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KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Kodiak, Alaska
March 29, 2023
9:15 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Della Trumble, Chair
Patrick Holmes
Richard Koso
Samuel Rohrer
Chris Price
Coral Chernoff
Rebecca Skinner

Regional Council Coordinator, Lisa Hutchinson-
Scarborough

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

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(Kodiak, Alaska - 3/29/2023)

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(On record)

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MS. SKINNER: All right. Good morning.
We're going to go ahead and get started with the
meeting. This is Rebecca Skinner.

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I'm not sure, Della, did you want to
actually start off?

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14

MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, I'll go
ahead, Rebecca, if you can hear me okay.

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22

Good morning, everybody. We could call
the meeting of the Kodiak/Aleutians Advisory Council to
order. Just for the record I have asked Rebecca to go
ahead and Chair this for me. I'm at a bit of
disadvantage and since you are all in person I think
that'll work a lot better. So I guess I'll turn -- go
ahead and turn this over to Rebecca.

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24

25

Thank you.

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ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
Thanks, Della. So we'll go ahead and get started on
our agenda. The first thing is going to be invocation,
call to order, roll call. Eventually we're going to
get down to welcome and introductions. So when we're
at that point everybody in the room will need to come
up to the microphones at the table so that we can get
it recorded. Make sure you push the button to turn it
on. But we'll go ahead and get started with the first
thing, invocation.

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Pat Holmes, did you want to give the
invocation.

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MR. HOLMES: Yes, Ma'am, I will. I'm
sorry I forgot to bring in the carving of Liam Sua
which is the Alutiiq deity that folks around this neck
of the woods and out west have different names for him,
but I'll bring the carving in later, I just forgot.
And I'm getting to the point in life where I'm deaf as
a post and also get lost when I'm trying to do things
unless I've already got it all laid out by the door.

49

50

But anyway I think that we should take

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1 a moment here and reflect on those that we've lost in
2 our communities, that were so active in subsistence and
3 active in our communities and tribes and just stellar
4 people. And a couple of them that really come to mind
5 very strongly for me is Margaret Roberts who was very
6 active with Woody Island and then my good friend, Roger
7 Balutin. And so if you recall folks in your community
8 let's just take a moment to just think about them and
9 their contributions to helping us with subsistence and
10 helping learn to live good lives. And so let's just
11 take a minute and think about that. And then we'll go
12 on and just together I guess do the Lord's Prayer
13 because that kind of covers a lot of turf in terms of
14 what we should be thinking about. So let's just take a
15 minute here and think about those people.

16

17 (Moment of silence)

18

19 MR. HOLMES: I can't do that without a
20 big sigh and sometimes tears, but let's do the Lord's
21 Prayer.

22

23 (Invocation)

24

25 MR. HOLMES: I'm sorry, losing things.
26 I hope you folks can continue that because I'm just
27 getting to be a geezer. So I just I guess would just
28 say amen and good thoughts for what we're trying to
29 achieve today.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
34 Thank you, Pat. We'll go ahead and call the meeting to
35 order at 9:13 a.m.

36

37 Lisa, if you could do the roll call and
38 make sure we have a quorum.

39

40 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Good
41 morning, Council. It's nice to have everybody here
42 today, at least some of us. And I think we'll see who
43 is online, but it's a nice day in Kodiak and looks like
44 we have some good attendance. So thank you for --
45 everybody for coming.

46

47 Patrick Holmes.

48

49 MR. HOLMES: Present.

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1 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Sam Rohrer.
2
3 MR. ROHRER: Here.
4
5 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Christopher
6 Price.
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8 MR. PRICE: Here.
9
10 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Coral
11 Chernoff.
12
13 MS. CHERNOFF: Here.
14
15 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Rebecca
16 Skinner.
17
18 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Here.
19
20 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Della
21 Trumble:
22
23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Here.
24
25 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Richard
26 Koso.
27
28 MR. KOSO: Here.
29
30 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Morning,
31 Richard. Natasha Hayden.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Natasha
36 Hayden.
37
38 (No comments)
39
40 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Madame
41 Chair, I believe Natasha was not going to be available
42 so she -- she's going to try to call in when she can.
43
44 Thank you. So we have a quorum. We
45 have seven out of eight present.
46
47 Thank you.
48
49 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Great. Thank
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1 you, Lisa. The next item on the agenda is meeting
2 announcements and that is also Lisa.

3
4 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: So again
5 just hello, everybody. This is of course the
6 Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council. We're
7 meeting here at the Kodiak -- beautiful Kodiak
8 Visitor's Center. I want to thank the Refuge for
9 providing this opportunity for us to meet here at this
10 space. And I want to thank everybody for -- also for
11 coming. We are also online for anybody that's online.
12 You're welcome to call in. There's an agenda that is
13 available on the OSM website. So if you go to OSM and
14 you go to the Regional Advisory Councils under the
15 regions you'll find one for Kodiak/Aleutians and
16 there'll be a meeting book and also there's a
17 supplemental materials and the agenda. So when you're
18 going through on the agenda if there's a number over
19 there that'll be the page number for the supplemental
20 or, I mean, for the meeting book and then if it says
21 supplemental tab the items will be under supplemental
22 tabs. So hopefully that's straightforward.

23
24 So just a few housekeeping things. I
25 wanted to say that address the Chair following the
26 opportunity to speak and I want to remind folks that
27 there will be time for tribal and public comment on
28 nonagenda items and the Chair will announce this each
29 morning. And this will be the opportunity for those
30 present as well as those participating on the phone to
31 speak on nonagenda items. And if anybody speaking,
32 participating on the phone, when we go through if --
33 when you do call in for -- if you're speaking on the
34 phone just really state who your name is and who you're
35 representing if it's just a different organization or
36 if it's just your individual self.

37
38 I also wanted to welcome -- we have
39 three renewing Council members that are reappointed I
40 guess I would say, Sam Rohrer and Chris Price and
41 Natasha Hayden. So welcome back and glad that you're
42 continuing to want to serve on the Council. And we
43 look forward to more meetings with you and information
44 that you can share about the region -- your region.

45
46 I have an ethics statement that we need
47 to read as just part of -- part of the process. So the
48 Council members represent the people of their regions
49 to the Board, the Secretaries, agency Staff and the
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1 general public. As Secretarial appointees Council
2 members also represent the Federal Subsistence
3 Management Program to the people of their regions.
4 Therefore Council members are expected to treat fellow
5 Council members, agency and organizational Staff and
6 members of the public with respect, both at public
7 meetings and at all times.

8
9 Council meetings are to be conducted
10 according to the Robert's Rules of Order. Rude
11 language and unruly behavior toward anybody attending
12 the meetings is not acceptable. All members must be
13 impartial, fair and courteous at meetings. As outlined
14 in Robert's Rules of Order the Council may call an
15 unruly member out of order or may order the member to
16 be silent or may have him or her removed from the
17 meeting if the behavior continues. We also may call
18 for a break to take care of the problem as well.

19
20 Another matter is unexcused absences.
21 Members who travel to a Council meeting and remain in
22 the community, but do not attend the Council meeting
23 for any reason other than their own illness will not be
24 excused and may be required to reimburse the Federal
25 government for travel and per diem.

26
27 Additionally the Department's policy
28 regarding the ethics responsibility of Advisory
29 Committee members states that no Council or
30 subcommittee member will participate in any specific
31 party matter including a lease, license, permit,
32 contract claim, agreement or related litigation with
33 the Department in which a member has a direct financial
34 interest. Prior to any discussion of a particular
35 issue regarding which the member has a conflict of
36 interest as described above, the members will make a
37 conflict of interest statement on the record and recuse
38 himself or herself.

39
40 If any kind of unruly behavior or
41 insulting language occurs during the meeting you will
42 need to be -- intervene immediately or I will be.

43
44 Anyway that's all I have. But anyway
45 welcome to the meeting and we will move back to you,
46 Ms. Chair.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
49 Thank you, Lisa. All right. The next thing on the
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1 agenda is welcome and introductions. What I'm going to
2 do is run down by group or affiliation and then I'm
3 going to do the RAC members last. And so the first
4 group will be tribes. If there's anyone from a tribe
5 either in the room or online and again if you're in the
6 room please come up to the table, use the microphone
7 and make sure you push the button. And what we're
8 looking for is if you can state your name and
9 affiliation.

10

11 Thank you. Any tribes in attendance.

12

13 MS. LEKANOFF: Rachel Lekanoff,
14 Fisheries Manager for Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska.

15

16 MS. SALIMEN: Mandy Salimen, the
17 Environmental Program Director for the Qawalangin Tribe
18 of Unalaska.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. That
21 looks like that's it for the room. Is there anyone
22 online from a tribe.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Hearing none,
27 ANCSA corporations either in the room or online.

28

29 All right. Someone's coming up to the
30 microphone in the room.

31

32 MS. PETERSON: Good morning. Amy
33 Peterson, Koniag Community Affairs Liaison.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Is
36 there anyone online from an ANCSA corporation.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
41 Hearing none, next would be Alaska Department of Fish
42 and Game, anybody in the room or online. And we have
43 somebody in the room coming to the microphone.

44

45 MR. LAWSON: Good morning, Tyler
46 Lawson, I'm the Assistant Area Management Biologist for
47 the south Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands.

48

49 MR. KEYSE: My name is Matt Keyse and

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1 I'm the Area Management Biologist for the south Alaska
2 Peninsula Commercial Salmon and Herring Fishery. I
3 also want to add at 10:15 today there's a Statewide
4 tsunami alarm that's going to go off. So just so
5 everyone's aware when that happens.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah. Thank you
8 for the notice.

9
10 (Laughter)

11
12 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Is
13 there anyone online from the Alaska Department of Fish
14 and Game.

15
16 MS. KEATING: Good morning. This is
17 Jackie Keating with the Division of Subsistence based
18 in Anchorage, but currently out in Unalaska.

19
20 MS. KRUEGER: Good morning. This is
21 Kelly Krueger with Sport Fish in Kodiak.

22
23 MR. DUNKER: Good morning. This is
24 Bill Dunker with the Division of Wildlife Conservation
25 here in Kodiak.

26
27 MS. VANDEVOORT: Good morning. This is
28 Amy Vandervoort with Alaska Fish and Game, Wildlife
29 Conservation in King Salmon.

30
31 MS. LICHWA: Good morning. This is
32 Evelyn Lichwa, Assistant Wildlife Biologist for King
33 Salmon and Dillingham.

34
35 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Excuse me.
36 Would you mind repeating your name, please, we couldn't
37 hear you.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Could the last
42 speaker from Fish and Game redo the introduction and
43 move a little bit closer to the microphone.

44
45 MS. LICHWA: Evelyn Lichwa, Assistant
46 Wildlife Biologist for King Salmon and Dillingham.

47
48 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you.

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1 MR. BURCH: This is Mark Burch from the
2 Department of Fish and Game from the Palmer office.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Are
5 there any other Fish and Game representatives online.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Hearing
10 none, we'll move on to Federal agencies in the room and
11 online, Fish and Wildlife Service. All right. We have
12 people heading to the microphone.

13
14 MR. ROBERTS: Good morning, Madame
15 Chair and members of the Council. I'm Jason Roberts,
16 Anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
17 Management.

18
19 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi. I'm Lisa
20 Grediagin, the Wildlife Division Supervisor with OSM.

21
22 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning. This is
23 Kendra Holman, Wildlife Biologist with the Office of
24 Subsistence Management.

25
26 MR. LIND: Good morning, Madame Chair
27 and Council members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison from
28 the Office of Subsistence Management. It's good to be
29 back here and seeing all of your faces. Good morning.

30
31 MR. BRADY: Good morning. Mike Brady,
32 Fish and Wildlife Service, Refuge Manager, Kodiak
33 National Wildlife Refuge.

34
35 MR. HERNANDEZ: Good morning. Danny
36 Hernandez, Kodiak Refuge.

37
38 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning, Madame
39 Chair and members of the Council. My name is Allison
40 Williams, Wildlife Biologist with Izembek National
41 Wildlife Refuge.

42
43 MR. PYLE: Good morning, Madame Chair,
44 members of the Council. My name is Bill Pyle, I'm the
45 Supervisor Wildlife Biologist for Kodiak National
46 Wildlife Refuge.

47
48 MS. MARTIN: Good morning. My name is
49 Kate Martin, I'm with Migratory Bird Management and I'm
50

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1 the Coordinator for the Sea Duck Joint Venture.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. That
6 looks like everyone in the room. So online -- oh. I
7 see people are trying to wave somebody else forward.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: BIA. Yeah, and
12 I'm going to confess I didn't list the Federal agencies
13 by name because I was like what are the Federal
14 agencies, there's so many of them. And I apologize for
15 that.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. CHEN: Aloha.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. CHEN: My name is Glenn Chen, I'm
24 the Subsistence Branch Chief for the Bureau of Indian
25 Affairs. And it's always a pleasure to attend your
26 meetings.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thank you. So
29 online do we have anyone else from OSM.

30

31 MR. STONE: Good morning.
32 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....

33

34 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Madame
35 Chair.

36

37 MR. STONE:with Office of
38 Subsistence Management.

39

40 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Madame
41 Chair, members of the Council. Katya Wessels, Council
42 Coordination Division Supervisor with OSM.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Could the
47 person that just introduced themself before Katya could
48 you repeat your name, please.

49

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1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. STONE: Yeah, sorry. This is
4 Jarred Stone, Fisheries Biologist with the Office of
5 Subsistence Management.

6

7 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you,
8 Jarred.

9

10 MS. LaVINE: Good morning, Madame
11 Chair, members of the Council. This is Robbin LaVine,
12 Subsistence Policy Coordinator with the Office of
13 Subsistence Management.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Is
16 there anyone else online from OSM.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Is there
21 anyone online from the Kodiak Refuge.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Is
26 there anyone online from Izembek.

27

28 MS. FOSADO: Good morning, Madame Chair
29 and members of the Council. This is Maria Fosado,
30 Refuge Manager at Izembek Refuge.

31

32 MS. MELENDEZ: Good morning, Madame
33 Chair and the Council members. Leticia Melendez from
34 Izembek.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Do
37 we have anyone from the Maritime.....

38

39 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Alaska
40 Maritime.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah. Alaska
43 Maritime Refuge.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. I'm
48 going to have to open it up. Anyone else online from
49 Federal agencies.

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1 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Madame
2 Chair and Council Members. This is Greg Risdahl with
3 the USDA Forest Service. I'm the Subsistence Program
4 Leader and InterAgency Staff Committee member. I'm
5 glad to be back with you today.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This is Jill
10 Klein with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm their
11 Regional Subsistence Coordinator based in Anchorage.
12 And happy to be listening in today.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. And
17 then I see we do have somebody from Enforcement in the
18 back. If you could come up and introduce yourself. I
19 apologize, I didn't have a separate breakout for you.

20
21 TROOPER WALSH: Good morning. My name
22 is Nathan Walsh, I'm here with the Wildlife Troopers
23 based here in Kodiak.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Do
26 we have anyone else online who hasn't had an
27 opportunity to introduce themselves.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Then we
32 will go ahead and do introductions around the Council
33 table and I'm going to start at the end with Chris
34 Price.

35
36 MR. PRICE: Good morning. Chris Price,
37 Unalaska.

38
39 MR. ROHRER: Good morning. Sam Rohrer
40 from Kodiak.

41
42 MS. CHERNOFF: Coral Chernoff from
43 Kodiak.

44
45 MR. HOLMES: Pat Holmes, Kodiak.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: And this is
48 Rebecca Skinner from Kodiak.

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1 And I'll go online, Council members on
2 line.

3

4 MR. KOSO: Rick Koso, Adak.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Good morning.
7 This is Della Trumble, King Cove.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
10 Thank you. And then, Lisa, did you want to introduce
11 yourself again.

12

13 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Hi. This
14 is Lisa Hutchinson-Scarborough. I'm the Council
15 Coordinator for the Council. Good morning.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
18 Thank you. Is there anyone that did not have a chance
19 to introduce themselves.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. We'll
24 move on to the next.....

25

26 MR. RINALDI: Good morning.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead.

29

30 MR. RINALDI: Good morning. This is
31 Todd Rinaldi with the Department of Fish and Game. I'm
32 the Regional Management Coordinator for the Central
33 Southwest Region. And I think we have some other Fish
34 and Game Staff on the phone as well.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. If
37 there's additional Fish and Game Staff who haven't
38 introduced themselves go ahead.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. We
43 might have gotten them earlier during introductions.

44

45 Okay. If that's it for introductions
46 we'll move on to the next item on the agenda which is
47 review and adopt the agenda. So I'll take a motion to
48 adopt the agenda.

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1 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, move to
2 adopt.

3
4 MR. PRICE: Second.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thank you. It's
7 been moved and seconded. Is there any discussion.

8
9 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Madame
10 Chair, I'd like to just make a couple of comments.
11 First of all the agenda that we're going to be looking
12 at is in the supplemental materials under tab 1 for
13 anybody that's online or in the room. I also provided
14 you guys with a solid copy as well.

15
16 There's a couple agenda items that need
17 to be addressed, sort of a time constraint. The first
18 one will be tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. So not today, but
19 tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. which is under item number of
20 new business 13(a). And that was with the Department
21 of Indian Affairs briefing regarding Office of
22 Subsistence Management with Bryan Newland. So he's
23 only available to call in during that period of time.

24
25 In addition item 13(g) for the NOAA
26 report, the Alaska Fisheries Science Center with Dr.
27 Ellen Yasumiishi. She's available only today so we
28 just need to -- she's going to be online today, but we
29 just need to make sure we accommodate her today.

30
31 And that is all that I have for now.
32 Thank you.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
35 Thanks, Lisa. Just thinking, to give Dr. Yasumiishi a
36 time certain or more of a time certain can we move her
37 up to item -- the first thing under new business. That
38 should be today, right.

39
40 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: We can
41 accommodate that if the Council would like to do that,
42 yes. I will just get in touch with her, she has not
43 called in yet.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Is there any
48 objection to moving item H under new business up to
49 item A to try to make sure that gets done today.

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1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. ROHRER: Item G.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Sorry. Not, H.
6 G. Thank you. Okay. Is there any objection to the
7 agenda as amended.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Seeing no
12 objection, the agenda is approved.

13

14 Moving on to the next agenda item is 7,
15 election of officers. And the -- the first office is
16 the office of Chair and I'll hand this over to the
17 Council Coordinator.

18

19 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Good
20 morning. You keep hearing from me. Again this is
21 Lisa. And I -- as the DFO for the meeting I get to do
22 this part. And so every year in the winter Council
23 meeting the Council elects its officers for a one year
24 term. And however I just will be -- I guess I'm just
25 opening up the floor for nominations for your
26 president.

27

28 Thank you. Do we have any nominations.

29

30 MR. KOSO: I'd like to nominate Della
31 Trumble.

32

33 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. We
34 have a nomination from Richard for Della Trumble.

35

36 MR. HOLMES: Second.

37

38 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay. Do
39 we have any other nominations for Chair.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.
44 Going once, going twice. Hearing none, okay. So
45 everybody -- I guess we will just do a roll call vote
46 on everybody in favor of Della Trumble.

47

48 Patrick Holmes.

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1 MR. HOLMES: Aye.
2
3 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Richard
4 Koso.
5
6 MR. KOSO: Aye.
7
8 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Sam Rohrer.
9
10 MR. ROHRER: Aye.
11
12 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Christopher
13 Price.
14
15 MR. PRICE: Aye.
16
17 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Coral
18 Chernoff.
19
20 MS. CHERNOFF: Aye.
21
22 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Rebecca
23 Skinner.
24
25 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Aye.
26
27 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: And
28 Natasha's not here. Della, do you accept the
29 nomination? I guess I should have asked you that
30 first.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, I do, but
33 I'm -- I like to let everybody know this past year has
34 been a little bit rough for me because I did have the
35 knee surgery. Couldn't be at this meeting today
36 because we had some fairly important visitors here
37 Monday and Tuesday regards our code issue. So but I'll
38 do the best I can and I sure appreciate Rebecca's help
39 with all of this. She's done a wonderful job.
40
41 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thank you.
42
43 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.
44 Thank you, Della. And it was unanimously passed.
45 Della, you are continuing Chair and thank you so much
46 for all of your years of service by the way. And we
47 hope that you -- your speedy recovery and that we'll be
48 able to see you as well at this next meeting.
49
50

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1 Okay. We will move on to the Vice-
2 Chair so I will move it back to Madame Chair -- Vice
3 Chair, for the vice president.

4
5 Thanks.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. It's
8 not completely clear who the new -- well, yeah, okay.
9 So, Della, I'm just going to go ahead and continue to
10 step in for you even though technically that may not be
11 correct.

12
13 Open the floor for nominations for the
14 Vice Chair.

15
16 Pat.

17
18 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I'd like to
19 nominate Becky Skinner. She's got a fantastically
20 precise mindset and can do four things at once. So
21 she's definitely a good fill in for Della when needed.

22
23 Thank you, Madame Chair.

24
25 MR. ROHRER: I'll second that.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Madame Chair,
28 this is Della. I will second that nomination.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Are
31 there any other nominations.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
36 Seeing and hearing none, do you want a roll call vote.

37
38 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: We can --
39 you can do a roll call or you can do it.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Is there
42 any objection.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
47 Seeing and hearing no objection, thank you, everyone.

48
49 All right. Opening the floor to
50

0018

1 nominations for Secretary.

2

3 MR. ROHRER: I'll nominate Chris Price
4 if you're willing.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is Della.
7 I'll (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....

8

9 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Are
10 there any other nominations.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I'll second his
15 nomination.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead, Della.

18

19 I was seconding Sam's nomination for
20 Chris.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Oh. Thank you.
23 Okay. Is there any objection.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
28 Seeing and hearing no objection Chris Price is
29 reelected as Secretary. So we have our slate of
30 officers.

31

32 Thank you, everyone. All right. So
33 moving on to the next agenda item, review and approve
34 previous meeting minutes. Those are in the packet and
35 I'll take a motion to approve the minutes.

36

37 MR. KOSO: So moved.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thanks, Rick.

40

41 MS. CHERNOFF: Second.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. It's
44 been moved and seconded. Are there any -- is there any
45 discussion or comments.

46

47 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead, Pat.

50

0019

1 MR. HOLMES: There's one point, I
2 forget where it was, but it was a discussion presented
3 by OSM Staff on the cultural and ethnic backgrounds of
4 subsistence users for Kodiak area. And they left out
5 Scandinavians. And might be a point to just keep in
6 mind for the next discussion because some of our
7 villages like Old Harbor there's so many Danes in our
8 regions there that it's a -- anyway they're an
9 important part of our community ethnically in the long
10 run as the Russians and Alutiiq folks. So just a small
11 correction for the future.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thanks, Pat. So
14 we'll just leave that as a note to Staff because I
15 don't think it actually was discussed, but if Staff
16 could make a note to include that in further -- future
17 analyses.

18
19 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Any other
22 additional comments.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
27 Hearing and seeing none, is there any objection to
28 approving the minutes.

29
30 MR. HOLMES: Move to approve.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: We had a motion
33 and it was seconded, there's no further discussion and
34 I don't see any objections so the minutes are approved.

35
36 All right. Next item on the agenda.
37 We're to reports, Council member reports. I'm going to
38 start at the end with Chris again.

39
40 MR. PRICE: Can you go over the general
41 guidelines for Council member reports, what are you
42 guys looking for on these?

43
44 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes,
45 through Madame Chair, Mr. Price. It's up to you. It's
46 like we like to -- I think the Council tends to like to
47 just talk about regional issues that are going on
48 regarding subsistence or even just local community
49 happenings and concerns and things that are going on.

50

0020

1 So it's your floor.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. PRICE: All right. Thank you,
6 guys, for setting up the meeting. I really like
7 getting this packet out early and I see the supplement
8 is really packed. So I'm looking forward to a great
9 meeting.

10

11 Unalaska, we've been having a pretty
12 decent winter, didn't have too much snow. We had a
13 couple really big storms this winter though that
14 affected our community. We had some big rainfall
15 events and we got through that. We had close to some
16 emergency declarations on some of the local roads and
17 infrastructure that were hit pretty hard. We're
18 looking at improving some wildlife or fisheries habitat
19 in Unalaska. That's going to be real important on
20 Unalaska Lake and we've got some reports from the tribe
21 this week that or this, you know, today and tomorrow
22 that can help inform on that. And again we're working
23 on those habitat issues with Unalaska Lake and we'll
24 have a report on McLees Lake as well and other
25 fisheries things that are going on on the Island.

26

27 So again thank you guys for your time
28 and appreciate being here. Thank you.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thanks, Chris.
31 Sam.

32

33 MR. ROHRER: Thank you. First off I
34 just want to say I'm really sorry I missed yesterday's
35 potluck, I ended up having a sick kid and was helping
36 out with that. And so anyway I was looking forward to
37 it and missed it so sorry about that, but I hope it was
38 a good time.

39

40 And so anyway just wanted to report on,
41 you know, my interests certainly run more on the game
42 side of things. Those are really the issues I pay
43 attention to. Winter's been pretty mild Island wide.
44 We continue to see recovery of our deer populations
45 around the Island so that's encouraging. Last fall's
46 harvest was good. Heard lots -- I mean, heard that
47 report from lots of different folks out in the field.
48 So and certainly my own experience hunting with my kids
49 we had good success, lots of deer. And again good
50

0021

1 winter this year, we're expecting to continue to see
2 our deer numbers rebound.

3
4 I would like to report I was -- I spent
5 the last weekend and beginning of the week over in
6 Soldotna at the Board of Game meetings, it was covering
7 Kodiak and -- other areas, but Kodiak was up. There
8 was a couple proposals there that I think probably our
9 RAC would be interested in, but the main one was there
10 was a proposal to reduce deer harvest for -- bag limits
11 for residents and nonresidents. The Board of Game
12 heard lots of testimony from Kodiak folks about not so
13 much declining deer populations, but localized high
14 pressure particularly around villages and popular
15 hunting spots, easy to assess spots. The Board was --
16 the Board of Game was pretty sensitive to those
17 concerns and they ultimately modified the proposal to
18 leave the resident harvest limits the same, but to
19 reduce nonresidents to one really in hope to try to
20 persuade some of the -- we're getting a lot of
21 increased charter boat presence here and so really as a
22 way to kind of slow the growth of that down. So anyway
23 the Board I think unanimously passed that, it would be --
24 be in my notes, but they -- but they did pass that so
25 that was a good thing. That's -- and I know Board of
26 Game's on here I think later for a report. So there
27 was more, but those -- that was the big one I think.

28
29 That's all I have to report, but I
30 would just say because normally we don't ask other
31 Board members or RAC members questions. So I'm just
32 hoping, Della, maybe that when you give your report
33 you'll give us a report on the King Cove Road issue.
34 I'd be curious to know what's going on with that, I
35 know it's in the news again.

36
37 So that's all I have.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thanks, Sam.
40 Coral.

41
42 MS. CHERNOFF: Good morning. I guess
43 today I'm just going to report on last fall I kind of
44 embarked on a mission to apply for and get subsistence
45 permits which was kind of an interesting process. What
46 I found through that is I think the process is a bit --
47 for every subsistence permit I applied for the process
48 is a bit -- well, except for AMBCC really easy process
49 to go online and apply for a bird permit, but others
50

0022

1 were kind of clumsy, they're sort of unclear. I think
2 it creates a barrier to subsistence that I think we
3 need to work on which I plan on sort of starting to
4 work on. We need to clear up maps and processes and
5 education in the offices where people are applying.
6

7 So that's all I have to report. That's
8 something that I was a bit surprised to find. And I'll
9 be working on that with I assume others in town at the
10 agencies.
11

12 So thank you.
13

14 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thank you. Pat.
15

16 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I guess I
17 really didn't get out doing too much subsistence this
18 fall again. More problems with my ears so if anybody's
19 talking to me and I don't respond please touch me on
20 the shoulder so I can look you in the face and try and
21 get my hearing aids turned up a bit.
22

23 I would like to comment in a positive
24 way about our community in that when a lot of folks
25 heard I was getting more work done on my ears and
26 wasn't getting out much, Paul Chernavac and some --
27 another guide and some of the kids that are in their
28 40s now that I used to give food and game and deer to
29 their grandparents, drop by and so and so I ended up
30 with a good load of venison and goats and all kinds of
31 stuff in my freezer. And so I went and gave it back to
32 some of the -- shared some of that with some of the
33 grandparents I know that don't get out either.
34

35 But I think that it sounds like the
36 deer harvest was picking up. I think maybe as a
37 footnote to Sam because it -- might want to enlarge
38 upon it. I noticed that the local Refuge made some
39 comments on proposed changes for mountain goat harvest
40 on the Island. And individual members of this
41 Committee, myself up until this year I've participated
42 in a study group with the local Fish and Game Advisory
43 Committee on mountain goats. And so through the years
44 we massaged things out so that folks in the villages
45 can have a little registration hunt and give them a
46 little advantage late in the season when the mountain
47 goats are more available. Some of the proposals at the
48 State level could have bugged that up a little bit,
49 but I think it's pretty much status quo, but you might
50

0023

1 want to correct me, Sam, but I think that's one of the
2 things -- processes that our community pursues is
3 getting all entities, State or Federal or whatever, to
4 try to give the benefit for folks that are local to be
5 able to get their foods. And so that was good.

6
7 I did do since our last meeting a fair
8 amount of personal research on some of the items that
9 we were -- raised on Lake Andrews. Jeff Williams has
10 volunteered to be our point of contact, he's the Refuge
11 Manager for the Aleutians. He gave some information on
12 the Restoration Board that I'll cover for Adak later.

