
29 doesn't leave until later in the afternoon or early
30 evening so hopefully I'll get a chance to chat with you
31 then.

32

33 MS. FOSADO: Madame Chair, sounds
34 perfect. I thank you for your time.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So thank you
37 very much for your report.

38

39 MS. FOSADO: And I apologize for the
40 confusion today.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That's okay.
43 We'll move on to Unit 10, Unimak Caribou. And the one
44 thing -- I just emailed Donald Mike on, because we
45 didn't have King Salmon on the agenda or Lisa Fox on
46 the agenda, so I think we'll be trying to figure those
47 pieces out too as we go through. So if we can go ahead
48 and move on to the Unit 10 Unimak Caribou and I guess
49 it's Dave.

50

0195

1 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
2 Donald.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
5 Donald.

6
7 MR. MIKE: Yeah, I was wondering if we
8 could take a five or 10 minute break.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, yeah, sure,
11 we can do that. Let's go ahead and take a 10 minute
12 break.

13
14 (Off record)

15
16 (On record)

17
18 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
19 Donald, I'm standing by, thank you.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Donald, do
22 you want to do a -- check on everyone and see if
23 they're here.

24
25 MR. MIKE: Okay, I can do that.

26
27 Pat Holmes.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MR. MIKE: Rick Koso.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MR. MIKE: Sam Rohrer.

36
37 MR. ROHRER: I'm here.

38
39 MR. MIKE: Chris Price.

40
41 MR. PRICE: Here.

42
43 MR. MIKE: Coral Chernoff.

44
45 MS. CHERNOFF: Here.

46
47 MR. MIKE: Rebecca Skinner.

48
49 MS. SKINNER: Here.

50

0196

1 MR. MIKE: Della's here.

2

3 Natasha Hayden.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 MR. MIKE: Melissa Berns.

8

9 MS. BERNs: I'm here.

10

11 MR. MIKE: Okay. We'll go back up to
12 Pat Holmes, you with us?

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MR. MIKE: Rick Koso.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MR. MIKE: Natasha, are you with us?

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, we have three
25 members not online yet.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, we might
28 give it a couple more minutes.

29

30 (Pause)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Donald, I
33 think we'll go ahead and get started. The next item on
34 the agenda is ADF&G King Salmon, Dave Crowley.

35

36 MR. CROWLEY: Yes, good morning, Madame
37 Chair, and Council members. This is Dave Crowley,
38 Department of Fish and Game in King Salmon, I'm the
39 Area Wildlife Biologist.

40

41 So I heard a request for some
42 information on wolves for Unit 9D, I'll go ahead and
43 start with that.

44

45 The short answer is we really don't
46 know how many wolves are there. We don't have a very
47 good estimate of density. The harvest has been off a
48 little bit the last few years. But my perception in
49 flying around doing caribou surveys and such is that

50

0197

1 the wolf numbers seem to be down on Unit 9D, and the
2 calf/cow ratio on the SAP, the Southern Alaska
3 Peninsula Caribou Herd has been, you know, hanging in
4 there at a pretty good level. There's not been a lot
5 of predation. For the SAP, this last October, we did a
6 composition survey, we had 32 calves per 100 cows,
7 which is pretty good. The bull ratio on the SAP was 45
8 bulls per 100 cows. And our sample size was the
9 highest on record, actually, we actually counted almost
10 1,500 caribou. Our population estimate is currently
11 about 3,100, and that's up from our count in 2013, it
12 was about 1,300, so we're up substantially. The herd
13 is continuing to increase. Our harvest on the SAP has
14 kind of petered out between 50 and 60 reported.
15 However, this is now a harvest ticket hunt and we just
16 don't have that reporting rate that we do for
17 registration hunts or Tier II hunts so -- but hopefully
18 we'll see a continued increase in that harvest as
19 guides and other hunters find their way back in. It
20 was closed for, you know, six, 8 years, and it seems
21 like the guides are just kind of working their way back
22 into it. So hopefully we'll see some more harvest. We
23 can certainly sustain additional harvest on that herd.

24

25 And I'm on the agenda to give an update
26 for the caribou herd on Unimak Island, and I'm prepared
27 to do that here.

28

29 So based on our composition count in
30 October, we have a productive herd. It's small but it
31 is increasing. The population is approximately 460 on
32 the island.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: Oh, good.

35

36 MR. CROWLEY: In October we counted an
37 amazing 78 bulls per 100 cows and it was quite
38 noticeable that these bulls had been on the ground for
39 a couple of years. There were a lot of large bulls.
40 And there's definitely room for additional harvest
41 there. 34 calves per 100 cows, which is pretty good
42 for Unimak Island. For some reason the pregnancy rate,
43 the parturition rate is not as high on the island as it
44 is on the mainland. So that's something that we keep
45 an eye on. But 34 calves per 100, that's a good
46 calf/cow ratio, good productive herd, good survival to
47 the fall anyway.

48

49 So we do have a surplus of bulls in the

50

0198

1 population available for harvest and we're going to
2 kind of shift gears here with our thoughts about
3 management on Unimak Island. At this point I think
4 that the Department and the Fish and Wildlife Service
5 need to review and revise management of the Unimak
6 Island Caribou Herd. Imagine a few years down the road
7 our little herd has, you know, doubled in size, and
8 we'll really need to get after it with harvest or we're
9 going to have another Adak Island situation. And, you
10 know, in past decades human harvest was insufficient to
11 control the herd size on the island. We saw these
12 eruptions and the subsequent crashes and the long time
13 to rebuild and we're going to try to avoid that
14 scenario again this year but it's going to have to
15 happen primarily with human harvest.

16
17 Currently under Federal subsistence
18 regulations only residents of False Pass are allowed to
19 hunt on Federal lands on Unimak Island, and, I believe,
20 that's close to 90 percent of the island is Federal
21 lands. Unless the human population of False Pass
22 triples or quadruples, I'm fairly certain that the
23 caribou herd could not be harvested at a high enough
24 level by False Pass residents alone. I think even if
25 we added Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point and Nelson
26 Lagoon residents to the hunt on Unimak Island, I still
27 believe that we couldn't reach a high enough harvest
28 level because, you know, the folks on the mainland are
29 going to be hunting on the SAP, on a harvest ticket,
30 with a three caribou bag limit currently. So if the
31 herd does continue to grow and that's -- I'm hoping
32 that's going to continue, this is going to be a problem
33 getting enough hunters on the landscape to take the
34 surplus bulls off it. And I ran some numbers, I did a
35 little modeling and it looks like we could start next
36 year with a harvest of 25 bulls and we could maintain
37 that every year into the future provided that our
38 productivity stays up there, and that's of course, you
39 know, it's questionable on Unimak Island, how long
40 that's going to be sustained. But if we do increase
41 our harvest, we'd have to be looking pretty carefully
42 at in-season management because of these years when
43 parturition rate is low, and that means that not only
44 do we need a higher harvest level, but we need hunters
45 to report. We have to have reporting, timely reporting
46 for in-season management.

47
48 Another potential problem I foresee and
49 this is not a criticism, I just want to make that
50

0199

1 clear, but the Federal permitting system is fairly
2 limited in scale and that's simply because the hunts
3 are small. You know we have a small number of hunters
4 taking a small number of animals. We'll ultimately,
5 possibly, need to issue 100 permits, not a dozen, and
6 getting reports back from hunters will be critical, as
7 I mentioned earlier. These are things that the
8 Department is really good at doing through our online
9 registration hunts and getting those reports back in a
10 timely manner.

11

12

13 So I guess I'm recommending that we all
14 take a hard look at opening Federal lands on Unimak
15 Island to all hunters under a State registration
16 permit. We could provide advantages to local hunters
17 through extended seasons and bag limits in Federal
18 subsistence regulations. And we already do this for
19 caribou and moose hunts in Unit 9. I think if we
20 remain status quo we'd probably have another eruption
21 of the population, potential habitat damage and
22 subsequent crash like we've seen in the past. And that
23 crash occurs -- and I thought Steve explained it very
24 well earlier, either density dependent effects,
25 including starvation, or a mass exodus to the mainland,
26 and there's quite a bit of evidence that this happened
27 back in the mid-70s where the Unimak Island population
28 peaked and started declining and all of a sudden they
29 disappeared and people had reported actually seeing
30 caribou swimming, you know, across the strait back onto
31 the mainland.

32

33 The bottom line is, you know, this is
34 good news. This is a good problem to have to deal
35 with. The herd's looking good, it's growing and we're
36 still early enough in the game that, you know, we can
37 start thinking about this and planning on getting more
38 hunters on that landscape out there.

39

40 And that's all I've got, Madame Chair,
41 thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Dave.
44 I'm glad you brought that up. It's something that I
45 was going to bring up on this meeting as we go. Are
46 there any comments or questions for Dave at this point.

47

48 Rick.

49

50 MR. KOSO: No, Della, I think that

0200

1 sounds good. I mean it sounds good the caribou's
2 coming back, I mean we're more than doubled it looks
3 like from a few years ago when we were looking at 180,
4 200 caribou on the island, so that's all good news to
5 me. And, you know, if they could have a real
6 controlled hunt by opening up a little more and watch
7 it closely, boy, I sure don't have a problem with that.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

10

11 Pat.

12

13 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Madame
14 Chair, Pat.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead. Go
17 ahead, Pat.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I agree with Rick.
20 And I'd sure like to see the locals, I think his
21 suggestion there if they went to a broader hunt of
22 having a registration -- special registration hunt for
23 the locals there at False Pass, I think that would be
24 swell because they -- we've made adjustments up here in
25 Kodiak on mountain goats to provide for a little more
26 local harvest, or harvest by locals, and so I think
27 that'd be a really good idea for those folks to be able
28 to have just a little bit of an edge. And, yeah,
29 having lived through the critters moving across from
30 the island to the mainland, that's certainly happened
31 and you don't want to end up with a huge population
32 that used to exist out there.

33

34 Anyway, thanks very much, folks, a good
35 report, and I'm glad things have improved.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
38 more comments or questions.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is Della.
43 The one thing, I've been looking at this, and we need
44 to maybe, Council, take a look at this because we are
45 in the wildlife -- going into the wildlife cycle here,
46 and then given what Dave has presented, maybe we need
47 to talk about what we can possibly do to change the
48 regulations that are in place now. So maybe, George,
49 maybe we could talk about this before we end our
50

0201

1 meeting, or do we do this now?

2

3

4 MR. PAPPAS: Well, thank you, Madame
5 Chair. I'm just waiting for when the Council wants to
6 get into proposal synthesis discussions. This has been
7 a very fluid meeting, a lot of information being
8 presented in various order, and I would say we stick
9 with that. If you want to delve into this discussion
10 since you have the experts on hand and I see a probably
11 a good dozen State of Alaska employees here, this is a
12 pretty incredible turn out. So it might be a few more
13 years before that actually could take place with after --
14 after maybe something coming up to 25 year, or
15 whatever, it's up to you, if you want to look into --
16 if you look at your regulations for the Federal
17 subsistence, the Handy-Dandy, Page 55, you will see
18 that the, you know, Unit 10, Unimak Island residents,
19 Akutan, False Pass, King Cove, Sand Point, Unimak
20 Island only, Unit 10, no Federal open season. If you
21 want to propose -- if the Regional Advisory Council
22 wants to propose a season and then we can work towards
23 figuring out the limits and maybe total harvest limits
24 through a registration hunt, that's a possibility. I
25 see the State's considering possibly the same thing.

25

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I would say if you want to put a
proposal, this might be a good time, because it's fresh
in your memory, everybody's asked the same questions --
or excuse me -- the same information being presented --
and this might be a good time, Della.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
I apologize because we've kind of jumped around this
agenda a little bit. But it kind of made sense to try
to do the Kodiak stuff and then the Aleutian, the
Peninsula, then it wouldn't be so jumbled, I think, I
want to say.

So given that, Dave, what would your
recommendation be as we go forward. You made a couple
suggestions.

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
Chair. This is Dave Crowley. First of all, I guess I
would be interested in doing a State registration hunt
but in Federal regulations allowing qualified users to,
you know, have extended seasons or bag limits. You

0202

1 know we do these registration hunts routinely. The
2 permits are available online, the reporting we've tried
3 to simplify as much as possible. They can call in,
4 they can report online, they can mail the reports in; a
5 bunch of different options there. So I guess I'm in
6 favor of going after a State registration hunt. In
7 order to do that, of course, we have to go to the
8 Alaska Board of Game with a proposal to get the Board's
9 approval to do that. And as far as the numbers, I'm
10 pretty comfortable -- with that high bull/cow ratio I'm
11 pretty comfortable of starting with a number of 25. 25
12 bulls.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
15 comments from the members of the Council.

16

17 MR. ROHRER: Della, Sam Rohrer here.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

20

21 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, so a question for
22 Mr. Crowley on the idea of opening up a State
23 registration hunt. So Unit 9 -- this was the year that
24 Unit 9 proposals are in front of the Board of Game, I
25 think 10 -- Unit 10 as well, but it would only make
26 sense to be Units 9 and 10 but I don't know that 100
27 percent for sure. Of course the Board of Game meetings
28 have been cancelled for this -- largely cancelled for
29 this year and postponed until next year. But at the
30 upcoming Board of Game they are going to consider the
31 question whether they should open the call back up for
32 proposals. So I guess would you try to do it as an
33 agenda change request or, you know, try to ask the
34 Board of Game to open back up a call for proposals;
35 what are you thinking for making a proposal there on
36 the State side.

37

38 MR. CROWLEY: Yeah, thank you. Through
39 the Chair. We -- we're kind of having that discussion
40 and I think maybe I'll have Todd or Mark hop in here.
41 But we do have one or two proposals regarding Unimak
42 Island and it might be possible to hijack one of those
43 and try to add a hunt to it. But I'm going to have --
44 I'll have Todd Rinaldi or Mark Burch jump in.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. RINALDI: Good morning, this is
49 Todd Rinaldi, can you hear me?

50

0203

1 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, we can hear you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead,
4 Todd.

5

6 MR. RINALDI: I didn't know if I had to
7 star six myself. Yes, for the record my name is Todd
8 Rinaldi, I'm with the Division of Wildlife Conservation
9 based out of Palmer and we oversee the wildlife
10 management in Region 4.

11

12 Yes, so the Board of Game as you
13 mentioned, through the Chair, the Board of Game is
14 meeting on March 18th, coming up here, and they are
15 going to be dealing with some administrative issues and
16 also addressing some Board of Game proposals that are
17 essential due to regulatory renewals such as antlerless
18 proposals. At that meeting they're also going to
19 decide whether or not they open up the call for
20 proposals for the previously postponed 2021 meeting,
21 Southcentral -- or Central Southwest meeting, which is
22 now in January of 2022. If that's the case there would
23 be a public opening of proposals and it would provide
24 not only agency but also Board of Game and members of
25 the public, including RACs and ACs and such to generate
26 new proposals, and that could be done at that time. So
27 we probably wouldn't have to use an existing proposal
28 to create a hunt, and that would probably be the most
29 direct and the clearest way of going about doing that
30 on the State regulatory side.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
37 Rebecca.

38

39 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. I just had a
40 timing and process question. So for the Federal
41 subsistence wildlife proposals, is the deadline for
42 that, is it May 2021, and so is it correct that if our
43 Council wants to put forward a wildlife proposal on
44 this we need to do that at this meeting, and that's my
45 question.

46

47 Thanks.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes. That is

50

0204

1 correct.

2

3 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair, George
4 Pappas. That is correct. I'm sorry if I talked over
5 you. That is correct, Council Member Skinner.

6

7 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you.

8

9 MR. PAPPAS: Or the other option --
10 through the Chair -- sorry, through the Chair. Or if
11 the -- if this Council chooses to build a record and
12 provide intent that we can capture and ask OSM to
13 assist in capturing all that information into a
14 proposal and sending it back to the Chair for approval
15 for submission we can do that.

16

17 So there's two options.

18

19 You can either synthesize right now
20 verbatim, or give us your gist and we can work that
21 direction.

22

23 Thank you, Madame Chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. So
26 basically at this point what are the wishes of the
27 Council.

28

29 MR. PRICE: Della, hi, this is Chris.
30 Can you ask George to clarify why he left Unalaska out
31 of his list of communities that would be considered for
32 the subsistence hunt.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: George, you want
35 to answer that.

36

37 MR. PAPPAS: Sure. Thank you, Madame
38 Chair. Mr. Price. Yeah, I'm looking on Page 55 of the
39 Federal subsistence hunting regulations and it looks
40 like for the customary and traditional use
41 determinations for Unit 10, Unimak Island are residents
42 of Akutan, False Pass, King Cove, and Sand Point. For
43 the Unit 10, Unimak Island. For the Unit 10 remainder,
44 it's all rural residents.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And I think
49 maybe to help a little bit, Chris, with this. Over the
50

0205

1 years, even on Unimak, which included 9D and 10, which
2 included Akutan, Akutan at some point said, you know,
3 historically maybe many, many years ago they hunted but
4 they don't anymore. The cost to go to Unimak or 9D to
5 hunt is quite a bit. So over time as we actually
6 started, they, for purposes of subsistence hunts we've
7 left Akutan out. I've never heard on all the years
8 I've been involved in this Unalaska being added into
9 the -- as a group of communities.

10

11 So does that answer your question,
12 Chris, or do you have more comments?

13

14 MR. PRICE: No, that's fine, thank you.

15

16 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

19

20 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I guess listening to
21 this here, you know, do we need to make a motion to go
22 ahead and put a proposal in and if that's the case I
23 will go ahead and do that and I would like to put it
24 in on Dan Crowley's recommendation, if that's the case.

25

26 MS. SKINNER: I'll second if that's a
27 motion.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. We have a
30 motion made by Rick Koso, a second by.....

31

32 MS. SKINNER: Rebecca.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:Rebecca.
35 Discussion.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think that this
42 would be a good way to go, particularly since things
43 have been closed so long but I think the -- what was
44 presented in terms of the increasing population size,
45 that combined to locals needs for food, and,
46 particularly when you think back to what people used to
47 be able to get. I think that it would be good to
48 expedite this and to try to get the proposal in the
49 heap. The State might be more flexible in the long-

50

0206

1 run, but it looks like with the delays at the Board of
2 Game, that doing it on the Federal side might be the
3 most expeditious.

4

5 Thank you, Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
8 George, what -- just for purposes of discussion, do you
9 have any comments in regard to the motion at this
10 point?

11

12 MR. PAPPAS: So the motion, as I
13 understand, is to develop a registration hunt for a
14 maximum of 25 bulls. Well, Mr. Crowley's indicating
15 that's what they're looking for on the State side, so
16 are you looking for a registration hunt for Unimak
17 Island that do have a Federal subsistence registration
18 hunt for Unimak Island for those residents, is that
19 what you're looking at, and then the State would put a
20 proposal in to the Board of Game to do something with
21 the registration hunt just like Mr. Crowley was saying?
22 So are you looking at a percentage of those 25 animals,
23 are you looking for all those animals; what are you
24 thinking here, potentially just getting the framework
25 up, that the in-season manager can determine, through
26 consultation with the Department of Fish and Game
27 annual quotas and some type of real in-season
28 management; is that what you're looking for, Madame
29 Chair?

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sounds good to
32 me. Dave, maybe you want to answer the question in
33 regard to the 25 animals?

34

35 MR. CROWLEY: Sure, thank you, Madame
36 Chair. Yeah, I hadn't considered how we might divvy
37 that up. But I think in-season management, I think you
38 could issue, you know, unlimited number of registration
39 permits to the residents and -- for hunting on the
40 Federal side, and then we come on with the State
41 registration hunt and just, you know, rely on reporting
42 and in-season management. You know, the problem with
43 Unimak Island is that it is so remote and it is going
44 to be really hard to get hunters out there, you know,
45 kind of the same situation with the SAP. And, you
46 know, the SAP is much more accessible than the island.
47 We still can't get enough hunters out there. So I
48 don't -- I'm not very concerned about over harvest,
49 especially if we're just talking bulls and we can make
50

0207

1 up for it, you know, the next season by reducing the
2 harvest quota. You know there's a number of ways to go
3 about it. But I'm thinking, you know, more -- more
4 about in-season management.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.

9

And maybe.....

10

11 MS. SKINNER: Della.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

14

15 MS. SKINNER: This is Rebecca.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

18

19 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, this is Rebecca. I
20 had a question, I guess given that the clarification
21 that was just given, and I don't know if this question
22 is directed to Rick as far as what he meant by his
23 motion, but the -- so the current harvest limit is one
24 bull by Federal registration permit, and this is for
25 Unimak Island only. What are we proposing to change?
26 So I mean it looks like you get a regis -- a user would
27 get a registration permit and then they can go and get
28 one bull. Are we looking at increasing how many bulls
29 a permit holder can get or are we looking at broadening
30 it from just the residents of Akutan, False Pass, King
31 Cove and Sand Point. So what -- so I seconded the
32 motion, and I will admit I seconded without having the
33 details, because I do support this RAC, at the very
34 least, building a record to change the regulation. At
35 this point, I guess I'm not clear what the most
36 effective, specific change to the current regulation
37 would be, and so that's my question. And, again, I'm
38 not sure if this is best answered by Rick Koso, since
39 he made the motion, or maybe George, if you want to
40 jump in and give some guidance. But I'm really looking
41 for clarification on what it is we're changing in the
42 current regs.

43

44 Thanks.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
47 Rebecca. George, maybe you can explain to her what the
48 current regulation is and how this would change it?

49

50

0208

1 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 And I know there's a long list of State experts online
3 that can assist me with this. I just want to make a
4 note that I don't think I've seen this many Fish and
5 Game employees at a RAC meeting in years. There's such
6 a diverse subject matter you're talking, I'm looking
7 and I'm in contact with them, they're a lot of folks
8 online, please, appreciate them, or make sure express
9 of gratitude, appreciate them helping out here.

10

11 So what I'm looking at in my reference
12 right now is specifically the Handy-Dandy regulation
13 supplement from the Federal Subsistence Program, and it
14 does say no open Federal season on Unimak 10 island
15 only. There is a type of a hunt there that has a small
16 quota. Now, in -- you know, there's specific
17 instructions for designated hunters in the area, so
18 whether or not a hunter can harvest one or two animals,
19 if local folks with a designated hunting permit, I'm
20 not certain that would make -- that would increase
21 harvest rates if you went for two animals, when folks
22 can likely harvest for their neighbor anyway with a
23 designated hunting permit.

24

25 This is a tough one.

26

27 Maybe the idea of proposing a
28 registration hunt. The quota to be determined in
29 consultation later on. Pick your dates. The dates I
30 would recommend, basing on what our experts would
31 recommend for a hunting season. And we can flesh it
32 out with the -- through the analysis process this
33 upcoming season to come up with an analysis for you,
34 provide the information, and then at the fall meeting
35 you can voice whether or not you want to modify that,
36 if you like what you see, and, you know, the analysis
37 process would definitely be based on and working with
38 the Department of Fish and Game's data and experts.

39

40 So this is one possibility if you want
41 to make a motion, and clarify it, you're looking for a
42 registration hunt as -- in parallel to what Mr.
43 Crowley's indicating, with the harvest quotas to be --
44 season quotas to be determined by the individual with
45 the delegated in-season authority. You know, permit
46 issuance, we'll have to work that out. We do issue
47 mass permits in some areas. In some areas we issue
48 very few. But we would have to work that out.

49

50

0209

1 Am I being helpful, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca, did
4 that answer your question. Currently it's just open
5 for, I think, I want to say up to four, or maybe five
6 hunters, that they would request a permit and if -- and
7 through the Izembek Refuge and those are just currently
8 for residents of False Pass.

9

10 And another comment, too, and Tom has
11 brought this to my attention on occasion, that even for
12 the residents of False Pass to hunt these caribou,
13 they're still hard to get at because of where they're
14 located.

15

16 So with that, I guess, let me go back
17 to my initial question, is, did that answer your
18 question?

19

20 MS. SKINNER: Kind of. As I'm looking
21 at Page 55 of the 2020-2022 Federal wildlife
22 subsistence regulations, it looks like it's a
23 registration hunt for one bull caribou on Unimak Island
24 is already allowed. So I guess, again, I'm not exactly
25 sure what it is we're changing, however, given the data
26 we got on the caribou population, I am in support of,
27 you know, if we do need to, I guess, liberalize the
28 hunt, I'm -- I'm in support of that. So what George
29 Pappas outlined, as far as process, that, you know, we
30 specify we're looking at a registration hunt. I think
31 the in-season management is a very important point to
32 me because that will allow decisions to be made based
33 on the quality of the herd there. And this can all be
34 analyzed and come back to us for our fall meeting, so
35 I'm -- I'm good with -- with that process.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead. I'm
42 not sure who.....

43

44 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
45 Robbin LaVine. And I just.....

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
48 Robbin.

49

50

0210

1 MS. LAVINE: Hi. I just wanted to
2 clarify that what it sounds to me like you're proposing
3 and what would change is that currently under Federal
4 regulations there is a registration permit hunt on
5 Unimak Island, Unit 10, Unimak Island only, for
6 residents of False Pass only. You'll notice, however,
7 that in Unimak 10 -- or in Unit 10, Unimak Island,
8 residents of Akutan, False Pass, King Cove and Sand
9 Point have customary and traditional use determinations
10 for caribou. And initially you'll recall this was a
11 proposal that came before you first as a special action
12 and then later as a proposal to change regulation to
13 allow for some harvest by those local residents, or
14 those residents with customary and traditional use
15 determination but have the -- was the closest -- we
16 went through a prioritization among Federally-qualified
17 subsistence users and we provided limited opportunity
18 to False Pass. And it sounds like there is an
19 opportunity now to expand the pool of qualified users
20 back again to all those who have C&T for caribou on
21 Unimak Island.

22
23 Am I assessing that right, because if
24 that's true then it is a big change. It's a big
25 change. And it provides a little more opportunity for
26 those folks with C&T under a Federal hunt.

27
28 Thanks.

29
30 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, and, Della, this is
31 Rebecca. Thank you for that clarification. I think
32 that was a good lesson in how to read the regulations.
33 So now I understand. I thought the part with False Pass
34 went with the second bullet point but now I see it goes
35 with the first bullet point. So, yes, if the hunt
36 right now is limited to False Pass, what I am
37 understanding and what my intent in seconding the
38 motion was is that we're opening it up to residents of
39 Akutan, False Pass, King Cove and Sand Point, and so
40 that's my understanding of where we're trying to go.

41
42 Thank you for clarifying what the
43 current regulation actually is. And if that is what
44 Rick meant by his motion then I just reaffirm that that
45 is what I seconded.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

50

0211

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Wait one second.
2 The other thing, I think, that needs to be clarified,
3 Rebecca, is the dates. Currently the Unimak 10 has
4 August 1st to September 30th. Unit 9D, and this was
5 prior to the changes and it goes August 1st to
6 September 30th and then November 15th through March
7 31st. So I think Dave also brought that up as those
8 dates would be extended also.

9
10 And with that, Rick, was that you
11 making a comment.

12
13 MR. KOSO: Yes, Madame Chair. Are you
14 talking to me?

15
16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

17
18 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I agree with Rebecca
19 on that there. I was probably a little bit fast on the
20 motion there. But the way I understood this thing
21 would be, you know, under a State regulated hunt, it'll
22 be in-season managed -- managed in-season, and it'll be
23 for other than just the False Pass residents, it will
24 go to the rest of the village communities surrounding
25 that. And it would be, you know, regulated by the 25
26 bulls, you know, and I think the Feds and the State --
27 and I'm a little confused, you know, the Federals
28 pretty much got control on the Federal lands, but if
29 I'm not mistaken, if it's the State actually are the
30 ones that work the conservation on them so I don't know
31 where they would stand if they were together or two
32 separate deals on this, but my motion would stand the
33 same, with a State regulated hunt, 25 bulls, and would
34 be opened up to the other residents to catch -- and I
35 would leave the amount to the biologist to bring to the
36 floor of what they would think would be realistic and
37 conservative.

38
39 MR. RINALDI: Madame Chair.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

42
43 MR. RINALDI: This is Todd Rinaldi with
44 Division of Wildlife Conservation again. I would like
45 to just throw out a couple of different things.

46
47 I would offer that Department of Fish
48 and Game is more than willing to work with Fish and
49 Wildlife Staff in teasing through some of the
50

0212

1 subtleties of different regulatory systems and crafting
2 something -- or crafting some recommendations that we
3 could provide to the RAC in the future. I haven't
4 talked with Fish and Wildlife Staff about that but
5 that's certainly one approach.

6

7 The other issue is, as the previous
8 member just pointed out, is, the current regulations
9 prohibit anyone, non-Federally-qualified from accessing
10 the Federal lands on Unimak. And so those regulations
11 would have to be rescinded for any kind of State
12 registration hunt to take place on Unimak because of
13 very limited State lands where no caribou seem to
14 (indiscernible - muffled).

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
19 Robbin LaVine.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
22 Robbin.

23

24 MS. LAVINE: I think we might take a
25 look at Federal regulations for the harvest of Nushagak
26 Peninsula Caribou Herd as maybe some direction. I mean
27 I think it's an opportunity for us to look at how a
28 bounded population with limited range and -- and a need
29 for some population control has been managed, first, to
30 the benefit of Federally-qualified subsistence users,
31 and then when there isn't -- there aren't enough local
32 hunters, there isn't easy access, that after the
33 population reaches, or goes beyond a particular range,
34 that the hunt then opens to all, and that could be
35 including State residents.

36

37 I have some experience on that, and I
38 can't speak more but if you look at Page 81 of your
39 harvest of wildlife reg books you may see, second down
40 on the right, Units 17A and 17C, that portion of 17A
41 and C, consisting of the Nushagak Peninsula, you'll see
42 that Federal lands are closed to the harvest of caribou
43 except by Federally-qualified subsistence users unless
44 the population estimate exceeds 900 caribou. I know
45 that something like that, a strategy like that would
46 need to be kicked around by OSM Staff and, certainly,
47 we would want to consult with our colleagues on the
48 State side.

49

50

0213

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
4 other comments.

5

6 MR. RINALDI: Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

9

10 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, this is Todd
11 Rinaldi again. Yes, and Dave Crowley alluded to the
12 need to revisit the current kind of management program
13 that we have on Unimak. It's -- it's a document that
14 was developed with a number of -- with Federal and
15 State input and, although I don't think it was formally
16 ratified, it's still kind of been the guiding document
17 that the State, and I believe the Feds have been using.
18 So, you know, we have a State management plan process
19 which could also play into this. We do have certain
20 objectives. But I think that would be the strength of
21 sitting down with our Federal counterparts and talking
22 about these objectives. You know we've been working
23 with Togiak Fish and Wildlife Refuge for a number of
24 years administering the hunt on the Nushagak and it
25 seems to have been pretty effective.

26

27 So, yeah, I would encourage giving our
28 two agencies the opportunity to sit down and discuss
29 this and possibly suggest putting a placeholder on this
30 topic for now.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think that's a
33 good idea. Rick, so.....

34

35 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

38

39 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair, this is Rick.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

42

43 MR. KOSO: Yeah, you know, there's so
44 much questions to be answered here yet and I think I
45 could go ahead and withdraw my proposal, or motion, and
46 then until maybe the Feds and the State can get
47 together and have something to our request at the fall
48 meeting to where we could have something concrete to
49 look at and be a little more comfortable on making

50

0214

1 these kind of decisions.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca, you had
4 seconded that motion, is that good?

5

6 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I -- I'm okay with
7 that as long as the Council is all on the same page
8 that our intent is, as George had offered as an option
9 earlier, our intent is for OSM to take what we've
10 talked about today and try to formulate that into a
11 proposed regulatory change that then we could look at
12 at our fall meeting. If that's -- if the Council's
13 okay with that I'm good with withdrawing the motion.

14

15 The only other question I have is that
16 given the proposal deadline for the -- the wildlife
17 proposal deadline is May of 2021, is -- is that going
18 to be a problem or is there enough here to work with
19 that we can still get this proposal into the pipeline
20 for this cycle of wildlife proposals.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, George
25 Pappas. To answer, Rebecca, no, we need a proposal in
26 hand submitted to the Board before the deadline, and
27 any modifications could be made at the next RAC
28 meetings, if the RAC sees new information. I know
29 there's a lot of communications not going on with the
30 State and we have a lot of new information being
31 presented, it looks like the population's coming back,
32 Dave Crowley, that's probably the best information I've
33 heard in years regarding the herd, you know, here's one
34 recommendation; just putting in a blank placeholder
35 doesn't work, it has to have definition.

36

37 So my recommendation is I hear here the
38 State has indicated that there's room for some more
39 harvest, that's their regulatory process, which is good
40 news, because we understand there's some room for more
41 harvest for the Federal subsistence users because the
42 population can sustain it. So one option is to take a
43 baby step on this, and that would be propose that the
44 current hunt that we do have on Federal regulations,
45 the Federal books, expand that to the other
46 communities. And then have the harvest -- the total
47 harvest quota to be determined in consultation with the
48 State and Refuge managers, what have you, so that gives
49 us a framework of a hunt that's already existing, it's

50

0215

1 working, we can expand it a little bit by offering
2 other opportunity for other communities, if they are
3 interested, I know it's very expensive to get there,
4 I've been there. And working closely with Mr. Crowley
5 and Mr. Rinaldi and the team, we can come up with, you
6 know, maybe some quota idea, maybe 15 next year, maybe
7 25 bulls next year, whatever, and then the State, at
8 the same time, can go with their regulatory process,
9 come up with a registration hunt to the -- to the Board
10 and then they would be almost parallel, you're not
11 going to work on dates, you know, but that would be
12 something to negotiate. But right now I'm hearing a
13 lot of background chat from different experts, we need
14 to have more conversation before you come down to the
15 exact number, the exact dates, what have you.

16
17 But my recommendation right now is to
18 start the process is to increase the opportunity to
19 make it available -- more harvest opportunity for those
20 that have C&T under the Federal Program, and come up
21 with a new quota, I think it's -- I don't remember
22 exactly off the top of my head, but come up with a new
23 consultation in consultation with the State and that'll
24 be part of our process, and we have a chance to modify
25 it or even withdraw it come fall time at the meeting.

26
27 That's what I have for you.

28
29 I think that would work, so if you had
30 a motion to expand the current hunt to all those with
31 C&T and keep the dates, times, what have you the same,
32 and possibly have a TBA for the harvest to be set in
33 consultation, that would meet the function of a -- I
34 don't think it'd minimally meet it but it would meet --
35 but it would exceed what the opportunity is right now
36 under Federal -- under the Federal Program, and as the
37 State determines what's necessary to get their hunts in
38 line, in theory, it'll be almost in parallel with the
39 registration and the idea. But the two things that are
40 important is to control the harvest and also the in-
41 season reporting and that can be capt -- has been
42 captured on record as supported by Staff -- excuse me,
43 by Council members at this meeting.

44
45 Longwinded, yes. But I believe there's
46 a solution. We can keep this fairly simple. Keep it
47 slightly expanded and, you know, two years from now if
48 it's going, you know, gang-busters, we can even do
49 more.
50

0216

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

6

7 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think what George
8 suggested is really good. If I might suggest a way to
9 approach that and because he talks way faster than my
10 brain can process sometimes, would be for -- to get
11 down the gist of what he said, I would make a motion on
12 that, or go along with that, whoever wanted to, but if
13 we had that maybe typed up and then sent to us over our
14 lunch break, or at the end of it, then we'd have
15 something precisely deal with but I think that's a
16 solid approach for this time.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

23

24 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

27

28 MR. KOSO: Yeah, no, I agree with Pat
29 on that there. And like I got one question though, I
30 know this is for the other communities, is that going
31 to be residents only from the other communities,
32 because we do have guides in Cold Bay with airplanes
33 and they can easily bring people in and go out there
34 and hunt. I guess just to clarify, that would be just
35 for residents of those communities?

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: From the Federal
38 standpoint I would say yes because it's basically under
39 the umbrella of subsistence use at this time is what
40 I'm thinking if we do it under the Federal. And that
41 also raised a question to me because Dave had stated
42 earlier, from the State's standpoint, because of it on
43 Federal lands, can you clarify how that works, Dave,
44 again.