13
14 I did a lot of work with all the
15 agencies trying to find a stream rehabilitation person
16 that could help the goals of our Council here for Adak,
17 Lake Andrews and for Unalaska systems and I did find
18 one. With some help from George Pappas and some other
19 folks, there's no longer one with the State. After the
20 earthquake we had the Fisheries Rehabilitation and
21 Enhancement Division with Fish and Game, but all those
22 people have left and retired. And anyway I checked
23 with every agency I could find and there's a fellow
24 with Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage that has an
25 extensive background in stream rehabilitation and also
26 grant monitoring. And so that might be a good thing
27 that might work out for Adak as well as for the folks
28 at Unalaska and the Qawalangin Tribe. So that's some
29 really positive things.

30
31 And I also did some work because you
32 might remember when we went to Unalaska I noted that I
33 was shocked to see nothing had happened on Unalaska
34 system. And my last year there was the last salmon
35 biologist stationed in the Aleutians. And I was able
36 to find with a lot of poking around a lady in Habitat
37 Division who found a draft of a study that I had worked
38 on with some other Fish and Game folks on some very
39 simple, practical solutions for Unalaska system. And
40 so Jeanette Alas with Habitat Division at Fish and Game
41 was able to find one of his successors that had written
42 a memo on it. Anyway that's been found and so I'm
43 going to make sure that that gets to ADF&G for the
44 Peninsula management -- Peninsula Aleutian management
45 and also to Chris' folks.

46
47 So those are a couple of fun little
48 side tangents that I could do without having to climb
49 mountains and haul a deer back over the other side, at
50

0024

1 least I still can fenagle.

2

3 So thank you very much, Madame Chair.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thank you, Pat.
6 Rick Koso.

7

8 MR. KOSO: Yeah, Madame Chairman. This
9 is Rick Koso here. Yeah, on Adak, you know, we had
10 some good news and we also had some bad news. The bad
11 news I should start off with is the Aleutian School
12 District has sent out a notice that they will not be
13 opening the school in 2023 and 2024. So that's a
14 bummer. I guess the only good news coming right now
15 would be that, you know, we've been working -- I'm
16 still on the Adak Community Development Corporation
17 Board and we've been working with processors and the
18 Aleut Corporation and other people to try to get a
19 buyer in there or open up the plant. So that's -- so
20 far that it's been all real positive and hopefully
21 within the next year to two we can have some sort of a
22 floater or processor there in Adak. So that's still in
23 the works and it's looking hopeful, I can put a -- at
24 least say hopeful on that. That's -- that would be a
25 big plus.

26

27 And as far as what went down I met the
28 -- last year we had a meeting on the caribou, March of
29 last year. And we had all of the -- all of the
30 Maritime Refuge Staff they were all attending and then
31 we had, you know, a couple of the city council people
32 and we sat a couple of the guides and we had some local
33 people that attended the meeting so we had a very good
34 showing of interest from the community. And so the
35 meeting went well and lots of information and whatnot
36 on it. So it was all very positive so things are
37 looking pretty good. I had a couple disagreements at
38 the -- with the Refuge, but that's always going to be I
39 guess. Anyway looking good and I was happy to have the
40 meeting and I still think Jeff and -- I guess, it's --
41 what's the other one, Steve, yeah, Denali
42 (indiscernible - distortion) and bringing us
43 information on the caribou.

44

45 And let's see, what else is Adak going
46 on there. Yeah, Adak as far as population wise it's
47 very -- they've dropped down now, I think we're looking
48 at probably around 30 people in Adak right now. So
49 it's really not looking good. I think the only thing

50

0025

1 that's going to bring that community back would be a
2 fish plant of some sort. So we're working on that and
3 hopefully we get something in, you know, in the next
4 year or two on that deal. So Adak right now is having
5 kind of a tough time.

6
7 But as far as subsistence goes and the
8 -- you know, at least the water part of it, the salmon,
9 the halibut and that kind of stuff, they don't seem to
10 have much of a problem to get that. And as far as Lake
11 Andy goes, you know, we've talked about that quite a
12 bit and I'm glad Pat has been, you know, kind of
13 frontlining that for us and I appreciate that, Pat.

14
15 And so there's, you know, a little bit
16 of action on that. I know they -- they were going to --
17 the contractors were there, said they were going to
18 open the -- you know, for the Navy we're going to open
19 up the river there so the fish can get into the lake.
20 And he said they probably could keep that open -- as
21 long as they're working there he'll keep it open, but
22 they're only looking at maybe two years before they're
23 out of there and then that whole land property can
24 either go to the Refuge or the only other person --
25 private person that probably owned that would be the
26 Aleut Corporation. So I'll be talking with the Aleut
27 Corporation on that, but there's a lot of liability on
28 that because they're not going to guarantee that
29 everything is out of that beach area where the creek
30 comes in and so there still might be some unexploded
31 ordnance there. So there's always going to be
32 restrictions on that area. So I don't know how that's
33 going to work out whoever gets the property.

34
35 Anyway that's the problems we have in
36 Adak I guess. So that's about all I have on that.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
39 Thanks, Rick. I'll go next and then we'll close out
40 with Della. The Kodiak Advisory Committee for -- in
41 relation to Fish and Game had discussion about concerns
42 with localized access for -- to deer, mostly the
43 discussion was around deer and Sam alluded to this
44 earlier. So the Kodiak AC formed a transporter working
45 group because it sounded like a lot of the concern was
46 around licensed transporters bringing non-Kodiak
47 resident hunters to Kodiak Island to do hunting. And
48 that in some areas that extra activity was leading to
49 difficulties for residents accessing deer.

50

0026

1 And that transporter working group has
2 met twice, these are public meetings and I anticipate
3 there will be additional meetings to discuss this
4 issue, flesh out if there's opportunities to focus
5 exactly what the concern is, if there's particular
6 areas that are of greater concern and then talk about
7 ways of addressing the problem. So solutions may be
8 through the Alaska Board of Game, maybe there are
9 Federal Subsistence Board solutions, but either way I
10 just want to let the public know that those meetings
11 and discussions are happening. And again they're
12 public and if you want to be on the email list for
13 notifications for those you can let me know or let the --
14 our Coordinator for the Kodiak AC which is Teran
15 Britto O'Conner or O'Conner Britto. Anyway it's Teran.

16
17
18 My next thing I did on behalf of the
19 Kodiak Aleutians RAC attend the Federal Subsistence
20 Board meeting at the end of January and beginning of
21 February. And so I attended the entire meeting for all
22 the days of that and I guess I just want to report that
23 all of the recommendations, all the actions that came
24 out of the RAC were approved by the Federal Subsistence
25 Board and that included all of the closure reviews that
26 we did. So by far we had the most closure reviews to
27 report on at that meeting. So congratulations to
28 everyone that our actions were all approved.

29
30 And then the last thing I want to
31 comment on and this came up a little bit at the Federal
32 Subsistence Board meeting, it's come up at Board of
33 Fish, it's come up at the North Pacific Fishery
34 Management Council, you see it in the media, you see it
35 in social media, the tension between the -- the
36 resource issue between commercial fishing and
37 subsistence fishing. And I think especially for our
38 region it's just -- I think it's important to note and
39 remind people who -- you know, that don't live in our
40 communities that our communities are very dependent on
41 commercial fishing as well as subsistence. And it's
42 not -- this issue isn't as simple as -- there is a
43 subsistence priority, I stand by that, but when you're
44 looking at a tradeoff between subsistence and
45 commercial fishing there are going to be impacts when
46 you have restrictions on commercial fishing as well.
47 And for our region I think it's just -- that tension is
48 very obvious. And what I've seen is that's not -- the
49 tension doesn't necessarily exist to that extent in
50

0027

1 other areas.

2

3

4 And I just want to comment on that
5 because again I -- this -- I saw this at the Federal
6 Subsistence Board, I'm looking down the table toward
7 Chris because he's nodding his head, he saw it there as
8 well. And I think it's something that, you know, we
9 don't have specifically in our agenda, but whether we
10 talk about it as a group or have offline conversations,
11 it's a real issue and it's something that we're all
12 dealing with. So I just wanted to comment on that.

12

13 And then, Della, I will hand it over to
14 you for the Chair's report.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you,
17 Rebecca. Basically I'm just basically doing a report
18 as a member right now. I think the weather out here
19 this past winter since our last meeting has been
20 horrendous, we've had a lot of -- a lot of big storms.
21 There's been times they haven't got an airplane in here
22 or mail for (indiscernible - distortion) time. The --
23 lots of wind, fog, lots of rain. Given that I was in
24 Anchorage for my knee surgery for almost a month and a
25 half -- well, for a month and a half and then flying
26 home given all the snow in Anchorage and Wasilla area
27 and not to see anything down here was quite a surprise.
28 In a -- I guess given that amount of snow up in that
29 area. But the bears haven't gone into hibernation,
30 they're still wandering. I think it didn't -- we have
31 very limited snow.

32

33 The fish seasons, the State cod and
34 Federal cod seasons only lasted a week if that and they
35 keep getting shorter and shorter which is a big
36 concern. The crab season's not here. I think we did
37 have the one crab season that the local fish -- I think
38 that lasted maybe four or five days and that was in bad
39 weather is a bit of a concern.

40

41 I think the -- I did attend the Board
42 of Fish meetings, I think Rebecca talked a little bit
43 about that and the contention in regard to in this case
44 area M. And the group from up north is real and it is
45 a concern. So just got to continue to try to work
46 together is the only solution I think that we have.
47 And education is a big part of all of this in our
48 region.

49

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0028

1 I think Rebecca and Chris attended the
2 Federal Board meeting and I appreciate that. I was
3 able to call in for a short period of time, but given
4 that was shortly after my knee surgery I wasn't in any
5 frame of mind to be attending any meet -- attending
6 meetings for a long period of time.

7
8 We had in a call with the Secretary of
9 Interior Haaland in regard to our role between the two
10 communities and we're given the news that what was on
11 the table with Secretary Bernhardt was being pulled.
12 That was something of a blow to us, we did not expect
13 that to be honest with you. She did however maintain
14 that she will work with us to resolve this issue. So
15 basically that's where we're at and one of the main
16 reasons why I'm (indiscernible - distortion) go to the
17 Kodiak meeting that (indiscernible - distortion) people
18 had came -- come in on Monday, Rainus Bale from
19 Interior Office and Tommy Berthrow were here and Sara
20 Barrio of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Area Director,
21 Regional Director and Lucy from Senator Murkowski's
22 office were -- met here in (indiscernible - distortion)
23 spent overnight. And that was a public and got a
24 little bit more of a hands on feel for the issue again.
25 So that's basically where we're at now in figuring out
26 what those next steps will be.

27
28 So other than that I think that --
29 that's all I have. If anybody has any question.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
32 Thanks, Della. All right. All right. Sorry. I was
33 looking for a clock to make sure we have a little bit
34 of a break at some point.

35
36 Okay. That concludes the agenda item
37 for reports. The next agenda item is service awards.
38 These are five year service awards for Coral Chernoff
39 and Rebecca Skinner. And I will hand this over to
40 Lisa.

41
42 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Hello
43 again, Council members and Madame Chair. So every so
44 many years we -- for every five years of service that
45 you provide we -- OSM and the Council would like to
46 provide just a little bit of a recognition for your
47 service. And we are honoring Coral and Rebecca because
48 they -- this is actually their eighth year, but we
49 didn't -- we failed to provide them their certificates
50

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1 at their five year. I think part of it was due to
2 covid and not meeting in person. I don't know, but
3 anyway we're making up for that today.

4
5 And then anyway I have -- we are
6 honored to have Mr. Chen here today and he has agreed
7 to present your certificates. So I will turn it over
8 to you.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 MR. CHEN: Thank you, Madame Chair and
13 Council members. I'm going to take off my hat as BIA
14 Subsistence Branch Chief and put on my other hat of BIA
15 Acting Subsistence Board member to present these
16 service recognition awards to the Council members on
17 behalf of the Federal Board. And I would like to
18 reiterate Lisa's apologies -- sincere apologies for the
19 delay in giving these awards to our Council members
20 that were several years delayed.

21
22 The first award is for Ms. Coral
23 Chernoff. Coral has -- is a Sugpiaq that has spent her
24 life on Kodiak Island and was taught how to hunt and
25 fish and gather from her father, part of a multi
26 generational tradition that she has maintained her
27 whole life. And she has passed this tradition of
28 (indiscernible) on to her three boys who now serve in
29 the commercial fisheries here in the Kodiak area.

30
31 Coral's continued to remain very active
32 as a subsistence harvester and 100 percent of her
33 consumption of protein comes from wild resources. In
34 addition she utilizes over 50 local plants, animal and
35 marine resources for food, medicine, skin, body care,
36 traditional handcrafts and arts. Her life long passion
37 focuses on teaching others these practices. And her 25
38 year art career has focused on Alutiiq traditional
39 materials and arts.

40
41 In addition to serving on the RAC she's
42 very involved in State and Federal management of
43 resources. And Coral serves as the Chair of the Alaska
44 Migratory bird Comanagement Council. She's also a
45 member of the Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee.
46 She also serves and continues to serve on countless
47 working groups and commissions over the year including
48 the Emperor Goose Management Subcommittee and the
49 Alutiiq Artist Advisory Committee through the Alutiiq
50

0030

1 Museum.

2

3

4 Ms. Chernoff has served on the
5 Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Council since 2014. And
6 she's an active participant on this Council as we all
7 know and contributes much to your Council's
8 discussions. She comes to our meetings prepared, works
9 well to compromise with other Council members and best
10 addresses the needs and concerns of subsistence users
11 and provide them opportunities throughout the
12 Kodiak/Aleutians region.

12

13

14 So, Coral, the Council, Office of
15 Subsistence Management and the Federal program would
16 like to thank you very much for the rich knowledge that
17 you bring to the Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional
18 Advisory Council through your life experience and your
19 passion for the community and natural resources. We
20 acknowledge your outstanding and dedicated eight years
21 of service to the RAC and today we are presenting you
22 with your long delayed, long delayed, let me emphasize
23 that, five year service award. And we hope that you
24 will continue to serve for many more years.

24

25

Thank you.

26

27

(Applause)

28

29

30 MR. CHEN: And I have a plaque for Ms.
Chernoff.

31

32

(Laughter)

33

34

35

36 MR. CHEN: Thank you. The next Council
37 member I'd like to recognize is Ms. Rebecca Skinner.
38 Rebecca is an Alaskan Native and member of the Sugpiaq
39 Tribe. She was born and spent her whole life on Kodiak
40 Island and was taught to hunt and fish and gather from
41 her father, a tradition that she's maintained her
42 entire life. Rebecca is a valuable and contributing
43 member to the RAC and to her community.

42

43

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49

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In addition to serving on the RAC she
currently serves as the Vice President of United
Fishermen of Alaska, holds a concerned citizen seat for
the Kodiak ADF&G Advisory Committee, is an active
participant in the North Pacific Fisheries Management
Council meetings and the Halibut -- Pacific Halibut
Commission Conference Board as well as the local AC and

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1 the Board of Fish meetings. She has been also active
2 in countless other working groups and commissions over
3 the years including the Rural Round Table Committee
4 formed to preserve Kodiak's rural designation in the
5 Federal Subsistence Program.

6
7 Ms. Skinner has served on the
8 Kodiak/Aleutians RAC since 2014 and earlier this year
9 she attended the Federal Subsistence Board meeting
10 during which we reviewed and enacted fisheries
11 regulatory proposals for the Federal program, she did a
12 great job at representing your Council on 14 fisheries
13 closure reviews and four fisheries proposals. And
14 prior to, during and after the Federal Subsistence
15 Board meeting and all RAC meetings Rebecca performs
16 diligent research, asks thoughtful and challenging
17 questions to other RAC members and Staff, not that it's
18 very challenging, and is a strong voice to and supports
19 subsistence users on Kodiak Island as well as
20 throughout the Kodiak/Aleutians region.

21
22 So, Ms. Skinner, the Council, OSM and
23 the Federal Subsistence Board program -- Board and
24 program, would like to acknowledge your outstanding and
25 dedicated eight years of service to the
26 Kodiak/Aleutians RAC and today we are presenting you
27 with a long delayed five year service award. We thank
28 you and we hope that you will continue to serve for
29 many years.

30
31 (Applause)

32
33 MS. CHERNOFF: And if I may I'd like to
34 make a comment. So Rebecca's my sister, we have the
35 same father, and I would just like -- or we've had
36 different fathers, but I'd just like to say that
37 Rebecca is kind of known for -- from my family, from
38 the words of my father, she has made the best pickled
39 herring he ever had and she's made the worst pickled
40 herring that he ever had.

41
42 (Laughter)

43
44 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, thank you.
45 Thank you for that.

46
47 MR. CHEN: Madame Chair. There is a
48 couple more awards to present.

49
50

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1 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Do you want to
2 wait until after the 10:15 tsunami testing -- siren
3 testing because it's 10:13 now so you have about two
4 minutes before the siren goes off.

5

6 MR. CHEN: Probably a good idea, Madame
7 Chair.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. We'll go
12 ahead and we'll just take a break until after the
13 sirens go.

14

15 (Off record)

16

17 (On record)

18

19 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
20 Well, we're going to go ahead and get started again
21 here. Thanks for the break while we had our
22 community's tsunami siren tested and we will continue
23 on with the service awards.

24

25 Go ahead, Glen.

26

27 MR. CHEN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
28 This next section will be relatively brief. This is a
29 follow-up to some service awards that were presented
30 last fall in Cold Bay and this recognizes two very long
31 serving members of your Council. The first one being
32 Mr. Pat Holmes. And we have a more fancy, larger
33 plaque for you, award, and it includes our work that is
34 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Program through an
35 annual contest that adorns the front of the Handy Dandy
36 publication that will be put out.

37

38 So, Mr. Holmes, I'm going to walk up
39 there and give this to you.

40

41 (Applause)

42

43 MR. CHEN: We also have one for Ms.
44 Della Trumble. Della, we'll have to deliver this to
45 you in person the next time we see you. But thank you,
46 Della, for your 20 years of service.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thank you, Glen.

49

50

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1 (Applause)

2

3 MR. CHEN: Madame Chair, that concludes
4 my presentation.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Great. Thank
7 you. Okay. That concludes agenda item 10, service
8 awards.

9

10 So for planning purposes I figure we'll
11 go to 12:00 or 12:30 and it'll depend on how the
12 Council's feeling and then take a lunch break and we'll
13 probably have a more formal break here between now and
14 when we break for lunch.

15

16 But moving on to agenda item 11, public
17 and tribal comments on nonagenda items. So is there
18 anyone wishing to give public comment and I'll start
19 with is there anyone in the room wishing to give public
20 comment.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Seeing
25 none, is there anybody online wishing to give public
26 comment.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Seeing
31 and hearing none, again this will be available again
32 tomorrow morning as well.

33

34 Moving on to agenda item 12, old
35 business. Item A is follow-up on North American
36 Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate Conference. And
37 this will be Kendra Holman from OSM Wildlife.

38

39 MS. HOLMAN: All right. Good morning,
40 Madame Chair, members of the Council. My name is
41 Kendra Holman and I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the
42 Office of Subsistence Management. During your fall,
43 2022 meeting you heard about the caribou and ungulate
44 conference taking place in Anchorage this coming May.
45 All Councils nominated one member to attend the
46 conference and provided input on an Alaska ungulate
47 management symposium. Just for memory member Rick Koso
48 was nominated by this Council to attend with I believe
49 Della was the alternate. So an informational flyer
50

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1 regarding this conference can be found in your meeting
2 book on Page 19.

3

4 Before I proceed would any Council
5 members like an overview of the conference?

6

7 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, if you
8 wouldn't mind giving a brief overview.

9

10 MS. HOLMAN: Okay. So a joint meeting
11 of the North American Caribou Workshop and Arctic
12 Ungulate Conference will be held in Anchorage on May
13 8th through the 12th, 2023. This meeting will bring
14 together an international group of managers,
15 researchers and indigenous and local knowledge holders
16 who want to share their knowledge of caribou, muskox,
17 dall sheep, moose and reindeer. The theme for this
18 meeting is crossing boundaries. Arctic ungulates
19 regularly cross landscape boundaries connecting
20 ecological processes between different systems. This
21 necessitates collaboration across geographical
22 boundaries and it also calls for crossing boundaries
23 between western science and local and indigenous
24 knowledge. The conference will including a plenary
25 sessions on comanagement, the status of caribou
26 globally, integration -- integrating western science
27 and indigenous knowledge and the affects of climate
28 change on caribou. Field trips, workshops, research
29 talks, symposiums and a poster session will be part of
30 the conference. The conference web address is included
31 on the flyer in your meeting books and I encourage you
32 to visit the website for more detailed information.

33

34 Do you have any other questions
35 regarding the conference?

36

37 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Are there any
38 questions from Council members.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Madame Chair,
41 this is Della.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead, Della.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I guess my
46 question is in regard to the travel on attending this.
47 Is that covered by Fish and Wildlife or how is that
48 going to work?

49

50

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1 MS. HOLMAN: So through the Chair, this
2 is Kendra Holman again. Rick's travel was -- should
3 have been covered as the primary person. Fish and
4 Wildlife Service only covered the one member from each
5 Regional Advisory Council.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Della, does that
8 answer your question, it sounds like travel is covered
9 for whichever rep ends up going.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, that is
12 correct. So I -- they're covering it for one member
13 from each. And we do have Rick covered and also his
14 room and per diem and the registration fees.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead.

19
20 MS. HOLMAN: So on Page 20 of your
21 meeting books please find the summary of all of the
22 potential topics suggested by all 10 Regional Advisory
23 Councils for discussion during the State and Federal
24 Ungulate Management in Alaska Symposium. This session
25 is intended to be a neutral forum for Council members,
26 State Fish and Game Advisory Council members, National
27 Parks System -- Service Subsistence Resource Commission
28 members, Federal and State agency Staff and other
29 interested parties to discuss ungulate management in
30 Alaska specifically regarding harvest regulations.
31 During the fall, 2022 meeting cycle all Councils
32 provided input on potential topics to discuss during
33 this symposium. And several Councils asked for a
34 follow-up summary during these winter meetings.
35 Councils are now being asked to review this list and
36 provide additional feedback for this symposium such as
37 highlighting topics for particular -- of particular
38 interest or providing clarification on topics. OSM
39 Staff will then decide which topics will be discussed
40 during the symposium based on feedback from all 10
41 Councils prioritizing topics that are relevant
42 Statewide and applicable to all regions and Councils.

43
44 Madame Chair, I will now turn the
45 discussion over to you and any feedback will be very
46 helpful in finalizing the discussion topics for this
47 symposium.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
50

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1 Thank you. So again we're looking at Page 20 of the
2 main meeting book and the list of potential topics. So
3 what I would suggest from Council members if there's
4 any particular of these topics that you think are very
5 important to be included I would suggest that we
6 provide feedback on that. I suppose if there's
7 questions on any topics we could try to ask Kendra to
8 clarify.

9

10 Sam, did you have something. Go ahead.

11

12 MR. ROHRER: Yes, through the Chair.
13 Thank you. So is -- who's facilitating this, is it OSM
14 facilitating it or was -- it's not clear on the -- like
15 on the announcement page. Lot -- lots of different
16 agencies supporting it, but who's actually going to be
17 leading discussions, that sort of thing?

18

19 Thanks.

20

21 MS. HOLMAN: So there's going to be
22 several different parties that will be leading each of
23 the discussions depending on which one it is that
24 you're attending. So there will be a lot of different
25 people in a lot of different agencies providing a lot
26 of different information.

27

28 MR. ROHRER: But not like officially
29 sponsored by Office of Subsistence Management, I mean,
30 it's just all the groups coming together to do it?

31

32 MS. HOLMAN: That is my understanding,
33 yes.

34

35 MR. ROHRER: Okay. Thanks.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead, Pat.

38

39 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I might
40 suggest to you folks that -- Kendra, that you also
41 include particularly under predator control because our
42 Council of course is very concerned about caribou on
43 the Peninsula and on Unimak Island. And it's -- you
44 know, used to be a major food source for folks out
45 west. And but there was a fellow with ADF&G and I hope
46 ADF&G is listening and presents Lem Butler's study
47 because he did a selective predator control where they
48 went out on the calving grounds, on the State calving
49 grounds because that's only 40 percent of the entire
50

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1 herd on the Peninsula and I believe they killed 35
2 wolves in two years and they were only wolves that were
3 attacking the cows that were dropping calves. And they
4 had a tremendous rebound in that herd, in that part of
5 it, even though it was only 40 percent of the calving
6 grounds.

7
8 And at the same time they inquired
9 about doing it at Unimak Island and I got a direct
10 quote from the manager -- that Refuge Manager that at
11 that time that if Fish and Game went to Unimak Island
12 that they all be cited by the Federal government for
13 trespass and that they were not allowed to do it. And
14 I can understand the emotionalism on predator control,
15 but their selective removals were quite different than
16 the concept that was used in the States, '50s, '60s and
17 '70s where they just went and killed every critter, but
18 they weren't really seeking that. And it's really
19 unfortunate because the Unimak Herd has yet to show
20 much of any kind of sign of improvement at least the
21 information we've been given as compared to the South
22 Peninsula Herd which did show a spike in recovery and
23 increase in calves per cow.

24
25 And so I really hope that that topic is
26 addressed and that it does come out so that it gets a
27 full and academic review of what predator control is
28 because I think the concept of killing them all is long
29 gone, but there can be some real selective things that
30 can really work to improve the population.

31
32 And I think also the affects of road
33 development on caribou distribution and movements,
34 that's another topic on the Peninsula with the highly
35 political thing is a road to King Cove. And I read
36 through the entire impact statement and statements from
37 friends of the -- whatever, and I believe that that was
38 disproportionately defined in the impact statement that
39 it would have negative impact on birds, waterfowl,
40 caribou, et cetera, by doing that road. But there's
41 actually less roads there than there were during the
42 World War II and that herd developed tremendously. I
43 can recall in the early '70s going out to Cold Bay
44 where there were caribou and they had to close the
45 airport, they wouldn't let the planes land, they went
46 out and chased the caribou off of the roads, off of the
47 runway. And of course that population declined for
48 many reasons, habitat loss, predation on calves, et
49 cetera, but the affects of roads really need to be
50

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1 looked at in a strict academic way rather than an
2 emotional way that was presented in the impact
3 statement for that.

4
5 And it's just some personal feelings,
6 but having been a biologist and spent years and years
7 and years on the Peninsula, those are things that
8 really need to be examined and discussed fully in a
9 positive way. So I hope that they can.

10
11 I'm just really tickled that this
12 meeting is going to take place because these topics you
13 have are wonderful and they are ones that, you know,
14 really need to be reflected on in a big way for long
15 term management of the critters. And I really applaud
16 the folks that decided to do this, it's wonderful.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thanks, Pat.
21 While people are thinking if they have additional
22 comments I'll just note a few that I think are very
23 important particularly at the level that the symposium
24 is happening. So number 1 would be the importance of
25 surveys and so I have noted two here that have to do
26 with surveys, number 4 and number 15. Number 4 is how
27 biological data is collected and number 15 is the
28 importance of funding wildlife surveys and receiving
29 timely reports. If there are alternative ways or more
30 economical ways of collecting the biological data or
31 doing the population surveys I think that's worthy of a
32 lot of discussion because that information is very
33 important. It would be hard to do a lot of the things
34 on this list without good survey and biological data.

35
36 The next set has to do with impacts of
37 climate change so number 8 and number 21. They both
38 relate to how climate changes is impacting ungulates
39 and I -- they seem to -- they focus on different
40 things, one is on migratory routes, the other is on
41 disease and overgrazing. Either way I do think climate
42 change is something -- the impacts of it on ungulates
43 needs to be better understood. And again if we don't
44 understand how changing climate is impacting these
45 populations it's going to be hard to effectively do a
46 lot of stuff on this list.

47
48 And then from listening to the most
49 recent Alaska Board of Game meeting I think number 3
50

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1 kind of jumped out at me, regulations that conflict
2 with each other. I think anytime we can avoid or work
3 out conflicts between regulations or conflicts between
4 user groups, that is a good thing.

5

6 And then finally number 20, food
7 security. I think all of this needs to be looked at
8 including through the lens of food security for the
9 subsistence user populations.

10

11 And are there any additional other
12 comments or questions from Council members on either
13 the list of potential topics or on this issue in
14 general.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Madame Chair,
17 this is Della.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead, Della,
20 and then we'll go to Chris.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I guess first of
23 all going through the list as Pat said predator control
24 I think is an important one, it's an issue that we have
25 dealt with numerous times in regard to the wolves. And
26 the identification, number 7, viability and utilization
27 of resident herds I think is also important to look at.
28 One of the things I think we find a lot in our region
29 is when Pavlof Volcano acts up caribou don't usually
30 stay close to that area, they're -- they go more north
31 sometimes I think when she's acting up.

32

33 So one of the things that I think is
34 huge that I deal with all the time out here is number
35 14, wanton waste of meat. On many occasions we have
36 the sport hunters that come in or into Cold Bay with
37 their guides and once they harvest a caribou they'll --
38 they don't need -- some of them, I'm going to say
39 some of them, they do not process it in a way -- in a
40 manner that allows for people to utilize it. Sometimes
41 this meat is sour, it's not taken -- they bring it over
42 to King Cove and you can't take it. I have one guide
43 that is extremely clear about how the meat is
44 processed, it's cleaned, it's bagged, he flies it in
45 here, he gives me a call and says, Della, I'm dropping
46 off a couple caribou my guides got or my hunters got,
47 I'm bringing in a moose and I pick it up at the airport
48 and I -- we cut it and distribute it to elders or
49 people in the community. But there's some that don't

50

0040

1 do that and you can't not touch the meat after because
2 it's ruined. Birds, the big example when you get boxes
3 and boxes of birds that haven't been gutted and they're
4 not -- you can't eat them, they're sour, they're
5 rotten. And that's a big wish issue. If you're going
6 out to do a hunt and you're not utilizing the -- what
7 you're harvesting it -- there's people in these
8 communities, outlying communities, that will utilize
9 them if they're treated properly and are edible after
10 the fact.

11
12 The surveys, you hit on that. And I
13 think that's very important and I understand that's
14 always been a challenge in our region and that's due to
15 the weather -- mainly weather and sometimes staffing.

16
17 Food security is important. I think
18 the other thing with all of this is to look at if
19 there's anyway that -- I mean, if I can attend this and
20 if I have to figure out a way I can attend myself and
21 cover the cost I do think I will. And the other person
22 I think that would benefit a lot from this is Sam. So
23 I don't know if there's a way I can -- you know, and
24 utilizing the fact that I didn't use my ticket to go to
25 Kodiak can I -- that be used, is there someway around
26 it. But I think this is an important symposium that
27 affects both of our regions strongly.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thanks, Della.
32 Sorry, my mind went blank.

33
34 Pat.

35
36 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair. Yeah, to
37 follow-up on Della's discussion there on surveys and
38 weather. We have had -- our Council has been given
39 assurances by previous -- basically the Director of
40 Fish and Wildlife Service for Alaska and then one of
41 his Deputies that the surveys for the Alaska Peninsula
42 would be their number 1 priority. And yet we witnessed
43 through the years that when the planes had their I
44 forget what hour inspection, 300 inspection or
45 something, if that came up during the survey time
46 instead of having it done before the season it didn't
47 happen and so then the survey didn't take place. Or
48 there were numerous things where the hierarchy said
49 that it would be a priority, but yet it didn't happen
50

0041

1 out at the Refuge. And they had problems or instead of
2 bringing in a pilot from another area they would say
3 oh, gee, we -- our pilot can't fly because he hasn't
4 done his hundred hour whatever his physical exam. And
5 so that for at least the Alaska Peninsula and I would
6 assume other areas.

7
8 I know other agencies you do have
9 problems that come up occasionally, but you need to
10 really work on being able to get the surveys done, have
11 an arrangement with the Coast Guard for available
12 because now they have -- they have helicopters based at
13 Cold Bay in the summer, work out with the Flight
14 Service Officer here at Kodiak that schedules those
15 things to set it up so they can use that as part of
16 their training program is to assist the Fish and
17 Wildlife Service on their surveys if it ends up that
18 they can't get their own machines going. And I know
19 you guys try your best, but sometimes -- just to have
20 this continuous thing over the last 20 years where, you
21 know, more than half the time things don't take place.
22 And it's not the individual's thing, but it's the whole
23 organizational structure is that the Refuge Managers
24 and their people need to be assured that they can do
25 their jobs and sometimes it doesn't happen.

26
27 And so I hope that that topic does get
28 discussed, it's no -- no offence because I understand
29 bureaucracies, but it's probably getting the surveys
30 done out there is how you know what's happening just by
31 what discussions you have unless you know how many
32 critters and the cow to calf ratios and things. So
33 anyway I hope that that does get discussed and that you
34 folks get more support.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thanks, Pat.
39 Sam, go ahead.

40
41 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair, thank
42 you. And, Della, appreciate your comment there. I --
43 unfortunately the dates of this are right during our
44 spring bear season so I can't make it. But, man, as I
45 look at the groups that are putting this on, that are
46 going to be involved, some pretty varied backgrounds
47 those groups come from. I think it's going to be some
48 pretty interesting conversations. I would -- I would
49 love to be able to be there for it, to participate, but
50

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1 I agree with many of the ones I marked are ones that
2 Della, Pat and Rebecca, that you guys already marked.
3 But the collection of biological data, the predator
4 control issue for sure, I mean, we've -- as Pat said
5 we've watched that firsthand here down on the Southern
6 Alaska Peninsula Herd. And then number 23, sport
7 hunter disturbances to caribou and law enforcement as
8 well would be an interesting one to see discussed. So
9 wish I could be there to participate, but certainly
10 some great topics and some really different backgrounds
11 of groups that are putting this on so it'll be really
12 interesting to hear what comes out of it.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thanks. Chris.

17

18 MR. PRICE: And my question was it
19 sounded like we have funding for one person to go from
20 the RAC and I -- are we going to need to make a
21 decision about that, who we're going to send?

22

23 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: We already did.
24 We did that at our.....

25

26 MR. PRICE: Oh.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER:last
29 meeting we chose Rick and.....

30

31 MR. PRICE: So Rick is the.....

32

33 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER:then Della
34 is the alternate.

35

36 MR. PRICE: Okay. Thank you.

37

38 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yeah,
39 Madame Chair, may I have the floor.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead.

42

43 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yeah, we
44 can find out if we can get some additional funding to
45 send Della. I don't know the answer to that right now,
46 but that would -- it's a possibility.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

0043

1 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, and.....

2

3 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead, Rick.

6

7 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I just got on here a
8 few minutes ago, but Della seems like she has a lot
9 more info and a lot more things that she wants to do at
10 that conference there. So if she would like to go I'd
11 sure be happy to give it up and I could still go ahead
12 and attend, but, you know, I'm -- you don't have to get
13 me no ticket or anything and if you want to go ahead
14 and put her in my place she can go ahead and attend and
15 I'll just go attend myself down there so it wouldn't
16 cost anything and it wouldn't cost anything for Della
17 that way and you can save for other stuff.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, thanks,
20 Rick. I think that that's fine, the Council already
21 approved either of you to go so you can fight it out
22 amongst yourselves as to who's going to go. And I
23 guess I assume that someone will be following up with
24 both of them as far as -- Lisa will be following up.

25

26 Did you want to say anything on that.

27

28 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: No, I have
29 a follow-up. Appreciate.....

30

31 MR. KOSO: Yeah, what I was saying that
32 -- I was saying that I could still attend, I will
33 attend, but it would be nice if Della wants to come out
34 because you don't have to buy a ticket for me or
35 anything and if you could use the ticket that you would
36 have to buy for me could buy for Della that would be a
37 wonderful thing.

38

39 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.
40 Yeah, I'll just follow-up with you on that. I think
41 that's a possibility because yeah, we weren't -- we
42 weren't paying for your ticket to begin with so we'll
43 how we can work that out, maybe at least -- there is a
44 registration fee too so it'll -- anyway I'll get back
45 with you on that, I'll talk to the -- our budget
46 people.

47

48 Thanks.

49

50

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1 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, the last
2 thing I'd note is that in the intro description
3 paragraph on Page 20 it says that this session is
4 intended for RAC members and State Fish and Game
5 Advisory Committee members. And I don't remember this
6 symposium being discussed at the Kodiak AC at all. So
7 I just was -- I just emailed the Coordinator, Teran, to
8 see if she had distributed notice that I missed or to
9 make sure that she can distribute notices so that at
10 least for the Kodiak AC people know that it's available
11 and they can attend.

12

13 Go ahead.

14

15 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Lisa Grediagin
16 for the record. I just wanted to clarify that this
17 symposium is really intended to be open for anyone at
18 the conference that would like to participate. And
19 initially in -- when we were planning this we wanted to
20 engage the State and the ACs more, but we kind of had a
21 lukewarm response from the State initially and so
22 honestly in the conference program which should be live
23 in about a week or two online so you can see all the
24 different talks and symposiums available, we just kind
25 of modified it to say any interested party. So I'm not
26 sure how much involvement they'll be specifically from
27 ACs, but yeah, I don't think Fish and Game has like
28 directly engaged the ACs in this process like we did
29 the Council. So yeah, I -- you know, if you're able
30 and willing to bring it up at AC meetings that would be
31 great, but I don't think the State was able to sponsor
32 attendance from the ACs like we did for the Councils.
33 So just to clarify that.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, thanks.
36 So it sounds like and I'm going to go back to a
37 question that Sam asked earlier. This symposium is
38 basically one session during this entire ungulate
39 conference and Sam had asked who was facilitating this.
40 And the answer was well, there's different people
41 facilitating different things, but is there a specific
42 facilitator chosen for this particular symposium?

43

44 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. So just to
45 clarify Sam's question. The entire conference is yeah,
46 multi agency, organizations, there's no really set
47 organizer for that. And so this symposium is just one
48 session within this, you know, three day, week long
49 conference. And this particular symposium is being
50

0045

1 organized by OSM.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: So is OSM
4 facilitating the discussion, I think that was Sam's
5 question.

6

7 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yes. Yeah.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Thank
10 you. All right. Is there any further question or
11 comments on this and then do you have all the
12 information you hoped to get out of us.

13

14 MS. HOLMAN: So, Madame Chair, this is
15 Kendra for the record again. So just -- I'm going to
16 go over the ones that I have marked, if I miss
17 something please let me know. I just want to make sure
18 I took notes of everything. So I have number 1, number
19 3, number 4, several people specifically mentioned
20 number 6, I have number 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 20, 21 and
21 23. If I missed another one that somebody else had
22 wanted to point out please let me know so that I can
23 make sure that that one.....

24

25 MR. ROHRER: I would just add 24, it
26 has to do with the -- all the -- just the collection of
27 data, just one more method.

28

29 Thanks.

30

31 MS. HOLMAN: Thank you. I notated
32 number 24 as well.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
35 Thank you. All right. The next item on the agenda is
36 12b update on Federal Subsistence Board actions. And
37 this will be Jason Roberts, OSM Anthropology Division
38 and Jarred Stone, OSM Fisheries.

39

40 MR. ROBERTS: All right. Good morning,
41 Madame Chair, members of the Council. Let's see. So
42 I'll be providing -- actually during the course of this
43 meeting I'll be providing an update on three fishery
44 specific topics along with Jarred Stone is on the line
45 from the Fisheries Division at OSM for any questions
46 that may be out of my area of specialty. And so right
47 now I'm going to provide an update on the Federal
48 Subsistence Board actions and this will also kind of
49 count to -- we've got a notation on the agenda for
50

0046

1 Fisheries Regulatory Cycle update under 131. These are
2 basically the same thing, kind of knocking that out
3 right now. And then later I'll give a brief update
4 about Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program and the
5 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. And so these
6 all brief updates and none are action items. And
7 please let me know if you have any questions and like I
8 said Jarred's also on the phone.

9
10 So looking at the first update. The
11 Federal Subsistence Board took action on all
12 Kodiak/Aleutians fisheries proposals and closure
13 reviews at their recent January fisheries regulatory
14 meeting. And we expect that the new regulations
15 arising from that meeting will be published in the
16 Federal Register in late spring or early summer. A
17 summary of those Board actions on fisheries proposals
18 and closure reviews that your Council provided input on
19 is available starting on Page 21 of your meeting book.
20 And so I'll just give a little brief summary of those
21 actions.

22
23 The Board rescinded closures to salmon
24 fishing in the Federal freshwaters of Adak and
25 Kagalaska Islands, Russell Creek and Trout Creek near
26 Cold Bay, Afognak Bay, the freshwater systems of
27 Afognak Island, Little Kitoi Creek and Selief Bay Creek
28 near Kodiak. The Board also adopted rod and reel
29 fisheries for salmon in Women's Bay and the Buskin
30 marine waters thereby rescinding the closures that
31 previously existed in these areas. And so those are
32 the two proposals that Ms. Skinner put in last round.

33
34 The Board retained four salmon closures
35 at McLees Lake drainage, Unalaska drainage, Summers and
36 Morris Lake drainages and the freshwaters flowing into
37 Unalaska Bay. So those were the closures specific to I
38 believe Unalaska, all four of those closures.

39
40 The closure to king crab harvest that
41 we reviewed by non-Federally-qualified users in
42 Federally marine waters around Kodiak and Afognak
43 Islands, they were retained as well.

44
45 The Board opposed proposals to add the
46 Kodiak Coast Guard base residents to the customary and
47 traditional use determination for salmon in the Kodiak
48 area through the consensus agenda. The Board also
49 opposed the proposal to change the description of the
50

0047

1 Kodiak Island fishing area through the consensus
2 agenda. And this was an issue with sort of the
3 proposed new regulations for that one, new description
4 also not being accurate. So I think Justin Koller has
5 done some work on that one and that might be something
6 to discuss moving forward.

7
8 And then we'll begin our next fisheries
9 cycle during your winter, 2024 meeting. At that
10 meeting OSM will provide your Council with draft
11 closure reviews just as we did last time if there are
12 any reviews necessary for your region which I believe
13 there will be. And then -- so that concludes this sort
14 of regulatory cycle update. And so as I said remaining
15 fisheries closures will be reviewed in the fall, 2024
16 for the 2025 fisheries cycle.

17
18 And if you have any questions or Jarred
19 can take them as well.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
22 Thank you. I have a couple of comments, but I'll let
23 Pat go first.

24
25 Go ahead, Pat.

26
27 MR. HOLMES: Oh, excuse me. I was
28 wondering -- forgive my foggy geezer brain, rescinding
29 a closure means that the closed waters that are in
30 effect are no longer in effect?

31
32 MR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair, yes.
33 So rescinding a closure opens that closure so it's no
34 longer closed.

35
36 MR. HOLMES: The reason I was wondering
37 is on Selief Bay I believe that information was
38 presented and that the jurisdiction -- Federal
39 jurisdiction in Raspberry Straits only goes to the
40 middle of the channel and Selief is on the Raspberry
41 Island side on I guess State jurisdiction. And so I
42 was just wondering, I kind of missed that part of the
43 discussion.

44
45 MR. ROBERTS: Through the Chair. Yes,
46 I believe that action only pertained to Federal waters
47 in that area.

48
49 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Yeah. So actually
50

0048

1 Selief Creek itself.....

2

3 MR. ROBERTS: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

4

5 MR. HOLMES:will stay the way
6 it's always been?

7

8 MR. ROBERTS: Uh-huh.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Thank you. I
11 needed that clarification in my foggy brain.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. STONE: Madame Chair, this is
16 Jarred Stone.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yes, go ahead,
19 Jarred.

20

21 MR. STONE: Through the Chair, thank
22 you. To answer Mr. Holmes'.....

23

24 (Teleconference interference -
25 participants not muted).

26

27 MR. STONE:questions those
28 (indiscernible - distortion) at the Selief Bay Creek
29 was not in Federal jurisdiction. And the State was
30 consistent with this as well. And so we chose to
31 rescind or we recommended to the Board to rescind that
32 closure. And it's slightly different than the other
33 rescinded -- the other closures that we rescinded in
34 that we were asking for that language to be removed
35 from the codified Federal regulations. So even though
36 that has been rescinded we recognized that those are
37 not Federal waters and that was found to be erroneous.
38 And so we have -- are in the process of removing that
39 from regulation.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MR. HOLMES: Thank you very much.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thanks, Jarred.
46 And then I wanted to make the comment that for the
47 closures that have been rescinded, but also closures
48 particularly in Unalaska that have remained in place,
49 there is still need for -- there's homework between now
50

0049

1 and the next fisheries cycle for this Council or for
2 members of the public to figure out and recommend what
3 kind of regulations should be in place. So for example
4 John Gerken who's the in-season Manager for the Izembek
5 -- for the fisheries run in the Izembek area, he had
6 already reached out to Della and I looking for a
7 clarification on in-season management measures that he
8 should think about taking for those Izembek streams
9 where the closures were rescinded. Because for those
10 areas for example a gill net might be allowed, but it
11 may not be a good idea to allow gill net as a gear
12 type. So one of the in-season steps he can take is to
13 limit the gear to rod and reel.

14
15 So again for any area either where we
16 actually rescinded a closure or for ones that are
17 coming up for review like in Unalaska where rescinding
18 a closure might be on the table in the future, there is
19 still opportunity and necessity to think about what
20 regulations do you want in place to make sure that
21 there's access for subsistence users, but also that
22 you're protecting the resource. And you don't want to
23 wait until this -- too late because once the cycle gets
24 going it goes fast. And so that's why I'm suggesting
25 that if people are interested in that that that be
26 homework between now and then, to start talking to
27 people or continue talking to people and figuring out
28 what you want those long term regulations to look like.

29
30 All right. Are there any other
31 questions or comments on this.

32 Pat, go ahead.

33
34 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I think that's a
35 good point to check on that, Becky, because I think
36 some of those issues for the Cold Bay area are
37 proposals to the Board of Fish and some of -- I don't
38 know, I haven't really read the -- what the outcomes
39 were from that meeting, but there were some discussions
40 where I believe the Assistant Area Biologist out there
41 because they didn't have gill nets for some of the --
42 because of the conflicts with commercial gear, I think
43 there was a proposal in there to set up a system where
44 it would be workable for local subsistence users, but I
45 don't know exactly what that is. So we'll have to do --
46 kind of review all the way across the board before we
47 have further discussions on it. So it's a good point
48 to be checking that out.

49
50

0050

1 Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thanks, Pat.
4 Are there any other comments or questions.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Madame Chair,
7 this is Della.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead, Della.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is Della.
12 I think -- my thoughts -- I know -- as Rebecca has said
13 we've both been approached, I think I was approached at
14 the Board of Fish in regard to this from the gentleman
15 and trying to figure out how this is going to work.
16 And I have yet to be able to get ahold of a couple of
17 residents in Cold Bay and what their thoughts on how --
18 I definitely don't see the use of gill nets being an
19 option and then how this actually works around the
20 other user groups in Cold Bay is something that I need
21 to work with the community on. So the next hopefully
22 couple weeks I'll get some more information.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
25 Thanks, Della. And then, Jason, I know you have
26 attempted to also incorporate the regulatory cycle
27 update which on our updated agenda is 13o. Fair
28 warning, I think I will have you come back up when we
29 get to that just to repeat -- to remind people when
30 that cycle's going to start again so that it's-- it's --
31 we're hearing multiple times the cycle and what we
32 need to think about to be prepared to have -- to put
33 proposals forward into the regulatory process. So I
34 know you've addressed that now, but I'm going to invite
35 you up to address it again when we get to that agenda
36 item.

37

38 Thanks. All right. Seeing no
39 additional comments, that concludes item 12b.

40

41 Moving on to 12c which is Council
42 correspondence update. And I'll hand this over to
43 Lisa.

44

45 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes, Madame
46 Chair, and members of the Council. Just to remind you
47 that at our last meeting we -- you wanted us to -- you
48 wanted to support two of the Board of Fish proposals
49 which was Board of Fish proposal 98, there are actually

50

0051

1 three of them, and 103 which was taken up by the Board
2 of Fisheries at their Alaska Peninsula, Chignik and
3 Aleutian meeting recently in -- I think it was in
4 January or February. And also there will be a
5 Statewide proposal, Statewide meeting is coming up,
6 which was proposal 169. So on Page 24 of your meeting
7 book is just a letter that we wrote and submitted for
8 your Council.

9

10 And I also -- just to move forward,
11 just to kind of -- I was wondering if -- Tyler Lawson
12 with ADF&G, I asked him if he would mind giving a
13 little overview of that Board of Fish meeting.

14

15 And so thank you.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. And
18 I'm sorry, is this listed in a different place on our
19 agenda?

20

21 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes. I'm
22 sorry, it's right here.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. So we're
25 just moving straight into item 12d. Okay. Before we
26 move to that were there any questions or comments on
27 the Council correspondence. So that was a letter that
28 we approved and was sent in to the Board of Fish.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. I'm not
33 seeing any questions or comments. We'll go ahead and
34 move on to item 12d which is summary of findings,
35 Alaska Board of Fisheries. This is the February Alaska
36 Peninsula, Chignik, Aleutians finfish meeting.

37

38 Tyler Lawson with Alaska Department of
39 Fish and Game, go ahead.

40

41 MR. LAWSON: Good morning, Madame Chair
42 and members of the Council. For the record Tyler
43 Lawson, Department of Fish and Game. As Lisa was
44 saying I was asked to give kind of an update on some of
45 the deliberations from the recent Board of Fish
46 meetings and I'll focus on the proposals that the
47 Council would be most interested in.

48

49 The first couple I'll talk about are

50

1 from the February Alaska Peninsula, Chignik and
2 Aleutian Island Board of Fish meeting. Proposal 98 I
3 brought up last fall at the RAC meeting and proposal 98
4 was submitted by the Department of Fish and Game
5 relating to subsistence fishing in the Alaska Peninsula
6 region. And this is that proposal which served to
7 modify the link between commercial fishing and
8 subsistence fishing whereas previously there was a
9 regulation for particular areas which would be closed
10 to fishing for subsistence during commercial openers
11 and it was fairly complex and at times confusing.

12
13 And to try to make a long story short
14 the Board of Fisheries deliberated on that proposal and
15 they supported it unanimously. And as a result for
16 those particular closed areas they are now open to
17 households which are strictly subsistence fisher --
18 fisherman users. And for households where you have a
19 CFEC permit holder or a commercial crew member, those
20 households don't have that access to those closed
21 waters. They have all the same access to subsistence
22 that they had before, but it's just for those strict
23 subsistence households, they don't have to worry about
24 what's going on in the commercial fishery for those
25 openers to determine whether they can or cannot fish
26 those areas and really impacts Kinzarof Lagoon and Pin
27 Point and Swan Creek in Cold Bay are the areas which
28 are going to kind of benefit those users in Cold Bay
29 and King Cove that fish there.

30
31 Proposal 103 was submitted by an
32 individual, that was actually more related to sport
33 fishing regulations, and that proposal sought to reduce
34 the bag limit for salmon in the region from five fish
35 -- five fish per day to two fish per day. That
36 proposal failed one to six.

37
38 And another proposal I'll mention, this
39 was actually deliberated at the Statewide Board of Fish
40 meeting a few weeks ago, it is proposal 165. That was
41 amended in RC70 and this related to the transportation
42 of subsistence fishermen. And I mention this one
43 because at the last RAC meeting I discussed that we --
44 the Department had worked with members in Unalaska to
45 kind of clarify allowing them to hire a charter boat to
46 get to McLees Lake and other areas which are difficult
47 to access in smaller boats. And at that time we had
48 said that it is allowable for them to hire a charter
49 for that purpose and that if the charter captain
50

0053

1 happened to be a subsistence fisherman they would also
2 be allowed to fish.

3 However with proposal 165 as amended
4 recently that modifies it a little bit. The Board was
5 very clear that they do still allow for the
6 transportation of subsistence fishermen at any rate
7 agreed upon between the parties, but they did clarify
8 that it is strictly prohibited for that charter or
9 guide in this case to in any way direct or assist in
10 the fishery. So for example for Unalaska if that
11 charter boat captain was to go out and drop people off
12 at McLees to go fishing, totally allowed to do that,
13 they can charge whatever they discuss and agree upon.
14 However that captain in this case, they're not allowed
15 to help deploy the net, harvest the fish or tell them
16 where or how to fish, but they are still totally
17 allowed to transport them to get them out there.

18
19 So those I think are the three
20 proposals of most interest to you and I can answer
21 questions about those or if you have any other
22 questions about the proposals from those recent Board
23 of Fish meetings.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, do you
26 have an update on 169 which was the invasive -- which I
27 realize was a different meeting, but.....

28
29 MR. LAWSON: Yeah, Madame Chair. So
30 that was actually more of a Sport Fish proposal, I
31 think that was for the invasive species and I wasn't as
32 heavily involved in that one. I'm not sure if Kelly
33 Krueger or maybe Mark Witteveen are on the line and
34 they can maybe jump in and kind of fill you on what the
35 Board did in regards to that proposal.

36
37 MS. KRUEGER: Hi, Rebecca, this is
38 Kelly Krueger. I can comment on that one.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Great. Thanks,
41 Kelly. Go ahead.

42
43 MS. KRUEGER: So the invasive species
44 proposal 169 was discussed at the Board of Fish meeting
45 and there's two classes of invasive species that the
46 proposal discussed, class A banned species are species
47 that you cannot possess in any life form and class B
48 invasive species are species that you can possess as
49 long as they are dead. So how this relates to Buskin
50

0054

1 is that you can -- you can possess dead signal crayfish
2 at Buskin now, you just cannot transport them out of
3 the watershed live. So you can snorkel and collect
4 them now, you just have to either boil them onsite or
5 somehow kill them before removing them out of the
6 watershed.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Great. Thank
9 you. Are there any questions or comments on this
10 update about Board of Fish actions.

11
12 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, go ahead,
15 Rick.

16
17 MR. KOSO: Yeah, I got a question on
18 that 103 proposal. I see where the -- you know, the --
19 it failed in the Board, I was at -- I listened on the
20 Board of Fish meeting during that period of time and I
21 was just curious, it said that the Council supported
22 reduction in the sockeye and coho, you know, reading in
23 the proposal here, but then they voted it down. So I
24 guess I'm a little confused on that. I know they voted
25 it down when I sat there, but I just -- looking at the
26 read this year, it's a little bit confusing to me
27 because Mortensen's Lagoon and, you know, Swan Creek is
28 -- you know, they claim, you know, they're in jeopardy
29 for, you know, conservation of salmon.

30
31 So anyway maybe you could correct me on
32 that a little bit or enlighten me I guess.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, Rick, I
35 can -- this is Rebecca. I can go ahead and clarify.
36 If you're looking at the letter that's on -- the
37 section that's on Page 25 in the meeting book, that
38 letter was generated by this Council and was sent to
39 the Board of Fish. So this -- the Kodiak/Aleutians
40 Council supported proposal 103 and that's what's in the
41 letter. The letter was sent to the Board of Fish, but
42 ultimately the Board of Fish, but ultimately the Board
43 of Fish did not approve proposal 103.

44
45 So I think that is -- that should
46 address the disconnect that you just brought up.

47
48 MR. KOSO: Yeah, thank you very much,
49 that certainly does so go ahead.

50

0055

1 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
2 Thanks, Rick. All right. Any additional questions or
3 comments.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
8 Thank you so much. It is 11:12, I think we're going to
9 go ahead and take a 15 minute break. So we'll go ahead
10 and reconvene a little bit before 11:30. And then I am
11 planning on going -- taking a lunch break at 12:30. So
12 we'll take a short break now, 15 minute break and then
13 be back in business for an hour.

14
15 Thanks.

16
17 (Off record)

18
19 (On record)

20
21 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. We
22 are ready to reconvene the meeting here. If everybody
23 in the room wants to stop conversations. All right.
24 So we're going to reconvene. We have moved on to
25 agenda item 13 which is new business. And earlier when
26 we approved the agenda we had moved item G up to be the
27 first item. So that's NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science
28 Center, 2022 NOAA research and ecosystem for Bering
29 Sea, Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska. And this is
30 Dr. Ellen Yasumiishi. And I believe that she is online
31 and ready to go. And we are projecting the slides in
32 the room.

33
34 DR. YASUMIISHI: Thank you, Madame
35 Chair, members of the Council. My name's Ellen
36 Yasumiishi, I'm a Research Fishery Biologist with NOAA
37 in Juneau, Alaska. And my focus is more in the pelagic
38 marine ecosystem monitoring and fish recruitment. So
39 in talking with the Coordinator it sounds like the
40 interest was in Pacific cod, halibut and crab and since
41 we primarily focus on Pacific cod I thought I would
42 make that the focus of this presentation today with
43 some background information on marine heatwaves and
44 sort of like feeding conditions and conditions of the
45 Pacific cod as well as their population status.

46
47 Can you hear me okay?

48
49 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yes, you're

50

0056

1 coming in very well. And just to note that this is tab
2 6 in the supplemental book, the slides are in there.

3

4 Thanks. Go ahead.

5

6 DR. YASUMIISHI: All right. Slide
7 number 2 outlines sort of the flow of my talk today.
8 I'm going to start on the Bering Sea and then move to
9 the Aleutians and the Gulf of Alaska and again with the
10 focus on marine heatwaves, ecosystem conditions and the
11 condition of Pacific cod as well as their level of
12 (indiscernible - distortion).

13

14 Slide 3 was really for me to become
15 familiar with the region that you're focused on and how
16 that relates to our information that we're presenting
17 today.

18

19 So slide 4 shows the relationship
20 between these two regions where we have the bottom
21 trawl survey that assesses the populations of
22 commercially important groundfish.

23

24 Slide 5, I'll start with the Bering Sea
25 temperatures. And these are seasonal temperatures.
26 The purple line is the 30 year average, the blue line
27 is last year's time series of conditions throughout the
28 year and then the black line tracks the current
29 conditions. And then I've updated this slide. Plot
30 two panels are the northern Bering Sea on the left and
31 then the southeast Bering Sea on the right. And then
32 the bottom panel is an index for the presence of a
33 marine heatwave. So if there's any coloring such as
34 yellow or orange that would indicate a heatwave. So
35 far this year we have not seen conditions associated
36 with a marine heatwave.

37

38 Slide 6, our last year the late summer
39 ecosystem survey in the pelagic water where we sample
40 the juvenile fishes, we saw fairly good feeding
41 conditions although there weren't a lot of large
42 copepods there, but there were a lot of euphausiids and
43 these are really good food for the age zero Pacific
44 cod. And they also caught more cod than usual as well
45 as atka mackerel which is an important prey item for
46 the adult Pacific cod.

47

48 Slide 7. This is a -- I apologize,
49 there's no X axis per year, but the last box there

50

0057

1 shows the average body condition so this is the
2 relationship between the weight of the fish to the
3 length. So they're above average, above that solid
4 line in the center there. And this is from the bottom
5 trawl survey.

6
7 On slide 8.....

8
9 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Can I -- sorry.
10 On slide 7 are each of the little blue boxes, can we
11 look at those as those are years and so the last year
12 all the way to the right is 2022 and then do we just
13 count back and each -- each box in a row is the
14 previous year?

15
16 DR. YASUMIISHI: Correct.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay.

19
20 DR. YASUMIISHI: However there are
21 missing years, 2020 we did not have a survey due to
22 covid. So yeah, the last -- yes, the last box is 2022.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Thank
25 you.

26
27 DR. YASUMIISHI: Next slide 8.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Oh, I'm sorry,
30 we have another question.