45

46 MR. CROWLEY: Yes, thank you, Madame
47 Chair. Dave Crowley. For the State hunt to work the
48 restriction on having only qualified hunters allowed on
49 Federal lands, that would have to be lifted because

50

0217

1 there just simply isn't enough room on the island that
2 is not Federal lands, you know, to put State hunters
3 in. And as Todd mentioned the caribou aren't there
4 much anyway, it's kind of that north end of the island.

5

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And so for any State hunt to work that would have to be rescinded, that restriction.

And I think that, you know, we would probably get more non-resident hunters going out there than resident hunters, I suspect, if we opened it to non-resident hunters, and that's because they're out hunting bears already. That would require a season extension into bear season. But these are all details that we can work out later. But ultimately if we're going to have a resident, and possibly non-resident hunt on Unimak Island, we would need that Federal lands restriction rescinded.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Dave. George, can you comment to that based on what you were proposing.

MR. PAPPAS: I can't disagree. That's -- for the State to move forward for any type design it would have to be opened to non-Federally-qualified. Even though, yes, there will be Alaska residents that are Federally-qualified that will participate under State regulations. That'll also open up the lands closer to town. Yes, they're not always there, but it'll open up the entire island over time, so I guess it'd be a two part proposal.

One part would be to rescind the closure to non-Federally-qualified, trusting that the State management won't put a thousand people on there over the weekend, which is extremely impossible, if you ask me, so rescind, and then expand the current registration hunt to the rest of the communities, and then you can write the dates, keep the dates, and then have a quota to be determined. It sounds like there's a lot more available than we currently thought there were a couple years ago.

So those three things would work.

0218

1 And the most important thing would be
2 for the Refuge, OSM and Fish and Game to work to get an
3 analysis to present all the information necessary for
4 you guys to make a solid decision, to fully support or
5 modify it at the next meeting.

6
7 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
10 Rebecca.

11
12 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. So a question,
13 first, procedurally, did Rick successfully withdraw his
14 motion, so we have no motion on the floor at the
15 moment?

16
17 MR. PAPPAS: That is correct in my
18 opinion.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That is correct.

21
22 MS. SKINNER: Okay, thank you. So what
23 I would like to do is I'm going to make a motion that
24 just add the ability for those C&T communities to
25 engage in the hunt, keep the same dates, and then have
26 the quota be determined in consultation with the State
27 and Federal managers. I'm going to do that in one
28 motion.

29
30 And then to me it seems appropriate to
31 have a second motion that deals with basically opening
32 up Unimak Island to all hunters. And the reason I
33 suggest doing two separate motions is because that step
34 seems like a much bigger step that I feel like because
35 this is kind of just coming up now in our discussion we
36 probably haven't had a lot of time to consider
37 information and think about what that would do.

38
39 But at the very least it seems like we
40 do support opening up the Unimak hunt to Federally-
41 qualified residents of Akutan, False Pass, King Cove
42 and -- and Sand Point. So I'm going to go ahead and
43 make that motion now and then if that passes I can make
44 a motion to rescind the Federal limitation, or whatever
45 that language needs to be.

46
47 So at this point I'd like to make a
48 motion to -- for Unimak Island, Unit 10, to have the
49 one bull by Federal registration permit open to
50

0219

1 residents of Akutan, False Pass, King Cove and Sand
2 Point, so those are the communities with the C&T
3 determination, the dates would remain the same and the
4 quota would be determine -- that's to be determined in
5 consultation between the State and Federal management.

6

7 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

10

11 MS. CHERNOFF: I just wanted to check
12 in on this before we go through with these motions. I
13 was wondering if another option is to increase harvest
14 in those C&T communities, if it's a possibility to do
15 community hunts. I know you were talking about it's
16 difficult to get to. I know from living here and
17 everywhere, not everybody has a boat, and
18 traditionally, you know, you pool your resources and
19 kind of hunt for the community. So before we put all
20 these motions out there I wanted to make sure that that
21 was or wasn't an option, also, to do a community hunt.
22 If someone could answer that first.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Natasha, is that
25 you speaking?

26

27 MS. CHERNOFF: No, this is Coral.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, Coral, okay,
30 sorry. Coral, just historically I think when these
31 guys go hunting over in False Pass they take whoever --
32 you know, basically more than one person and then they
33 do share in the community, that's historically what
34 they've been doing.

35

36 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes. But I was
37 wondering if there was an opportunity -- because
38 generally if you go hunting with two or three people
39 you do share, but you also have that -- are you limited
40 to one bull, but if you had a community hunt option, so
41 I'm just wondering is there a community hunt option, so
42 like two people could go out that have a boat, or three
43 people, and harvest 25 bulls, or five bulls or
44 whatever?

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: There's a
47 designated hunter permit that allows that hunter to
48 take -- let's use me, as an example, okay, if I had
49 permit I could give it to that person to get my bull.

50

0220

1 That's basically -- so there is a designated hunter
2 option in place.

3

4 MS. CHERNOFF: And is that just for
5 hunting for old people or older people or disabled
6 people or can you hunt anybody's?

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think
9 it's.....

10

11 MS. CHERNOFF: And I guess still my
12 question is maybe -- maybe my question is for someone
13 else to answer, is there a possibility for a community
14 hunt for more harvest, if I could get that answered
15 before we carry on with our other -- all these -- these
16 other motions?

17

18 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

19

20 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I heard Rick and
23 maybe George, I'm not sure.

24

25 MR. KOSO: George is smarter than me,
26 I'll let him go, Della.

27

28 MR. PAPPAS: I was going to put Robbin
29 on the spot for the community harvest hunt -- excuse
30 me, the community hunt question. Robbin.

31

32 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
33 This is Robbin. And I'm not necessar -- I'm not
34 feeling confident yet of addressing community harvest.
35 I do know we have options and I have a couple of
36 questions myself before I advise so I would like to --
37 I would like to do a little bit more research and get
38 back to you, if that's okay, in a few minutes.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So basically,
41 Coral, the designated hunter, or the hunters will go
42 out with a boat and they'll take three or four
43 designated hunter permits with them, if people would
44 like them to hunt for them. The case in King Cove, we
45 do -- there's people here that -- elders that'll give a
46 designated hunter permit to somebody in Cold Bay to get
47 their caribou and they'll send it over on a plane, so
48 that's in place. As far as a community harvest, I'm
49 not sure. And the other thing we need to be mindful

50

0221

1 of, as far as False Pass, in the past we had a small
2 population of people, about 40, 50 people, now with a
3 processing community there that number is a lot larger,
4 so I do need to give Tommy a call during lunch and just
5 kind of bounce some of this stuff off his head and see
6 what his thoughts are in regard to it.

7

8 With that, I guess, there is a motion
9 on the floor.

10

11 MR. ROHRER: Della, this is Sam, I'll
12 second the motion.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. A motion
15 has been made by Rebecca and seconded by Sam.
16 Discussion.

17

18 MR. KOSO: Della.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

21

22 MR. KOSO: Della.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Rick, go
25 ahead.

26

27 MR. KOSO: So just for clarification a
28 little bit, I think we had Pat also throw in a motion
29 prior to this one, so I don't know if that's still on
30 the floor or do we need to do something with that
31 first.

32

33 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

36

37 MR. HOLMES: I don't know, I can't
38 remember if we did or not. I'll be glad to withdraw
39 it. I have one question on the present moment --
40 motion, and customary and traditional because you named
41 off -- it was named off every place but Cold Bay and I
42 was just wondering if because there's a lot of folks
43 now that -- some folks in Cold Bay that used to be King
44 Cover's and from Belifosky and False Pass and folks
45 move all around, and I was just wondering if it's
46 possible for Cold Bay residents to be included in that
47 list of accepted residents.

48

49 Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

0222

1 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
2 Donald.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
5 Donald.

6
7 MR. MIKE: As far as the motion process
8 is concerned, Mr. Holmes was leading up towards a
9 motion but there was no second, so currently we have a
10 motion made by Ms. Skinner and seconded by Sam Rohrer,
11 and that's what I have on my notes.

12
13 Thank you, Madame Chair.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you for
16 that clarification, Donald. And also, Pat, on Page 55
17 under Unit 10 it has the communities of Cold Bay, False
18 Pass, King Cove, Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point.

19
20 MR. HOLMES: Oh, good, fine is kind.
21 Thank you, I just missed that with my funky hearing.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MR. PAPPAS: And, Madame Chair, I have
26 one more question that has not been answered yet. I am
27 embarrassed I have not answered this for you yet about
28 the designated hunting limits for your area, it's kind
29 of unique.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead. Go
32 ahead.

33
34 MR. PAPPAS: So if you look in
35 regulations there, Unimak Island caribou designated
36 hunter. A Federally-qualified subsistence user may
37 designate another Federally-qualified subsistence user
38 to take caribou on their behalf unless the recipient is
39 a member of a community operating under a community
40 harvest system. So just talking about the designated
41 hunting. Designated hunter must get a permit and let's
42 see here, the designated hunter may hunt for any number
43 of recipients but may have no more than four limits --
44 harvest limits in possession at one time. So as you
45 indicated folks go out and get two or three, the
46 regulations indicate a designated individual could go
47 get four total harvest limits. So that's not the same
48 thing as a community harvest, harvesting -- having a
49 super harvester harvesting more, but that is a fair
50

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1 amount of animals per hunter.

2

3 Thank you, Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And
6 so if you actually had two hunters with four permits
7 apiece, then that's eight. So.....

8

9 MS. SKINNER: Della. Sorry, Della,
10 this is Rebecca, I have a question.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
13 Rebecca.

14

15 MS. SKINNER: Thanks. I wanted to
16 clarify -- so following up on Pat's question about Cold
17 Bay, and whether it would be included or not, I -- I
18 would like to get clarification on whether it would be
19 included, because under -- under the caribou section
20 there on Page 55 it specifies Akutan, False Pass, King
21 Cove and Sand Point, so the motion I made specified
22 communities with a C&T finding for -- for caribou, so
23 -- I assume is the Akutan, False Pass, King Cove and
24 Sand Point. So just to make sure we're all on the same
25 page, I'm not sure if this is a Robbin question, but
26 can somebody clarify if -- is Cold Bay in or is Cold
27 Bay out?

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
32 Robbin.

33

34 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
35 Donald.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
38 Donald.

39

40 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
41 Donald. The way I understood the motion that was
42 proposed was to open it up to the remaining C&T
43 communities as shown on Page 55 and currently we're in
44 discussion so, you know, the Council can choose to make
45 an amendment to the main motion.

46

47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,

50

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1 Donald. So.....

2

3 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead,
6 Rick.

7

8 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I think it would be
9 real easy in the motion to rather than name the
10 individual communities out there is to name all the
11 communities within the Aleutians East Borough and that
12 includes Akutan, Nelson, and Sand Point and all the
13 ones we're talking about.

14

15 MR. ROHRER: Madame Chair, this is Sam,
16 I have a question.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Sam.

19

20 MR. ROHRER: Okay. And this is along
21 the lines of what Rick is saying. But I've been
22 sitting here wondering, the issue, according to the
23 State is they're starting to get concerned about the
24 numbers of caribou, we want to bump -- we're looking at
25 bumping harvest levels, and potentially making a motion
26 to -- to rescind the Federal restrictions so that the
27 State can put in place a season, if we're looking at
28 doing that, then why not just follow what we've done
29 with the Unit 10 remainder and make the Unit 10, Unimak
30 Island open to all rural residents. Again, it's
31 probably not going to result in any additional harvest
32 but it just makes it -- it simplifies it. Again,
33 remember, our goal is to increase harvest, or that's
34 what the State's saying our goal needs to be, is to
35 increase harvest, so I would -- I would make a motion
36 to amend Rebecca's motion to open it to all rural
37 residents if there was support for that.

38

39 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
40 Donald.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
43 Donald.

44

45 MR. MIKE: Yeah, just as part of the
46 discussion by Mr. Rohrer, Unit 10 remainder, all rural
47 residents, that means all residents in the state of
48 Alaska would be able to hunt caribou in Unit 10 Unimak,
49 remainder, just for clarification.

50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, and thank you,
4 Donald, I did understand that. Again, it's probably
5 realistically not going to result in that much more
6 harvest. But, yeah, I did understand that.

7

8 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair, this is
9 Coral.

10

11 MS. SKINNER: So I'm.....

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Is that
14 -- first I think I heard Coral and then Rebecca, or
15 Rebecca and then Coral.

16

17 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. I just
18 wanted to agree with Sam's suggestion there, to open to
19 all rural residents.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

24

25 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I was just going to
26 second Sam's motion if I was allowed to do that.

27

28 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
29 Donald.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
32 Donald.

33

34 MR. MIKE: I was just trying to keep
35 track of the discussion on the motion. So Mr. Rohrer,
36 did you state that you wished to make an amendment to
37 the main motion to open it to all rural residents for
38 Unimak caribou?

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MR. ROHRER: Yes. This is Sam. Yes,
43 sir, that was a motion.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So under
46 discussion, this is Della. Is that the limit up to 25
47 caribou or what is there a limit -- a limit, it's not
48 open for any take at all, is there a limit to this
49 discussion on the caribou, on the bulls?

50

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1 MS. SKINNER: So this is Rebecca. So
2 my understanding is I -- it's still a registration
3 permit but the people who are allowed to register are
4 any -- it's any rural resident in Alaska can register
5 and then as far as the quota -- so it's -- it's one
6 bull per permit, but the overall quota in my original
7 motion, that was to be determined by consultation
8 between the State and Federal management. So we, at
9 this point, my -- my main motion did not set a quota
10 number because I think there's more discussion to be
11 had on that and George indicated that that was okay,
12 that detail can kind of be worked until this would come
13 back to us at our fall meeting, was -- was my
14 understanding.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you for
19 that.

20
21 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

24
25 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, having traveled out
26 there since the '60s and lived out in that neck of the
27 woods, some nasty storms and what not, and good
28 weather, I think the whole idea that, you know, our
29 Council should be looking at is that we're having an
30 increase of possibly of a harvest of 20, but the folks
31 that traditionally have harvested those caribou out
32 there are folks in basically the Aleutians East
33 Borough, and I think we should address that first, see
34 how that hunt goes, and then you can expand it out to
35 rural residents for other places, because for the most
36 part somebody from Quinhagak or Kodiak hardly ever has
37 been to Unimak Island and so I think it should be --
38 and the harvest basically used to be the folks down
39 there with the seiners or a big gillnetter would take
40 somebody from their village, toodle over there and then
41 come back, or distribute it to -- what they got to
42 folks on the way back to King Cove, or up the other
43 side to Nelson Lagoon.

44
45 Myself, I think it's a little premature
46 to expand it to all residents with respect to Sam and
47 Becky and that thought, but I think we should just stay
48 as a small area as initially possible and then
49 whatever develops on the State side, that might expand
50

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1 it, but I think that, you know, it's our duty to look
2 at things for local folks first.

3

4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
9 Rick.

10

11 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I concur with Pat on
12 that. I think we should keep it restricted to the
13 Aleutians East Borough before we open it up and see how
14 that goes, and if it looks like we can open it up for
15 everybody later on down the road then we can do it at
16 that time. But I hate to see -- it doesn't take a
17 whole lot of people to come down in their own private
18 plane and go out to Unimak and shoot caribou from the
19 other villages. So I would say restriction to
20 Aleutians East Borough.

21

22 MS. SKINNER: Della, I have a question,
23 this is Rebecca.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
26 Rebecca.

27

28 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thanks. I never
29 actually got an answer to my question about the --
30 perhaps I didn't state this part specifically, but the
31 C&T determination as it relates to Cold Bay, but
32 following up on Rick's comment, can -- I mean can we
33 even say that this is limited to residents of Aleutians
34 East Borough or does it have to be community specific
35 and do those communities have to have a C&T
36 determination? If -- I'm assuming this is a Robbin
37 question but if I can get clarification on that I'd
38 appreciate it.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
43 Robbin.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead. Go
46 ahead, Robbin.

47

48 MS. LAVINE: Yeah, hi. So if -- if you
49 would like to expand the eligibility of the Federally-

50

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1 qualified subsistence users or expand who is eligible
2 then you will need to put in a customary and
3 traditional use determination proposal and you can
4 request, you know, you can request one, two, three
5 communities, or you can request all communities within
6 a region. But that assessment will need to be
7 conducted in tandem with a new hunt proposal as well.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Robbin, this is
12 Della, and maybe George can correct me if I'm wrong.
13 But if I recall correctly when we had the big crash on
14 the 90 caribou and we slowly came back with the permit
15 under the Federal subsistence for caribou, we did use
16 the community -- the six communities of the Aleutians
17 East Borough because Cold Bay traditionally had hunted
18 caribou also. So I think what Rick was suggesting, I
19 think, is.....

20

21 (Teleconference interference -
22 participants not muted)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So maybe -- so I
25 don't know if we can just technically table this and
26 take a break and maybe give our brains a little break
27 and come back after lunch. I feel like we're all over
28 the place right now.

29

30 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
31 Donald. I just want to remind the Council that we
32 currently have an amended motion on the table.

33

34 (Teleconference interference -
35 participants not muted)

36

37 MR. MIKE: Do you want to take care of
38 that now before we go on lunch break or just reconvene
39 and start the discussions again after lunch.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam, what do you
44 think, you were the one with the amendment.

45

46 MR. ROHRER: I can withdraw my
47 amendment if there's not support for it so we don't
48 have to vote on it, that's fine. But before I do that,
49 though, I'm curious, we just were told we would have to

50

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1 do a C&T determination for, you know, do a new C&T
2 determination if we opened it to all rural residents,
3 but I'm wondering, again, as I look here, the Unit 10
4 remainder is open to all rural residents, so was there
5 a statewide C&T determination on the Unit 10 remainder
6 that has been done in the past?

7

8 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, George
9 Pappas. Robbin LaVine, it looks like she just dropped
10 out of the teleconference here. So the discussion is,
11 yes, you did have an amendment to all rural residents
12 and then there was discussion of just Aleutians East
13 Borough only, it gives the potential of other people
14 coming in from maybe long distances, or from Kodiak, or
15 what have you, so there's two different discussions
16 going on here, Sam. And if you could do something less
17 than -- if -- we have
18 a C&T that's very focused, and then we have a statewide
19 C&T for the rest of Unit 10. If you're looking at
20 doing something in between that determination, I
21 believe what Robbin was leading to, has to be done, if
22 you're going to, you know, pick six or 8 communities
23 and then another community is only 20 miles, why didn't
24 you choose them, there'd have to be an analysis of why
25 and how, and during that analysis it'll also come out
26 what the options are. Maybe this is not possible.

27

28 I apologize for not having the answers
29 for you on this. We actually have a very short
30 wildlife Staff bench right now -- bench of wildlife
31 Staff, so if you did put in for everybody, and with the
32 intent as an alternative for -- an alternate for
33 Aleutians East Borough, we can do an analysis to figure
34 out how we can get there, bringing it back to you and
35 you take a look at it.

36

37 Thank you, Madame Chair. Thank you,
38 Sam.

39

40 MR. ROHRER: Well, this is Sam. Just a
41 reply to that. That's what's making me wonder, if we
42 already have a C&T determination for all of Unit 10
43 remainder, I just wonder if there's not already been --
44 if we don't already have a C&T determination on the
45 books for Unit 10 Unimak Island as well. It just seems
46 funny to me that we would have a C&T determination for
47 remainder for the entire state, but not for Unimak
48 Island. So that doesn't quite add up to me.

49

50

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1 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
2 Robbin.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
5 Robbin.

6
7 MS. LAVINE: So when you see -- in our
8 regulation books when you see customary and traditional
9 use determinations of all rural residents, that means
10 there actually hasn't been a specific customary and
11 traditional use determination analysis done for that
12 species in that region. And this is -- these are kind
13 of holdovers from this new Federal Subsistence
14 Management Program, relatively new, so we can dial
15 these things in over time and if there hasn't been any
16 customary and traditional use determination made then
17 you'll see all rural residents. So that's why that's
18 there.

19
20 Thanks.

21
22 MR. ROHRER: Robbin, this is Sam. Just
23 to follow up on that. So what I hear you saying is if
24 it's wide open, it's open to all rural residents but as
25 it gets dialed down you do the C&T determinations, but
26 then if we try to dial it back out, we have to continue
27 to use a C&T determination to expand. Does that make
28 sense?

29
30 MS. LAVINE: Yeah. Yeah. Madame
31 Chair. Through the Chair, this is Robbin again. So if
32 -- we can look at adding communities or areas to a C&T
33 and especially when you're looking at a bounded
34 population like the Unimak Island caribou, we know
35 populations can fluctuate and we know there may be
36 times in the future where numbers decline again, and
37 when that's the case, once you have customary and
38 traditional use determinations in place -- customary
39 and traditional use determinations are meant to be
40 expansive, they're meant to be inclusive, the Board is
41 really wide open when there isn't a constrained
42 population or a conservation issue. But once it
43 becomes limited and we need to be careful of harvest
44 numbers then we have another option and that's called
45 the prioritization process among Federally-qualified
46 subsistence users, and then I would conduct an .804.
47 And that's what we did for the Unimak Island Caribou
48 Herd in creating that limited season for False Pass
49 residents only. You'll see that there are four
50

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1 communities for Unimak Island caribou that have
2 customary and traditional use determinations, so
3 because the population was so small, that there was
4 limited opportunity, there could be a small amount of
5 harvest, we wanted to open it up a little bit and so we
6 looked at prioritizing among Federally-qualified users
7 to create that opportunity and we ended up with, well,
8 if we're opening up just a little that would be False
9 Pass based on dependence of the resource, location, you
10 know, proximity to the resource, and availability of
11 other similar resources.

12
13 And so that's what we're looking at
14 when we do an .804. And if you look back in your
15 Council books, the special action for the Unimak Island
16 caribou has that .804 and I believe it may even be
17 included in the proposal -- the regulatory proposal
18 that -- I think it was in 2018 or -- I think it was in
19 2018, or 2020, I can't remember -- but it was
20 relatively recently. So we have these opportunities to
21 be expansive and inclusive and then we have these
22 opportunities to prioritize among Federally-qualified
23 subsistence users if we need to.

24
25 And, yeah, I can answer more questions
26 if I'm not making sense.

27
28 Thank you, Madame Chair.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. My
31 recommendation, I don't know about all of you but my
32 brain is all over the place right now with this. I
33 have more questions for the State also. So, Sam, can
34 we maybe table your amendment for now and then just
35 table the motion. I really would like to talk to --
36 get a hold of Tom Hoblet during the lunch break and
37 maybe even have him call in. I'm not comfortable, you
38 know, without having somebody from the community online
39 to throw something in there if we need more
40 clarification.

41
42 So my recommendation is if we could go
43 ahead and take a break until 1:30 and maybe between now
44 and then, those of us, Federal Staff, or even possibly
45 State Staff can think about some solutions would be to
46 our action after lunch.

47
48 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair. Yeah,
49 Della, I'm certainly fine with it being tabled until
50

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1 after lunch.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca, are you
4 okay with that?

5

6 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I -- I'm fine with
7 that. Robbin, are you available, if I can give you a
8 call over lunch to just try to make sure I understand
9 this and maybe streamline a little bit when we get back
10 after lunch?

11

12 MS. LAVINE: Absolutely, I'm available.
13 Thank you, Madame Chair.

14

15 MS. SKINNER: All right, thanks.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you
18 everyone, we'll take a break until 1:30.

19

20 (Off record)

21

22 (On record)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, Donald,
25 maybe we'll go ahead and try to do a roll call and see
26 where we're at.

27

28 MR. MIKE: Okay. This is Donald Mike,
29 Council Coordinator. Roll call.

30

31 Pat Holmes.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MR. MIKE: Pat Holmes.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MR. MIKE: Rick Koso.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MR. MIKE: Sam Rohrer.

44

45 MR. ROHRER: I'm here.

46

47 MR. MIKE: Chris Price.

48

49 MR. PRICE: Here.

50

0233

1 MR. MIKE: Coral Chernoff.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MR. MIKE: Rebecca Skinner.

6

7 MS. SKINNER: Here.

8

9 MR. MIKE: Della Trumble's here.

10

11 Natasha Hayden.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MR. MIKE: Melissa Berns.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MR. MIKE: Okay, I'll go back to the

20 top. Pat Holmes, are you with us?

21

22 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

23

24 MR. MIKE: Okay.

25

26 Rick Koso.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Hello.

29

30 MR. MIKE: Rick Koso, are you with us?

31

32 MR. KOSO: Yes.

33

34 MR. MIKE: Coral Chernoff.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MR. MIKE: Natasha Hayden.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MR. MIKE: Melissa Berns. Madame

43 Chair, everyone's here except for three members. Thank
44 you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you,
47 Donald. And maybe while we're waiting a little bit,
48 I'll kind of share something and you guys can correct
49 me if I'm wrong. Currently in place under 9D, we have
50

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1 a Federal system and the State. And at one point,
2 caribou came back we were asked -- we were told if we
3 did not want to have the Federal permit system in place
4 we didn't have to and it can all go under State, and
5 that included the hunting on the Federal lands.

6
7 Now, I requested to keep those State
8 permits in place for mainly one reason and that had to
9 do with the subsistence hunt permit with the designated
10 hunter. And the reason I wanted that, it's so much
11 easier under the Federal guidelines to do the
12 designated hunter than it is the State. The State is
13 much more stringent, I think, like you have to be
14 blind, you have to be all these other things that where
15 under the Federal part of it, if you're an elder you
16 could qualify, you could hand your permit to somebody,
17 to a designated hunter. And one of the things I always
18 wanted to do was try and I've asked, you know, and
19 told this is what you should consider is going to the
20 State and asking if they can change the regulations for
21 a designated hunter and at some point in time I think
22 it's something we should look at.

23
24 So given that scenario, and correct me
25 if I'm wrong, is the fact that right now under Izembek
26 Unit 9D, the State allowed to have hunters hunt on
27 those lands, so those restrictions have been lifted.
28 When Dave was talking about rescinding -- lifting those
29 restrictions on Unimak, that's what he's asking for.

30
31 So basically if you put that same
32 scenario in place for Unimak, then it would work; is
33 that correct?

34
35 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
36 Donald.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Can anyone
39 answer that?

40
41 MR. MIKE: If I can refer to George
42 Pappas. George.

43
44 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
45 think -- let me make sure I understood your reference.
46 So the Federal Subsistence Program has a delegated
47 hunter possibility, harvester for another individual
48 and that is much more -- that's just for anybody else
49 that's Federally-qualified, and you want to see this --
50

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1 that ability to have, say, one Federally-qualified
2 hunter harvest four animals, four bag limits at a time
3 for other delegated hunters, is that what you
4 indicated, or you indicated you prefer the State proxy
5 system where you have to be Federally handicapped,
6 blind, or other -- or elder, you -- you like the idea
7 of the Federal designated hunting system; is that what
8 you're supporting, ma'am?

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That is correct.
11 Each year.....

12
13 MR. PAPPAS: Okay.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:Izembek
16 sends me about 20 hunting permits that.....

17
18 MR. PAPPAS: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:you can
21 hunt caribou in 9D under the Federal system.

22
23 MR. PAPPAS: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: With those
26 permits, it also includes a number of designated hunter
27 permits which allows us to -- No. 1., I can get my
28 caribou permit and I can give it and fill out a
29 designated hunter form and give it to someone that's
30 going hunting, and that's much easier -- so that system
31 works.

32
33 MR. PAPPAS: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And so the State
36 still has their permits and like what I'm saying, at
37 some point, and about I think maybe two years ago when--
38 we were -- basically said, hey, Della, you don't need
39 to -- you guys -- you know, you don't need, and this is
40 at the statewide level, you don't need the Federal
41 subsistence permits anymore, this is all open for
42 hunting anywhere, but we requested to keep those in
43 place and that was the very reason why is the structure
44 under the designated hunter.

45
46 MR. PAPPAS: Understood. So
47 translating that to Unimak at this time, if you wanted
48 to maintain what you have right now, and possibly
49 liberalize it a little bit to meet the growing
50

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1 population of the herd, we can discuss that. We have
2 actually four options for you to look at for collecting
3 information that the Council's provided us so far
4 today, and when you're ready I'll have Jared post it on
5 the Teams meeting and we can take a look and talk about
6 the plus and minus, ma'am.

7

8 Thank you, Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And, I'm sorry,
11 George, can you repeat that again, I had the -- oh, I
12 had something here.

13

14 MR. PAPPAS: No problem. No problem.
15 So from the top, I understand the value of the
16 designated hunter provision in the Federal regulation
17 is -- is preferred -- is preferred for what is done
18 east of you. So for Unimak, the idea of keeping a
19 Federal designated hunt, permit hunt available to
20 Federally-qualified users is a bonus, you'd like that.
21 So you could do that, we could continue with what you
22 have right now, and -- or we have basically four
23 options we came up over lunch time to post on this
24 Teams meeting for you to look at it, if you're
25 interested, and we can go through them. But, yes, if
26 you go 100 percent State permits only, and don't have a
27 Federal permit and don't end up with a designated
28 hunting ability on the Federal side, you won't be able
29 to address some of the concerns you talked about
30 earlier, and I believe Coral brought it up, individuals
31 from a community going and getting -- harvesting for
32 two, three, or four other families.

33

34 So when you're ready we'll pop this up
35 and take a look at it.

36

37 Madame Chair.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
40 And then just also before you do that, I was not able
41 to talk to Tom Hoblet, he's on the fishing grounds and
42 not able to contact him. I did talk to his wife and
43 she agrees that we probably need to do something
44 because we don't want the herd to crash again if the
45 populations are coming up so -- so I guess with that
46 maybe we'll, real fast, Donald, if you can see if the
47 other members are available and then we'll go to the
48 presentation by George.

49

50

0237

1 MR. MIKE: Okay. Okay, Madame Chair,
2 thank you. This is Donald Mike, Council Coordinator.

3
4 We're doing a roll call of Council
5 members.

6
7 Coral Chernoff, are you with us.

8
9 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, I'm here.

10
11 MR. MIKE: Okay.

12
13 Natasha Hayden.

14
15 MS. HAYDEN: Yes, I'm here.

16
17 MR. MIKE: And Melissa Berns.

18
19 MS. BERNs: Yes.

20
21 MR. MIKE: Okay. Melissa, you're
22 coming in faint but Madame Chair, I just want to --
23 prior to our lunch break we tabled an amended motion to
24 the main motion. Amended motion by Sam Rohrer and
25 seconded by Ms. Skinner. And the main motion -- Ms.
26 Skinner provided a main motion for a proposal and
27 seconded by Mr. Sam Rohrer. So we currently have a
28 motion on the table so it's up to the Council if they
29 want to go forward with it or hear the presentation
30 first, and then go back to the motion.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca, what
35 would you like to do since you're the maker of the
36 motion.

37
38 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, it'd be -- it'd be
39 good to hear.

40
41 MS. SKINNER: I -- I'm sorry, I thought
42 we had a motion to amend on the floor.

43
44 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
45 Donald. Yes, I was just reminding the Council members
46 that we have an amended motion on the table right now
47 prior to our lunch break and the Council agreed to
48 table it until after lunch. And then there's the main
49 motion for a proposal on the Unimak caribou. So I was
50

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1 just reminding the Council where we're at.

2

3 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, so -- so Della at a
4 -- this is Rebecca. At a high level, I would like to
5 see the Council put forward a wildlife proposal dealing
6 with the Unimak caribou. If your question is am I
7 ready at this point to withdraw my motion, I guess I'm
8 not ready at this point. I -- I think if the motion
9 needs to be amended, that's fine, but like I said I --
10 I really would like the Council to -- to put forward a
11 wildlife proposal. So from my perspective I'm
12 comfortable leaving my motion on the floor, but as
13 Donald pointed out there is a motion to amend actually
14 on the floor right now that we need to deal with in
15 some way.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you for
20 that. I'm sorry, my phone was just buzzing off the
21 hook and I'm trying to deal with two things at one
22 time. I just set the phone down and look at it later,
23 so I apologize.

24

25 So I guess at this point we need to
26 deal with the amendment, Sam.

27

28 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, so, Madame Chair,
29 this is Sam. I don't think we've actually gotten a
30 second for my amendment, Rebecca had kind of indicated
31 she would second it, but I'm thinking if -- if the
32 second, who was Rebecca kind of on my amendment, if
33 she's okay with this, I'll withdraw my amendment and
34 then we have just her proposal on the floor, and then I
35 think it would be helpful to hear the presentation that
36 OSM prepared for us.

37

38 So with the concurrence of my second, I
39 would withdraw my amendment for now.

40

41 MS. SKINNER: And this is Rebecca,
42 that's fine.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, that
45 works for everybody.

46

47 MR. HOLMES: And, Della, some place,
48 could we review that motion.

49

50

0239

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think maybe,
2 if we can, Pat, at this time, go ahead and look at the
3 presentation, then we'll go back to the main motion and
4 maybe take it from there. Is that good?

5
6 MR. HOLMES: Yes, ma'am, sounds good.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.
9 George.

10
11 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, Madame Chair, thank
12 you. We talked to a few folks during lunch and Jared
13 put a couple options up here for you. And those
14 options are a repeat of everything I've heard today so
15 far, tried to keep this focused.

16
17 Option A. Would be as discussed, to
18 liberalize the Federal subsistence caribou hunt on
19 Unimak Island by adding in the -- you'll see in bold
20 there, Akutan, King Cove and Sand Point, and then add
21 the clause about the annual harvest quota for the hunt
22 to be established, delegated official -- there's
23 different titles for that but basically the Refuge
24 manager who has the letter of delegation, in
25 consultation with the State. But the consultation
26 requirements for the letter of delegation includes the
27 Regional Advisory Council -- it includes more than just
28 calling the State on this, so, of course, the letter of
29 delegation, there would be consultation with much more
30 than just the State. That's Option 1. And I
31 understand there was no discussion on modifying the
32 dates yet. You know, the State talked about possibles --
33 possibly working something out later on, but for this
34 discussion today I heard nothing's changed with the
35 date there.

36
37 Jared, if you'd mind scrolling down to
38 Option B.

39
40 Okay, so Option B, was the amendment
41 that was offered to liberalize the Federal subsistence
42 caribou hunt on Unimak by opening it beyond False Pass
43 only, beyond the C&T communities only, but to the
44 Aleutians East Boroughs. So this isn't written
45 correctly, it should say the communities of Aleutians
46 East Borough, but you understand the discussion of Cold
47 Bay, some other areas that folks might want to come in
48 and harvest. Same deal about the hunt quota
49 established by letter of deleg -- by the delegated
50

0240

1 official with consultation. That's Option B. We can --
2 what I heard. And that was one of the motions, I
3 think, Mr. Koso indicated.

4
5 Okay, Jared, if you don't mind
6 scrolling down a little bit more.

7
8 Option C. Okay. And the last one that
9 Sam just pulled off the table there, as an amendment,
10 was, for all rural residents. So open up to Federal
11 subsistence for all rural residents. And, yeah, as
12 discussed. So that would be -- that would be everybody
13 who's a Federally-qualified subsistence user in Alaska.

14
15 And then Option D, would be one step
16 beyond that, that would open Federal public lands to
17 all users so -- but the Federal hunt would be for all
18 rural residents. So that would be Option D. That
19 would be down the line, plenty of animals, not an
20 issue, with consultation, allocation, and that would be
21 Option D. And that's where we hope to land some day,
22 and it sounds like in maybe another survey or two we'll
23 have a pretty solid grasp on how explosive this
24 population is. I mean this is -- this is wonderful to
25 talk about, extra harvest opportunity compare as to
26 where you were 10, 15 years ago.

27
28 That's what I have for you, Madame
29 Chair. Very simple. Those would -- unless you have
30 other ideas, this is kind of what captured what was
31 discussed today.

32
33 Thank you, Madame Chair.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
36 George. If I.....

37
38 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
41 Rebecca.

42
43 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, Jared, can you
44 scroll down so we can see both Option C and D on the
45 screen. Okay, so I just -- so is -- is Option C like
46 where the -- the wording after Option C in pink, did
47 that -- is that the identical wording to Option B, did
48 that just not get updated or.....