31
32 Pat.

33
34 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, excuse me, Ellen.

35
36 DR. YASUMIISHI: Sure. Go ahead.

37
38 MR. HOLMES: I'm really tickled you
39 could do this again, but on -- back on slide 7 with the
40 P cod I would assume between those two upward pulses
41 the downward pulse -- the downward pulse on the --
42 three pulses for the Pacific cod, in the center though
43 those were that heatwave that you mentioned before and
44 is that the reason why the average weight is down?

45
46 DR. YASUMIISHI: So yeah, there was
47 also a cold period there. We had the heatwave in '14
48 and '16 and so -- yeah, it's a combination of the two,
49 too cold and then too warm if that makes sense. So
50

0058

1 just in the center there is actually the colder years.
2 And then we have, let's see, '17, '15 -- yeah, I would
3 have to really put a year on this slide, but they're
4 very poor condition.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
7 Thank you. Please proceed.

8
9 DR. YASUMIISHI: Okay. Slide 8. These
10 are the stock assessment estimates for Pacific cod
11 populations in the Bering Sea and show that in the last
12 few years they have been below average.

13
14 Slide 9, the spawning stocks biomass is
15 relatively good.

16
17 Slide 10 is summary for the Bering Sea.
18 There's no heat upcoming thus far this year. Last year
19 we had pretty good feeding conditions with quite a few
20 euphausiids, fatty krill available. Seabird production
21 also indicates that there were good conditions for
22 small fish. Body condition was also good for Pacific
23 cod. Although populations that are (indiscernible -
24 distortion) forspawning stock are doingrelatively well.

25
26 Slide 11. We're moving on to the
27 Aleutian Island temperature time series (indiscernible
28 - distortion). And so this -- I want to point out the
29 website, the https (indiscernible - distortion) you can
30 go there and upload these daily if you'd like to track
31 the course of the heatwaves. So yeah, this does show
32 that the Aleutian Islands are a bit warmer than last
33 year and we had an incoming heatwave earlier this year
34 which has actually dissipated thus far.

35
36 Next slide is slide 12, body condition
37 of Pacific cod in the Aleutian Islands. And I
38 apologize again for the lack of year on the X axis, but
39 it does show that we've had during this last heatwave
40 (indiscernible - distortion) Pacific cod has been below
41 average in their condition for this region through
42 2022.

43
44 Slide 13 are the population est --
45 relative estimates of a biomass of fish caught in the
46 bottom trawl survey. And it shows in 2022 that Pacific
47 cod were below bulk average as well as I wanted to
48 point the halibut were also lower than expected whereas
49 there were quite a few more sablefish in the region.
50

0059

1 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: And can I ask a
2 question.....

3
4 Slide 14.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER:on slide
7 13. So you've noted in that P cod is below average,
8 but then the years that are shown before that there was
9 almost no P cod at all, is -- am I reading that
10 correctly?

11
12 DR. YASUMIISHI: Correct. Yes. So
13 that light yellow.....

14
15 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Thank
16 you.

17
18 DR. YASUMIISHI: Right. That's
19 correct. So this might help clarify slide 14. The
20 time (indiscernible - distortion) Pacific cod biomass
21 estimated for the district A and yeah, 2022 is below --
22 looks like close to the lowest on record since 1990
23 although surveys did not occur every year.

24
25 So in summary for the Aleutian Islands
26 there initially was or may be still a marine heatwave
27 in the region. There is lower than average prey for
28 Pacific cod. There was also an increase in the eastern
29 kamchatka, the pink salmon which are -- is of a concern
30 due to competition for food. Fish are below average
31 body condition as well as bulk and biomass.

32
33 Moving on to the Gulf of Alaska
34 temperature time series on slide 16. We don't see an
35 indication of a marine heatwave at all and it looks
36 like temperatures are below the average -- the 30 year
37 average although there a little bit warmer than last
38 year.

39
40 Slide 17 are -- these are the juvenile
41 Pacific cod that we sample in beach seine in the Gulf
42 of Alaska around Kodiak Island and on the Peninsula.
43 And it indicates that there is a good incoming year
44 class of 2022 fish into the population.

45
46 Next slide, slide 18. We have
47 different types of samplers or forage fish. So these
48 are prey for pollock, Pacific cod, arrowtooth flounder,
49 sablefish and fish and seabirds in general. And the
50

0060

1 green is above average so overall it looks to be fairly
2 good -- you know, good feeding conditions last year,
3 however there were -- it was variable.

4
5 And on slide 19.....

6
7 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Sorry, can.....

8
9 DR. YASUMIISHI:the body con.....

10
11 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER:can I have
12 a question back on slide 17. Well, it's related to 17.
13 About how long does it take cod to age into a fishery.
14 So I'm assuming when you look back there's that low
15 trough kind of between 2013 and 2016 where there was
16 very few of these age zero P cod and I assume that's
17 what fed into the much lower cod available in
18 subsequent fishing years, but is it -- is it like a two
19 or three or four or five year -- how long does it take
20 the cod to age into the fishery?

21
22 DR. YASUMIISHI: Yeah, that -- that's a
23 really question. I know for pollock and sablefish it's
24 usually like three to four years. And since they're a
25 similar size I would -- I suspect that those are the
26 same -- I'd have to look into it, but it does take
27 several years for (indiscernible - distortion).

28
29 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
30 Thank you.

31
32 DR. YASUMIISHI: So the -- slide 19 is
33 the body condition of adult Pacific cod from our
34 surveys and from the central Gulf on the top left
35 panel. In the long line fishery we had very below --
36 very low body condition of these fish whereas in the
37 western Gulf kind of around Kodiak area I guess the
38 fish are actually in much better condition.

39
40 Slide 20. So yeah, currently, I mean,
41 the population biomass is not very good and it's
42 interesting because of the age zero time (indiscernible
43 - distortion) would indicate otherwise especially in
44 2022 and '17 and '18 year classes. So, yeah, something
45 else is going on after that age zero life stage which --
46 I mean, it looks to me like maybe it's a marine
47 heatwave affect, 2017 is when we see the low, you know,
48 it drops way down in '15 and '17 on slide 20.

49
50

0061

1 So slide 21 (indiscernible -
2 distortion) in the Gulf of Alaska there was no marine
3 heatwave last year, but it was warm in the summer and
4 fall through the water column. So although there was
5 no heatwave it was not stratified and cool at the
6 bottom like we usually see. There was mixed variable
7 feeding conditions, but usual -- looked like above
8 average with the forage fish abundances for food for
9 the adult fish however the condition of -- for the cod
10 were poor and the abundance remained low.

11
12 Slide 22 is something that we assess
13 for much groundfish stocks that are reported to the
14 North Pacific Fishery Management Council is our level
15 of concern based on the ecosystem status.

16
17 So slide 23 summarizes that by region.
18 So each stock assessment we have a level one, two,
19 three and four, concerns that we report out to the
20 Council. And based on some of the indicators around
21 the Aleutian Island we are more concerned about the AI
22 Pacific cod box though. That just gives the Council
23 some room to qualitatively make decisions on harvest
24 based on other factors other than the populations
25 estimates.

26
27 And finally this is kind of like a
28 background of why -- why is it a level two at these
29 persistent warm condition that results in low quality
30 prey and low fish condition and decreased consumption
31 of atka mackerel. So Pacific cod are eating the
32 mackerel and they were -- they were not in good
33 numbers. So that's sort of the reasoning behind that.

34
35 Slide 25 I was also to maybe talk about
36 salmon and since I didn't really have a great story for
37 your region I thought that I would present this
38 synthesis by Andrew Monro from the North Pacific
39 Anadromous Fish Commission showing trends in salmon
40 returns from 2017 through 2021. And it shows an
41 increase in the kamchatka pink salmon as well as pink
42 salmon in the northern -- in the Bering Sea as well as
43 sockeye in the Bering Sea and all other stocks and
44 species around the Pacific Rim were either -- had a
45 similar trend or they were declining in abundances. So
46 that's kind of the big picture, we're seeing declines
47 in the chum and chinook, particularly stable coho and
48 reductions in sockeye except for Bristol Bay.

49
50

0062

1 And so slide 26 finally what would we
2 expect for 2023. And I think the only real red flag
3 are the marine heatwave conditions currently in the
4 Aleutians, but I hope that we can gain some insight
5 from our NOAA weather folks in the presentation.

6
7 And thank you for inviting us to be at
8 your meeting. And the last slide I have additional
9 information, links to other -- some of the information
10 that I presented today.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
15 Thank you. That was a lot of information and I know
16 that there's a lot of information that went into each
17 of the slides. And this was a pretty quick
18 presentation so hopefully people can think of questions
19 quickly while you're still online. And I'll go to Pat.

20
21 Go ahead, Pat.

22
23 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Ellen, a swell
24 presentation. I wish that this sort of work had been
25 done back in the late '70s, early '80s when we had the
26 regime shift back then, it would have been a lot easier
27 to explain what was going on. I'm trying to remember
28 back from your last presentation to us you were
29 discussing that the water temperatures at the -- a few
30 years back in the Bering Sea were increasing. And I'm
31 not sure, but did you say that there was possible
32 migration of Pacific cod from the central Gulf of
33 Alaska up into the Bering Sea and if that did happen
34 when it increased there if the temperatures cool off in
35 the Gulf will they move back, is that part of this
36 change in population dynamics or do the cod stay in the
37 Bering Sea and then the Gulf of Alaska critters are
38 independent of that?

39
40 DR. YASUMIISHI: Through the Chair.
41 Thank you, Pat. I'm surprised you remembered me from
42 -- I think it was five years ago. But yeah, that's a
43 very good question and I'm going to have to reach out
44 to (indiscernible) she's the Geneticist that does the
45 analysis of Pacific cod and I know she's doing some
46 work on Arctic -- in the Arctic as well. But I can
47 provide a better answer if I can email your Chair and
48 Coordinator with a response if that would be okay.

49
50

0063

1 MR. HOLMES: That would be really
2 swell, that's really swell. I'm just so thankful that
3 you're doing this and for everyone that's involved and
4 all the ramifications. I mean, this is just wonderful
5 that you're able to be able to sit down and think about
6 -- before when we had the other regime shift it was
7 basically condemned the management agencies for
8 screwing up. And it was way beyond anything of their
9 jurisdiction. So it's really swell that you're
10 continuing to do this.

11

12 Thank you ever so much.

13

14 DR. YASUMIISHI: Through the Chair.
15 Thank you, Pat. Yes, we are seeing fish migrating
16 northward, juvenile sockeye, pollock in the Gulf of
17 Alaska and also more Gulf of Alaska salmon into the
18 Bering Sea during these warm years. And more juvenile
19 salmon in the -- in the Chukchi Sea.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Are
22 there additional comments or questions.

23

24 Chris, go ahead.

25

26 MR. PRICE: Thanks again for your
27 presentation, it's really been important for us to have
28 this information. On the Bering Sea when you're in
29 level one, no apparent environmental concerns or
30 ecosystem concerns and you have all these healthy
31 stocks, do you guys -- does that become a
32 recommendation where you guys can have in-season
33 decision-making to increase harvest and that kind of
34 thing, how does that play into the environmental
35 assessment that you guys do? If you -- if that
36 question makes sense.

37

38 DR. YASUMIISHI: Yeah. Through the
39 Chair. Thank you, Chris. Yes, it does, it's presented
40 by our ecosystem status report (indiscernible -
41 distortion) experts to the North Pacific Fishery
42 Management Council in -- at the same time as the stock
43 assessment folks provide their estimates of population
44 status. And these ecosystem assessments are now
45 included in the stock assessment so the Council are
46 aware of other factors of the population abundance
47 estimates to make decisions for lowering or raising
48 catch.

49

50

0064

1 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, so the way
2 the risk tables work with -- so the risk tables are
3 used by the stock assessment authors and by the plan
4 teams to come up with the -- to eventually get to the
5 total allowable catch, how much is allowed to be
6 harvested. The point of the risk tables is to provide
7 a mechanism to account for things that are impacting
8 the stock that aren't built into the stock assessment
9 survey because if it's something they know generally
10 those things get built into the model they're using for
11 the stock assessment so the risk table is to account
12 for things that aren't built in. And they're not -- so
13 they're not used so much for in-season management, but
14 to come up with the allowable biological catch and the
15 total allowable catch for harvest.

16
17 So like I said there's -- these slides
18 have a lot of information that went into putting each
19 of the slides together that are -- I mean, yeah. This
20 is a very dense presentation.

21
22 All right. Are there additional
23 comments and questions on this.

24
25 Coral, go ahead.

26
27 MS. CHERNOFF: Yeah, thank you for that
28 information. A lot of the information you provided
29 here looks like rockfish, pollock and cod. So I was
30 wondering in your assessment of the ecosystem
31 monitoring are squid tracked at all? I know there's
32 hundreds of thousands of squid being caught, they're
33 not commercially really on the radar for commercial
34 fishing and I am the -- I've been the lucky recipient
35 of some squid for subsistence. But are there squid
36 numbers that you have and are those numbers -- if you
37 have those numbers, have they been increasing or
38 decreasing? And then the third question is are they
39 any indication of healthy -- the health or warmth or
40 the cold temperatures of the waters?

41
42 DR. YASUMIISHI: Yeah. Through the
43 Chair. Thank you, Coral. That's a good question and
44 there is a report on rid and forage fish catches from
45 our surveys. The author is Ormseth and Yasumiishi. I
46 (indiscernible - distortion) and I -- what I can do is
47 forage you that report. I believe it was from 2021.
48 And I -- the other questions, I'm sorry, I don't have
49 the answer to right off the top of my head, but I think
50

0065

1 this report would be very informative.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, and if you
4 can forward that report to Lisa that would be great and
5 then she can forward it out to the Council.

6

7 Chris, go ahead.

8

9 DR. YASUMIISHI: Will do, thank you.

10

11 MR. PRICE: I have one more question.
12 Thank you. So we see salmon in the general downtrend
13 except for maybe coho and maybe pinks. But on the
14 couple that you see up, the green arrows up like pink
15 and then the sockeye you said -- I think you said
16 Bristol Bay. What are the -- what are the reasons that
17 those salmon that are being successful, what seems to
18 be their -- why are they being successful in those
19 couple areas, those few areas?

20

21 DR. YASUMIISHI: Through the Chair.
22 Thank you, Chris. Great, great question. I -- you
23 know, I wish I had the answer to that. I know that
24 since the marine heatwave, you know that caused a lot
25 of concern with the lack of quality prey in the ocean.
26 And with the warming of the rivers I know that sockeye
27 have -- you know, they're a little more buffered in the
28 freshwater because they hang out in lakes and deeper --
29 deeper water. So yeah, I guess I'm not exactly the
30 right person to ask that question.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thanks. And
33 then also on that slide 25 with the salmon do you know
34 if the abundance that's shown is that abundance of wild
35 stocks, is that abundance of wild and hatchery stocks,
36 is it abundance at the rivers measured through
37 escapement, is it abundance of salmon that were caught
38 in trawls out in the ocean, what kind of background
39 information do you have on what abundance means on
40 slide 25?

41

42 DR. YASUMIISHI: I would actually have
43 to forward that report to you which I can do, but I
44 believe it's harvest and escapement. I would have to
45 look at that document, but I can send that to Lisa.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
48 Thank you.

49

50

0066

1 Pat, go ahead.

2

3

4 MR. HOLMES: I think possibly and this
5 is my guess to Chris is pink salmon, they only spend
6 one year in the ocean after they're smolt and then they
7 come back the next year. And so they feed -- tend to
8 feed more in-shore and so they'll be probably
9 genetically able to tolerate changes easier than the
10 fish that spend more time offshore like sockeye and
11 chinook. And chinook have been going down hill for the
12 last oh, several years in the whole Pacific. And I
13 would guess from talking to Mr. Sands who's the Bristol
14 Bay Fish and Game Advisory -- Manager for salmon is
15 their basic guess is although they've had their
16 research money slashed is they believe that they're
17 probably having a much greater survival in Bristol Bay
18 lakes for sockeye because there's so many more of them
19 than we are having in the Gulf of Alaska because those
20 are areas where we're having a lot of problems with
21 sockeye, Chignik and even Kodiak, some of the runs have
22 not been coming in. So it's a sticky, hard question
23 for sure, but a great one.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 DR. YASUMIISHI: Through the Chair.
28 One difference about pink and sockeye is that
29 (indiscernible - distortion) filaments are very close
30 together and long so they're able to feed on the
31 smaller (indiscernible - distortion) like the small --
32 like the copepods and smaller prey items.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Other
35 than people are noting that this is very helpful and
36 you did a great job presenting some very dense and
37 complicated information. All right. Well, seeing no
38 further questions or comments thank you so much for
39 taking the time to present to us today.

40

41 DR. YASUMIISHI: Thank you.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. So
44 we're moving on to the next agenda item which is 13b,
45 the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge wildlife and other
46 activity report, September, 2022 to January, 2023.
47 Noted as Michael Brady and Bill Pyle with the Fish and
48 Wildlife Service.

49

50 Go ahead.

0067

1 MR. PYLE: Madame Chair, members of the
2 Council. My name is Bill Pyle, Supervisory Wildlife
3 Biologist for Kodiak Refuge and I will be presenting
4 our report -- activity report. We'll refer you to Page
5 27 of your handbook and then there's also -- we
6 submitted some comments to the Alaska Board of Game and
7 that is tab 3. I'll be referring to those after I
8 present on the main report.

9
10 So our first -- the first page, Page
11 27, refers to subsistence permit summary and I don't
12 have much to say there other than we're the issuing
13 office for Federal subsistence permits and that
14 includes for deer, elk -- designated deer, roosevelt
15 elk and brown bear. So but I would like to refer you
16 to that second boldface topic, subsistence regulations.
17 And to Ms. Chernoff's point, well taken regarding the
18 obscurity of some of the process of permitting. We've
19 had issues with it in our office and finally assembled
20 a team to kind of step it down and, you know, put it in
21 plain language for each of the primary species. And we
22 have some handouts on the table, we have kind of an
23 advanced draft of -- these will be going to the public
24 or if we're talking to people that are interested in
25 permits we'll go ahead and hand them out to them.

26
27 So there's four of them for each of the
28 four, brown bear, roosevelt elk and two for deer. And
29 so these were not included in your book because they're
30 kind of hot off the press. They've been worked on
31 through the winter and the goal is to have these
32 available at our office and also on the website and if
33 anybody calls or asks, you know, we'd be glad to
34 provide them with this information. So we anticipate
35 doing a similar effort for fisheries because it's just
36 been, you know, an ongoing concern for years in terms
37 of, you know, the rural resident, local public that are
38 eligible for Federal subsistence in the Kodiak area,
39 sometimes having a hard time understanding what the
40 regulations are talking about relative to the different
41 species.

42
43 So I just wanted to call your attention
44 to that, this was not in your materials, but we just
45 finished it off and so welcome you to go ahead and
46 check it out accordingly.

47
48 So I'll be moving on to brown bear down
49 at the bottom of that first page. Every year we
50

0068

1 conduct population assessments. The one I'll be
2 referring to is the one the Refuge does and we do
3 aerial surveys for brown bear composition on -- over a
4 subset of salmon streams out in southwest Kodiak Island
5 where the brown bear aggregate for feeding on salmon
6 during the summer. And so just a quick summary, you
7 know, there's nine streams that are involved and
8 generally speaking the composition particularly with,
9 you know, if you look at independent bears which means
10 that bears without -- not including cubs, these would
11 be adult bears or subadults and, you know, that
12 percentage is normal over all for most streams 23
13 percent. That's not bad for a ratio of maternal
14 females. And then on the other hand there's a couple
15 streams that have kind of ongoing concern, in
16 particular the Sturgeon where we generally see lower
17 percentage of maternal females and that kind of
18 coincides with some of the other population information
19 we have which indicated that the Sturgeon based
20 population of bears has been going down. So in any
21 case a quick reference to that.

22
23 I just wanted to kind of echo what Sam
24 and some other referred to about the type of winter
25 we've had and the potential influence on sitka black-
26 tail deer. This is the second page. And we don't have
27 any, you know, actual data, but, you know, there's lots
28 of folks that observe conditions and, you know,
29 apparent response in what the deer are doing and, you
30 know, this would be kind of an average winter. We're
31 not expecting particularly at this late stage that it's
32 -- that, you know, there's any kind of above norm
33 overwinter mortality of sitka deer. And so at a
34 minimum we would expect that if conditions hold that,
35 you know, harvest opportunities would at least be at
36 the level they were last year, if not better.

37
38 I'll defer to my colleagues at the
39 Alaska Department of Fish and Game to talk about
40 mountain goat and roosevelt elk.

41
42 And moving down to sea otter. So
43 another item that I'm not sure the Council got in the
44 materials, but we did send it out, was Robin Corcoran
45 who is a Bird Biologist, does this massive community
46 level wildlife survey for marine birds and mammals.
47 And she kind of runs a three year cycle. It's been
48 referred to in previous reports primarily on the bird
49 front. And I'm here to say that, you know, you've seen
50

0069

1 some material before on her summaries relative to sea
2 otter and we updated it because she had just completed
3 another survey last year, this was of the Afognak area.
4 So this includes a total of nine surveys, three in each
5 of the regions, east Kodiak, west Kodiak and Afognak.
6 And so it's really three years of surveys in each of
7 those regions. And so there is a handout outside that
8 summarizes that. I believe we provided her summary to
9 the Council early on, but it was kind of a separate
10 piece. We know your ongoing interest in sea otters
11 and, you know, there's that kind of global aerial
12 survey that's happened periodically, well, Robin's work
13 has occurred much more frequently and it is something
14 that has occurred in different regions of Kodiak as
15 well.

16
17 So my take just briefly on one of the
18 results of her surveys, it's kind of interesting just
19 to let at for example the June data for the different
20 regions is that, you know, it's been -- it's kind of a
21 static situation with the population in east Kodiak
22 which has got the least number of sea otters. And in
23 west Kodiak it's been more or less static, you know,
24 from 2013 to June of 2022 whereas Afognak shows a
25 pretty substantive increase between 2012 and 2021. So
26 it -- it's kind of like they're shifting around a
27 little bit. So you really have to view each of these
28 regions as a kind of an independent entity even though
29 the otters are moving, they're mixing and this is just
30 what we see at that time of year. We do two surveys,
31 June as well as August. So she's not doing any surveys
32 this year, but this is a large dataset, it is pretty
33 comprehensive for both birds and marine mammals.

34
35 So and then moving down to sea otter
36 harvest. I guess the short note there, this is
37 information provided by our Marine Mammals office and I
38 just get an update every year. And I guess just my
39 take on it is that there's been a declining harvest or
40 a declining trend in harvest in the Kodiak area. If
41 you look at that next -- second to the bottom row for
42 the total which is the total number of sea otter
43 harvest through 2021 it's kind of dropped off.

44
45 Relative to salmon fisheries I guess
46 the main thing I want to say is that what was not
47 included in our report because we kind of give the
48 rundown and this is Fish and Game data with the
49 exception of where we refer to special actions taken by
50

0070

1 the Fish and Wildlife Service which are usually in
2 response to information and, you know, the Department
3 of Fish and Game taking a action as well to close a
4 fishery. So the one that we did mention is relative to
5 the Buskin River coho salmon. On September 22nd we
6 came out with a special action that closed the coho
7 fishery. And, you know, that was coincident with the
8 Department also closing, you know, the recreational
9 sport fishery. So anyway the Buskin's had its
10 challenges here for the last few years as folks are
11 aware and that included coho especially last year.

12
13 And then also on the salmon front Kevin
14 VanHatten, Fisheries Biologist, continues to do stock
15 assessment work on Akalura Creek, that includes Akalura
16 Lake as, you know, the fish are -- they run up the
17 short creek into the lake. And our monitoring efforts
18 indicate a pretty steep decline. I mean, you know,
19 this used to be one big fishery, you know, a principal
20 in the Olga Bay system. And, you know, you have Upper
21 Station, Dog Salmon and Akalura and Akalura has just
22 fallen off the map more or less. And I would just call
23 that to your attention, that's the reason we're
24 monitoring it is because Fish and Game decided not to
25 monitor it after, you know, they -- they had a history
26 of monitoring there for 40, 50 years, after World War
27 II right up to 2000. And so we kind of jumped into it
28 there in 2015 given a conservation concern in addition
29 to -- you know, not only from the standpoint of
30 subsistence and commercial fishers, but also just from
31 the standpoint of bear food. So, you know, continued
32 concern about Akalura Creek.

33
34 And then I guess I'll kind of wind up
35 here by just speaking to some outreach actions and then
36 also refer to our comments to the Alaska Board of Game.
37 So once again we're kind of spearheading the effort on
38 behalf of the Service for the Alaska migratory bird
39 youth art calendar contest. And that is kind of like
40 the effort that's going on right now is in relation to
41 what would be next year's calendar. And so the contest
42 is in process working with eligible communities,
43 schools and home schoolers in those eligible
44 communities.

45
46 So during the winter in conjunction
47 with the Department, Amy Peterson, Koniag Community
48 Affairs Liaison participated in some of the subsistence
49 surveys, met with Tribal Environmental Departments,
50

0071

1 continued gathering information on Kodiak Tribal
2 Climate Adaptation Plan and continued visiting rural
3 schools for outreach, education activities.

4
5 And then we do some facilitation with
6 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Subsistence
7 Division regarding their subsistence surveys, you know,
8 it's kind of housing, but sometimes, you know if our
9 Staff has been able to jump in too and support that
10 survey. And so the current targets which I believe the
11 surveys were successfully completed were Ouzinkie and
12 Port Lions.

13
14 And then finally we have a new primary
15 person that joined the Refuge team, that is Danielle
16 Fujii-Doe is Deputy Refuge Manager, she just arrived on
17 Island the other day. So she'll be starting up and I'm
18 sure you'll see her probably at the next meeting. And
19 you may have opportunity to correspond with her.

20
21 So I'd like to refer to -- we did
22 submit comments to the Alaska Board of Game and I will
23 just very rapidly just go through what we commented on.
24 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wildlife
25 Division is up next talking about specifically what
26 happened at the Kodiak proposals. Suffice it to say
27 for the Refuge's part we submitted seven -- comments on
28 seven proposals, two for deer, two for mountain goat,
29 one for feral reindeer, one for roosevelt elk and one
30 for brown bear. Generally speaking we opposed most of
31 the proposals with the exception of the Department's
32 proposal to change the reindeer harvest from -- to a
33 registration hunt. We supported that. And then we
34 also supported the Department's position on
35 establishing a, you know, restriction on female harvest
36 in a few of the bear hunting units down in southwest
37 Kodiak Island. The Board did not support that proposed
38 action, but kind of -- best I know has provided some
39 authority locally to the Department to go ahead and
40 move forward with that.

41
42 So generally speaking we lined up with,
43 you know, for a good part of our recommendations with
44 the Kodiak Advisory Committee. And so, I mean, we were
45 pretty pleased with the outcome with the exception of
46 bears, but, you know, that's going to be resolved
47 anyway.

48
49 So I'd be glad to take any questions.
50

0072

1 Thank you very much.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thanks, Bill. I
4 just wanted to clarify -- sorry. You talked about a
5 report from Robin Corcoran that I think would have both
6 the bird and otter observations. And I thought you
7 said that had been sent, but I was chatting with Lisa,
8 I don't know think we received it. So but the report
9 exists, I guess can -- you have it in your hand?

10

11 MR. PYLE: And there's copies out
12 there. We'd be glad to make copies for this Council.
13 This report refers specifically to just her summary of
14 the sea otter information.

15

16 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yeah, and
17 Robin is on the agenda to present her report later. It
18 will be tomorrow so I will -- I'll touch base with her
19 and see if there's anything additional that she would
20 like to send to me.

21

22 MR. PYLE: Right.

23

24 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Okay.

25 Thank you.

26

27 MR. PYLE: Thank you.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, it sounded
30 like whatever the fuller report is would be really
31 useful to look at, but I -- we don't have it in our
32 materials so if we can get that that would be helpful.

33

34 Are there -- Sam, go ahead.

35

36 MR. ROHRER: Thanks. Through the
37 Chair. Bill, a question on the brown bear population
38 assessments. What's the timing on the brown bear
39 stream survey that you do?

40

41 MR. PYLE: Right after -- through the
42 Chair. Right after 4th of July up until mid August,
43 pretty much during the -- you know, with the systems we
44 monitor it's primarily, you know, the early run of
45 sockeye plus in the Sturgeon it is exclusively the chum
46 which have the same run timing as sockeye. And then,
47 you know, so we -- we kind of try and generally with
48 that time period get the -- more or less the peak of
49 each of these nine streams. It includes a couple in
50

0073

1 the Karluk drainage, but primarily, you know, we're
2 talking Red Lake, Sturgeon and then also Upper Dog
3 Salmon.

4

5 MR. ROHRER: And one more question. Is
6 that the camera surveys that I remember you've reported
7 on in the past, but I can't remember exactly
8 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....

9

10 MR. PYLE: No, this survey's been going
11 on actually since the early '60s, but the usable
12 information for us, for this composition survey is
13 since the early '80s. And so that's the -- that's the
14 dataset we're looking at. And it's.....