49
50

0241

1 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair.
2 Council Member Skinner, of course you don't miss a
3 single error ever, and I appreciate that and I
4 apologize for that and I'll look on someone to blame
5 this on, but it's my fault, yes, that is a mistake.....
6

7 MS. SKINNER: Okay.
8

9 MR. PAPPAS:it was a cut and
10 paste effort, apologize. Thank you.
11

12 MS. SKINNER: Okay. Okay. So Option B
13 is for the residents of Aleutians East Borough. Option
14 B opens it up to all rural residents, and then what --
15 what -- what is Option D?
16

17 MR. PAPPAS: That would allow harvest
18 outside of Federally-qualified only. Option C would
19 keep the island restricted to Federally-qualified users
20 only.
21

22 MS. SKINNER: Okay.
23

24 MR. PAPPAS: See the -- you know,
25 Federal public lands closed to take of, and Option D
26 would be to -- to open it up to.....
27

28 MS. SKINNER: Okay.
29

30 MR. PAPPAS:to the State hunt also.
31

32 MS. SKINNER: Okay.
33

34 MR. PAPPAS: So, yeah, apologize for
35 that error.
36

37 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I wasn't intending
38 to call you out, I just wanted to make sure I
39 understood what the options were, thanks.
40

41 MR. PAPPAS: Well, it's imperative you
42 do, thank you.
43

44 (Laughter)
45

46 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat.
47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.
49
50

0242

1 MR. HOLMES: I think something that
2 relates to all these options, including just leaving it
3 the way it is now, is, what the definition of a
4 resident of False Pass is because having several
5 hundred cannery workers there, and I'm wondering
6 because like at Unalaska, I believe they came up with a
7 definition that you had to -- if you lived in a
8 multiple dwellinghousing or something like that, in a --
9 basically in a cannery bunkhouse then you wouldn't be
10 considered a resident for subsistence, so that's a big
11 question. Because if that's not the case and it's
12 everybody living in False Pass, then we might want to
13 just stay right where we're at rather than trying to
14 expand anything until we know for sure what's going to
15 be happening and who's going to be hunting out of False
16 Pass.

17
18 Thank you, Madame Chair.

19
20 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
21 Robbin.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
24 Robbin.

25
26 MS. LAVINE: Yeah, hi, in Federal
27 regulations you must have your primary permanent place
28 of residence be in a rural area and you have to have
29 lived in Alaska for at least the previous 12 months.
30 If you look in your wildlife, or probably fisheries
31 regulation booklets under definitions you'll see a more
32 detailed description of a resident, a Federally-
33 qualified rural resident. And, yeah, people living in
34 temporary housing for the purposes of work do not
35 qualify, at least not in Unalaska.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, any other
40 comments in regard to what has been presented.

41
42 MR. HOLMES: Is Rick on, we were
43 chatting a bit about just leaving it the way it is
44 because this is a -- rather than expanding things, at
45 least through the season to see what happens, that's
46 another option, earlier than A, I guess.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

0243

1 MS. HAYDEN: Della, this is Natasha.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
4 Natasha.

5

6 MS. HAYDEN: Thank you. I just -- I was
7 a couple of minutes late signing back in after lunch, I
8 wasn't -- I didn't hear if there was an answer to -- if
9 definitively if Cold Bay is not included in the
10 customary and traditional use -- as a customary and
11 traditional use community. Was that discussed?

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Robbin, do you
14 want to answer that.

15

16 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
17 Through the Chair. That is correct, Cold Bay does not
18 have customary and traditional use for caribou on
19 Unimak Island.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MS. HAYDEN: Okay, thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So any other
26 comments or questions.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, I do have
31 a question and this is for Dave in King Salmon.
32 Basically in your report you alluded to the number of
33 caribou and technically if we look back at the last two
34 years that herd has expanded almost, I want to say just
35 off the top of my head and if I recall correctly, about
36 close to 200 caribou per year. If that is the case
37 then we go another year without expanding the ability
38 to hunt, the impact of that is going to be negative.
39 And that is what I truly understand and I believe. And
40 in talking to Ruth Hoblet, their concern also is that
41 they don't want the herd to crash because it's over
42 populated.

43

44 And so those are my concerns as we hold
45 these things off.

46

47 The other piece of this is we are in
48 the wildlife cycle and if we change this, and correct
49 me if I', wrong George, if we want to change this later

50

0244

1 on it has to be done by special action and that would
2 be next year. If we don't do anything now and we have
3 our meeting in May then the season opens then August
4 1st, there is no changes, our meeting isn't until the
5 fall, most likely September. Is that correct?

6
7 MR. PAPPAS: That is procedurally
8 correct, yes. You don't have a meeting between and
9 May, this is your meeting to submit a proposal or tell
10 us to help you get one crafted by the deadline then you
11 discuss it next September and then it gets voted on
12 mid-winter. That's the procedure.

13
14 Special actions can be put in place for
15 continued subsistence uses or conservation or public
16 safety reasons.

17
18 So if a meteor hits the island, no
19 animals, the Federal manager can close it with a pen
20 stroke. To expand can be a little more challenging.
21 But, yes, this is your chance right now, that's the
22 answer to the question you're asking.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So given that,
25 and I go back to what I said earlier, that if the
26 Federal regulations, lift the restriction off of
27 Unimak, which would allow the State to create a hunt,
28 we can still allow and use Federal permits issued
29 through Izembek with the designated hunter. And this
30 would be an issue where the State would still have --
31 be able to have their -- anybody that wants to hunt
32 under their guidelines also and that the tracking and
33 coordination between the State and the Feds, and
34 Izembek on the numbers that are being harvested to
35 track it, then they can close it any time they feel
36 they need to if the harvest limits look like they were
37 being met.

38
39 Is that correct?

40
41 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, that is
42 correct. And the Federal manager has the ability to
43 put on a reporting requirement as a permit stipulation
44 if warranted. So you know, two weeks, one week, I'm
45 not certain what the State would use for their
46 registration reporting, what they do in other areas,
47 but the in-season manager can work closely with the
48 State and come up with an active in-season management
49 reporting requirements, nothing, you know, burdensome
50

0245

1 to the point it's going to cause the problem, but
2 nothing so lengthy that you're going to miss the
3 accuracy of in-season management.

4

5 That is correct.

6

7 Thank you, Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. So
10 given all of that, Rebecca, what do you recommend or
11 what would your thoughts be?

12

13 MS. SKINNER: So this whole, I guess,
14 proposal process was kicked off by Rick's original
15 motion to expand the hunting opportunity. It sounds
16 like from the most recent comments that Rick made that
17 perhaps he has changed his thoughts and does not want
18 to provide opportunity beyond the people that live in
19 False Pass -- or residents of False Pass. However, I
20 also heard you state that you talked to residents in
21 that area and they are concerned about the population.

22

23 The motion that's on the floor right
24 now should reflect what is in Option A, which I would
25 consider -- I think it's Option A, if you could scroll
26 up, which does expand the hunt, but it does it in the
27 most conservative manner possible, so it only expands
28 the hunt to residents of the communities that have a
29 C&T finding. So that would be False Pass, Akutan, King
30 Cove and Sand Point. So those are the communities
31 currently that have a C&T determination. And that's
32 basically the motion that's on the floor right now.

33

34 So given that within Council
35 discussion, I guess I am hearing two -- multiple
36 perspectives, it's not clear to me where everyone
37 stands. It might make the most sense to just do a vote
38 on the motion and see if it passes or fails, because
39 I'm hearing both leave the hunt where it is, don't
40 change anything, but I'm also hearing concern if
41 nothing is done and the herd expands too much and then
42 crashes.

43

44 So my -- where I'm coming from, I do
45 think -- I mean I will vote in favor of the motion. I
46 think that expanding the hunt to the residents of
47 Akutan, False Pass, King Cove and Sand Point makes
48 sense at this time and, again, I do think it is the
49 most conservative option that's on the table right now.

50

0246

1 So it will provide expanded opportunity but it does so
2 on a limited and controlled basis.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
9 Rebecca. Rick.

10
11 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I -- I've been looking
12 at this for quite some time now and I guess my whole
13 thing on this deal, you know, because of the good
14 report we got that, you know, has really picked up on
15 caribou, but, you know, I'd hate to see us open up more
16 caribou hunting and then limit the residents of False
17 Pass when we're looking at 25 caribou or whatever it
18 is, you know, that they can take. I got a lot of
19 unanswered questions. I think if you look at the area
20 9D, you know, the population is really growing, we're
21 up around 3,100 caribou in 9D now and so people from
22 Nelson Lagoon, King Cove, Sand Point, Cold Bay are not
23 going to go over to Unimak Island and hunt caribou
24 right now that I could see.

25
26 I think what I'd like to see, at least
27 in my mind, is that because we got a fish plant there
28 that we're really not sure of the residency or how many
29 people would be actually able to hunt there, I've heard
30 a report that there's different residency requirements
31 for the Federal but, you know, the city requirements
32 for residency, a lot of them are two weeks and a lot of
33 them are one month to become a resident. So that can
34 get really confusing. And I don't want to see, like I
35 say, 900 people goes into False Pass when the plant is
36 fully operational and so, you know, a lot of those
37 people are not from out of state, and there's a
38 tremendous amount of them are coming out of Alaska
39 itself that'll be working down there so they could have
40 access to that also.

41
42 So I'm a little -- I guess I'm shying
43 away from supporting an opening at this time. I think
44 it ain't going to hurt to see that caribou herd grow.
45 I'm always hearing if it's crashing and the thing is is
46 that, you know, I don't think we're looking at a crash
47 in a year, year and a half, two years time, I think we
48 got a long ways to go to grow the caribou herd. And,
49 you know, the predation of the wolves and stuff, I
50

0247

1 think, they'll also keep the caribou herd down.

2

3 So I would -- I don't know if I could
4 support a motion right now to expanding on this caribou
5 hunt.

6

7 (Teleconference interference -
8 participants not muted)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I think at
11 this.....

12

13 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

16

17 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I was wondering, I'm
18 kind of leaning towards -- oh, our bloody siren just
19 went off here for the Tsunami but it's doing the all
20 clear so I'll continue.

21

22 But the -- I tend to -- incline to
23 follow Rick's thinking but one factor in my mind, and I
24 didn't really hear your report on what the folks at
25 False Pass were thinking and that might move my
26 thoughts on this.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: What I'd stated
29 earlier Pat was Ruth had stated that they would be
30 concerned if the herd crashed also if it was because of
31 over population issues. So that would be their
32 concern. And she was going to, when she talks to
33 Tommy, have him give me a call but she hasn't talked to
34 him in a couple days and she doesn't think he's going
35 to be in at all until the season's over, they don't
36 expect it to last too long so.

37

38 Anyway, I think maybe.....

39

40 MR. HOLMES: Question for George.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

43

44 MR. PAPPAS: Standing by.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering if, you
47 know, if we went with Option A, and we went to the
48 Federal Board or to our fall meeting, would we be able
49 to flex or modify that either to Rick's perspective or

50

0248

1 beyond that, or is this what we're locked into to talk
2 about next fall?

3

4

5 MR. PAPPAS: I'll need Robbin to help
6 me on this one because the analysis for expanding
7 communities falls within our Anthropology Division.
8 And expanding -- modifying at the fall meeting to say,
9 move to Aleutians East Borough, which would require a
10 C&T analysis would have to be done in the fall, between
11 then and the final Federal Board meeting. Robbin,
12 what's your take on doing a C&T between a RAC meeting--
13 modified C&T between a RAC meeting and a Federal
14 Subsistence Board meeting.

15

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Thank you, Madame Chair.

MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
This is Robbin. I would prefer to have longer, more
time to conduct a customary and traditional use
determination analysis, and that does not mean that
that's where we have to land, but it's a decent amount
of work but it's only, I think, to expand to the
Aleutians East Borough was only adding, it would only
add two more communities to the customary and
traditional use determination list for Unimak Island so
that would be -- it would add Cold Bay and it would add
Nelson Lagoon.

And I'd be happy to start on that.

I also think that through the analysis
process, through the reviews, we will be able to -- we
will be able to look to the transcript, you have -- you
have come up with a wonderful record of your concerns,
different options that you might consider under certain
circumstances and so we can go to the public record, we
can go to the transcripts to help inform our
discussions, the analysis and recommendations for you
to consider. So we've got a lot of time and we've got
a really creative and professional crew, and, you know,
we may well be able to come up with a couple of
different options for you to consider by next fall.

MS. SKINNER: Della.....

MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

MS. SKINNER: Sorry. Della, this is
Rebecca.

0249

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
2 Rebecca, and maybe Rebecca, can you restate what the
3 motion was also that you had made.

4
5 MS. SKINNER: Yes. So I will start
6 with the motion. The motion I made was to expand the
7 registration hunt which is one bull by Federal
8 registration to the residents of the communities that
9 have a C&T determination, so those are the communities
10 listed in Option A, which are Akutan, False Pass
11 already has a hunt, King Cove and Sand Point. I did
12 not change the dates, and the annual harvest quota was
13 going to be a to be determined by consultation between
14 the State and Federal management.

15
16 So that was the motion I made.

17
18 I think that -- I thought the question
19 Pat Holmes just asked was if we put forward this
20 proposal now, is this a, you know, done deal forever
21 and ever, we can't change it or have a different
22 position at our fall meeting. My understanding of the
23 process is that, 1, if we want to put forward a
24 proposal we have to do it at our meeting today because
25 we're not going to have time before the deadline, and
26 George Pappas confirmed that earlier. No. 2,
27 initiating a proposal, so if we put forward a wildlife
28 proposal between now and the fall meeting, there is
29 going to be analysis of the proposal and I think a lot
30 of work between -- or a lot of conversations between
31 State and Federal management to come up with what the
32 quota limit should be and also a lot of work on any
33 customary and traditional use determinations that we
34 ask for.

35
36 So the motion that's on the floor right
37 now, I don't think, requires any additional C&T
38 determinations because the motion was limited to
39 communities that already have a C&T determination. But
40 if we wanted to add communities like Cold Bay and get a
41 C&T determination for Cold Bay, that's something that
42 we would need to indicate in our motion so that Robbin
43 and her team have time to do the C&T determination
44 before our fall meeting.

45
46 At the fall meeting, and somebody can
47 correct me if I'm wrong, my assumption is that all of
48 the wildlife proposals that are put forward from all of
49 the RACs will be presented to us along with analysis,
50

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1 and at that point, at our fall meeting, I assume that
2 our RAC would take positions on the proposals. So, if
3 at that point, we looked at the analysis and we said,
4 okay this analysis does not support this change, we do
5 not support this proposal that we, ourselves put
6 forward, we would be free to vote that we don't support
7 it and we could send that message to the Federal
8 Subsistence Board, that we no longer support the
9 proposal.

10

11 I think, I recall from previous
12 wildlife cycles, we can also amend the proposal. So
13 the proposal would be in front of us as written but we
14 could recommend that the Federal Subsistence Board
15 approve it with whatever changes we deem appropriate.

16

17 So to me the important thing was if we
18 want to do something with Unimak caribou within the
19 next three years, this is the appropriate time to do so
20 because this is the wildlife proposal cycle. If we
21 don't do it now, I mean we could ask for something, a
22 special action, but I think if we want to do something
23 with Unimak caribou and we know we want to, this is the
24 time to do it so that it's within cycle.

25

26 Based on everything that I heard and
27 the concerns with the population, that is what led me
28 to put forward the motion to expand access to the hunt
29 modestly. I would consider residents of -- so
30 Federally-qualified residents of Akutan, King Cove and
31 Sand Point, I -- based on what we've heard, there's
32 probably not going to be a ton of extra effort so that
33 seemed like a safe expansion of this hunt. So it would
34 help deal with extra caribou population but would
35 probably not be so high as to threaten to lower the
36 population too much.

37

38 So those are my thoughts on where we
39 stand right now.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Any
44 other questions or comments.

45

46 MR. KOSO: Della -- Madame Chair.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

49

50

0251

1 MR. KOSO: Yeah, thank you, Rebecca,
2 for clarifying some of the stuff there in your proposal
3 there. Understanding that we'd be able to amend or to
4 change this proposal down the road here. That
5 definitely changes my perspective on some of this.

6
7 I heard, and maybe you could correct me
8 on this, is we can have a separate motion after this
9 one to -- you know, like Cold Bay and Nelson Lagoon are
10 two big users in the region and I would like to see
11 them be part of this proposal. So the way I hear what
12 Rebecca's stating right now, Rebecca, I would be in
13 favor of your proposal and would suggest putting
14 another proposal in for using Aleutians East Borough as
15 the area.

16
17 MR. HOLMES: That makes sense, uh-huh.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So Donald where
20 are we at right now?

21
22 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We've got a
25 motion on the floor.....

26
27 MR. MIKE: Currently -- yeah, currently
28 we have a main motion on the floor and Ms. Skinner
29 indicated that her main -- her motion is in line with
30 Option A for the existing communities that have C&T for
31 Unimak caribou.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

38
39 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I'd like to call the
40 question on this, I think we beat it up enough so I'll
41 call the question.

42
43 MR. HOLMES: I'll second.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Donald, can you
46 do a roll call.

47
48 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 Roll call on proposal as -- a motion made by Ms.
50

0252

1 Skinner to have a Federal registration permit for
2 Federal public lands and closed to taking of caribou
3 except by residents of Akutan, False Pass, King Cove,
4 Sand Point and the annual harvest quota will be
5 established by delegated official in consultation with
6 the State of Alaska.

7

8 Pat Holmes.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

11

12 MR. MIKE: Rick Koso.

13

14 MR. KOSO: Yes.

15

16 MR. MIKE: Sam Rohrer.

17

18 MR. ROHRER: Yes.

19

20 MR. MIKE: Chris Price.

21

22 MR. PRICE: Yes.

23

24 MR. MIKE: Coral Chernoff.

25

26 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

27

28 MR. MIKE: Rebecca Skinner.

29

30 MS. SKINNER: Yes.

31

32 MR. MIKE: Della Trumble.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

35

36 MR. MIKE: Natasha Hayden.

37

38 MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

39

40 MR. MIKE: And Melissa Berns.

41

42 MS. BERNs: Yes.

43

44 MR. MIKE: Melissa, did you say yes?

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MR. MIKE: Melissa Berns.

49

50

0253

1 MS. BERNES: Yes. Can you hear me?

2

3 MR. MIKE: Yes. You came in quiet that
4 time but you're loud and clear now, you're a yes.

5

6 Motion passes unanimously, Madame
7 Chair.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
12 Donald. And then at.....

13

14 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, go ahead.

17

18 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I would like to
19 propose another motion please.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

22

23 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I'd like to make a
24 motion that we include the communities within the
25 Aleutians East Borough, that there would also bring
26 Nelson Lagoon and Cold Bay into it. I hate to leave
27 Nelson Lagoon and Cold Bay out of this deal because
28 they're a big part of our region, so I would make that
29 a motion.

30

31 MS. SKINNER: I'll second, this is
32 Rebecca.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. A motion
35 made by Rick Koso, second by Rebecca. Discussion.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Question.

40

41 MR. KOSO: Call the question.

42

43 MR. HOLMES: Second.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All in favor
46 signify by saying aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50

0254

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Opposed, same
2 sign.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

7
8 MR. MIKE: Mr. Price, did you vote in
9 the affirmative or did you oppose.

10
11 MR. PRICE: Affirmative.

12
13 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Price. Just
14 to clarify, Madame Chair, Mr. Koso moved to include the
15 communities of Cold Bay and Nelson Lagoon for C&T for
16 Unimak caribou. Is that clear, thank you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

19
20 MS. SKINNER: And all of the
21 communities within Aleutians East Borough, isn't it?

22
23 MR. KOSO: Yes.

24
25 MR. MIKE: Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. So I was
28 thinking at this point we've done the Unit 10 Unimak
29 caribou. I've got.....

30
31 MS. SKINNER: Della.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

34
35 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, this is Rebecca. I
36 said that I was going to bring this second motion
37 forward and I'm going to go ahead and make this motion,
38 which is going to be to open up Unimak Island for a
39 State hunt, and to be clear I'm making this motion so
40 that we have some sort of a record of where the Council
41 stands on this issue since we do have -- we basically
42 heard a request from the State that they would like to
43 have a State hunt on Unimak Island.

44
45 So at this point I'd like to make a
46 motion to -- that the regulations be amended -- to
47 state along the lines, Federal public lands in Unimak
48 Island are closed to the harvest of caribou except by
49 Federally-qualified subsistence users unless the
50

0255

1 population estimate exceeds a threshold to be
2 recommended by State and Federal management. And if
3 there's a second, I can speak more to the motion.

4
5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted)

7
8 MR. ROHRER: This is Sam, I'll second
9 that.

10
11 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you,
12 Sam. So what this motion is intended to do is to.....

13
14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

15
16 MS. SKINNER: Yes, go ahead.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hold on one
19 second. Somebody's phone is not on mute, I can hear
20 you talking over Rebecca so go ahead Rebecca.

21
22 MS. SKINNER: All right, thank you.
23 What this motion is intended to do is when the
24 population of caribou on Unimak reaches a certain
25 threshold, so there's enough caribou that State and
26 Federal management agree that there should be more
27 harvest to maintain the kind of population equilibrium
28 that we're looking for, or that they're looking for,
29 then Unimak would be opened to users who are outside of
30 the Federally-qualified subsistence users. So that
31 would be -- that would allow the State to open up a
32 hunt on Unimak.

33
34 I specifically did not include a
35 population number, like 200 caribou, 300 caribou or 400
36 caribou because based on discussions that we've heard
37 today, I don't think we have that number yet, so if
38 this motion passes today then I would expect between
39 now and our fall meeting State and Federal management
40 would recommend what that number should be. So it
41 would be a number of caribou. So if the population
42 hits that threshold, above that point, those caribou
43 would be available for a State hunt.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
48 Rebecca. We have a motion made by Rebecca, second by
49 Sam. Question -- or not question, discussion.

50

0256

1 MR. ROHRER: Della, this is Sam. I'd
2 like to make a few comments.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Sam.

5
6 MR. ROHRER: So I mean I think I would
7 support this. It certainly doesn't mean a State has to
8 get open but, again, I come back to what I'm hearing
9 Dave Crowley say is the State has concerns we're not
10 going to kill enough caribou and we potentially are
11 headed towards a crash, and then I look at Izembek's
12 report that says 10 permits were allotted in 2020 --
13 last year in 2020, and that and no harvest reports have
14 been submitted, so my conclusion is is currently we're
15 not harvesting any caribou. We just voted to put in a
16 proposal to expand it a little bit, but the State's
17 saying we need to kill more animals, they're concerned
18 we need to kill more animals. Madame Chair, that's the
19 same thing I heard you say when you talked to folks
20 back in your community. So it makes sense to me to
21 have this proposal as well and if there's opportunity
22 we should, you know, be taking advantage of it.

23
24 So at this point, unless I heard
25 something different, I would vote to support this.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Sam.
28 Pat, can you give me your -- we're going to go through
29 the line here, so Pat do you have any thoughts on this,
30 comments.

31
32 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think what we've
33 basically done here is we're proposing a progressive
34 management plan with pre-Option A, B, and C, so I just
35 -- I'll probably go along with it. But I thought we
36 might want -- I don't know if we'd want to label it
37 that when we send it in or not, but it's definitely a
38 progressive action dependent on the population of
39 caribou.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.

42
43 Rick.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, are you
48 there.

49
50

0257

1 MR. KOSO: Oh, I'm sorry, I had it on
2 mute, can you hear me now?

3
4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We hear you now.

5
6 MR. KOSO: Sorry, I was talking to
7 myself here. All right. Anyway, I'll be going along
8 with the proposal. I would support it. I think we
9 have plenty of with the State and Feds there to, if
10 things get out of hand, they got the option to
11 emergency order. So I would support this motion.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.

14
15 Coral.

16
17 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I guess, I would
18 -- actually, could I have this -- this proposal --
19 could I just have it clarified, it would be to -- if
20 the population got to a certain point then it would be
21 opened to the State and residents, non-resident
22 hunters? Is that what I'm hearing?

23
24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

25
26 MS. CHERNOFF: Maybe you could just
27 read the proposal again.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rebecca.

30
31 MS. SKINNER: Sure. I will attempt to
32 recreate the proposal -- okay, so the general language
33 was this would be added into the regulation -- and --
34 and just for reference I'm literally taking language
35 from the Nushagak caribou existing regulation. So
36 language would be Federal public lands are closed to
37 the harvest of caribou except by Federally-qualified
38 subsistence users unless the population estimate
39 exceeds a threshold to be recommended by State and
40 Federal management.

41
42 And, again, my expectation is that
43 threshold number would be presented to us in -- at our
44 fall meeting. So if this were to go to the Federal
45 Subsistence Board there would be an actual number of
46 caribou in there.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

0258

1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted - TV noise)

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So Coral, did
5 that answer your question?

6

7 MS. CHERNOFF: I think so but I -- I
8 think -- so I'm just thinking I'm confused by other
9 people's comments. But my thought was that so then
10 this would be -- like as Pat said we sort of -- our
11 options in front of us sort of, you know, started out
12 with a localized and then they sort of ramped up to be
13 amended to extend to Aleutians East Borough and then
14 our third option was to open to all Federally-qualified
15 users and then the last was to open to all so I think --
16 I guess I was feeling like in our discussion all day
17 we were trying not to get to the open to all in the
18 state so I'm reading this as I think I will vote no on
19 it. And I think hearing -- I mean to me that came up
20 in our discussion all day today, is like, it seemed
21 like we wanted to stay away from that point and try to
22 sort of ramp up, and ramp up within customary and
23 traditional and within the subsistence arena. So I
24 guess I'm -- and I guess I'm going to vote no I guess
25 because that's what I'm getting, is that we're sending
26 this message is that's not our next -- we don't want
27 that to be our next option, we can come back to the
28 table and then ramp up again to open to all Federally-
29 qualified users.

30

31 So I guess that's how I'm seeing -- I'm
32 seeing as our actions are sort of ramping up, ramping
33 up, ramping up, so we got to Option A, and then we kind
34 of amended to Option -- to add Option B, and then we
35 haven't even got to the Option C yet, so I feel like if
36 we vote no then if the caribou populations expand we
37 can come back to open to all subsistence users before
38 we open to the State. That's my understanding of it.

39

40 So I guess I would vote no on this one.
41 I think that sends the message that we sort have been
42 talking about all morning, or since the discussion
43 started.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
48 Coral.

49

50

0259

1 Chris.

2

3 MR. PRICE: Yeah. I have no comment.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.

6

7 Melissa.

8

9 MS. BERNES: Yes, can you hear me?

10

11 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I could hear you now,
12 this darn was getting goofy here -- I was on
13 teleconference here.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Rick, you're on
16 -- who are you -- you're on the conference call.

17

18 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I know, do you hear
19 me, my phone went out on me Della, sorry about that and
20 I was trying to redial it up there and it came back on,
21 so, alrighty, hopefully it'll last.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Thank
24 you. Thank you. Melissa.

25

26 MS. BERNES: Yes. I think that, you
27 know, it is an aggressive -- well, it's kind of taking
28 a proactive step towards addressing this issue. You
29 know because of the harvest reports that were available
30 to us for 2020 and there being little effort to
31 harvest, that does -- I mean that does raise some
32 concern, you know, that perhaps there just won't be the
33 amount of people to harvest because it is such a remote
34 location as well. But it is an effort and I do realize
35 that as this proposal moves forward that it will be,
36 you know, modified a little bit more, I'm sure.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
39 Melissa.

40

41 MR. MIKE: Della, this is Donald.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Donald.....

44

45 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:go ahead.

48

49 MR. MIKE: Yeah, I just want to remind

50

0260

1 participants on the teleconference line, please check
2 your line if it's muted, we're hearing some background
3 noise interrupting the Council discussion.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
8 Donald.

9

10 MS. BERNES: Donald, that was probably
11 me talking and my kids in the background so I apologize
12 for that.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you.

15

16 MR. MIKE: Thank you.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Natasha.

19

20 MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair, this is
21 Dave Crowley, can I make a comment.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Dave.

24

25 MR. CROWLEY: Okay. I just wanted to
26 clarify that our historic reported high harvest on
27 Unimak Island, and, again, this is reported, was 21 or
28 thereabouts. So the historic high and this is back --
29 going back to, I think, the early 2000s is less than
30 the proposed harvest level that we are now seeking. I
31 just want to make sure that that's understood. That
32 harvest is quite low on the island currently.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Dave.
37 And then Natasha, do you have any comments before we
38 take the vote.

39

40 MS. HAYDEN: Thanks, Madame Chair. I
41 think that I guess that I am a little conflicted about
42 it as well. I agree that managers need to have
43 available tools to them to keep the herd sustainable
44 but I also think that Coral brought up a really good
45 point about priority and precedence. That it's -- I
46 think I would be inclined to try to exhaust all options
47 related to Federal subsistence eligible priority
48 harvesters before having that State managed hunt. I
49 guess I'm still conflicted about it but I don't know if
50

0261

1 we're going to have any more discussion and thoughts
2 about this. Priority -- maybe that would be -- you
3 know, be considered prior to having a State harvest.

4
5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted)

7
8 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Donald, can you
9 hear me?

10
11 MR. MIKE: I'm sorry, yes, I can hear
12 you loud and clear. I'm just hearing -- I think it was
13 -- is this Melissa, I can hardly hear her. Thank you.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: That was
16 Natasha. Somebody -- it's like someone doesn't have
17 their mic muted and are moving papers or something by
18 their mic is what it sounds like. And what I
19 understood from Natasha is that she's conflicted with
20 just based on what she's heard.

21
22 So I think I've reached out to everyone
23 at this point.

24
25 I think my comments in regards to this
26 is I would support it. And I support this because I am
27 concerned of the over population and I think that, you
28 know, Rick you hit on this earlier that with the
29 current population caribou in 9D, which people are
30 really -- these numbers haven't -- really haven't
31 harvested a lot of caribou is because of the weather
32 this past winter was horrid, and I think that was a
33 high factor in contributing to the amount of harvest
34 that people, if they've gotten out, they haven't really
35 been able to get out and people were wanting to or
36 trying to but the weather was bad; that's one thing.

37
38 The second thing you alluded to with 9D
39 is basically the population in 9D is good and people
40 most likely are going to hunt in 9D than going to
41 Unimak. And I see the only reason that they would be
42 hunting Unimak is if they're out on the fishing grounds
43 on August 1st and are able to harvest a caribou if
44 they're close enough on that side to do so. But I
45 don't really see anybody going out of their way that
46 lives in the 9D portion to going in to find, or going
47 over to Unimak, you know, to hunt caribou. I think
48 it's almost like an incidental thing, I'm there, I
49 think I could do it and I've got a permit is what I
50

0262

1 honestly believe happens, and you can correct me if I'm
2 wrong.

3

4

5 So I do support if the State is able --
6 can open and needs to open because we don't want the
7 population to explode and then we have the same problem
8 happen again. So that's kind of where I'm at. I would
9 support something being able to being done if we need
10 to regulate that population.

10

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Thank you.

So given all that, does anybody have
any more discussion before we take this to a vote.

MS. CHERNOFF: Della, this is Coral.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Coral.

MS. CHERNOFF: Well, I guess I'm still
confused. I -- I guess what I would do is defer to
really how the people want to vote that are closer to
the area. I guess through the discussion I heard -- I
don't know if I was hearing wrong but it was, you know,
let's not have people from Kodiak flying in and hunting
and let's not have people -- let's just open it up
local, let -- let's keep it to the C&T communities, and
then now open it up a little bit more to the Aleutians
East and then now I'm hearing, well, let's just open it
up to the whole state to resident and non-resident
hunt. So I guess that's confusing to me, where I hear --
so I guess I'm thoroughly confused now to where -- I
would vote no but I guess I'll see -- I would defer
since I don't live in the area.

MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair.

MS. CHERNOFF: I'll just defer.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
Robbin.

MS. LAVINE: I hope I might be able to
clarify.....

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

MS. LAVINE: I believe there's somebody

0263

1 who has their mic unmuted. Please check your mics to
2 make sure that they're muted.

3

4

5 I wanted to clarify that I believe that
6 the Council just approved forwarding a proposal based
7 on modified Option A, which is one bull by Federal
8 registration permit, otherwise Federal public lands are
9 closed to the taking of caribou except by residents of
10 Akutan, Cold Bay, False Pass, Nelson Lagoon, King Cove
11 and Sand Point. And I believe that motion passed and
12 you're moving forward with that wildlife proposal.

13

14 I believe now there's a separate motion
15 to consider additional language that allows for an
16 expansion of the hunt to non-Federally-qualified
17 residents if a particular limit has been breached. So
18 if the population expands then, at that point, there
19 may be more opportunities for rural residents of
20 Alaska, or State residents of Alaska, there may be an
21 opportunity for a State hunt in consultation with the
22 managers, but only after a certain population limit was
23 breached.

24

25 Am I -- is that what I was hearing and
26 does this help, Coral, thank you.

27

28 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, thank you, Robbin.
29 Yeah, I know exactly what these motions say but I'm
30 just saying that it's confusing to me because I've
31 heard a lot of limit, limit, limit, and let's limit
32 tightly and then now I'm hearing a lot of people go --
33 say that, yeah, it'd be great for the State to open it
34 up if it reaches those. So it's just super
35 inconsistent to me. But I'll vote how I feel is right
36 to vote, of course, but, yeah, I'm just confused.
37 Sorry, the inconsistencies in the messages that I'm
38 hearing.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Does anybody
43 else have any comments in regard to the motion, or need
44 any more clarification.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none,
49 Donald, do you want to do a roll call, please.

50

0264

1 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 Donald Mike, Council Coordinator. A roll call on the
3 motion to open a State hunt, registration hunt, and
4 regulations on -- to the amendment and as stated by Ms.
5 Skinner.

6
7 Mr. Pat Holmes.

8
9 MR. HOLMES: Yes.

10
11 MR. MIKE: Mr. Rick Koso.

12
13 MR. KOSO: Yes.

14
15 MR. MIKE: Mr. Sam Rohrer.

16
17 MR. ROHRER: Yes.

18
19 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chris Price.

20
21 MR. PRICE: Yes.

22
23 MR. MIKE: Ms. Coral Chernoff.

24
25 MS. CHERNOFF: No.

26
27 MR. MIKE: Ms. Rebecca Skinner.

28
29 MS. SKINNER: Yes.

30
31 MR. MIKE: Ms. Natasha Hayden.

32
33 MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

34
35 MR. MIKE: Natasha Hayden.

36
37 MS. HAYDEN: Yes.

38
39 MR. MIKE: Okay, thank you.

40
41 Ms. Melissa Berns.

42
43 MS. BERNs: Yes.

44
45 MR. MIKE: And Ms. Della Trumble.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

48
49 MR. MIKE: Motion passes, eight to one,
50

0265

1 thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MS. SKINNER: Della, this is Rebecca.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
6 Rebecca.

7

8 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thanks. I just
9 wanted to, I guess clarify or reiterate that Rick's
10 motion to -- Rick's motion was for all -- was for
11 Aleutians East Borough, so I think a couple people have
12 spoken since then and they've referenced Nelson Lagoon
13 and Cold Bay but that's not what Rick's motion was,
14 Rick's motion was Aleutians East Borough. The reason I
15 want to make sure that that's clear is when the work
16 is done on a C&T determination, I just want to make
17 sure that the correct area and the, you know, all of
18 the residents -- the people living within that area,
19 which was defined as Aleutians East Borough is actually
20 encompassed in the C&T determination. So I guess that
21 was just more a clarification of the motion that was
22 made earlier.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

29

30 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Rebecca, that's the
31 case, the Aleutians Borough encompasses all of the
32 villages that we talked about. It excluded in Cold Bay
33 and Nelson Lagoon, and by putting in the Aleutians East
34 Borough it takes Cold Bay and Nelson Lagoon, so it
35 includes all of the villages within the region there.

36

37 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, and, this is
38 Rebecca, and that was my understanding as well. I just
39 want to make sure that as this is being captured, and
40 I'm mostly looking at the language that's being typed
41 on the screen that the motion was Aleutians East
42 Borough so if the question is what area are we talking
43 about to determine residency eligibility for this hunt,
44 the answer is, Aleutians East Borough. But, yeah, I
45 absolutely -- yeah, and that was my understanding of
46 your motion.

47

48 Thank you, Rick.

49

50

0266

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. Is
2 everybody ready to move on.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: The one thing
7 that we didn't -- finishing with King Salmon and the
8 Unimak 10 caribou, we didn't have Lisa Fox on the
9 agenda, Lisa are you online and have any kind of report
10 to give?