15

16 MR. ROHRER: Okay.

17

18 MR. PYLE:it's very valuable for
19 -- you know, in contrast to our other survey which we
20 run in late May we can't really get an understanding of
21 composition because not all of the females that are,
22 you know, bearing families, are out of their dens.
23 Those with new cubs of the year, you know, half of them
24 come out in June and we're already done with our
25 survey. So you really can't say anything about, you
26 know, here's the objective assessment of composition.
27 In contrast if you get out there during the summer on
28 those streams and you count enough bears you can. And
29 we know that because we've done -- done the radio
30 collar work where we had identical composition. This
31 is going back to the '80s and researcher Vic Barnes
32 where he compared the two and that's the reason he kept
33 the stream surveys because it was really kind of
34 mirroring the composition of the bear population on the
35 ground. And so knowing the ratio of the family groups
36 or the maternal females to the rest of the -- you know,
37 the adult bears is very useful because it's kind of an
38 early warning sign where if you see a declining ratio
39 of maternal females, you know, one year, no big deal,
40 but if it's multiple years it's probably going to be
41 reflected in that population. And in fact that's what
42 we've seen in our data where we've -- you know, where
43 we do the larger just population assessment, usually
44 we'll have issues initially with productivity and the
45 number of females and then following that, you know,
46 we'll see a decline in the population or conversely
47 increase. It's gone both ways historically.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Pat, was that

50

0074

1 your hand.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: Yes, ma'am.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, Bill, I'm wondering
8 on the -- you know, the drop in Ayakulik on female
9 bears.....

10

11 MR. PYLE: Uh-huh.

12

13 MR. HOLMES:and probably cubs too
14 I imagine, but two questions relating to that. Is that
15 parallel -- I haven't looked at the Fish and Game
16 escapement information from the flights in a while, but
17 I think the chums are way down in that system in
18 Sturgeon, aren't they and have you seen with the
19 collared bears or the Fish and Game folks there with
20 Nate, have your organizations -- have you seen
21 migration of bears like to Karluk. Because if I
22 recall, you know, years ago in the early '80s if
23 Surgeon went down then you'd see kind of a surge flying
24 stream surveys over towards Karluk, but I don't know if
25 that's food preference or they don't just stay there
26 if that's enough food. Is that -- that assumption
27 correct?

28

29 MR. PYLE: Through the Chair. So to
30 the first question, right, the Sturgeon, you know,
31 that's where we've requested the Department for data
32 and we've requested that they do extra surveys to
33 increase monitoring of the chum stock in the Sturgeon
34 which has been kind of in a long term decline, kind of
35 coincident with in fact, you know, the entire northwest
36 section. The chum have been going down, but the
37 Sturgeon has historically had the largest chum
38 population in the Kodiak Management Area. And it's
39 been particularly important, no surprise to the local
40 bear population.

41

42 A couple things regarding the movement
43 of bears in that region. When we do our survey, this
44 late May survey, we're mainly looking at bears that are
45 kind of the ones that we -- you would kind of identify
46 as residents, that have just emerged from the dens or,
47 you know, with the exception of a few males that are
48 running around that are in a, you know, smaller region.
49 And, you know, from the Sturgeon survey area that we do
50

0075

1 with our joint population assessment, we believe that
2 most of those bears are from that region. And so when
3 we see -- you know, we get the population status we --
4 you know, we kind of tag and said most of these bears
5 are representative or the trend is representative of
6 what's happening with those resident bears.

7
8 On the other hand during summer, I
9 mean, you've got bears moving all over among these
10 streams taking advantage of the portfolio of all the
11 different runs and timings of runs in a region. I
12 mean, that's just a really key feature for making
13 ultimately a healthy bear population is that you've got
14 that mix. And we have documentation with a number of
15 studies, you know, where we've marked bears and, you
16 know, have seen them move. On the other hand, you
17 know, when you have the food resource drop off in one
18 area and you're hoping, you know, the bears would move
19 to another area, we suspect that that's not the -- if
20 it's not in their tradition to go out of -- you know,
21 to an area that that's probably a problem for bears
22 particularly, you know, because if they go to an area
23 because of a food shortage in one area and it's not an
24 area or a time of year where they normally went, you
25 know, it's unfamiliar. If they're towing cubs of the
26 year, depending on the distance, I mean, it's just not
27 an ideal situation for brown bear.

28
29 And in the case of the Karluk, I mean,
30 I would cite that where we had a huge population
31 decline and there was no bears on the streams during
32 the early run collapse between 2008-2012. And that was
33 sustained for years and, you know, no bears here.
34 Well, presume -- we know from our tagged bears that
35 they went to different areas, but since we had other
36 information we knew what their patterns were prior to
37 the collapse and, you know, they were going places they
38 hadn't been before and we just didn't have the
39 productivity and survival of the young that was, you
40 know, during those years. You know, I think the
41 adults, they can pull it off, but we had a combination
42 of reduced productivity in those situations as well as,
43 you know, presumably higher mortality associated with
44 young bears, you know, they were going to unfamiliar
45 places and they're, you know, low in the -- low in the
46 pecking order when they get to those crowded bear
47 streams.

48
49 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I can see that. I
50

0076

1 hadn't thought about -- you know, some -- I was -- part
2 of the time a pulse of the -- in a population is going
3 to be those adolescent or teenagers.....

4

5 MR. PYLE: Uh-huh.

6

7 MR. HOLMES:and if they haven't
8 learned to go to the Karluk or drop down to Fraser then
9 they'll just be wandering around getting into trouble.
10 And whereas the old mom sows and they'd be -- they had
11 a definite plan if something doesn't occur. And I can
12 recall at Fraser, you know, the returns there might
13 vary two weeks and you won't see but one bear down at
14 the falls and yet within one day of when the fish hit
15 all of a sudden they're just galloping over the
16 mountains from O'Malley and they know. And that's
17 always my questions I tease with you is do they have
18 extra sensory perception or how do they see the birds
19 in the sky over the other side of the mountain. But
20 anyway they're cool critters.

21

22 MR. PYLE: Through the Chair. Smell
23 the fish, right. Yeah.

24

25 MR. HOLMES: Thank you, Bill.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Are
28 there additional.....

29

30 Coral, go ahead.

31

32 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you, Bill, for
33 that report. I'd like to give just the highest praise
34 to your office for taking on the simplification of the
35 subsistence rules for the public. And I also wanted to
36 say thank you for this information on sea otters. Like
37 it's great information, it's I think the best put in
38 the simplest form. It includes -- I like that it
39 includes the population surveys as well as the hunter
40 harvest and for multiple years.

41

42 So thank you very much for all that
43 information and.....

44

45 MR. PYLE: Through the Chair. You're
46 welcome.

47

48 MS. CHERNOFF:all your work.

49

50

0077

1 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead, Sam.

2

3 MR. ROHRER: Thanks. Through the
4 Chair. Just one more comment. It struck me last week
5 at the Board of Game that I don't think there was a
6 single Federal agency in the room other than George
7 Pappas, the OSM Liaison to the Board. And I know the
8 State and the Feds don't always get along in a lot of
9 places in the State, but Kodiak's really a shining
10 example of where we all do play nice and get along.
11 And I -- I thought about it after I left, but Kodiak
12 comes back up in cycle in three years, three year Board
13 of Game cycle and it would be great to have folks from
14 the Refuge -- you know, one person to go over -- to
15 give, you know, testimony on the proposals they support
16 or oppose and just be in the room for a little bit of
17 the day. It would just -- it would be good to
18 represent Kodiak that way, it would be great for the
19 Refuge. I think the Board of Game members would really
20 appreciate getting to hear from Refuge Staff and might
21 be an example to the rest of the State to play a little
22 bit nicer. So anyway it would be great to have you
23 guys there.

24

25 That's all.

26

27 MR. PYLE: Through the Chair. Thank
28 you for the recommendation.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Are
31 there any further questions or comments on this agenda
32 items.

33

34 No comments)

35

36 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
37 Thank you.

38

39 MR. PYLE: Thank you.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: So it is 12:30
42 almost so we're going to go ahead and break for lunch,
43 do an hour and 15 minutes so reconvening at 1:15. I
44 want to double check that the next agenda item is the
45 Alaska Department of Fish and Game report with Nate
46 Svoboda and Bill Dunker. Is that going to work for
47 1:15.

48

49 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: 1:45 is an hour

50

0078

1 and 15 minutes.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Oh, okay. Good
4 point. 1:45. So that'll still work.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. And
9 then after Fish and Game -- well after Nate and Bill
10 Dunker we will hear about the Unimak Caribou from Amy
11 Vandevort so it's not exactly an addition, but it's
12 just augmenting what else is coming under Fish and
13 Game. So that's just a heads up for Amy on that.

14

15 So we'll go ahead and recess until
16 after lunch at 1:45.

17

18 Thanks.

19

20 (Off record)

21

22 (On record)

23

24 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. We're
25 going to go ahead and get started. We're on agenda
26 item 13c which is Alaska Department of Fish and Game
27 wildlife report and preliminary findings from the March
28 Alaska Board of Game meeting. And this is Nate Svoboda
29 and Bill Dunker with the Division of Wildlife.

30

31 MR. SVOBODA: Great. Thank you, Madame
32 Chair. Good afternoon, members of the Board. Again
33 for the record my name is Nate Svoboda, I'm the Area
34 Wildlife Biologist for Alaska Department of Fish and
35 Game. And to my left is Mr. Bill Dunker, he is the
36 Kodiak Assistant Area Biologist. He recently moved
37 down here from Nome where he was the Area Biologist for
38 about a decade. So Bill has recently joined us about a
39 year ago or so. So with that I'm going to hand things
40 over to Bill and he'll be giving you the update today
41 as well as addressing any Board of Game decisions that
42 were recently made in Soldotna.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MR. DUNKER: Thanks for that
47 introduction. Again Bill Dunker with the Department of
48 Fish and Game. For reference we'll be following along
49 with tab 4 in your meeting materials, that's got the

50

1 preliminary actions on all the proposals that were
2 deliberated on by the Board of Game in Soldotna last
3 week or the week prior to that. I'm going to go
4 through and just provide sort of a brief update on some
5 of our recent survey activities, harvest levels and
6 then also touch on each of the proposals by species.

7
8 So beginning with brown bears and
9 looking at the harvest from this past calendar year, so
10 the spring of '22 and the fall of '22. During the
11 spring season we had a total harvest during the State
12 administered draw and registration permit hunts on the
13 road system here of 136 bears which included 109 males
14 and 27 females for a female harvest of 20 percent. The
15 fall harvest included a total of 74 bears which
16 included 51 males and 23 females for a total female
17 harvest of 31 percent. This is -- or excuse me.

18
19 One of the metrics that's always of
20 particular interest when we're talking about brown
21 bears is the number of animals that met that trophy
22 class skull size which typically would be anything with
23 a sum of the length and width greater than or equal to
24 28 inches. During the spring season we had a total of
25 six bears that met that trophy skull size. And during
26 the fall season likewise, we had a total of six bears.

27
28 For non-sport harvest mortality and
29 other sources of mortality documented by the
30 Department, we had a total of 17 bears that were shot
31 in defense of life and property. Some of -- there were
32 four agency removal and we did have two animals that
33 were struck by vehicles and died as a consequence.

34
35 Last summer was my first go round here
36 on Kodiak. On -- as it was explained to me it was a
37 particularly busy summer in terms of human/wildlife
38 conflicts. We had a pretty -- a fair number of -- a
39 good deal of bear activity on the Kodiak road system.
40 In an effort to address some of those conflicts we
41 continue to encourage compliance with the Kodiak
42 Borough Solid Waste Management Plan as poor waste
43 management practices remain a source of bear/human
44 conflict. So anything we can do to address those is
45 something the Department greatly supports. As part of
46 this effort the Department's been working with the
47 Kodiak High School students, the Kodiak Brown Bear
48 Trust and Alaska Waste to retrofit dumpsters to be bear
49 resistant and also to promote bear messaging within
50

0080

1 the community that supports some of these efforts to
2 enhance our waste management practices.

3
4 Similarly the Department encourages
5 residents to secure attractants to prevent conflicts
6 with bears and encourages the use of electric fences.
7 In order to educate the public about their use
8 Department Staff are available to provide consultations
9 and recommendations for permanent fencing solutions
10 around attractants like chicken coops and greenhouses,
11 fruit bearing trees, things of that sort. We're also
12 available to inspect and troubleshoot problems that
13 folks might be having with fences that they have on
14 their property currently and we do also have temporary
15 fences available for use by residents in the Kodiak
16 area here and some of our outlying communities as well.

17
18 In terms of survey activities that we
19 have planned for this coming year, we'll be working in
20 cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to
21 conduct intensive aerial surveys this coming spring.
22 The specific area is yet to be determined as I
23 understand it, but Nate might be able to shed some
24 light on the specifics if need be.

25
26 Some additional education and outreach
27 activities related to brown bears. Bill Pyle had
28 mentioned earlier the Old Harbor School program that
29 began -- well, Nate began and everyone else cooperated
30 with back in 2019 to develop a place based learning
31 opportunity in the community of Old Harbor that focused
32 on brown bears. We're -- the plans for the latter
33 portion of that program have been delayed considerably
34 by covid, but we hope to make some progress on exhuming
35 the bear that was buried as part of that program and
36 working with the Refuge and some other cooperators to
37 get that animal re-articulated and on display with the
38 archipelago or the community somewhere.

39
40 So moving on to the Board of Game
41 proposals and by all means if anybody has questions
42 please feel free to interrupt as need be. There were a
43 total of six proposals related to brown bears that were
44 considered at the Board of Game meeting in March. They
45 include proposal 75 through 79 and I'll just highlight
46 a couple of the more pertinent ones that were
47 deliberated on by the Board. All of the proposals that
48 were considered were not adopted. And of particular
49 note is proposal 77. That proposal was -- I think Bill
50

0081

1 Pyle mentioned it earlier, a proposal to eliminate
2 permits in the southwestern portion of Kodiak so it
3 would be Brown Bear Management Areas 8 through 16 in
4 response to the harvest of a female brown bear by
5 either resident or nonresident hunters.

6
7 And I'm actually going to pass it over
8 to Nate to provide some clarification on what the Board
9 ultimately decided on that and the recommendations that
10 were provided to us for moving forward.

11
12 MR. SVOBODA: Sure. Thanks, Bill. So
13 as Bill mentioned there was a proposal actually
14 submitted by the Kodiak Advisory Council that would --
15 the goal is to limit female harvest or prevent female
16 harvest all together in southwest Kodiak. That -- the
17 Board talked about that proposal for a little bit, but
18 ultimately came to the conclusion that the Department
19 already has the discretionary authority to implement
20 those sorts of restrictions for bear harvest. And so
21 the Board did not support that proposal, basically the
22 reason being we already have the authority to implement
23 something like that. So they didn't feel it was
24 necessary to act on it and so they didn't.

25
26 And with that I can answer any
27 questions about that particular proposal if folks are
28 interested.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MR. DUNKER: Okay. Well, if -- since
35 there's no more -- questions on those proposals we'll
36 move on to just kind of a brief overview of harvest for
37 sitka black-tail deer throughout the archipelago. So
38 for regulatory year 2021 we had a total harvest of just
39 shy of 5,000 deer here within Unit 8 which is not
40 terribly different from the five year average of just
41 over 4,500 deer. As Bill mentioned earlier we had a
42 severe winter with increased overwinter mortality in
43 2016, 2017 and again 2019, 2020. Since that time the
44 population is believed to be stable or increasing based
45 on our own observations in the field and anecdotal
46 reports that we receive from members of the public and
47 other knowledgeable local residents. So far this
48 winter conditions have been variable, but are not
49 anticipated to result in significant overwinter
50

0082

1 mortality.

2

3

4 There were two proposals related to
5 sitka black-tail deer at the previous Board meeting,
6 those would be proposals 73 and 74. Proposal 73 sought
7 to implement -- maybe I got that backwards, let me
8 confirm. So proposal 73 as written sought to reduce
9 the resident and nonresident bag limit for Sitka black-
10 tail in the remainder of Unit 8 from three to two for
11 resident hunters and from three to one for nonresident
12 hunters. The Board amended that proposal to only
13 reduce the bag limit for nonresident hunters from three
14 to one and so having adopted that those regulations
15 will take affect during this upcoming regulatory year,
16 2023, 2024 with no changes to the resident bag limit
17 for deer.

18

19 Proposal 74 sought to require or to
20 implement a salvage requirement wherein the edible meat
21 of black-tail deer harvested on Kodiak would be
22 required to remain on the bone until removed from the
23 field or processed for human consumption. The Board
24 did not adopt that proposal for sitka black-tail deer.

25

26 I was going to move on to elk unless
27 there's any questions about those deer proposals or
28 anything else related to deer.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead, Pat.

31

32 MR. HOLMES: Why was the proposal in
33 there to leave the meat on the bone?

34

35 MR. DUNKER: Through the Chair. The
36 proponent of the proposal had some concerns about
37 wanton waste within the Kodiak archipelago and that was
38 an effort to address that issue.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Coral.

41

42 MS. CHERNOFF: Thank you. I was
43 wondering with the deer take do you know how many were
44 resident and how many were nonresident, how many deer
45 were taken?

46

47 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, through the Chair.
48 Let me just flip to some of my information here. Okay.
49 Yeah. All right. So the way that we presented the
50 harvest information to the Board was looking at

0083

1 relative proportions just to account for some of the
2 variability from year to year. Generally speaking
3 though we -- we've had approximately 1,000 nonresident
4 deer hunters on -- participate in the hunt over the
5 last five years or so with a total harvest of -- I
6 think it was 900 deer. And then in terms of relative
7 proportions the total harvest attributed to nonresident
8 hunters in the previous five year period, 2012 to 2016,
9 nonresident hunters accounted for 12 percent of the
10 deer harvested during that time period as compared to
11 the most recent five year period where we saw nearly a --
12 that nearly double to 23 percent of the total harvest
13 during that five year period. We did document an
14 increase in participation and a relative increase in
15 the harvest by nonresidents.

16

17 MS. CHERNOFF: And was this -- this was
18 the same deck you shared, I think it was at the
19 transporter working group, is that something you -- can
20 you make that presentation available to us or at least
21 maybe some of those slides that show over time the
22 change in proportion of resident versus nonresident?

23

24 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, thanks for bringing
25 that up. So all of the meeting materials from the
26 Board of Game meeting are available on the Fish and
27 Game website. That'll include all of the Department's
28 analysis and recommendations, the original proposals as
29 well as all of our presentations and the information
30 that we shared with the Board. So I believe when
31 you're looking for it all the Kodiak stuff would be
32 under RC4 on the Fish and Game website under the
33 meeting information for the Soldotna Board of Game
34 meeting.

35

36 MS. CHERNOFF: Thanks.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Further comments
39 or questions.

40

41 MR. HOLMES: I know that's on the.....

42

43 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead, Pat.

44

45 MR. HOLMES: Excuse me. Thank you,
46 Madame Chair. But I heard that there was quite a
47 conflict with local folks feeling that the outfitters
48 were squeezing into their turf and making it more
49 difficult for them to harvest. Was that part of the

50

0084

1 whole background on this argument and discussion on bag
2 limits?

3

4 MR. DUNKER: Thank you. Through the
5 Chair. So we were able to kind of hear from the
6 proponent of the proposal at the Kodiak Advisory
7 Committee meeting. And he indicated as such that this
8 was an effort to address some of those user conflict
9 issues.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: Thank you.

12

13 MR. DUNKER: So moving on to our
14 roosevelt elk population. For harvest during the
15 previous regulatory year, RY 2022, we had a total
16 harvest of 123 elk from the Afognak and Raspberry
17 Island populations collectively. This included 71
18 males and 52 females. That 123 total animals is above
19 the previous five year average of a hundred elk and
20 that increase in harvest reflects our current
21 understanding of the population.

22

23 We completed surveys in the summer of
24 2022 during which time we observed a little over a
25 thousand elk which is the largest number of animals
26 observed in the population since roughly the mid '80s.
27 Our information suggests the population is stable to
28 slightly increasing and we believe the total population
29 is estimate at roughly 1,200 elk.

30

31 And looking at some of the composition
32 information that we gain from those surveys and a lot
33 of this stems from what's been done previously and
34 hopefully we've improved on that a little bit. We've
35 implemented a protocol for our surveys this summer in
36 which we were photographing the herds of elk that we
37 observed. That allowed us to get both a count and a
38 composition in real time, but then go back, analyze
39 those photos and hopefully get a more precise
40 understanding of the composition of individual groups.
41 And that seemed to be both a timesaver in the field as
42 well as improve the accuracy of our estimates. And
43 given the total number of animals that we observed
44 we've got a great deal of confidence in the composition
45 metrics that we were able to estimate during the 2022
46 survey. And so looking at our calf/cow ratio it was
47 estimated at 41 calves per hundred cows which is pretty
48 high for Afognak, but comparable to other elk
49 populations elsewhere. Similarly we had a bull/cow
50

0085

1 ratio estimate of 33 bulls per 120 or excuse me, per
2 100 cows in 2022 which is above the five year average
3 estimate of 22 bulls per hundred cows. And both of
4 these metrics are good indicators that the population
5 is healthy.

6
7 Looking at the Board of Game proposals
8 related to elk, there were five proposals deliberated
9 on by the Board. This included proposals 69 through 72
10 and then proposal 209. The Board ultimately adopted
11 proposal 70 with an amendment to strike the nonresident
12 -- well, let me explain the proposal first I suppose.
13 Proposal 70 was a Department proposal, it sought to
14 modify the Raspberry Island hunting season for
15 antlerless elk from a draw permit to a registration
16 permit in order to provide for additional opportunity
17 and increase the level of antlerless harvest on
18 Raspberry Island. The Board amended the proposal to
19 eliminate the nonresident portion of that season and
20 make it a resident only registration permit hunt. The
21 nonresident opportunity will continue to be
22 administered for the antlerless elk hunt as a draw
23 permit.

24
25 71 and 72 were proposals seeking to
26 establish archery only elk hunts on the southwest
27 portion of Afognak and on Raspberry. The Board did not
28 adopt either one of those permit or proposals rather.

29
30 And then proposal 209 was a Board
31 generated proposal that sought to reallocate four
32 permits from each of four draw elk permit hunt areas,
33 DE 715, 717, 721 and 723 to resident registration
34 permit hunts with limited permit availability. So
35 those draw permit hunts currently take place in what's
36 known as the remainder of Afognak and the eastern
37 portion of Afognak Island. Like I said the Board
38 adopted this proposal and those permits will become
39 available first come first serve and they'll only be
40 available in the communities of Ouzinkie and Port
41 Lions. But this hunt won't begin until the fall of
42 2024, that'll be the first opportunity for folks --
43 resident hunters to pick up permits in those
44 communities for that hunt. They provided some further
45 clarification on their directive to the Department as
46 we plan to administer those hunts. One being that each
47 hunter that attempts to pick up one of those permits
48 can only get one permit and that those permits will be
49 available three business days prior to the start of the
50

0086

1 hunt.

2

3 Does anybody have any questions about
4 elk or any of the registration permit hunts that I
5 mentioned?

6

7 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Coral, go ahead.

8

9 MS. CHERNOFF: Did the Department of
10 Fish and Game, did you testify on that proposal being
11 either for or against or neutral?

12

13 MR. DUNKER: Sure. So, through the
14 Chair, due to the allocative nature of that proposal we
15 were neutral. We provided biological information, you
16 know, historic harvest information.....

17

18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted).

20

21 MR. DUNKER:and then information
22 about the number of applicants or applications received
23 for those different draw permit hunts.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Any
26 other questions or comments.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MR. DUNKER: Thank you. So moving on
31 to mountain goats. We provided sort of -- I know Bill
32 Pyle had some preliminary harvest information included
33 in the Refuge report. I just ran the numbers this
34 morning to get our most up to date seeing as we had
35 goat hunts running through to the end of March in the
36 RG 480 hunt area. So far we've got a total reported
37 harvest of 285 goats during the 2022 regulatory year.
38 That included 114 goats harvested under drawing permits
39 and 171 goats harvested under registration permit
40 hunts. This is slightly below the previous five year
41 average of 316 goats RY '17 to RY '21.

42

43 The majority of the harvest that occurs
44 under registration permit hunt does occur in the RG 480
45 where we have, you know, very liberal seasons and bag
46 limits, but there was also a total harvest of two goats
47 from the RG 471 through 476 registration permit hunts.
48 Those are the ones where the permits for those hunts
49 are only available in certain communities throughout
50

0087

1 the archipelago.

2

3 And similarly we had six goats
4 harvested from the restricted weapons hunts along the
5 Kodiak road system including the second goat ever
6 harvested from the late season restricted weapons hunt
7 that the Board adopted, was it 2019. So that's
8 noteworthy, one of two.

9

10 So then in terms of population
11 information working on conjunction with the U.S. Fish
12 and Wildlife Service we did complete surveys in the
13 summer of 2022 throughout the known range of the goat
14 population in Unit 8. We observed a total of 2,892
15 goats Island wide which included a little over 2,300
16 adults and roughly 600 kids in the population. This is
17 fairly consistent with what we observed in the
18 population over the last several years. Management
19 action intended to stabilize or reduce the population
20 seems to be working through the use of the -- liberal
21 seasons and bag limits particularly in RG 480. It
22 would appear that most of the goat populations
23 throughout the archipelago appear to be stable at this
24 time. The estimated proportion of kids to adults was
25 estimated during those surveys at about 24 kids per 100
26 adults.

27

28 In terms of the Board of Game proposals
29 that were considered at the meeting in March there were
30 three proposals related to goats. This included
31 proposal 65, 66 and 67. The Board did not adopt any of
32 those proposed regulatory changes as most of the
33 proposals were allocative in nature and counter to the
34 Department's management objectives in certain areas,
35 particularly the RG 480 hunt area where we still intend
36 to, you know, stabilize or reduce that population due
37 to some concerns over the capacity of the habitat to
38 sustain larger numbers of goats in the area.

39

40 I'll hit pause if anybody has any
41 questions about the goat proposals or population
42 information.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead, Pat.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, just for the
47 sake of the members of our Committee here, the -- many,
48 many years we had some bizarre proposals on subsistence
49 hunts for goats, but the Community Advisory Committee

50

0088

1 and individuals from our Council participated in a --
2 in a study group. And so through the years they've
3 massaged the regulations to provide for opportunity for
4 people that live in the villages particularly on the
5 south end of the Island where all the goats are to
6 allow them an opportunity to harvest goats without
7 getting into a big allocation argument. And so it
8 seems like it's working out pretty good. Now you a few
9 years back increased the bag limits in 480 to two,
10 right, probably the only one of the few places or the
11 only one in the State that has that. But yet that
12 helps out the community to be able to get more, it also
13 helps out those members of the community that are
14 outfitters that work with hunters that come down, you
15 know, that need the extra guiding and whatnot. So I
16 think that this joint venture between Council and the
17 Feds and the State and the State Advisory Committee has
18 worked out quite well through the years, don't you,
19 Sam.

20
21 Anyway I just wanted to have that
22 little footnote.

23
24 MR. DUNKER: Okay. Through the Chair.
25 Thank you, Pat, I appreciate the rundown on the history
26 there. It's been interesting as I've gotten more
27 familiar with the regulatory history here on Kodiak to
28 learn about that process. So thanks for sharing.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Are there any
31 other questions or comments.

32
33 Coral or.....

34
35 MS. CHERNOFF: (Indiscernible - away
36 from microphone).....

37
38 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Or -- yeah. Is
39 that -- do you have more?

40
41 MR. DUNKER: I have a few more notes to
42 touch on here if you don't mind.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Thank
45 you.

46
47 MR. DUNKER: So lastly in terms of
48 caribou on the southwest portion of the Island here, we
49 had a reported harvest of 31 caribou during the 2022
50

0089

1 hunting season. This is down from an all time high of
2 50 in RY '17 and the previous 10 year average of 36
3 caribou. We do believe that that population has
4 declined to approximately 250 to 300 caribou. We
5 completed surveys in the area this past summer, past
6 spring and we plan to participate in those again or
7 conduct those surveys again this coming year.

8
9 The increase in both the level of
10 interest, participation and ultimately harvest from
11 that population was a concern that Nate had expressed
12 and in order to address that the Department submitted a
13 proposal to change that from a general season hunt to a
14 registration permit hunt. That was proposal 68, it was
15 the only proposal related to caribou at the previous
16 Board meeting. The Board did adopt that proposal to
17 create a registration permit for caribou in Unit 8.

18
19 The bag limit in codified will stand as
20 one bull for nonresidents and one caribou for resident
21 hunters. However due to some concerns that we have
22 about the level of productivity and the level of
23 harvest on the cow component of the population that's
24 incurred over the last four or five years we do plan to
25 administer that hunt initially with a bag limit of one
26 bull for both resident and nonresident hunters and then
27 ultimately limit harvest through emergency order
28 closures as need be to maintain harvest at sustainable
29 levels moving forward. We've yet to identify the quota
30 for that particular hunt, but we hope to do so
31 following the completion of some survey and inventory
32 activities this summer to get a better understanding of
33 both overall population size as well as the composition
34 of that population.

35
36 And then lastly unless there's some
37 question about the caribou -- sure.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead, Coral.

40
41 MS. CHERNOFF: Is there a subsistence
42 caribou hunt since I think the -- originally the
43 caribou -- I know they've changed hands from originally
44 belonging to someone in Akhiok, then they've gone go
45 general State, but I was wondering if there was a
46 subsistence season?

47
48 MR. DUNKER: So under State regula --
49 regulations there's a negative C&T finding for caribou
50

0090

1 in Unit 8. And I'm not aware of any Federal
2 subsistence season for caribou in Unit 8 either.

3

4 And then lastly a couple of notes on
5 furbearer harvest over the last five years. We've got
6 an average harvest of 59 beavers and 138 otters
7 annually over that period of time which is currently
8 below -- or excuse me, that harvest is currently below
9 the long term average likely as a function of fur
10 prices and trapper effort.