11
12 MS. FOX: Yeah, Madame Chair, this is
13 Lisa Fox. I am here to answer any questions anybody
14 has but I don't have a specific report to give. Tyler
15 Lawson kind of covered everything for subsistence and
16 for the McLees project.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
19 I just wanted to make sure that people knew you were
20 online also if they have any questions for you.

21
22 The next person on the agenda is Jackie
23 Keating.

24
25 MS. KEATING: Good afternoon. Thanks,
26 Madame Chair. And hi everybody, this is Jackie Keating
27 with the Division of Subsistence for Alaska Department
28 of Fish and Game based out of Anchorage. And thanks
29 for the time slot, I guess I'll say by thanking
30 everybody for giving us time to talk and thanks for all
31 the work people have put into this meeting going so
32 smoothly. I know it takes a lot of effort for Donald
33 Mike and everybody else, so just thank you very much.

34
35 We do have some supplemental materials
36 so if you're a Council member, I believe for you it
37 would be Item D2 that got mailed out, and if you're
38 looking online we've got a handout labeled ADF&G
39 Division of Subsistence update. So what I'd like to
40 today is just talk through the three projects that we
41 currently have funded by the Fisheries Resource
42 Monitoring Program, and then give a quick update on the
43 three proposals that we will be submitting for this
44 current funding cycle for 2022.

45
46 So I will start with the first one
47 listed on that handout, it's FRMP 18-451. And I've
48 talked about this project several times at these
49 meetings now. This is one that we're very close to
50

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1 wrapping up, it was our comprehensive subsistence
2 surveys in the Kodiak communities of Old Harbor, Larsen
3 Bay and Akhiok. Where we are with this is the very
4 final stages of writing the report and we've been in
5 touch with those three tribal councils to figure out
6 how each of them wants to do their data review
7 meetings. We, of course, most likely will not be
8 traveling in person so we're working with them to see
9 how they'd like us to conduct those individually. We
10 will be presenting results of this project at the
11 Kodiak Marine Science Symposium which will be the end
12 of April here and then you'll be seeing a final report
13 from us for this project within this calendar year. So
14 really looking forward to getting those results
15 published and they'll be online too in our community
16 subsistence information so you can see all those
17 estimates pretty soon.

18
19 And if you're looking at the handout,
20 I'm going to skip to the last page to stick with Kodiak
21 for a moment.

22
23 We have FRMP 2020-450, which is the
24 comprehensive subsistence surveys for the Kodiak road
25 system. And this one is a collaboration with the
26 Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak and the Kodiak Wildlife Refuge.
27 We're excited about this because we haven't done these
28 surveys on the road system since 1993 so it's long
29 overdue. I want to thank the OSM Staff and both Tom and
30 Matt at Sun'aq Tribe for being flexible and being great
31 partners. We decided together to postpone this project
32 by one full year with the hopes of doing it in person
33 next year. And with vaccine rollout and all of that
34 it's looking super promising that we can actually do
35 that in person so that'll be happening right around
36 this time next year. That means we'll be starting to
37 work with Sun'aq this coming fall to identify local
38 research assistants, start doing outreach, being on the
39 ground to do our ground-truthing and things like that
40 and then have our Staff on the ground probably February
41 of 2022 to conduct those surveys. That'll be for the
42 2021 harvest year. And at the next Council meeting for
43 this group I'll give an update on how all that is
44 progressing.

45
46 And then the big one to talk about
47 today is FRMP 18-450, which is the comprehensive
48 surveys out in Unalaska. And this one, again, I just
49 want to start by thanking the QTribe, they've been
50

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1 amazing, especially Chandra specifically who's been
2 super helpful. Again,
3 OSM has been helpful too, and really flexible with
4 helping us figure out how to do this in Covid times.
5 And we had to redesign this project fairly
6 significantly and it became a bit of an experiment to
7 see how we could make this happen. These surveys, much
8 like the Kodiak road system, we haven't been able to
9 conduct since the early '90s so it was important that
10 we figured out how to do this and how to do it safely.

11

12 So I'll start by prefacing the fact
13 that we're still right smack dab in the middle of this
14 so I'll give an update about where we're at. And I
15 want to dive in a little bit to how we redesigned this
16 just so you understand how this is working.

17

18 So essentially we redesigned our normal
19 in-person comprehensive surveys that we'd be on the
20 ground conducting to be a self-administered survey that
21 got dropped off to all permanent residences in
22 Unalaska. Important things to stress is that even
23 though the survey tool itself got redesigned, it's
24 still compatible with all the information that we have
25 available online for the community subsistence
26 information system so it fills all those regular data
27 needs. In the fall we did a whole lot of outreach in
28 the community. We were on the radio, we advertised to
29 hire local research assistants. We worked closely with
30 the QTribe. We did a couple innovative things we don't
31 normally do, one of them was hosting an art contest
32 with local use about why wild foods are important to
33 them so you'll see in the handout that the cover of the
34 survey that got delivered to everyone features local
35 artwork by a very talented youth artist. We also were
36 gifted a very generous donation that allowed us to
37 offer a raffle prize to folks that complete the survey.
38 So if people send the survey back they fill out a
39 separate raffle card. We'll be drawing that online on
40 KUCB on the air in probably about a month once
41 everything is all wrapped up. And then we had our
42 local research assistants deliver to households these
43 survey bags that were waterproof plastic bags that had
44 the pen, the survey, a letter explaining the whole
45 project, we sent out individual coffee packets to
46 encourage people to fill them out and they included a
47 postage paid envelope to mail everything back to us.
48 Those went out January 18th. They've been slowly
49 trickling back in ever since. And where we currently

50

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1 are is we've got enough back, about 80 so far, to do an
2 analysis that we're relatively confident in. Where
3 we'd like to be is almost double that. So we're in the
4 process of doing more outreach and then we'll also be
5 shifting a bit and trying to do some of these surveys
6 over phone calls with a random sample that we're
7 working on at this very moment.

8
9 So I'll keep everybody updated on that.
10 But the big takeaway -- there's kind of two items I'd
11 like to point out.

12
13 The first takeaway from all this is
14 that the research methods look different than they
15 normally do. This has been an experiment so we've had
16 to try a lot of different things. However, we're very
17 confident that we will end up with estimates that are
18 reliable and that everybody can feel good about.

19
20 The second takeaway is, you know, when
21 we were kind of redesigning this whole process we said
22 that it's going to go one of two ways, it's either
23 going to be a huge success and we'll get hundreds of
24 surveys back, or it will prove what we kind of thought,
25 which is that there's really no replacement for our
26 traditional methods for us being on the ground and
27 interacting with people and having that face to face
28 contact because now we're kind of in this position of
29 having to try all these different things to get an
30 adequate response.

31
32 And both of those outcomes are good
33 because it shows that what we do traditionally works,
34 and that we can make other things work in the meantime
35 but that there's good reason to go back to these in-
36 person surveys when we're able to do so even though
37 it's more timely and can be expensive and things like
38 that, that it works well.

39
40 So those are kind of the main takeaways
41 from it. Of course, the surveys are one part of that
42 project. We also still hope to do participant
43 observation and key respondent interviews. So
44 tentatively we hope to potentially be able to travel
45 this summer, of course, it's all Covid dependent.

46
47 I would like to briefly introduce the
48 three proposals that are relevant to this region that
49 we'll be submitting for the current FRMP call. We've
50

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1 got a lot more than three coming from the Division but
2 there are three for Southwest.

3
4 The first one will be to do
5 comprehensive harvest surveys in Ouzinkie and Port
6 Lions. Some of you might remember we had kind of hoped
7 to wrap that up into the Kodiak road system proposal
8 that we put in two years ago but it got a bit too
9 expensive so we broke it out as a separate one. This
10 would complete updating harvest data for the whole
11 Kodiak area now that we've done the south end of the
12 island and the road system is in the cue too. It will
13 be a collaboration with the communities of Ouzinkie and
14 Port Lions as well as the Kodiak Refuge, so if there's
15 a Refuge Information Technician hired by then that
16 individual is going to actually help us out on the
17 ground with the surveys. And I wanted to give a quick
18 shout out to both communities who were incredibly
19 responsive and great about getting us letters of
20 support so really excited to work with them, whether
21 it's through this project, if it gets funded, or in the
22 future.

23
24 The second proposal will be to do the
25 comprehensive surveys in False Pass and Nelson Lagoon.
26 There's a whole lot of communities out there that we'd
27 like to reach but due to our Staffing limitations and
28 simply the amount of funding available we decided to
29 focus on these two for this funding cycle with the
30 hopes of doing more in another funding cycle.

31
32 Then the third one is more relevant to
33 Bristol Bay but we'd like to do surveys in Manokotak as
34 well, a partnership with the Bristol Bay Native
35 Association.

36
37 So you'll be seeing those three coming
38 from us.

39
40 If anyone has any questions I am here
41 and happy to answer them.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
44 Jackie. Any questions or comments for Jackie.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, this is Pat.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

49
50

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1 MS. KEATING: Hi Pat.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, hi, Jackie. I think
4 it's just really commendable what you folks are being
5 able to accomplish here and your adaptive sampling
6 techniques are good. And it'd be really interested to
7 see how your microphone survey compares to the mail-in
8 surveys on things. And it's also heartening to learn
9 that you're going to be doing some work at False Pass
10 and Nelson Lagoon. And one of the places we got, just
11 a couple weeks ago, was, two notes from Cold Bay from
12 folks that felt that there were some difficulties
13 there. How long has it been since a survey in Cold
14 Bay, maybe like 2016 or farther back?

15

16 MS. KEATING: Yeah, Cold Bay I would
17 have to look up the exact date but that's actually one
18 of the more recent ones we did in the past few years.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Uh-huh. Okeydokey, well,
21 thank you much.

22

23 MS. KEATING: Yeah, thanks, Pat. And
24 thanks to -- I forgot to mention this but Pat and
25 several other of the Council members were very helpful
26 in helping us with this current funding proposal, for
27 some of the ideas so thanks for always letting me
28 bounce ideas off of you.

29

30 MR. HOLMES: I was wondering, could you
31 maybe forward an electronic copy of the last one for
32 Cold Bay to Donald Mike to send to us just so we could
33 kind of maybe have that as a reference point.

34

35 MS. KEATING: Yeah, you bet, I'm happy
36 to do that.

37

38 MR. HOLMES: Thank you so much.

39

40 MS. CHERNOFF: Madame Chair, Coral.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, go ahead,
43 Coral.

44

45 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, I was wondering if
46 we could get a copy of the survey emailed to us, and
47 could you tell us like how many questions or how -- how
48 much time do you expect for a survey to be filled out,
49 how much time is spent?

50

1 MS. KEATING: Sure. Through the Chair.
2 Hi, Coral. I'm happy to send the survey and I'll send
3 that to Donald to distribute. It's quite lengthy
4 because it's one of the comprehensive so I think it
5 came out to be 23 pages. That said, every page at the
6 top's got a filter question so we see, you know, of
7 course a wide range, a wide spectrum of the amount of
8 time it takes people because it's just as important for
9 us to capture folks that don't harvest as it is for
10 people that do so what we've been saying is if you
11 don't really use or harvest a lot of resources it takes
12 folks five minutes because you fill in the basic
13 household info and kind of say no, no, no to most pages
14 and fill out the final page. Folks that harvest a lot,
15 it could take, you know, a half hour or something like
16 that which is part of the reason why we sent out coffee
17 packets to folks, too, for extra incentive.

18
19 And another thing I'll mention is that
20 it looks very different than the form that we
21 traditionally use, which is a lot more complex so
22 another positive that's coming out of having to
23 redesign a survey like this is that when we go back to
24 in-person surveys we now have a different interface
25 that's going to be easier for our local research
26 assistants to use and I think it's going to make our
27 normal survey process more efficient, which is great.

28
29 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other.....

32
33 MR. HOLMES: Yeah.....

34
35 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE:comments or
36 questions.

37
38 MR. HOLMES: Jackie, one question. And
39 I know this is -- I don't know that it could ever work
40 out but being's you're going to be doing False Pass and
41 Nelson Lagoon, I wonder if there might be some way
42 where there could be adaptive mini-thing, if we find
43 that there's troubles at Cold Bay, because to get to
44 False Pass or Nelson Lagoon you fly to Cold Bay and
45 then go out from there usually, and I don't know what
46 the charter planes are doing now, but that used to be
47 the route, but I just thought I would just raise that
48 little question to cogitate on and see if there's some
49 way we could give you support if it does become
50

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1 necessary to get an update there.

2

3 MS. KEATING: Yeah, thanks for that.
4 So are you suggesting the idea of doing another round
5 of surveys in Cold Bay?

6

7 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, that'd be cool.
8 Thank you so much. Take care.

9

10 MS. KEATING: Okay.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: And I'm sorry that Jim
13 finally decided to retire after 40 years.

14

15 MS. KEATING: Well, we're very
16 fortunate that he's giving us quite a bit of volunteer
17 time so we have not lost Jim Fall completely, we bug
18 him with plenty of questions.

19

20 MR. HOLMES: Fine is kind.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
23 comments.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
28 Jackie, and then just.....

29

30 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, Della, this is.....

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead.

33

34 MS. CHERNOFF: This is Coral. Yeah,
35 Jackie, when you send out these surveys I know you said
36 how many have come back so far but do you put a
37 tentative send back date on these surveys?

38

39 MS. KEATING: We do. Yep, that's a
40 great question. And when the original letter went out
41 we had a day scheduled that was before now and then we
42 ended up extending the deadline so we sent two
43 different waves of postcards to ever P.O. Box in Dutch
44 Harbor and Unalaska. There was a notification postcard
45 that went out before we dropped off surveys and then we
46 extended the deadline to later in March so another
47 postcard went out alerting people of that deadline.
48 We've also done multiple interviews on the radio out
49 there to talk about what those deadlines are.

50

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1 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Coral, does that
4 answer your question?

5

6 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes, it did, thank you
7 very much.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. And,
10 Jackie, if you look at those -- your poster that
11 basically on harvest -- filling out your survey today
12 and looking at the prizes, you have five \$200 ones and
13 one, \$1,000 grand prize, so that should give some
14 people some good incentive to fill out your surveys.

15

16 MS. KEATING: Yes, indeed, we're super
17 lucky to be able to offer that and happy to do so and
18 we'll be excited to announce that live on the radio.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: All right, thank
21 you for your report.

22

23 MS. KEATING: Thanks, Madame Chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And I believe
26 the last -- Tyler, you did your report, so Kelly
27 Krueger.

28

29 MS. KRUEGER: Hi, Madame Chair. This
30 is Kelly Krueger. I don't have another report to do
31 besides for the one that I already did on Buskin
32 sockeye.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
35 All right, Donald, I think at this point we are to
36 Office of Subsistence Management, is that correct, or
37 are we through all of the reports.

38

39 MR. MIKE: Yes, we are.

40

41 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, George
42 Pappas. I'm the one to provide the OSM report. But I
43 just had one final question about the proposal
44 synthesis process.

45

46 Are you going to want to talk about
47 ptarmigan at all, you talked about it earlier. It was
48 on the pre-meeting roster for getting information from
49 ADF&G, their discussions about concerns, but we haven't

50

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1 discussed a proposal. So I'm not encouraging that, I'm
2 just bringing it to -- are we done with the proposal
3 synthesis, Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, I'm a
6 little confused, can you repeat that again, please.

7

8 MR. PAPPAS: I'm sorry. So we're
9 getting to the end of the meeting and I do have an 800
10 word report but I just wanted to make sure that are we
11 finally -- or excuse me -- are we done with discussing
12 any more proposals?

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: For wildlife
15 proposals, I think we're good. I'm assuming. The other
16 issue I think that was brought up in regard to Cold
17 Bay, I don't know what we can -- what -- I know I read
18 the one testimony, or letter that I got and I tried to
19 find the other one here and I don't have it, I think
20 Donald you might have it, the shorter one. And I guess
21 with the issues surrounding Cold Bay, it's so hard to
22 try to do anything -- my recommendation was going to be
23 to have the meeting in Cold Bay this fall and taking a
24 look at some of the issues that were expressed in
25 regard to the potential -- or the potential in regard
26 to the birds or the -- you know, the question about
27 having a subsistence fish -- the Russell as an option,
28 you know, I'm not sure where we're at in all those
29 things or how even to proceed except to bring them to
30 the table, and I'm hoping that we can get more
31 information between now and our fall meeting to try to
32 determine what next best steps are to take to the table
33 in hopefully Cold Bay.

34

35 MR. PAPPAS: Excellent plan. I
36 appreciate it. I wasn't questioning it, I was just
37 looking for guidance. Sounds good. So let's make a
38 transition into OSM report. So bear with me, I've got
39 five subject matters and I'll try to make this quick
40 but understandable.

41

42 We'd like to thank you for all your
43 hard work as volunteers. We know this has been one
44 long year for us with Covid. And on that note, for
45 teleconferences, we're holding all of our Regional
46 Advisory Council meetings via teleconferences right
47 now. This decision was made with the utmost
48 consideration and concern for the health and safety of
49 Council members, families, rural communities, the

50

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1 public and Staff, who are all part of the Council
2 meetings. The health and safety of everyone is our
3 highest priority. The CDC and Prevention guidelines
4 suggest people avoid travel and refrain from meeting in
5 person to minimize risk and help prevent the spread of
6 Covid.

7

8 The RACs are the foundation of Alaska's
9 Federal Subsistence Management Program. We recognize
10 that holding face to face Council meetings in rural
11 communities across Alaska is preferable for engaging
12 the public most effectively. The Federal Subsistence
13 Management Program is committed to resuming in-person
14 Council meetings across Alaska as soon as it is
15 possible to do so safely. And I would love to see
16 everybody in Cold Bay, that's an excellent place to
17 start.

18

19 OSM Staff changes. We've had quite the
20 tumultuous couple of years.

21

22 Doctor Brent Vickers, hired on as
23 Anthropology Lead. A very genius individual.

24

25 Greg Risdahl who was the Fisheries Lead
26 as moved over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife [sic] in
27 January and will be the representative on the
28 InterAgency Staff Committee to the Federal Subsistence
29 Board.

30

31 I'm currently acting in Greg's position
32 for four months while they figure out what they're
33 going to do next.

34

35 And also, let's see here, Katya Wessels
36 was the -- or currently is the OSM Policy Coordinator
37 but she was promoted Council Division Coordinator, so
38 she'll be the lead for the Council Coordination
39 Division coming up in about a month once her detail's
40 done.

41

42 We had a Steve Fadden come from the
43 Fish and Wildlife Refuges in the Lower48 to act as the
44 Fisheries -- or excuse me -- the Wildlife Division
45 Chief, because you know the Wildlife Division lead also
46 moved on and he, Chris McKee, is also on the
47 InterAgency Staff Committee.

48

49 And lastly one of our clerks at the
50

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1 office has taken a position with the military,
2 Department of Defense recently.

3

4

5 So the Council application process.
6 That all got -- we had quite a problem, a lot of empty
7 positions, long-termers, we opened the meeting up
8 talking about, and I have new information on that. And
9 that is -- and I believe I touched on it yesterday,
10 that, all but, I believe 8 positions have been filled,
11 all came in late a couple nights ago which is good news
12 for the Program. Because some of the Regional Advisory
13 Councils.....

13

14

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hello?

15

16

MS. SKINNER: Yeah, Rebecca's on.

17

18

19

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MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, George just
got dropped off online so he should get back in a
second here or so.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay.

MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I was just -- and
while we're waiting for George to get back up, I was
thinking in relation to the Cold Bay letter we did get
some important information during our meeting here, the
waterfowl questions are kind of out of our league and
covered by AMBCC, and then the seasonal distribution on
the spring or late winter hunt, same kind of problems
here in Kodiak, but that's got to be addressed through
Treaty changes, if they change the season and
availability on the emperor geese hunt and what not.
And I think the salmon question, while, you know, you
can't really address how many people are fishing, it
sounded like this year that there was a significant
reduction in the return of salmon in both those systems
of question. And I think that you've alerted sportfish
and the commfish folks that monitor the streams on
that, so hopefully they'll keep an eye on things. And
to get a differential on subsistence, I don't know.
But on the ptarmigan, I think that the State chap
pointed out that they had dropped a couple years ago
because of the populations on the Peninsula, dropped it
from 20 to 10 per day, and that basically it's a tough

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1 critter to manage because the females move all around
2 and it seemed like the biggest factor was variable
3 weather and wetness and amount of snow. And so that
4 might be a difficult thing to try to address
5 correctively.

6
7 So I think your questioning on those,
8 Lisa gave us -- the Council, a few items to think
9 about.

10
11 Thank you, ma'am.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
14 And I'd also like to talk to a lot more residents at
15 King Cove [sic] to get different views on what their
16 thoughts are.

17
18 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, George, I'm
19 back, and I could be done in about 45 seconds.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, George, go
22 for it.

23
24 MR. PAPPAS: All right, I'll skip the
25 Council nominations and issues there, we had all kinds
26 of challenges but I think we have a full load right
27 now.

28
29 RealID for travelers to Council
30 meetings.

31
32 Remember, the Council members have been
33 reminded the requirements to have a RealID so you can
34 travel through airports. This has been postponed until
35 October 1st, 2021. I know that's going to be difficult
36 for folks that are remote.

37
38 And, again, I have the statement about
39 the lawsuit with the state of Alaska from August 10th.
40 And this is also was related to some of the other
41 issues that are on deck that I referenced earlier.

42
43 On August 10th, 2020, the State of
44 Alaska filed a lawsuit against the Federal Board after
45 it adopted emergency special action WSA19-14. This
46 allowed the village of Kake to engage in a community
47 harvest of two antlered moose and five male Sitka
48 black-tailed deer. Also lands in Units 13A and 13B to
49 non-Federally-qualified moose and caribou hunters. As
50

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1 part of the lawsuit the State asked the court to issue
2 two preliminary injunctions. One to prevent the Unit
3 13 closure from taking effect and another vacating the
4 Kake hunt and prohibiting the Board from allowing any
5 additional emergency hunts related to the impacts of
6 Covid19. On September the 18th the U.S. District Court
7 denied the State's request for a preliminary injunction
8 on the Unit 13 closure. The court found that, because
9 the State has not demonstrated either a likelihood of
10 success or serious questions on the merits of its
11 claims, the court need not consider the remaining
12 elements of the preliminary injunction analysis.

13
14 Two months later on November the 18th,
15 the Court also denied the State's motion for a
16 preliminary injunction on the Kake hunt after Judge
17 Gleason concluded that the State had not demonstrated a
18 likelihood of success on the merits, raising serious
19 questions on the merits of its claim, or demonstrated
20 any likelihood of irreparable harm.

21
22 While these rulings on preliminary
23 injunction are encouraging, they do not resolve the
24 litigation. Settlement negotiations between the
25 Department of Justice, the DOI Solicitor's Office, and
26 USDA Office of General Counsel, and the State are
27 ongoing. The parties have agreed to delay the court
28 proceedings while these discussions are underway.
29 Barring a settlement, the Solicitor's Office now
30 estimates that the briefings should be complete in
31 summer 2021 and that the court will issue its decision
32 in late summer.

33
34 Based on legal guidance, Program Staff
35 does not comment on any active litigation directed
36 against the Federal Subsistence Board beyond what has
37 been set forth here in front of you.

38
39 Thank you, Madame Chair.

40
41 That's my required OSM report.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
44 George. Are there any comments or questions for
45 George.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none. I

50

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1 do believe, Donald, are we down basically to the
2 calendar?

3

4 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair. You just
5 need to confirm. The meeting calendar begins on Page
6 115 and the Council needs to confirm its fall 2021
7 meeting date, which was selected to be September 27 and
8 28 in Unalaska.

9

10 Madame Chair.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. If I
13 may, if we are able to travel, at this point, Chris, I
14 think this was set up for Unalaska based on a
15 conference that was going to be there, but also McLees,
16 is that correct?

17

18 MR. PRICE: Yeah, but we've changed
19 that conference to virtual now in September so I'm
20 supportive of the Cold Bay location. Whatever the
21 Council decides. But we're -- you know, we're just not
22 going to be prepared for that in 2021.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, thank you.
25 Is there any other suggestions in regards to the date
26 and location.

27

28 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, Pat.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

31

32 MR. HOLMES: I think a change to Cold
33 Bay is quite reasonable and it'd be an important thing
34 to do. You might want to shift it one day into the
35 week so that that might give travel or who knows when
36 they -- if there is a flight, when the flights would be
37 to Cold Bay so that would have to be flight dependent.
38 And, you know, I don't particularly like spending time
39 in Anchorage if I don't have to, but whatever works for
40 the majority would be swell, but you might want to have
41 some flexibility within that month -- or that week.

42

43 Thank you, ma'am.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
46 What you might consider possibly everyone is the 29th
47 is on a Wednesday and Alaska would fly into Cold Bay.
48 Our meetings usually run two days, you need to -- if we
49 get done -- meeting Thursday and Friday, Alaska flies

50

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1 back into Anchorage in Saturday, however if we're able
2 to get into Cold Bay early enough on Alaska we may
3 start that afternoon and be able to go into Thursday
4 and Ravn does fly out of Cold Bay on Fridays.

5

6 MR. HOLMES: That'd be a good plane.

7

8 MR. KOSO: Della, what date was that in
9 February, or not February or is that September we're
10 talking.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, September,
13 and actually Ravn flies into Cold Bay on a Monday so
14 flying in there on the 27th, Pat would work, and if
15 we're able to get back out on the Wednesday, Alaska
16 would fly out of there on Wednesday evening, so that
17 would work.

18

19 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, roger that, 27th,
20 28th and out on the 29th, yeah, that would probably
21 work. At least we have some options there.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Anybody else
24 have any recommendations.

25

26 MR. KOSO: That's good for me, Della.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay. And then
29 the winter meeting would be -- is that good for
30 everybody for the fall meeting.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: So, Donald, what
35 about the winter meeting, it's not on this calendar?

36

37 Do we schedule that in the fall for the
38 meetings in 2022, is that correct?

39

40 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Let's see, I
41 have the updated winter calendar that was issued March
42 8th. We did not select the winter calendar -- meeting
43 dates at the fall meeting, so -- I believe so -- but,
44 anyway, I just want to confirm with the Council members
45 that September 27th and 28th in Cold Bay, is that the
46 meeting dates, is that what I'm hearing, correct?

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes.

49

50

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1 MR. MIKE: Okay, thank you. So as far
2 as winter 2022 -- Regional Advisory Council meeting
3 calendar I sent out an updated version on email so we
4 have the week of February 21st open and the week of
5 February 28th, and March 14th and March 21. So those
6 are the weeks that are open.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, if it'd be possible,
13 hopefully by then we'll be done with this Covid stuff
14 and we haven't seen our grandkids and I'm sure a lot of
15 other people haven't seen theirs, but the February
16 would be a better time because March, I'd probably go
17 down to the States and teleconference, but I can always
18 be flexible if we go see them. So I'd like to toss out
19 sometime there in that week of the 21st.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Any other
22 recommendations.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Hearing none, I
27 guess tentatively we'll go with that week Donald.

28

29 MR. MIKE: Okay. February 22 and 23,
30 does that sound good?

31

32 MR. HOLMES: That'd be good for me.

33

34 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, sounds good.

35

36 MR. KOSO: Yeah.

37

38 MR. MIKE: Okay, it sounds like we come
39 to a consensus with the Kodiak Council for the winter
40 2022 Council meeting, February 22 and 23, and the
41 location?

42

43 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Kodiak.

44

45 MR. MIKE: Okay, in Kodiak. Any other
46 locations or just Kodiak will work for all members?

47

48 MR. HOLMES: Well, Mazatlan would be
49 nice.

50

0283

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. KOSO: Kodiak's fine with me.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MR. HOLMES: It sounds like it might be
8 unanimous, we can't go, but everybody thinks it's a
9 good idea.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, I think we
12 got that scheduled, Donald.

13

14 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair. February
15 22, 23, 2022 Kodiak.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Okay, that
18 works, thank you. I guess we're down to closing
19 comments. We'll go ahead and I'm going to start on the
20 bottom of this list.

21

22 Melissa.

23

24 MS. BERNES: Yep, I think this was a
25 good meeting. Glad to hear everyone's voices and glad
26 to see things still moving forward despite the pandemic
27 and everything that's been kind of thrown at us and
28 look forward to meeting everybody in the fall
29 hopefully.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
32 Melissa. And it sure was good to hear your voice.

33

34 Natasha.

35

36 MS. HAYDEN: Thanks, Madame Chair. I'm
37 also really pleased to have an opportunity to spend
38 time with all of you this last two days. I'm really
39 appreciative that Rick Koso was able to rejoin us, in
40 particular, he added a lot of value to the discussions
41 around caribou on Unimak Island and the proposed
42 closure coming up. Anyways, I'm really pleased to hear
43 the discussion from people who really -- that live and
44 are from the region that the decisions that we're
45 making are going to have the most impact on.

46

47 So, thank you, and I look forward to
48 visiting you all in Cold Bay in the fall. That's
49 exciting.

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
2 Natasha. And good to hear from you too.

3
4 Rebecca.

5
6 MS. SKINNER: Thank you, Della. I
7 wanted to thank all of the Staff, Federal and State
8 Staff that called in to support this meeting through
9 presentations and information and thank all of my
10 fellow Council members.

11
12 One thing I did want to call out is for
13 the residents in Cold Bay, if they are interested in
14 putting forward a proposal regarding the ptarmigan,
15 which would fall under this Federal subsistence
16 wildlife proposal cycle, so proposals would be due May
17 24th of 2021, obviously our RAC did not take up any
18 ptarmigan proposals related to Cold Bay but that
19 doesn't mean that residents there can't submit a
20 proposal if they had an idea of how they'd like to see
21 things changed. So I just wanted to highlight that.
22 And hopefully word of that opportunity will get back to
23 them in case they do want to put something forward.

24
25 Other than that, I think it was a good
26 meeting and I look forward to our next meeting, whether
27 it ends up being virtual or in person.

28
29 So thank you everyone.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
32 Rebecca. And, thanks, for all your help.

33
34 Coral.

35
36 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, I'd like to thank
37 everyone with all the agencies that gave us reports and
38 sit there and answer all our questions, I thank you so
39 much for that. And I guess just everyone be well and
40 be healthy.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
45 Coral.

46
47 Chris.

48
49 MR. PRICE: Hi, can you hear me?
50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We can hear you.

2

3 MR. PRICE: Okay, thanks. Hey, thanks
4 everybody. Appreciate the approach everybody did on
5 this meeting and, you know, it didn't particularly
6 involve Unalaska on that caribou issue but the Council,
7 I want to work with you guys and it's exciting that you
8 guys are trying to help people in the region get the
9 food they need for their communities. So that's why I
10 kind of got on here and enjoying the opportunity to
11 participate. And, you know, look forward to a good
12 summer here in Unalaska, getting our community back
13 into collecting and harvesting food, and so on.

14

15 So thank you guys for your time today
16 and I appreciate this meeting. And thank you Della for
17 all your -- Della and Donald, for all you guys are
18 doing to keep us on track and working together.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
23 Chris. And, Chris, if I get a caribou this year, I'll
24 send some to you in Coastal Transportation.

25

26 MR. PRICE: Sounds awesome.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Sam.

29

30 MR. ROHRER: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
31 just want to thank my fellow Council members for
32 sitting through these two days of meetings. Thanks for
33 your opinions. Always appreciate serving on this
34 Council with each and every one of you. I want to thank
35 the agency members, thank you guys for sitting in. It
36 was certainly a real good turnout, so we appreciate
37 that, appreciate all your presentations. The tribal
38 folks, and the corporation folks, thank you for sitting
39 in and giving us presentations. And I know we had a
40 few public members, I'm not sure if any of them are
41 still on, but if any still are on, we appreciate you
42 tuning in as well.

43

44 Look forward to seeing everyone in
45 person and it'll be nice to be back in person.

46

47 And I guess, lastly, I just want to
48 thank you, Della, you always run a good meeting, I
49 appreciate it and certainly appreciate you being

50

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1 willing to Chair us one more year, so thanks for all
2 you do. And that's all I got.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Sam.
5 And, thank you for all the help that you contribute
6 also.

7

8 Rick. Welcome back.

9

10 MR. KOSO: Yeah, thanks Board members.
11 It's great to be back. It's great to hear your voices
12 again, and I'd sure like to thank you for putting as
13 much effort as you did in today. I mean we really beat
14 up that Cold Bay, Unimak Island today, and I sure
15 appreciate your work on that. I think we accomplished
16 a lot on that today. So outside of that, I'd just like
17 to thank, you know, the State and Federal people for
18 their reports.

19

20 And look forward to meeting with you
21 again, and, hopefully, at Cold Bay.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Rick.

24

25 Pat.

26

27 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, well, at this.....

28

29 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Saved the best
30 for last, Pat.

31

32 MR. HOLMES: Hello.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Pat.

35

36 MR. HOLMES: Hello. Oh, roger that. I
37 guess I can say I agree with everybody and I think it
38 was a really good and productive meeting. I think we
39 all learned a whole lot and we couldn't have done it
40 without the Federal and State Staff and certainly
41 couldn't do it without our grand lady, who Chairs our
42 meetings, you just do a swell job, Della. And I was
43 fantasizing here it would be really fun to see if we
44 couldn't finagle a Coast Guard C-130 to go from Kodiak
45 and stop all the way down, all the way out to Adak and
46 go to the Pribilofs and then spin back again so folks
47 could see our whole region because it's a magnificent
48 place and we have magnificent people living here,
49 including all you folks, so thank you so much.

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you, Pat.
2 Yeah, that would be something.

3
4 I guess in closing, I just want to
5 thank everybody, the Council members, everybody
6 contributes to this Council and it works. Everybody
7 puts a good effort into it.

8
9 Staff, thank you so much, Donald.
10 Everybody. Just helping us to be able to do our jobs.
11 It's very much appreciated.

12
13 I think today, and the last couple days
14 the amount of Staff we had, I think to help us, from
15 the Federal and from the State contributed a lot to us
16 making decisions but also to remember and remind
17 ourselves, I think, what's there and then keep us
18 updated to be able to make good decisions for the
19 people that we serve. It's so important, that a lot of
20 live off the lands and it's a good part of who we are
21 and whether you're just a resident or you're Native or
22 non-Native, it's what we are, it's what we're about, no
23 matter what realm we are in this whole thing.

24
25 But I'd just like to say is thank you
26 everybody. I appreciate all your efforts and the time
27 that everybody put in and it was really good to be able
28 to talk to everybody and look forward to being able to
29 see each other face to face this fall in Cold Bay.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 With that I guess.....

34
35 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, this is
36 Donald.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead,
39 Donald.

40
41 MR. MIKE: Yeah, thank you, Madame
42 Chair. And I just wanted to extend my appreciation and
43 acknowledge the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
44 particularly Mark Burch with his Staff, and a lot of
45 the issues came up -- issue driven that guided our
46 progress on the agenda item topics.

47
48 But anyway I'm on Microsoft Teams and
49 I've never officially met most of the Council members,
50

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1 and I hope to meet you in person some day and I
2 appreciate the work you guys do. And congratulations
3 to our Chair, Della Trumble, for running a great
4 meeting. And I appreciate the Staff, OSM Staff on
5 providing expert guidance and technical assistance.
6 And kudos to our IT person, Joshua -- not Joshua, but
7 Jared Stone, he helped out a lot on providing visuals
8 on the Microsoft Teams platform. So thank you all and
9 I hope to meet you all one day.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: We do need a
14 motion to adjourn, Donald.

15

16 MR. MIKE: Yes.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: If we could get
19 a motion to adjourn.

20

21 MR. KOSO: Della.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Go ahead, Rick.

24

25 MR. KOSO: I was just going to say I
26 seen a little deal on AND there that the Biden
27 Administration is backing the Trump Decision for the
28 Road.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Oh, yeah, how
33 about -- anyway thank you so much everybody. I'm going
34 to say, Rick, you must have made a motion to adjourn.

35

36 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I did.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And Pat seconds,
41 I can hear him laughing.

42

43 MR. PRICE: Thanks Rick, thanks
44 everybody.

45

46 MR. ROHRER: Thanks everyone.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
49 everybody.

50

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1

MR. HOLMES: Quyana.

2

3

(Off record)

4

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(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

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THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 7th day of April 2021.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22