11

12 There was one Board of Game proposal
13 related to furbearers and the Board of Game meeting.
14 It's proposal 81 which sought to require the use of a
15 breakaway mechanism on all snares deployed on the
16 Kodiak road system. Unfortunately despite continued
17 local support the Board did not adopt that regulatory
18 requirements.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: I have a
21 question on that. I did listen to part of the Board of
22 Game, I don't remember if I was on for proposal 81, but
23 I did hear some Board discussion about some snare
24 proposals near walking trails, I don't think it was
25 Kodiak

26 though. And I did hear a lot of I guess I'll use the
27 word resistance to putting -- I guess I would
28 characterize it as putting more requirements around
29 snares. But which I guess doesn't -- I don't quite
30 understand that. Can you give any context why there is
31 -- there seems to be a reticence to -- by the Board of
32 Game to put more restrictions I guess is the best word
33 on snares?

34

35 MR. SVOBODA: I can take that. Thanks,
36 Madame Chair. Yeah, in general the Board of Game does
37 not -- just over the course of history does not
38 implement a lot of regulations on trapping. That's
39 been a thorn in the side of many communities. As you
40 stated you heard quite a bit of testimony likely about
41 trap set backs particularly on the Kenai. Despite
42 local support the Alaska Trappers Association and
43 others has prevented the Board from passing any of
44 those regulations for the most part. However this year
45 there was a little bit of I guess headway if you will
46 from some of the ACs and individuals in the Homer area,
47 they did pass some trapping set backs in some areas on
48 the Kenai, I believe it was maybe parking spots and a
49 few trails, don't quote me on that because I might be a
50

0091

1 little off. But they did make some headway along with
2 that.

3
4 In this particular proposal as you guys
5 may remember, this proposal 81 that was just
6 deliberated on last week, that was pretty much
7 identical to a proposal that was submitted to the Board
8 in 2019, that the Board actually passed and then came
9 back a couple days later and re-deliberated on it and
10 change their mind and opposed it. So that was pretty
11 much the exact same, almost verbatim proposal that was
12 deliberated on in 2019 and again this year and despite
13 local support and full AC support that again failed.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
16 Thanks.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Are there
19 any further comments or questions.

20
21 Sam and then Coral.

22
23 MR. ROHRER: Thanks. Through the
24 Chair. Just two comments. On the snare one I have a
25 feeling if all the information had been in the packet
26 that was in there in 2019 it might have passed. One of
27 the hangups was that the AC didn't put forward -- in
28 their proposal they didn't put forward recommendations
29 on what the breakaways should be, the types and some of
30 that different stuff. And I think that information was
31 all -- the AC put that information together in 2019
32 when they first ran the proposal and there were several
33 comments from Board members that they didn't reference
34 that, it was there in '19 and it wasn't now, they just
35 said hey, this information -- you know, there's a lot
36 of unanswered questions. But the unanswered questions
37 the AC answered in 2019, they just didn't forward that
38 information when they redid the proposal. And I just
39 have a feeling because of some of the way Board members
40 are starting to change their views of trapping that may
41 be -- it would have had a better chance anyway. It's --
42 there's probably a pretty decent chance in three year
43 it maybe passes depending on the makeup of the Board.

44
45 That -- so I wanted to make that
46 comment, but the main thing I wanted to comment on was
47 just back to proposal 77 on the eliminating the brown
48 bear permits. When a female bear's taken in the
49 southwest regions on proposal 77, I think all of us
50

0092

1 there were hoping for like a symbolic yes vote from the
2 Board of Game and they were pretty adamant -- they were
3 pretty clear that, Department, we're not going to give
4 you the symbolic yes vote, but you have it in your
5 authority, do it. And in discussions afterwards the
6 Chair was clear he said hey, this Board -- the Board of
7 Game has never voted -- has never -- has never voted or
8 told the Department to do something that contradicts
9 its management plan. So if it's in your management
10 plan which this is, if it's in your management plan
11 then do it and you have the full support of the Board.
12

13 So it was clear that the expectation
14 was if the Department feels like they need to do this
15 then they absolutely need to do it. Even though they
16 failed the proposal it wasn't like a vote of
17 nonconfidence, it was a vote of it's in your management
18 plan, just do it and then you guys take the -- you take
19 -- if there's any pushback from the public it's on you
20 guys, not us. So there was a little undercurrent of
21 that too, but it was -- it was definitely we support
22 the Department doing what's in their management plan.
23

24 So anyway that's all.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Coral.

27
28 MS. CHERNOFF: Through the Chair. I
29 had a question about, you know, you had mentioned waste
30 management and problems with bears. Do you have any
31 safety programs at the school since there has been, you
32 know, a few years ago there was bears around the main
33 school area, there was bears downtown here. I was
34 wondering if you guys implemented any kind of bear
35 safety -- oh, yeah, one afternoon there was a bear
36 going up through the post office and then running up
37 through Aleutian Homes in the afternoon. And so I
38 wonder if you have any bear safety for children at the
39 schools or if you plan to have any in the safety --
40 maybe through that brown bear organization?
41

42 MR. DUNKER: Thanks for the question.
43 Through the Chair. So we actually were talking about
44 this at our previous regional meeting. We talked with
45 some of the Anchorage area Staff, they do programs in
46 the school pretty regularly and had some great
47 informational materials to share with us. I think --
48 I'm the new guy here, but I -- it's my understanding
49 that we've done a lot of that stuff by request and I --
50

0093

1 it's certainly something that both Nate and I are happy
2 to provide to the, you know, school groups and things
3 like that. I know there's -- we've got a program
4 that'll be kicking off here before too long with the
5 Kodiak Brown Bear Trust, working with some of the high
6 school students to sort of do a bear appreciation I
7 guess is one way to characterize it. It encompasses,
8 you know, biology, physiology, behavior, safety,
9 there'll be a management component associated with that
10 program and that's a six or seven week program that
11 we're doing with a bunch of the high school age kids.
12 But certainly if there was an opportunity to get into
13 some of the younger age classes of students and deliver
14 that message we would be happy to do it.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Any
17 further comments or questions.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
22 Seeing none and you guys are all done?

23
24 Oh, sorry. Coral, go ahead.

25
26 MS. CHERNOFF: One more question. So
27 in the past we addressed mink, do you have any report
28 or is the mink population growing, has it seemed to
29 diminish?

30
31 MR. SVOBODA: Thanks, Coral. Through
32 the Chair. Actually the reports have went down, not so
33 they don't exist anymore and I wouldn't go as far to
34 say as we don't have mink on the Island anymore, but we
35 haven't had any reports this year to my knowledge.
36 Last year we had fewer than we had the year before, but
37 I wouldn't necessarily say that they're not here.

38
39 And that's kind of all the information
40 we really have on that.

41
42 MS. CHERNOFF: Through the Chair. And
43 I guess I ask because it seemed like it took a long
44 time for someone to take notice of the crayfish and
45 then there was no real plan, there was only a plan to
46 study the crayfish for quite a few years and now the
47 crayfish population is crazy. And so I'm wondering if
48 there's any plan to eliminate the mink?

49
50

0094

1 MR. SVOBODA: Thanks, Coral. Through
2 -- through the Chair. If we discover that mink are
3 becoming an issue and we start seeing an uptick in
4 reports or start hearing more about them then yeah,
5 we'll certainly address it before it gets out of hand.
6 We're just not sure one, if it's an issue and two, if
7 it is what the magnitude of the issue is at this point.
8 But yeah, if it becomes a problem then we'll address
9 it. We don't -- we don't necessarily want mink on
10 Kodiak.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Maybe we can get
13 the mink to eat the crayfish. That would be great.

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Any
18 further comments or questions.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
23 Well, thank you guys.

24
25 Okay. Next we have Unimak Caribou and
26 Amy Vandevort with -- also with Fish and Game,
27 virtually.

28
29 MS. VANDEVORT: Thank you. Through the
30 Chair. For the record my name is Amy Vandevort. I'm
31 the Area Biologist for Alaska Fish and Game out of King
32 Salmon.

33
34 Are you guys able to hear me all right?

35
36 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: You're a little
37 bit faint. Can you -- can you keep talking, maybe we
38 can adjust the microphone a tiny bit on this end.

39
40 MS. VANDEVORT: I can try to. So today
41 I am calling in to update.....

42
43 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yep, you're
44 good.

45
46 MS. VANDEVORT:you on caribou
47 units 9D and 10. Unfortunately there isn't a whole lot
48 to update you on, I just got up here in October. We
49 did have composition surveys scheduled for last October
50

0095

1 however we were unable to complete them due to weather.
2 We do have spring parturition surveys scheduled for
3 this year and we are looking forward to getting down
4 there to the area and doing a survey to try to get a
5 better idea on what's going on. Data from previous
6 surveys, particularly pregnancy rates, suggest
7 increasing caribou populations for Unimak and the
8 Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd. A population increase
9 above the objective is a concern for the State due to
10 the population crash that have happened historically
11 when these herds have grown too large and subsequently
12 (indiscernible - distortion) and hunts had to be
13 closed.

14
15 To address this issue the State has
16 liberalized bag limits for the southern Alaska
17 Peninsula over the past five years and has seen a
18 slight increase in harvest with the (indiscernible -
19 distortion) until just this past year. The hunt for
20 Unit 9D goes through March 31st, but as of the most
21 current harvest data only 73 caribou have taken or have
22 been taken from the southern Alaska Peninsula which is
23 about a 25 percent decrease from regulatory year '21.
24 So this as the population is growing as it has been
25 showing -- shown in the past, a harvest of only 52
26 caribou isn't going to be enough to curb the population
27 growth.

28
29 Switching over to Unimak. Unimak's
30 caribou population estimate currently sits at 500, but
31 is still close to State caribou hunting and sees very
32 little Federal harvest since the State reopened the
33 southern Alaska Peninsula hunt. We hope to work with
34 Izembek National Wildlife Refuge to try to develop
35 effective strategies keep Unimak and the Southern
36 Alaska Peninsula Herd at sustainable levels to try to
37 avoid a crash and subsequent closures.

38
39 So that's all I've got for a update.
40 If anyone has any questions I'd be glad to try to
41 answer them.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
44 Thanks. Are there any questions or comments.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Madame Chair,
47 this is Della.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead, Della.
50

0096

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Is -- are there
2 any documents in this paperwork that you're referring
3 to in your reports or your report?

4
5 MS. VANDEVORT: There is not. I was
6 just forwarded the email today to give an update. So I
7 didn't get a chance to include anything in the
8 paperwork.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And basically
11 there were no surveys due to weather. What are -- in
12 the forecasts are there any surveys forecasted to --
13 for either 9D or 10?

14
15 MS. VANDEVORT: Yes. So this spring
16 towards the end of May, early June, we are scheduled to
17 go down there to do surveys, to get pregnancy rates and
18 see what we can find as far as total numbers. And then
19 we'll also try to -- part of our management plan is to
20 go out there next October as well and do another count
21 to get a bull to cow ratio and calf to cow ratio.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: And just maybe
26 for reference as far as harvesting caribou. I know
27 people have tried to get out from here to
28 (indiscernible - distortion) but the weather has been
29 not so great this winter for us. I think it hasn't
30 been cold and windy and a lot of snow, but it just
31 seems to be a lot of -- a lot of high winds and rain.

32
33 MS. VANDEVORT: Okay.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Pat.

36
37 MR. HOLMES: One brief comment. I
38 forget if it was ADF&G or your Federal colleagues, but
39 it sounded like when they have been able to complete
40 surveys there on Unimak that the -- they noticed that
41 the cows have adapted to the predation from bears and
42 have moved up to I think the highlands and up in the --
43 up in the hills, higher up on the mountain, the
44 volcano, to avoid predation and that they don't seem to
45 be calving in groups like they would on the Peninsula
46 or other areas. Is that -- was that a correct
47 observation?

48
49 MS. VANDEVORT: That is what I have
50

0097

1 read in previous memos and reports. I haven't been
2 down there yet to observe it, but that is what has been
3 reported.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Any
6 other further questions or comments.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Seeing
11 and hearing none, thank you. Thank you for that
12 report.

13

14 We'll go ahead and move on to the.....

15

16 MS. VANDEVORT: All right. Thank you.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
19 Thanks. We'll move on to the next agenda item which is
20 13d, wildlife closure reviews, crossover with Bristol
21 Bay RAC. This will be Kendra Holman, OSM Wildlife.

22

23 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning -- afternoon.
24 So I am going to start with a little bit of information
25 here regarding the closure review process. Again for
26 the record this is Kendra Holman, I'm a Wildlife
27 Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.
28 So in August of 2020 the Board approved a revised
29 closure policy which stipulated all closures will be
30 reviewed every four years. This policy has also
31 specified that closures similar to regulatory proposals
32 will be presented to the Councils for recommendations
33 and then to the Board for final decision. Previously
34 closure reviews were only presented to the Councils who
35 then decided whether to maintain the closures or submit
36 a proposal to modify or eliminate. However regulatory
37 actions on closure reviews are limited to retaining,
38 rescinding or modifying the closure. Actions such as
39 changing the season, harvest limits, delegating
40 authority to in-season managers are outside the scope
41 of closure reviews. To this end closure review
42 analyses are being presented to the Councils now during
43 the call for wildlife proposals to inform your decision
44 on whether or not to submit a proposal addressing the
45 closure that is outside the scope of the closure review
46 such as changing the limits or seasons.

47

48 This is not an action item, it is
49 informational. However if the Council does decide to

50

0098

1 submit a proposal to address the closure a motion and
2 vote is needed. The Council will make a formal
3 recommendation on the closure reviews during their
4 fall, 2023 meetings and the Federal Subsistence Board
5 will take action on the closure reviews in April of
6 2024.

7
8 Before I proceed with the summary of
9 the analysis are there any questions on this new
10 process?

11
12 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, thanks. I
13 just want to clarify this is a new process, but this is
14 pretty much identical to what we just did for the
15 fishery closure reviews, right? Okay. I'm seeing
16 nods. So this is being presented as new, but we just
17 went through this for like the last four years with the
18 fishery closures.

19
20 So thank you.

21
22 MS. HOLMAN: Okay. So again for the
23 record this is Kendra Holman and I'm a Wildlife
24 Biologist with the Office of Subsis -- Office of
25 Subsistence Management. Getting tongue tied here.
26 This proposal can be found on Page 32 of your meeting
27 book and a map of the location can be found on Page 33
28 of your meeting book. This is WCR 24-04 and 06.

29
30 The Unit 6 or excuse me, the Unit 9C
31 remainder, Federal public lands are closed to caribou
32 hunting except by residents of Unit 9C and Egegik and
33 Unit 9E, Federal public lands are closed to caribou
34 hunting except by residents of 9E, Nelson Lagoon and
35 Sand Point.

36
37 Prior to 1999 four caribou was the
38 harvest limit for Unit 9C remainder and 9E remainder.
39 In 1999 the Board considered three proposals that were
40 adopted with modifications resulting in the closure of
41 Federal public lands within Unit 9C remainder and all of
42 Unit 9E to caribou harvest by residents -- except by
43 residents of Unit 9C and 9E. And the State established
44 a tier two harvest system at this time. In 2002 the
45 Board approved allowing designated hunter permits in
46 units 9C and 9E. In 2005 the Board considered two
47 special actions closing caribou hunting on Federal
48 public lands in Unit 9C remainder and Unit 9E for the
49 2005/2006 regulatory year following the rapid decline
50

1 of the North Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd and the
2 State closure of the tier two system. The Board then
3 adopted proposal WP 06-22 closing Federal season for
4 caribou in these units. In 2011 and 2015 the Council
5 reviewed Federal public land closures and voted in
6 favor of maintaining these closures.

7

8 In 2016 the Board reviewed a proposal
9 establishing a may be announced season and delegating
10 authority to open and close the season, set quotas, any
11 permit requirements and conditions, harvest limits, set
12 sex restrictions to the Alaska Peninsula/Becharof
13 National Wildlife Refuge. This modification was
14 adopted by the Board, reduced the pool of eligible
15 subsistence users on Federal public lands in Unit 9C
16 remainder and residents -- to residents of 9C --Unit 9C
17 and Egegik on Federal public lands in Unit 9E to
18 residents of Unit 9E, Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point.

19

20 In 2018 the Board approved a proposal
21 that was requested caribou season in Unit 9C, north of
22 the Naknek River be changed and a harvest limit set
23 with a modification to create a new hunt area.
24 Removing a portion of 9C and the 9 --Unit 9C remainder.
25 This Board action effectively shifted the regulatory
26 emphasis within the new area from the North Alaska
27 Peninsula Herd to the Mulchatna reflecting current
28 distribution patterns of the two herds. The State took
29 similar actions at this time.

30

31 In 2020 the Board reviewed this closure
32 retaining only the portion in units 9C remainder and 9E
33 because that is where the North Alaska Peninsula
34 Caribou Herd continued to have low population count and
35 insufficient recruitment. Generally speaking the herd
36 occupies 9C and 9E from the Naknek River in the north
37 of -- in the north to Port Moeller in the south. It
38 has varied considerably in size over the last century
39 ranging from approximately 2,000 during the population
40 lows to approximately 20,000 during these population
41 highs. These fluctuations in population size have been
42 accompanied by shifts in distribution and movement
43 patterns likely do impacts of population size and
44 habitat quality.

45

46 In recent years the population has
47 shown a positive growth trend and is estimated to be
48 approximately 3,800 caribou as of 2018, that can be
49 found in Table 1 on Page 38 of your meeting books, but

50

0100

1 it remains well below the State's population objective
2 of 12,000 to 15,000 caribou. The bull to cow ratios
3 have shown an increasing trend and local biologists
4 believe that the current bull/cow ratio exceeds the
5 management objective of 35 bulls per hundred cows.

6
7 The herd peaked in 1993 and has since
8 declined. These changes correspond to population size
9 and harvest restriction. In 1999 following
10 implementation of the State tier two system and more
11 restrictive Federal regulations, implementation of
12 Federal public land closure, reported harvested
13 declined dramatically averaging just 96 caribou a year
14 from 1999 to 2004. This information can be found on
15 Page 42 of your meeting book in Table 4. Legal harvest
16 ceased in 2005 following State and Federal hunting
17 season closures. Federal and State seasons were
18 reestablished in 2016. Since then the State reported
19 harvest has average 52 caribou annually all of which
20 were taken by local users. This information can be
21 found on Tables 4 and 5 on Page 42 of your meeting
22 book. And on average harvest was 84 percent bulls, 60
23 percent of reporting hunters were successful. Nearly
24 two-thirds of the total were taken between December and
25 April with September and December being the two most
26 popular months. In Table 2 on Page 40 of your meeting
27 book you can find the pre 2016 caribou harvest
28 information for Unit 9C remainder and 9E. On Page 41
29 on Table 3 you can find the same information for 2016
30 through 2018.

31
32 The herd remains a population of
33 concern in Unit 9C remainder and Unit 9E. Although
34 this population has shown recent improvement in
35 population size as well as bull/cow ratios and calf/cow
36 ratios, it remains well below the established
37 population size objective. The current management
38 approach which includes the State's tier two hunt
39 limiting harvest on Federal public lands to those with
40 recognized customary and traditional use of the
41 resource and direct dependence on it. And a harvest
42 quota managed by emergency actions -- emergency orders
43 and special actions appear to be effective in allowing
44 harvest while supporting population growth.
45 Consequently retaining the Federal public land closure
46 in Unit 9C remainder and 9E is appropriate and likely
47 offers the best opportunity for both continue --
48 continuation of subsistence uses and recovery of the
49 herd.

50

0101

1 At this time the OSM preliminary
2 conclusion is to retain the status quo.

3

4 Madame Chair, members of the Council,
5 I'd be happy to address any questions.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Are
8 there any questions or comments.

9

10 Pat, go ahead.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I wonder if you've
13 observed any increase or predation or what -- what's
14 holding things down, is it habitat or what?

15

16 MS. HOLMAN: Through the Chair. I
17 myself do not know, I have not seen the reports from
18 those doing the surveys exactly to have that
19 information. I can look into it and see if there's any
20 answers I can get back to you with.

21

22 MR. HOLMES: That would be swell.
23 Thank you.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Sam, go ahead.

26

27 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair. So
28 just to be clear again the status quo is the may be
29 announced language, correct, where there -- it's not an
30 open season, but the -- the manager -- it's delegated
31 authority to the Refuge Manager, can be opened if
32 certain composition -- if certain counts are at certain
33 levels and depending on the composition; is that
34 correct?

35

36 MS. HOLMAN: Yeah. So at this time
37 these two are both may be announced with that
38 delegation of authority. And closed to the certain --
39 closed to those who don't have a C&T those in -- within
40 those units as well as the two villages that are listed
41 after each.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead.

44

45 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Lisa Grediagin
46 for the record. And these are closure reviews. So we
47 are only talking about the closure itself. So when we
48 say maintain status quo that is to maintain the closure
49 as it exists. So it has nothing to do with the season

50

0102

1 or harvest limit, it only has to do with the closure
2 itself.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. But I
5 think what we're trying to understand is what the
6 closure is because doesn't the closure allow some
7 harvest by some people? So I think that's a fair
8 question to understand what is allowed.

9

10 MS. HOLMAN: Yes. So -- for the record
11 this is Kendra. So right now the closure is --
12 specifically I will -- the close -- so the closure, Unit
13 9C remainder. Federal public lands are closed except
14 to residents of Unit 9C and Egegik. Unit 9E is --
15 Federal public lands are closed except by residents of
16 9E, Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point.

17

18 MR. ROHRER: Okay. Thanks.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: And, Della or
21 Rick, do you have guys have any questions or comments,
22 I just want to make sure I'm checking in since you guys
23 are on the phone and I can't see around the table.

24

25 Thanks.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This is Della.
28 I don't have any comments. I do know that Sand Point
29 was included on this because historically many years
30 ago they did hunt caribou in that area.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: But I don't have
35 any questions.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. I'm not
38 seeing any other questions or comments. This is the
39 beginning of the wildlife proposal cycle so this is
40 mostly at this point being presented to remind us that
41 these closures are in place and if we wanted to do
42 something different we or the public would need to
43 generate an actual wildlife proposal.

44

45 MS. HOLMAN: This is Kendra for the
46 record. Yes, that's exactly the purpose of this is to
47 give -- get this information out so that if proposals
48 are desired they can be made since this is the time to
49 make them.

50

0103

1 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. I'm
2 not seeing any other questions or comments.

3
4 So thank you.

5
6 MS. HOLMAN: I'm the next one too.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Great.
9 And we're moving on to -- let me check this off of my
10 agenda, agenda item 13e which is call for Federal
11 wildlife proposals and again this will be Kendra Holman
12 with OSM Wildlife.

13
14 MS. HOLMAN: Good afternoon again. For
15 the record this is Kendra Holman, Wildlife Biologist
16 with the Office of Subsistence Management. So now is
17 the call for wildlife proposals and the Council's
18 opportunity to submit proposals to change Federal
19 subsistence wildlife harvest regulations. An
20 information flyer on how to submit a proposal to change
21 Federal subsistence regulations can be found on Page 48
22 of your meeting book. Proposals need to include the
23 regulation you wish to change, the specific changes you
24 are proposing, an explanation of why the regulation
25 should be made and any additional information that may
26 help in evaluating the proposed change. The window to
27 submit proposals opened February 27th and closes April
28 12th. The Council can vote to submit proposals during
29 this meeting and your Council Coordinator will then
30 officially submit it. Also the opportunity for
31 Councils to submit proposals is available during this
32 entire meeting so if a Council member thinks of a
33 proposal later on in response to another agenda item
34 they're welcome to suggest submitting a proposal then.
35 Of course anyone can submit a proposal as an individual
36 before the submission window closes.

37
38 Thank you, Madame Chair. I'm happy to
39 address any questions about this process and will stand
40 by while the Council discusses possible proposals to
41 submit.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
44 Thanks. Are there any questions.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Did
49 anyone have any discussion or thoughts for wildlife
50

0104

1 proposals that the Council might want to consider.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. I am
6 not hearing any. And if the Council itself doesn't
7 doesn't generate proposals any individual can submit a
8 proposal individually.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Thank
13 you.

14

15 MS. HOLMAN: Correct. And again that
16 close date is April 12th. So any individual who wishes
17 to submit needs to do it before that April 12th closing
18 date.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
21 Thank you. Moving along. The next agenda item is 13f,
22 the 2021 Council charter review. And I will hand it
23 over to Lisa.

24

25 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes, thank
26 -- thank you, Madame Chair, members of the Council. So
27 your Council charter, the -- your Council 2021 charter
28 can be found on Page 121 in your Council meeting books,
29 it's at the very back. So all of the 10 Subsistence
30 Regional Advisory Councils were chartered under the
31 Federal Advisory Committee Act. Under the Act each
32 Council charter needs to be renewed each two -- every
33 two years. So approximately a year before it is
34 renewed each Council can have a discussion to see if
35 there's anything you want to change. Most of the
36 language currently in the charter is required by the
37 Federal Advisory Committee Act and its implementing
38 policies so you cannot request to change this language.
39 But you can request to make minor modifications to such
40 things as the name of your Council, the number of seats
41 on your Council, the name of the Advisory Committee,
42 the estimated number of or frequency of meetings and
43 adding the language on desired geographic membership
44 balance. Any type of these requests must be
45 accompanied by a detailed justification of the need to
46 make these modifications.

47

48 So more specifically speaking regarding
49 membership balance that is a balance that would allow
50

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1 the Council to achieve a more equal representation of
2 members across the region. But even if you have this
3 type of language added to your charters, in the end it
4 will depend on the number and diversity of the
5 applications that the Board receives from your region.
6 So for example your Council has added a geographic
7 membership balance to indicate that their goal is to
8 have -- your goal is to have four members from the
9 Kodiak Archipelago, three from the Alaska Peninsula and
10 three from the 38 Aleutian/Pribolof Islands. Because
11 that region is so spread out the Council -- your
12 Council wanted to state that having broader geographic
13 representation is a value to you. The Western Interior
14 Council added similar language.

15

16 We had other changes made to the
17 charters over the last four years. The language on
18 quote, carryover terms, unquote, have been added which
19 allows the Council members to continue to serve on the
20 Council if a new round of appointments have not been
21 made before the winter Council meeting. Another
22 language that was added was a clause on out of cycle
23 alternate appointments that allows us to fill a seat
24 out of cycle that was vacated due to a member moving
25 out of the region, resigning or passing away. These
26 two language additions allows us to have less vacant
27 seats on the Council during our meeting cycles.

28

29 So if the Council is satisfied with
30 your charter provision as is and requests no change,
31 then the Council can just simply vote to forward the
32 charter to the Board. If your Council wants to make a
33 request for modification and provide justification then
34 your Council Coordinator, myself can provide it to the
35 InterAgency Staff Committee for review and then it in
36 turn will be provided -- this request to the Federal
37 Subsistence Board that will then review it and if
38 decided will move it forward to the Secretary of the
39 Interior and Agriculture for their approval. Not an
40 easy process.

41

42 So anyway, Madame Chair, members of the
43 Council, that's essentially the background on the
44 charter. And if you want to look at your charter, if
45 there's any other changes you see or if you think it's
46 fine we can just vote to accept it.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Are

50

0106

1 there additional comments or discussion points on our
2 charter from Council members.

3

4 Chris, go ahead.

5

6 MR. PRICE: Thanks. It's important
7 that we do review this charter and I appreciate the
8 work by the OSM to keep us operating in a ethical and
9 highly organized manner. And it's been really good to
10 work with you guys this ways.

11

12 The only one thing that I -- you know,
13 when they -- we had such a really important youth
14 representation at the full Board meeting and Kasaan --
15 if you guys were there, Kasaan and Ketchikan sent
16 members of their school. There must have been maybe 10
17 students that came to the meetings and they testified
18 and they incorporated the work of the subsistence group
19 in their region into their school curriculum and their
20 teachers and their principal and their school board had
21 adopted this policy of training their youth. And it
22 was really impressive and I -- and I want us to not
23 forget about our youth and I don't know how to do that.
24 I know that this regulation is going to prevent us for
25 having any members outside of the region that are not
26 within the region. But there was some conversation
27 that different regions could have a youth -- maybe
28 appointed youth advisor for every region. And so I
29 don't know if that's possible, but I would like to
30 figure out ways to avoid more youth. And unfortunately
31 many youth who grew up say in Anchorage, but their
32 historical community would be St. Paul or Atka, they've
33 been removed from their community, but they still have
34 a passion for subsistence and the culture and their way
35 of life that they would like to participate in. And
36 I'm trying to give them advice like how do -- how are
37 we going to help them get that. I think one way is
38 through these Regional Advisory Councils. And so if --
39 as you guys are thinking it, OSM Staff, as you guys
40 think about these things when you meet together
41 Statewide, if there's a way to involve youth in the
42 RACs I would really like to see if there's a way to
43 somehow provide that opportunity even if you're not
44 living in the region, but you have historical ties.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Madame
49 Chair.

50

0107

1 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead, Lisa.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Madame Chair --
4 oh, go ahead.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: I'm sorry. Go
7 ahead, Della, and then we'll hear from Lisa.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I -- Lisa's
10 probably going to tell you exactly what I'm going to
11 say that -- well, in regard to what Chris just stated.
12 The -- you can be a RAC member, but you have to be a
13 resident within the region you represent, a resident
14 from the region that you represent. So I don't see I
15 think how that would -- how that would work. I think
16 if it's something that your tribe is allowing to pay
17 for students to attend is because they want to learn
18 maybe even the Statewide meeting or just sitting in on
19 these meetings, that might be okay, but I just -- I
20 don't see how that worked because I know what
21 regulation is or the requirement is for you to be a RAC
22 member.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Lisa.

25

26 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes, Madame
27 Chair. And -- Madame Chair, Madame Chair. I guess,
28 Della, that -- well, that is true to be a RAC member
29 you do have to be a resident of the community that
30 you're serving. Some people do have dual residence in
31 other places, but the main place where they get their
32 check and their -- where they vote and everything has
33 to be the -- that -- the communities within the region
34 so it would have to be within the Kodiak/Aleutian
35 region.

36

37 However one thing I did want to say is
38 a couple of other Councils have added youth seats or
39 not a seat, but a -- and I might have actually some
40 other OSM -- maybe, Katya, if you're onboard if you
41 could talk a little bit more about that because I think
42 they have been able to add that to their Council
43 charter at least wanting to have some youth present at
44 the meetings. And like so -- Katya, are you available
45 to talk?

46

47 MS. GREDIAGIN: I don't think she's
48 online. If you don't get a mess -- I mean, I can
49 speak.

50

0108

1 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Do you
2 know? Okay. We're going to have Lisa speak.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, this is Lisa
7 Grediagin for the record. And just -- I know I was at
8 the Southeast Council meeting and that Council asked to
9 amend their charter to add a youth like developmental
10 seat and so it would be a nonvoting Council member.
11 They didn't say member, they found another word so it
12 wouldn't be confusing, but basically it would still
13 need to be a youth that lived within that region. But
14 it was their effort to try and get more youth
15 representation and give that youth experience in, you
16 know, the Council process, but they wouldn't actually
17 be a voting member, they would just participate in
18 meetings and listen and provide input. And basically
19 they're requesting it to put in their charter as an
20 amendment, but it's unclear, you know, whether the
21 Board will approve that and then I think it has to go
22 forward from the Board to like the Secretaries to
23 approve as well.

24
25 But anyway I just wanted to let you
26 know that. I know that Southeast Council asked for
27 that charter amendment and maybe Eastern Interior too I
28 think. So yeah, I mean, we can get more details from
29 other people that know if this Council is interested in
30 doing that as well. But since we're on the charter
31 review and amendments agenda item this might be an
32 appropriate time to consider something like that about
33 a youth representative.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Coral, Pat and
36 Sam.

37
38 MS. CHERNOFF: Through the Chair.
39 Lisa, I don't see anything -- I assume that you have to
40 be 18 to be on here, but is there anything that
41 specifies that you have to be 18 or an adult to be on
42 here?

43
44 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, through the
45 Chair. I think that's the case. I know there -- with
46 other Councils there was some discussion on what youth
47 means and I think that youth -- the other Councils
48 define it as like 18 to 25 versus less than 18.

49
50

0109

1 MS. CHERNOFF: I'm just asking does our
2 charter specify that you have to be 18 to be on the
3 Council.

4
5 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Robbin, are
6 you online? Ask our Policy Coordinator if she happens
7 to be online.

8
9 MS. LaVINE: Hello, Madame Chair.
10 Through the Chair. I am online and multitasking. Can
11 you please state the issue again, it sounds like youth
12 participation.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: No. Hey,
15 Robbin, this is Rebecca Skinner. The question is is
16 there a requirement that you have to be 18 to serve on
17 a RAC, 18 or older.

18
19 MS. LaVINE: I would defer to our
20 Council Coordination lead who's more familiar with the
21 FACA requirements than I and that's Katya Wessels. And
22 if Katya is not listening that's something that we can --
23 I can confer with her today and get back to you maybe
24 first thing in the morning or before the end of your
25 meeting today. I do seem to recall some prohibition
26 and for -- you know, for -- you know, age limits. And
27 I think there was some discussions about nonvoting
28 members and other requirements for certain age ranges.
29 But I need to confer with our FACA specialist.

30
31 Thank you, Madame Chair.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Thank
34 you. We will just wait to hear back. And again the
35 question is just do you have to be 18 years or older to
36 serve on a RAC.

37
38 All right. Pat and then Sam.

39
40 MR. HOLMES: I'd like to toss out a
41 philosophical approach or comment on this. You can
42 have younger folks involved, but if they don't know
43 what we're doing and how and why then you're getting
44 one person and then who do they reflect of in their
45 community and age group. I would suggest that we
46 consider as individuals in our own communities is to
47 talk to the local school board, see what they think,
48 see if they have anything going. We used to have in
49 Kodiak a really dynamite young lady that was the
50

0110

1 fisheries advisor and she had a whole fisheries
2 instruction program, taking kids out, doing survey work
3 with the Department locally in the Bay and all sorts of
4 things. She had -- she would come to the Fish and Game
5 Advisory Committees and -- meetings and I don't think
6 she ever brought them to our Council, but I think we
7 need to approach the communities and see if they have
8 someone that could help facilitate that so that we can
9 educate and so that we can have some young folks here
10 from Kodiak schools, from the high school, and tribal,
11 whatever, but so that they understand so they can come
12 and learn. Develop -- we need somebody to help us
13 develop a learning program. And then after we have a
14 learning program going in the communities then that
15 would be a way to draw in someone from that group that
16 might be a leader, you know. I could see Sam doing
17 this 30 years ago because he'd be gung ho. But, you
18 know, to -- I think maybe one of my sons might have,
19 but the other one would have said (indiscernible).

20

21 So I think we need to develop a concept
22 and sell it to the community and then try to bring that
23 back in so that if there's already somebody doing that
24 then that would be great, but I think that would
25 increase youth involvement in perhaps a different way.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Sam.

28

29 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Sorry. Sam, go
32 ahead.

33

34 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, through the Chair.
35 I'll just be I guess second what Pat said. I think
36 that's a great idea, reaching out to the schools and,
37 you know, if there's a -- if there's a class -- I know
38 from time to time they have Alaska history classes or
39 Alaska civics classes or whatnot and that would be a
40 perfect group to encourage them to, you know, do part
41 of their class in here, just listening, learning how
42 wildlife are man -- wildlife -- fish and wildlife are
43 managed in Alaska. So something along those lines
44 would be my recommendation.

45

46 Thanks.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. I
49 have a couple of comments, but first I've been handed a
50

0111

1 note that Katya is on the phone now.

2

3 So, Katya, the question we were trying
4 to get answered is whether there is a requirement that
5 an individual has to be 18 years or older to serve on
6 the RAC.

7

8 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
9 For the record Katya Wessels with OSM. In order to
10 serve on the RAC I believe yes, they have to be legal
11 adults. But other Councils, they are requesting to
12 change their charter to have a developmental, nonvoting
13 seat for youth or young adults. Different Councils
14 worded it differently. So it's a request, you know, of
15 course it will be up to the Secretaries of the Interior
16 and Agriculture if that's approved and to the Board
17 first to discuss it and forwarded to the Secretaries.
18 But that's kind of a common feeling I think across many
19 Councils that they would like to involve more younger
20 people in the Council work. They would like, you know,
21 to teach younger people about the Federal regulatory
22 process and how to navigate it, they would like to
23 teach the younger people, pass the knowledge to them of
24 the use of subsistence resources.

25

26 So, you know, it is possible for the
27 Council to request, you know, either like increase the
28 youth participation just as a general request, but, you
29 know, you can like include it in a letter or in your
30 annual report or, you know, additionally you can ask if
31 you choose to have a developmental seat on the Council,
32 nonvoting developmental seat. And if that's approved,
33 you know, our program will pay for the travel to the
34 meeting just like we pay for yours. But of course I
35 cannot guarantee that it's going to get approved.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
40 Thank you, Katya. So I have a couple of comments, but
41 I have a question for the RAC. I'll go ahead and state
42 my question first and people can think about it while
43 I'm making my other comments. So if we want to propose
44 to add language addressing this into the charter we'll
45 need to come up with that language. So if we're going
46 to do that I would suggest that we table the charter
47 approval until tomorrow because I think it is going to
48 take time to develop language. The other option is to
49 not try to amend the charter this year, we can always
50

0112

1 include these comments in a letter or in an annual
2 report. We have lots of ways of conveying this desire
3 and then look at amending the charter the next time it
4 comes in front of us in one or two years. My sense is
5 that -- at least for me, I think we're going to need
6 more time to work on this than just this afternoon.
7 But I will let the Council think about that while I
8 make my other comments.

9

10 I like the idea.....

11

12 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: What was that.

15

16 MS. WESSELS: Sorry. Madame Chair.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yes, go ahead.

19

20 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, this is Katya
21 again. I -- I'm sorry to interrupt you. I just wanted
22 to mention to you that you really don't need to develop
23 the language, exact language for the charter, you're
24 just developing the request and provide justification
25 for your request. Because in the end it's the lawyers,
26 the attorneys for Department of Interior who develop
27 the language, the exact language to be included in the
28 charters. So if you just want to take this information
29 for consideration. And we next review the charter will
30 come in two years, so '23, the next charter review will
31 be in '25.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thank you. And,
36 Katya, I mean, we really do need to have more
37 discussion about what we would need to include in the
38 charter. It may not be developing the specific final
39 language, but we need to develop the idea and that
40 absolutely needs to be done before we attempt to change
41 the charter.

42

43 So as I was saying.....

44

45 MS. WESSELS: Yeah. Thank you.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER:I do like
48 the idea of having -- that this be a community driven
49 process, whether that's -- I mean, I think having it go
50

0113

1 through the schools make sense, we're having school
2 involvement makes sense. I think that sounds like a
3 really viable idea.

4
5 In regards to the comments about living
6 in the community or living in the region, I personally
7 feel pretty strongly that whether you're talking about
8 a RAC or a Fish and Game Advisory Committee that you
9 should live in the community or the region. So I
10 understand the comments about people or young people
11 who live in Anchorage or outside of the region, I --
12 and I understand there's an issue there, but at the
13 same time I don't want to see RACs and Advisory
14 Committees that are populated by people who all live in
15 Anchorage. So I think there's -- maybe there's a
16 balance there, but I feel pretty strongly about again
17 being a resident in the community or the region.

18
19 And then just a comment about if we're
20 talking about people under 18 and traveling to
21 meetings, I'm thinking about the travel adventure that
22 Chris and Coral had when we went to Cold Bay and their
23 plane got a flat tire and they ended up getting
24 diverted to Sand Point. And, I mean, it was -- you
25 know, think if you were -- if that was a 16 or 17 year
26 old youth somebody has to take responsibility for that
27 youth. So when you're dealing with somebody under 18
28 it does add in some complications. But again youth
29 doesn't have to mean under 18, it can mean, you know,
30 18 to 25. But those are things that I think we -- you
31 know, we would want to talk about what do we mean. If
32 this is driving through say the high school clearly
33 you're dealing with people under 18, but maybe they're
34 not traveling to meetings, maybe they're just attending
35 via phone. If you're talking about young people 18 to
36 25 maybe what we want is they would travel, but again
37 it's because they're over that -- the age of 18.

38
39 So those were my comments and I guess
40 I'll come back to the RAC. Does -- do we want -- is
41 there a desire to actually change the charter this
42 meeting or is this something we want to think about and
43 work on and do in the future. And again if we're going
44 to try to do it at this meeting I suggest we table this
45 item until tomorrow. So I'll pause for feedback.

46
47 Go ahead, Pat.

48
49 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, I think we
50

0114

1 should divert -- defer this until sometime in the
2 future and then we can see what is available as Sam
3 suggested through the schools. And I think in a bigger
4 picture we need to figure out, be thinking to develop
5 some kind of a plan ourselves on how to get more
6 participation because I know I sent out emails to all
7 the tribes, I know that my cousin sent out all that
8 information to them, I phoned those folks, I phoned
9 Advisory Committee people, I send them lists, I send
10 anybody that I know is avid subsistence persons, some
11 that are more avid than me, and do we have any
12 civilians here today?

13

14 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
15 away from microphone).

16

17 MR. HOLMES: The young lady's from
18 Unalaska, but that's it. And so I think that's
19 something we need to be thinking about is how do we
20 encourage more local participation across the board,
21 not just with youth, but to get other folks here. And
22 I don't know how to do it, I duplicate the information,
23 I put little stars on it and send it to the radio
24 stations, you know. I know this thing on the climate
25 that came XT, that Terry Hanes will be absolutely
26 fantastic to eat it up when he gets a chance to review
27 it. But we just got to find someway where we just
28 encourage and get more people involved so that they
29 understand what we're doing or maybe the other side is
30 they trust us. I don't know.

31

32 So pardon me.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Sam, go ahead.

35

36 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair. Well,
37 I know how to get lots of participation here, Pat, we
38 just put in some really wildlife proposals or fisheries
39 proposals.....

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. ROHRER:I mean, you know, I
44 say that tongue in cheek. But when there's
45 controversial subjects, when there's issues then the
46 public shows up and when there's not and when
47 everything's kind of more or less okay and on an even
48 keel then folks tend to forget about it. So that does
49 happen.

50

0115

1 But I would be okay with tabling this
2 discussion. I like the idea of reaching out to the
3 schools. And I guess in my mind I was kind of thinking
4 to your point, Rebecca, about, you know, does a person
5 travel. I was envisioning if we were to do something
6 it would be aiming for that high school age and I guess
7 I was thinking less about having a official appointed
8 person, but more a nonvoting participatory seat where
9 maybe the community recommends a person. So it
10 wouldn't be someone that traveled with, it would be
11 when we we're in Kodiak then the Kodiak community would
12 somehow come up with hey, here's a person. If we're in
13 King Cove then Della would help facilitate finding
14 someone or if it was in Cold Bay some -- something
15 along those lines.

16
17 Anyway it's just my two cents. Thanks.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Coral.

20
21 MS. CHERNOFF: How about if we get a
22 \$300 bonus for bringing a public member to a meeting.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Madame Chair.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Chris, go ahead.

29
30 MR. PRICE: Okay. I like the idea of
31 tabling as well. And I appreciate you guys taking this
32 -- I -- you know, discussion. And Pat's point is good
33 of.....

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MR. PRICE:overall participation,
38 we need to work on that. But it does say we can have a
39 subcommittee so there's potential, maybe we could have
40 a -- in our region our subcommittee from the
41 communities that have a youth representative. So maybe
42 that's something we could think about as well.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. And then
45 the word tabling was used, but I am interpreting that
46 you don't actually mean tabling until tomorrow, you
47 mean we're going to approve this charter as written,
48 but continue to discuss and work this issue.

49
50

0116

1 Okay. Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Madame Chair,
4 this is Della.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yes, go ahead,
7 Della.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I guess what I
10 heard Chris say was younger people that would like to
11 learn or get involved that don't live in the region,
12 that -- that is what I heard him -- the start of his
13 conversation. And so maybe someone can correct me if
14 I'm wrong, but if any of our young students would want
15 to learn and maybe you're not living in the region.
16 Aren't these meetings public, they're posted, you can
17 call in and at the Statewide meetings they're right
18 there in Anchorage. So I think they can go in and fit
19 in. And I've actually at the Statewide meetings on a
20 number of occasions I've seen different regions bring
21 youth in to be able to participate and watch the
22 process.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, thanks,
25 Della.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: There is that
28 option I think.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, and I
31 think that the group of youth that attended the Federal
32 Subsistence Board meeting in Anchorage back in January,
33 February -- oh, I think there might have been two
34 groups, I don't know if there was a younger group of
35 like high school kids and then there was an older
36 group, but I got the sense that with the older group
37 that was more college age, they were part of a class
38 and the class part of it was you had to attend a
39 regulatory meeting, whether it was Federal Subsistence
40 Board, Board of Fish, your local, you know, AC meeting.
41 So my -- yeah, my understanding was it was -- it was
42 almost more like when they used to have civics classes.
43 So I think if we're going to do this we should also
44 encourage them to go to local municipal government
45 meetings or tribal council meetings because it is
46 important. And, you know, people should be involved,
47 but they should also know what is going on so that when
48 they're involved they can participate in a meaningful
49 way. And you don't necessarily get that by just
50

0117

1 showing up to one meeting, you have to inform yourself.

2

3

4 And then -- so in -- I guess, Della, in
5 response to the question about or your understanding of
6 what Chris meant, I mean, I know Chris -- and you
7 should probably just speak to this, but you definitely
8 mentioned youth living outside of the community, but I
9 also think you're -- you're also looking at involving
10 youth in the community. So you're looking at involving
11 youth, but also maybe having a pathway for people
12 outside of the community, but I'll let you explain
13 that.

13

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0118

1 (Laughter)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. And then
4 it is 3:26 so I'm looking at taking our afternoon break
5 before we move on to the next item which will be NOAA
6 National Weather Service regional spring climate
7 outlook.

8

9 And is there anything else for the good
10 of the order before we take our break.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. All
15 right. Well, let's do a 15 minute afternoon break or
16 let's do a 14 minute afternoon break and come back in
17 whatever that comes out to be.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Let's come back
22 at 3:40. Thanks.

23

24 (Off record)

25

26 (On record)

27

28 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. This
29 is a one minute warning. Kind of wander back to your
30 seats and we'll get started here shortly.

31

32 (Pause)

33

34 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
35 We're going to go ahead and get started again. We are
36 on agenda item 13h which is NOAA National Weather
37 Service regional spring climate outlook with Dr. Brian
38 Brettschneider and we do have the Powerpoint projecting
39 up on the screen in the room.

40

41 And, Dr. Brettschneider, are you online
42 and ready to go.

43

44 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Yes, I am. So
45 hopefully I -- everyone can hear me and I will just let
46 whoever's running the computer there let -- let them
47 know whenever I'm ready to move to the next slide, if
48 that's okay?

49

50

0119

1 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: It is. And we
2 can hear you loud and clear.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Great. Well, so
7 let me introduce myself. My name is -- pardon, I'm
8 just adjusting my phone here. So my name is Brian
9 Brettschneider. I am a climate scientist with the
10 National Weather Service, Alaska region. I am based in
11 Anchorage so I'm -- this is where I am calling in from.
12 And today I'd like to present the current state of our
13 knowledge of what we think this spring is going to be
14 like. Of course we've started into the spring, but
15 hopefully we'll be able to fill in some of the gaps of
16 what we're thinking it's going to be, is going to
17 happen the rest of the spring.

18
19 So slide 2 should show a chart of what
20 we think the La Nina conditions and El Nino is going to
21 be like. So I like to start out with this because what
22 is call ENSO which is the El Nino southern oscillation.
23 So what happens in the central tropical Pacific matters
24 a lot to Alaska, I mean, it matters a lot to the lower
25 48 as well. But what we see is that the changing in
26 the ocean's temperatures in this part of the area just
27 east of the international date line, it actually has a
28 huge influence on global weather circulations and those
29 have a notable impact on Alaska.

30
31 And so as you may be familiar we have
32 just -- we've been in what's called the La Nina which
33 is a cooling of that tropical Pacific, we've been in a
34 La Nina for the last couple of winters and we're moving
35 out of that. And so that we -- we're currently in
36 what's called ENSO neutral. So that means the
37 temperatures in the ocean are pretty close to normal.
38 And as you can see on the chart you see a lot of red
39 bars coming up in the next few months and on the bottom
40 of the chart those three letter abbreviations represent
41 the months. So, you know, February, March, April, MAM
42 is March, April, May, AMJ is April, May, June and so
43 on. And so you'll see as we move through the spring,
44 through the summer, through -- you know, into the next
45 winter even it's looking like El Nino is going to be
46 more likely than not. And actually even since -- in
47 the last month since this was first, you know, put out
48 the temperatures have really warmed quite a bit. So we
49 may be entering El Nino much sooner than we think. So
50

0120

1 some of my slides actually -- because when I first put
2 this presentation together not very long ago we were
3 still in a La Nina so I'm going to actually slip
4 through some of the slides that talk about La Nina.
5 But so even though we think El Nino is in our future in
6 the fall and next winter we're not quite there yet. So
7 we're still in the El Nino or this ENSO neutral
8 conditions.

9

10 And so if you go to map -- slide number
11 3 I'd like to kind of start with, you know, what
12 conditions during the springs are typically like where
13 we have a ENSO neutral like we're in right now. And as
14 you can see in, you know, kind of the southern coastal
15 Alaska, you know, from the Kenai Peninsula to Kodiak
16 Island to the Alaska Peninsula and then on into the
17 Aleutians it is a -- generally a slight tilt toward
18 warmer than normal conditions. So if we know nothing
19 else about the state of the atmosphere we would think
20 or we would estimate that, you know, given the oceanic
21 conditions that we would tilt toward a little bit
22 warmer than normal.

23

24 And if you'd go to slide 4. Slide 4
25 shows what we would expect, again all other things
26 being equal, if all we knew was the state of the
27 tropical Pacific being in a neutral condition what our
28 precipitation would look like. Now in this one we see
29 a whole lot of gray and the gray means there's just
30 really not much signal for whether we think things
31 would be wetter or dryer. And it is important to note
32 that there's a lot less predictability for
33 precipitation than there is temperature. And that's
34 true no matter where you go, that's true in Alaska, in
35 the lower 48, in South America and it's true of anytime
36 of the year. And just because precipitation -- you
37 know, we have a temperature every day of the year, but
38 precipitation is -- mainly fall on, you know, a third
39 or a quarter of the days. And so it's just really --
40 there's really not nearly as much skill in tracking
41 down, you know, how many days it's going to precipitate
42 and, you know, is it going to be heavy, is it going to
43 be light and so on. So just always keep that in mind
44 today and any other day whenever you see long range
45 precipitation forecasts they -- they're just going to
46 have less skill than temperature.

47

48 So if you'd move on to slide 5 we're
49 just going to actually skip that because we're no
50

0121

1 longer in the La Nina and we're going to skip slide 6
2 as well because we're no longer in the La Nina.

3

4 But we are going to skip over to slide
5 7 and it should be a map that looks like a whole lot of
6 green, hopefully that's what you're looking at. And
7 this is kind of just -- it's kind of a bigger picture
8 relationship between temperatures and the ENSO status.
9 And what we see is that green means positive. The
10 legend got -- unfortunately got truncated, but the
11 green means when we have warm conditions in the Pacific
12 Ocean. We have -- so above normal temperatures in the
13 Pacific correlates to above normal temperatures in
14 Alaska. Below normal temperatures in the Pacific
15 correlates to below normal spring temperatures pretty
16 much in most of the State. So that's -- so as you're
17 maybe seeing news stories about hey, the Pacific Ocean
18 has been warming up and how might that affect Alaska.
19 So as it warms up Alaska warms up, as it cools down
20 Alaska cools down.

21

22 And then slide 8 is the precipitation
23 relationship for the spring months. And it's for
24 coastal -- southern coastal Alaska and into southwest
25 Alaska. We generally are painted in the green colors
26 again and that means as the temperature -- I'm sorry,
27 as the temperature of the ocean warms up precipitation
28 increases. As the temperatures in the ocean decrease
29 our precipitation decreases. Now that's not the case
30 for a lot of the mainland, but it is the case for
31 Kodiak and southwest and the Aleutians and the Alaska
32 Peninsula. So it's not a very strong relationship,
33 although it's a little stronger in Kodiak Island and
34 Afognak Island, it is a slight positive relationship
35 nonetheless.

36

37 And so moving on to the next slide.
38 You know, even in -- really no matter where you are in
39 the State of Alaska sea ice in the spring is a major
40 factor in the temperature and precipitation. And so
41 hopefully if we go to slide 10, it says the sea ice
42 extent on March 29th. I'm not sure if the updated
43 presentation was able to get loaded in time, but I have
44 my fingers crossed. What's the date on the top of the
45 slide 10, if anyone can tell me?

46

47 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: That's
48 March 29th. Yeah, I think we got the right one, Brian.

49

50

0122

1 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Great. Well,
2 thank -- great. And thank you so much, Lisa, for
3 getting that last minute update loaded in there. I
4 really appreciate that.

5
6 And so here's -- this is a plot that I
7 put together and it shows the -- in the middle to the
8 right it shows the current daily, you know, sea ice
9 conditions. And it's -- you know, I think it says 528
10 or 9 thousand square kilometers. And normal for this
11 date is 746. This is normally right about close to
12 where our peak. And normally sea ice is down to just
13 about the St. Paul Island and is, you know, filling in
14 Bristol Bay and even a little bit down the coast of the
15 Alaska Peninsula. But not this year and of course
16 hasn't really occurred much in recent years. And in
17 fact in 2018 and 2019 it was practically almost up to
18 the Bering Strait. And so when you reduce all this sea
19 ice you reduce the level -- the areas that keep
20 reservoirs of cold air and you're allowing the sea
21 surface, this -- the oceanic surface to start absorbing
22 heat much earlier in the season than it ordinarily
23 would. So the -- so this reduction in sea ice and again
24 we're running at about 80 percent normal for the Bering
25 Sea has a large affect on our climate in the spring and
26 in the fall. And we're going to -- you know, our
27 thinking is that this is going to add a positive tilt
28 towards the temperatures in the next few months and
29 beyond, but since we're talking about spring we're
30 expecting that the spring conditions are going to be a
31 little warmer than they ordinarily would be just due to
32 this lack of sea ice.

33
34 And so now on to the official CPC
35 outlooks and CPC stands for Climate Prediction Center
36 and this is a NOAA Division so it's not part of the
37 National Weather -- actually I take that back. The CPC
38 is part of the National Weather Service. Other
39 branches are under the larger NOAA umbrella and not
40 necessarily the Weather Service.

41
42 So slide 12. This is the official
43 spring outlook that was issued February 15th and for
44 Alaska -- you can see Alaska in the lower left corner
45 there and we see a tilt toward warmer than normal
46 conditions for the Alaska Peninsula and into the
47 Aleutian Island in kind of what we describe as equal
48 chances for Kodiak and Afognak Islands. And so we --
49 equal chances means it could go either way or it could
50

0123

1 be -- we're thinking it could go above normal or it
2 could go below normal. And it's important to note that
3 along -- that much of the above normal chances for the
4 Alaska Peninsula and southwest Alaska and the Aleutians
5 is a result oftrend, you know, so there isa positive --
6 a strong positive trend in the last 15 to 30 years.
7 And so trend is a component that's taken into account.
8 So if you actually just looked at the dynamic forecast
9 models it actually showedthose areas probably much in--
10 near normal. But again with the trend and now with
11 the kind of below normal state of sea ice, it's
12 probably a reasonable bet that we should expect, you
13 know, somewhat warmer than normal conditions this
14 spring.

15
16 And the next slide is for
17 precipitation. And I won't spend a lot of time on
18 this, but like I mentioned a few minutes ago there's
19 really particular -- precipitation predictability at
20 the seasonal time scale, there's a little bit of skill
21 in that, but not a whole lot. And then for this spring
22 we actually -- the official forecast where all of the
23 white equal chances. So no -- no signal either way for
24 either above normal precipitation or below normal
25 precipitation.

26
27 And then if you go to the next slide,
28 kind of some the under the hood stuff. If you look at
29 some of the individual models or some of the individual
30 components that were used to generate those seasonal
31 outlooks, one of them is called the NMME which is the
32 North American Multi Model Ensemble. And it's a
33 collection of about seven computer models and this is
34 what they estimated the spring temperatures would look
35 like. And it shows actually kind of near to even below
36 normal for just north of Kodiak Island, trending toward
37 above normal toward lower down on the Alaska Peninsula.
38 Toward even potentially much above normal as you get
39 down -- farther down into the Aleutians. So this isn't
40 -- this is not too dissimilar to the official forecast.
41 So that's kind of one, you know, kind of again under
42 the hood bit of information I think people might find
43 interesting.

44
45 And then the next one, slide 15, is the
46 precipitation. And this actually shows something kind
47 of a little bit different than the official forecast.
48 It shows dry conditions favored over Kodiak and Afognak
49 Islands and it shows wetter conditions down in the
50

0124

1 Alaska Peninsula. So kind of keep in mind that that --
2 that there again with the caveat that precipitation
3 forecasts at the seasonal time scale have lower skill,
4 but this shows kind of a pretty sharp divide between
5 dry on one side and wet on the other.

6
7 And then slide 16 is -- we just looked
8 at what the North American models are, let's look at
9 what the European models think as far as temperatures.

10
11 (Teleconference interference -
12 participants not muted).

13
14 DR. BRETT SCHNEIDER: And -- I'm sorry.
15 Okay. And so the European, that's called the CS3 and
16 by the way, excuse the -- I left the -- I misstated the
17 on the title it says winter and that -- it's actually
18 spring on the dataset there. So sorry about that. And
19 it's showing a pretty -- not much of a signal for
20 either warm or cool for -- really for most of Alaska
21 except for parts of the eastern interior mainland. So
22 again if -- looking at all this information, you know,
23 it's a reasonable bet to think we were going to be near
24 to maybe slightly warmer than normal this spring.

25
26 And then just kind of some longer term
27 trends is you go to slide 18 and it's titled trends are
28 not our friend. You know, we're warming, the planet is
29 warming, Alaska is warming, all parts of Alaska are
30 warming. And the upper right-hand panel shows what the
31 trends are in spring temperatures and they -- you know,
32 it's not as notable as say it is in winter or fall, but
33 spring temperatures are definitely warming in the
34 entire region.

35
36 Slide 19 shows what the sea surface
37 temperatures were around Alaska for all 2022 and, you
38 know, with the exception of the area in, you know,
39 Bristol Bay and adjacent areas north of the Alaska
40 Peninsula which were a little bit cooler than normal,
41 most other areas are warmer. And with the transition
42 out of La Nina and potentially into El Nino it's
43 reasonable to expect that those warm temperature
44 anomalies are going to start moving back northward
45 toward coastal -- parts of the southern coastal areas
46 of Alaska and into the Bering Sea.

47
48 That's -- this is a forecast. Any
49 questions about the forecast maps that I've shown so
50

0125

1 far?

2

3 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Are there any
4 questions or comments.

5

6 Go ahead, Pat.

7

8 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, just a second. Back
9 on the -- I think it was -- I don't know which slide,
10 but it's on Page 73 of our manual. It said NMME spring
11 precip outlook issued and then -- and what we have.....

12

13 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Yes.

14

15 MR. HOLMES:in our pamphlet is
16 2022 and what you showed was 2023 and it looked
17 like.....

18

19 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Right.

20

21 MR. HOLMES:some of the warming
22 events were more intense in the one you showed here as
23 opposed to the one in our book, but it does -- anyway I
24 just -- we're looking at two different charts.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Yeah. So, you
29 know, to make it into the booklet, you know, I had to
30 get some -- I had to use -- I had to put in there the
31 data that was current as of that time. And so I have --
32 you know, we do have more current data that's come out
33 since then. And so I apologize for that, the
34 disconnect between what's in the booklet and what's
35 being shown on the screen right now. So I did want to --
36 you know, I did want to make sure that I'm using the
37 most up to date data in the presentation that I'm going
38 to be -- that I'm giving you verbally.

39

40 MR. HOLMES: Well, it looks a little
41 cooler than the guesstimate for 2022. Is that a
42 reasonable interpretation?

43

44 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Yeah. So, you
45 know, La Nina actually held on longer than we thought.
46 And so -- and so the transition out of La Nina is
47 occurring a little bit later than we thought. And so
48 that's -- that's the main explanation for why the maps
49 in the booklet -- that map in particular anyway looks a

50

0126

1 little different than what's up on the screen right
2 now.

3

4 MR. HOLMES: Okay. Thank you very
5 much. I guess that explains why my garlic is up
6 already.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Are
9 there any other comments or questions.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Okay. And in the
14 last charts, you know, one of the things that people
15 ask me a lot about are trends, you know, what -- how
16 have -- how things change over time. And we know that
17 the temperatures are warmer than they used to be,
18 right, that's not news to everyone. But some of the
19 other things, you know, I hear about people say well,
20 it's windier than it used to be or it's cloudier than
21 it used to be or maybe it's sunnier. So the rest of
22 the presentation is just some charts based on some
23 global data, not specific to like what's measured at
24 the Kodiak Airport or at the Cold Bay Airport or
25 whatever because those are -- those can be kind of
26 transient and equipment changes and so on. But some of
27 our -- kind of our global modeling trends, are global
28 dataset trends so we can kind of interpolate what's
29 going on in this area.

30

31 And so just really briefly in slide 20,
32 of course it shows that for the Kodiak area
33 temperatures are rising.

34

35 For cloud coverage on the next one, 21,
36 you know, really so for the last, you know, since about
37 1970 or so so the last 50 or so years, not a lot of
38 trend, but it was -- but it's cloudier than it was
39 prior so prior to 1970 or so. Starting in about 1970
40 there's kind of an uptick in clouds and it's probably
41 associated with kind of a broader shift in the climates
42 of the Pacific Ocean took place in the early 1970s.

43

44 And then slide 22 if we look at winds,
45 you know, at least as far as the global datasets are
46 concerned, wind -- there's been a decrease in the wind
47 -- in the wind in the last 20 or so years. So again
48 got to take all this with a grain of salt, but at least
49 at the -- at the big picture scale kind of a decrease
50 in wind speed.

51

0127

1 And then if we go down to slide 23 now
2 we're going to look at King Cove and again
3 temperatures, definite increase in temperatures and
4 that shouldn't be a surprise to anybody.

5
6 Slide 24, cloud coverage. Kind of
7 general increase in cloud coverage, not a lot of -- not
8 a lot of big trend signals, but just overall increase.

9
10
11 And again for wind speeds a decrease in
12 wind over the last 20 years.

13
14 And then finally the last couple slides
15 are for St. Paul. St. Paul has had a big increase in
16 temperatures. Of course we're -- St. Paul, you know,
17 in the spring has a lot of -- well, at different times
18 of the year has a lot of -- is influenced by sea ice
19 and so years where there's -- sea ice makes it to St.
20 Paul are notably cooler, years where it doesn't are
21 notably warmer. And so that -- that's kind of a thing
22 that's specific to St. Paul that, you know, isn't going
23 to be so much for Kodiak and King Cove and Cold Bay and
24 other places.

25
26 And then cloud cover, a big increase in
27 cloud -- cloudiness for St. Paul, probably just with
28 more open water and generally a more open water and
29 generally a more -- a different flow pattern
30 particularly in the summer months where it's -- I'm
31 sorry, with different flow pattern in the winter
32 months. It's always cloudy in St. Paul in the summer,
33 but with an increase in clouds in the winter is really
34 driving this kind of annual trend.

35
36 And then finally the wind speed. Not
37 as much of a trend for St. Paul, a lower instances of
38 winds in the last few decades, but not as much as we
39 saw in some of those other places.

40
41 So I kind of ran through things real
42 quick so sorry about that, but happy to take any
43 questions and again thank your for having me -- giving
44 me the opportunity to speak to the RAC meeting today.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
47 Thanks. And I just want to note, hopefully this can be
48 captured somewhere in our materials. The materials
49 that are in the book one, they're outdated, two, they

50

0128

1 appear to be for Bristol Bay region. So Lisa said she
2 can forward us this new presentation which is going to
3 be updated, plus it for specific communities in our
4 region. So the RAC will get it, but I'm hoping it will
5 also be posted with the meeting materials on the
6 website so that if somebody's going back later and
7 looking at our meeting materials they will be able to
8 find the updated presentation.

9

10 And I guess I'll pause there. Are
11 there any questions or comments from RAC members.

12

13 Chris, go ahead.

14

15 MR. PRICE: On your sea surface
16 temperatures in Bristol Bay slide there's the.....

17

18 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Yes.

19

20 MR. PRICE:the cool -- the cold
21 spot there in Bristol Bay. What's -- what's.....

22

23 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Uh-huh.

24

25 MR. PRICE:going on there?

26

27 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Well, so this is
28 -- this is for all of 2022 and in 2022 we actually had,
29 you know, sea ice made it all the way down to St. Paul.
30 Actually I think it made it to St. George. And it was
31 generally more sea ice than we'd seen in recent years
32 in Bristol Bay. And so compared to the previous
33 several decades which is what the map is comparing
34 against, it's comparing against -- well, it's actually
35 comparing against a little bit long -- the -- a longer
36 time period, but kind of a persistent northerly flow
37 for a number of months, was able to mix out some of the
38 warmer sea surface temperatures, the warmer water
39 temperatures at the highest elevations of the water
40 column and mix up some of the cool air -- cooler water
41 from lower elevations. So it's kind of peculiar to
42 just the last year's conditions, it's not really a
43 trend that, you know, is something that we're really
44 focused on, but definitely last year kind of everything
45 kind of came together to kind of maximize the upper
46 column -- water column cooling potential.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thanks. A
49 follow-up question on that same slide is your time

50

0129

1 period for comparison is it that -- the 1900 through
2 2021 or 2022, is that the comparison period?

3

4 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: We -- are, you
5 know, we're still looking at the sea -- the one that's
6 titled sea surface temperatures around Alaska in 2022?

7

8 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Well, we're
9 looking at our books. It's sea surface temps in
10 Bristol Bay and there's a -- the reason I asked if it's
11 back to 1900 is because there's a little call out box
12 where it shows the average temperature for Bristol Bay
13 and it looks like it went back to 1900 and runs through
14 2021 or 2022. So I was wondering if that was your
15 comparison period.

16

17 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: The comparison
18 period should be more recent. It should be 1951 to
19 2000, but I did -- I did make a change to the
20 presentation and so I actually don't have the original
21 version unfortunately in my -- in my presentation.
22 Unfortunately I can't answer that specifically.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yep. No, I see
25 it says right there using 1951 to 2000 now that you say
26 that.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 Are there additional -- Chris, can you
31 hit your microphone button. Thank you.

32

33 Are there additional questions or
34 comments.

35

36 Pat, go ahead.

37

38 MR. HOLMES: Well, I think it's really
39 fascinating in looking at your sea surface temps in
40 Bristol Bay and ice coverage. I can remember back in
41 the early '70s with ice all the way past Unimak and so
42 that kind of really brings everything together over a
43 long time for me. And I really appreciate you putting
44 this information together and really will look forward
45 to your updated figures that you had for your
46 presentation.

47

48 Thank you very much.

49

50

0130

1 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Any
2 additional questions or comments.

3
4 MR. PYLE: Madame Chair.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Sure. Go ahead.

7
8
9 MR. PYLE: Sir, how does the Pacific
10 decadal oscillation play into this modeling?

11 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: So the Pacific
12 decadal oscillation is a tricky thing because it's not
13 really a thing in and of itself, it's really a
14 reflection of other things. And so, you know, the
15 Pacific decadal oscillation is something we kind of
16 look at after the fact, it's not really driving
17 something, it's more of a description of what we're
18 seeing. And it turns out it has a number of different
19 parts to it and we're not really sure what all goes
20 into it. You know, if you looked back from the 1970s
21 through the 1990s, you know, it seemed to be what was
22 driving the shift in the climate that we saw took place
23 in the mid 1970s. But the relationships have really
24 kind of fallen off the table the last, you know, two
25 decades. And so it doesn't seem to be, you know,
26 certainly any -- even really after the fact a
27 predicative power to it. And so really, you know, the
28 parts of what we used to think of as the Pacific
29 decadal oscillation that were -- that seemed to be
30 highly correlated to the climate of Alaska really turn
31 out to be more, you know ENSO, so El Nino southern
32 oscillation related.

33
34 So it's a tricky thing that we're still
35 kind of wrapping our head around, but the thinking in
36 the last five to 10 years has really kind of been that
37 the PDO isn't really a thing of -- in and of itself,
38 but it's really a reflection of other things that are
39 going on.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Are
42 there any other questions or comments.

43
44 Pat, go ahead.

45
46 MR. HOLMES: I was just wondering in
47 relation to Kodiak if it might be possible sometime to
48 get a summary over time of winter wind direction. I
49 remember a paper from UAF in the late '70s and they
50

0131

1 correlated the -- first starting to talk about decadal
2 cycling, but a.....

3

4 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Uh-huh.

5

6 MR. HOLMES:oceanography
7 professor pointed out that if we were having mainly
8 northwest winds in Kodiak that on the east side
9 particularly if it came closer towards spring, that the
10 nutrients would be swept offshore and upwelling into
11 the inner bays. And with the wind blowing in a --
12 since the '80s more from the southeast and east then
13 the nutrient flow would be the opposite way. And so
14 that might be.....

15

16 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Uh-huh.

17

18 MR. HOLMES:some explanation on
19 some of the variability and various species of fish and
20 other critters as the nutrient that's available in the
21 Bay where the initial rearing processes start.

22

23 So anyway your report's very
24 fascinating, it really gets my mind buzzing.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Yeah, certainly,
29 you know, the wind direction is going to as you noted
30 is going to have a big impact on coastal upwelling and
31 in, you know, all the biological things that go along
32 with that, you know, nutrient production and so on. So
33 and of course the fish follow all the nutrients. So
34 certainly out of my area of expertise, but as far as
35 the prevailing wind direction at different times of the
36 year, you know, those -- you know, those are going to
37 be longer -- those are going to be things that change
38 on longer time scales and, you know, as far as -- you
39 know, say in 2014 through 2016 for sure when we had our
40 last kind of big El Nino we had a lot of interest in,
41 you know, what we called this big -- the blob or this
42 resilient ridge that kind of set up in the central Gulf
43 of Alaska and southern Gulf of Alaska. And, you know,
44 that then become -- became sort of a self reinforcing
45 phenomenon that drove winds on the west side of that
46 coming from the south. And, you know, all the things
47 that would go along with that as far as nutrients and
48 upwelling and so on. And so these things all do play
49 together, but over a -- certainly over long time

50

0132

1 periods and it's very fascinating to keep an eye on.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Are
4 there any further comments or questions.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Seeing
9 none, that you very much, Dr Brettschneider, and we'll
10 go ahead and move on.

11

12 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: My pleasure. My
13 pleasure.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
16 Thank you.

17

18 DR. BRETTSCHEIDER: Thank you.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. So we're
21 going to move on to the next agenda item. Just a note
22 that we will definitely and I don't think this will be
23 a time issue, but we're definitely going to get through
24 13j so we can hear from Wildlife Enforcement. And so
25 however late we need to go to do that. And then I'll
26 be checking in with the Council after that item to see
27 how much later we want to go for the day. But we'll
28 definitely be getting through that one today.

29

30 So the next agenda item is 13i, update
31 and discussion on Adak Island Lake Island blockage
32 which is Jeff Williams from the Alaska Maritime NWR --
33 National Wildlife Refuge, Pat and Pat Holmes.

34

35 And hopefully Jeff Williams is on to
36 lead off.

37

38 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Madame Chair. This
39 is Jeff Williams, Deputy Manager for the Alaska
40 Maritime Refuge.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
43 Thank you. Go ahead.

44

45 MR. WILLIAMS: And -- yeah, thank you.
46 Pat and I haven't discussed exactly how to do it, so
47 basically provide an update. And maybe I'll just
48 provide a brief recap of the situation on Adak just so
49 that everyone knows about it. I'll be brief and then
50

0133

1 maybe -- Pat and I haven't discussed exactly, but he
2 could bring us up to date on some of the interactions
3 we've had.

4
5 But I'll -- Lake Andy is -- it's a lake
6 on the north end of Adak Island, located about
7 centrally in the Aleutian Islands. It has a naturally
8 formed thin seawall which separates Lake Andy from the
9 Bering Sea. This outlet from the lake flows to the
10 ocean over about -- maybe about a hundred meters or so
11 of this thin seawall. But it does face the entirety of
12 the north Pacific. And so the high energy wave action
13 really closes this outlet for the lake until lake
14 levels kind of build up behind the seawall sufficiently
15 to kind of blowout and clear this outlet. That really
16 happens kind of infrequently and irregularly. It can
17 remain open and/or closed for years at a time. At some
18 point in the past red salmon came into Lake Andy, they
19 became resident kokanee (indiscernible - distortion)
20 while the military were there (indiscernible -
21 distortion). And for much of the (indiscernible -
22 distortion) Navy was there there was -- the outlet was
23 closed and there was no fishing, there's no
24 (indiscernible - distortion) associated with it.

25
26 That first -- World War II unexploded
27 ordnance munitions (indiscernible - distortion) was
28 placed outside the seawall and then (indiscernible)
29 removed a lot of it. But that unexploded ordnance
30 washed up regularly on the entirety seawall for
31 substantial distance. And the Navy did regular seawall
32 fleets with unexploded ordnance disposal technicians to
33 remove ordnance and they -- the types of ordnance
34 ranged from small shell to mortars, 20 millimeter
35 cartridges, you know, a lot of which was still live.
36 Institutional controls and either signage or barbed
37 wire fences or prohibitions against entry really kept a
38 lot of the Navy personnel and in a different forum
39 community members to date once the Navy left from the
40 area.

41
42 And since the Navy left there's been
43 some unexploded ordnance remediation work going on
44 there and basically to moderate the levels of the lake.
45 The outlet has been cleared recently, you know, for a
46 while now using explosives. And this has kind of
47 allowed the outflow of these kokanees and the return or
48 reestablishment of a run or facilitated it basically.
49 Unexploded ordnance still washes up, it is -- through
50

0134

1 these seawall sweeps, it's showing some decline and to
2 very low numbers of things now, but it still is out
3 there. And that -- these institutional controls like
4 the signage or fencing and stuff will likely remain in
5 place in the future.

6
7 The outlet to keep this run going, the
8 outlet would have to be maintained really in
9 perpetuity. There's two real ways to do that,
10 explosives that have to be used likely due to the
11 presence of unexploded ordnance. The Navy has said
12 that they will do it again here in 2023, it's kind of a
13 short term fix I guess. The Navy has agreed to, I
14 talked with them last in October I think it was, maybe
15 a little bit later, and that's still not the case.

16
17 The other method besides explosives is
18 excavation which really isn't advisable due to the --
19 and if it was it would have to -- likely have to have
20 unexploded ordnance personnel kind of there supervising
21 the work in the future. So think in perpetuity.

22
23 And currently the land around Lake Andy
24 is within a Federal withdrawal, the primary
25 jurisdiction is under the United States Navy for quote,
26 military purposes, unquote, a very large (indiscernible
27 - distortion). And the Navy wants to go away and be
28 done with it and that would be a formal thing called a
29 relinquishment of that withdrawal. And if they did we
30 would -- it is part of the National Wildlife Refuge
31 system right now and it would remain upon
32 relinquishment of the Service. So with that the -- if
33 that happened at some point in the future the Navy has
34 a optimistic outlook that it might happen within say
35 two years or so is their goal, it might or might not
36 happen. If it did just the continuance of use of
37 explosives to maintain the opening to the outlet --
38 it's not exactly entirely compatible with Refuge
39 purposes and appropriate use so there could be some
40 hurdles we're dealing with that way and the Service
41 would be interested in a transfer to another entity, in
42 this instance the main entity that could accept it
43 would be the Aleut Corporation and we have not
44 approached them with that. But if they were interested
45 this would certainly simplify any future management
46 actions or clearing because it wouldn't be in Federal
47 ownership.

48
49 And so that's just kind of a history, I
50

0135

1 wanted everyone to have a common ground about. And I
2 know Pat has made a lot of inquiries about how we might
3 facilitate that. I offered up some assistance to kind
4 of a brainstorm some ideas with Pat and provided
5 information.

6

7 That's my portion, Madame Chair. I
8 don't know if -- what Pat might be able to elaborate
9 from my introduction there.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thanks. Pat,
14 did you have anything you wanted to add.

15

16 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I'll do the best I
17 can, I've lost my notes. But that's a good summary and
18 decreasing amount of munitions.

19

20 And I did quite a bit of work trying to
21 find someone that could give advice on solving the
22 problem on the lake outlet, basically a stream
23 geomorphologist or a person that could make streams
24 works. And I checked all the agencies, State and
25 Federal and I did get some help from -- George Pappas
26 did some poking around away from OSM and I'm sorry I
27 don't have the gentleman's name right handy, but I can
28 get that later, but there is a chap with the Fish and
29 Wildlife Service that works for the Service Statewide
30 and that's precisely what he does. He can improve the
31 flow of streams, does everything that Fish and Game
32 used to do, but all those people have retired.

33

34 And so I would like to toss out that
35 maybe our Council express a concern to explore further
36 the outflow at Lake Andrews to try to keep that run
37 stable. And perhaps this gentleman, he also I believe
38 does some grant monitoring and had some ideas on that.
39 So perhaps if we had a blessing from our Council to
40 explore it maybe we could find some way to get him out
41 there. Jeanette Alas with Fish and Game Habitat
42 Division, they're usually the ones that supervise that
43 type of thing. She was the last one out there to be
44 taking pictures of the outlet since it was opened. And
45 just looking at the composition of it, it's large
46 boulders and cobbles on that spit. And but I can't
47 help but wonder that there might be some way of
48 maintaining the lower part of it just on a seasonal
49 basis and particularly if that area is mostly cleared,

50

0136

1 I think you're right, we might have to have some advice
2 in a bigger picture from the people that are on the
3 Adak Restoration Board or the Navy, but it almost would
4 seem like perhaps with what's there if it had a little
5 bit of annual maintenance down near the intertidal area
6 it might be possible to keep the thing open.

7
8 And so I'll be forwarding that
9 information from that gentleman to Jeanette and
10 hopefully if we can get some kind of a -- I'll propose
11 at the end of our meeting that we endorse
12 (indiscernible) trying to develop a solution on that.
13 And I wanted to point out that Jeff had volunteered
14 early in our discussion to be our official point of
15 contact with the Navy and with the community there.
16 And being that's part of his management turf anyway on
17 the south end of the Island and so I can see real
18 positive things potentially developing from that.

19
20 And one other angle I'm going to try to
21 explore is to see -- when I was with the Department I
22 used to be able to catch rides with the Coast Guard out
23 to the Aleutians from Kodiak. And so I'm going to see
24 if I can find the name of the person at the Coast Guard
25 that would give blessings or not for that, but that
26 might be a way to get some of the people to go out and
27 look at it, see what could be done and then develop a
28 grant process to see if we couldn't get a stabilization
29 going there in conjunction with the community of Adak
30 and either the Fish and Wildlife Service depending on
31 when it gets done or with the Aleut Corporation.

32
33 But it's obvious that that system has
34 been open in the past. When I was out there it wasn't
35 active, but folks had said that I talked to with the
36 Navy that it was and then they were in the process of
37 excavating it. And so I just have some real positive
38 feelings and hopes that we can solve that problem for
39 the folks out at Adak because that's the easiest place
40 for them to get for their subsistence. They can go to
41 Kagalaska or the south end of Adak, but the way the
42 currents are there and stuff it's kind of a big gamble.
43 And if that system were going then I'm sure they could
44 work with the Department of Fish and Game on -- and
45 with your shop on coming up with a way to have a
46 subsistence harvest near the spit and then not have to
47 be traveling so far. And then I understand from
48 reading the notes that they're going to leave that road
49 on the west side in there and possibly if we have, you
50

0137

1 know, some folks that are looking at that potential for
2 the stream, I talked with Jeff about -- on the south
3 side there's a small lake and a stream that flows into
4 Clam Lagoon and then there's one that goes into Kulik
5 Bay, but there's not much of an elevation there so it
6 might be possible to do a fish pass or something, but
7 you'd have to get those fish turned around and
8 genetically reprogrammed.

9

10 But anyway I guess that's the best of
11 what I have at this point and I really do appreciate
12 your offers to help us on that, Jeff.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Are
17 there any questions or comments from Council members.

18

19 Chris, go.....

20

21 MR. KOSO: Madame Chair.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Rick, go
24 ahead.

25

26 MR. KOSO: Yeah. Thank you, Pat, for
27 all that information there. I know I've talked with
28 Jeff on that too and I did talk to a couple of Board
29 members on the Aleut Corporation. Like I said they're
30 concerned with the liability that goes along with
31 owning that section of property. So they're definitely
32 thinking about it and I think they'll probably wait, I
33 think we got a couple years to work on this. So I will
34 keep pushing the Aleut Corporation to see if they can't
35 work on this when we get a little bit more information
36 on it especially the responsibility and the liability
37 that goes along with digging out that opening there.

38

39 So anyway thanks again, Pat, and
40 thanks, Jeff, for giving us the report here.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Are there
43 any.....

44

45 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Madame Chair,
46 this is Della.....

47

48 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yep, go ahead.

49

50

0138

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: I just wanted to
2 express how thankful I know I am that Pat took this on
3 and then Jeff helping him and then everybody that
4 contributed to this -- to where we're at today. I know
5 that Pat put a lot of research and work into it. So
6 much appreciated, everyone.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Are
11 there any additional comments or questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
16 Seeing and hearing none, we are moving on to the next
17 agenda item which is 13j, update on Unalaska fishery
18 and wildlife enforcement. Tyler Lawson, Matt Keyse,
19 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Pat Holmes,
20 member.

21

22 MR. LAWSON: Good afternoon, good
23 evening, Madame Chair and members of the Council. For
24 the record Tyler Lawson, Department of Fish and Game
25 and I'm joined by Sergeant Nathan Walsh with the Alaska
26 Wildlife Troopers. We were asked to give a little
27 update about some of the enforcement concerns which
28 were voiced at the fall RAC meeting. And I'll kind of
29 start off with kind of the Fish and Game angle of things
30 and then transition over to let Sergeant Walsh join in
31 here.

32

33 So to start I think a couple things
34 that I raised or let you know at that meeting is that
35 the Fish and Game Management Biologist in the region
36 are cross credentialed as peace officers. And so we
37 are able to document and give out tickets for
38 violations that we see in the region whether they be
39 subsistence, sport fishing or commercial. And in that
40 capacity we did do some license checks and bag limit
41 checks in Cold Bay and some members of our Sport Fish
42 Division did some similar work out on Unalaska last
43 fall. Likewise when we're doing our aerial surveys in
44 the region we're kind of trained to document any
45 violations that we see in a way that'll hopefully be
46 useful to the Troopers when we share that information
47 with them. So that's something that we've always done
48 and will continue to do.

49

50

0139

1 I did reach out after that fall RAC
2 meeting to some of the Federal law enforcement contacts
3 in the region just to let them know what we had talked
4 about and given them my contact info to pass along
5 information as it came up. And otherwise because
6 historically for the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian
7 Islands the State has always been in charge of managing
8 the salmon fishery, kind of focus on talking more with
9 the State Wildlife Troopers. And along with some
10 ongoing investigations that we had at that fall RAC I
11 passed along a bunch of other bullet points that were
12 raised at that meeting to the Troopers and I think it
13 was that same day that Sergeant Walsh, his supervisor
14 and a couple other colleagues were in our office
15 looking for more information and trying to do what they
16 could to help us out with those items. So I just want
17 to say on our end for Fish and Game that they've been
18 in our office several times to talk about these things,
19 we've exchanged a lot of emails to try to help them
20 out. The Department and the Troopers kind of have a
21 similar problem whereas the farther west you had in
22 Alaska the more thinly stretched we are for our
23 resources, but we do the best we can to kind of
24 leverage what we have to do the best that we can.

25
26 And I guess I'll turn things over to
27 Sergeant Walsh and he'll let you know about some of the
28 updates they have and some of the new faces they have
29 in place that will probably help out quite a bit as
30 well.

31
32 SERGEANT WALSH: Thank you. So my name
33 is Nathan Walsh, I'm a Sergeant here with the Wildlife
34 Troopers. I'm based out of Kodiak, I supervise our
35 Vessel Section here in Kodiak and also I supervise our
36 Dutch Harbor Wildlife Trooper Post. So I can speak for
37 at least Kodiak area and Dutch Harbor specific just to
38 give you a brief overlook of kind of what we do and how
39 we work with out other agencies that we work with as
40 far as Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, NOAA, how
41 we all work together to accomplish our mission of
42 wildlife enforcement and protecting the resources.

43
44 So currently we have three vessels here
45 in Kodiak which you probably, the Stimpson, the Tomai
46 and we have a 32 footer vessel called the Audrey Ann.
47 So we utilize -- and we got a couple airplanes as well,
48 but we utilize these resources in order to cover
49 Kodiak, Afognak, but also we cover everywhere from
50

0140

1 Kodiak, I've been out on our Stimpson out to Adak and
2 even further. So we cover huge areas, like Tyler said
3 once you start getting out that far it is kind of hard
4 to have the enforcement that everybody would like to
5 see out, but we definitely try to do our best. So and
6 then we also cover Bristol Bay region in the summer so
7 a lot of our boats go out to Bristol Bay. But we're
8 constantly in contact with U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Fish
9 and Game to make all our enforcement actions possible.

10

11 (Teleconference interference -
12 participants not muted).

13

14 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Excuse me.
15 Yes, if you -- just to remind you to do star, six to
16 put yourself on mute if you -- because we just heard
17 you.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 SERGEANT WALSH: So again working
22 together to do that has been really cool for me. I got
23 here about three and a half years ago so trying to do
24 this real rural work has been a challenge, but it's
25 also really fun. I think we've come a long way. Sam
26 and I were talking about some stuff earlier just
27 offline. It seems like things are getting cleaned up
28 and enforcement is being noticed and not too many
29 problems, knock on wood, so far.

30

31 (Teleconference interference -
32 participants not muted).

33

34 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. If
35 you're not presenting, so if you're not Sergeant Walsh,
36 if you could please mute your line that would be
37 appreciated.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 SERGEANT WALSH: So currently we are
42 having some staffing issues as far as Troopers as a
43 whole, law enforcement nationwide. So we are looking
44 to fill more Wildlife Trooper positions here in Kodiak.
45 We are two positions down right now, we have one guy
46 starting next -- two weeks from now, second week of
47 April he'll be here so that'll fill one of our two
48 vacancies. And we also have one Trooper out in Dutch
49 Harbor who just got there in October of last year. So

50

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1 speaking with the Trooper out in Dutch Harbor and with
2 Tyler here we're going to be coming up with some patrol
3 plans to get our Dutch Harbor Trooper out and about to
4 Akutan and also out to Cold Bay maybe around September
5 time frame. So we do have available Troopers around,
6 it's just we might not get there in a timely manner,
7 but we definitely -- the complaints and the documenting
8 that Fish and Game does for us, I've worked many cases
9 where Tyler sent me videos of people fishing in closed
10 waters or Fish and Game here in Kodiak sending me
11 photos or an email that they got. We eventually look
12 into it and it turns out to be a violation of maybe
13 taking bear closed season or deer closed season or
14 overlimit, undersize crab, whatever it may be. So
15 that's kind of how we work together that way and how
16 Tyler was documenting the violations is super important
17 to us.

18
19 And the more complaints, the more
20 reports that we get not just from U.S. Fish and
21 Wildlife, Fish and Game, but from citizens making
22 complaints, phone calls, emails. That allows us as
23 Troopers to -- the more reports we can direct our
24 enforcement efforts to that problem that's being --
25 what was the saying before, trends aren't our friends.
26 So if we start seeing a trend somewhere hopefully we
27 can push our enforcement efforts towards that trend if
28 there's something that's happening.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Just to follow-
31 up on that, so if people do have complaints you said
32 they can call or email. Where should those be
33 directed?

34
35 SERGEANT WALSH: Correct. Right to the
36 Kodiak Post is the best especially -- and if it's
37 anywhere in Kodiak or out the chain we kind of cover
38 that whole area so just 907-486-4762 is our Kodiak
39 Wildlife Trooper Post.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Are
42 there other comments and questions.

43
44 Chris, go ahead.

45
46 MR. PRICE: I'm glad you guys are
47 filling that post in Dutch Harbor. The commercial
48 presence for us is really important to have a Trooper,
49 I mean, the amount of commercial activities we have in
50

0142

1 Unalaska and all the processing and all the vessel
2 traffic. So we definitely need a Trooper presence in
3 Unalaska so appreciate that. And I know staffing
4 shortages are hitting us everywhere so it's understood,
5 but really want to reenforce that you guys have a
6 presence in Unalaska. And working with the local if
7 it's, you know, police or Fish and Game or whoever to
8 develop, you know, a process for local people to call
9 somebody if they're concerned about, you know,
10 fisheries or some kind of violations, you know, a
11 process to do that. We do have our local police which
12 is really good and historically the Trooper presence is
13 really strong in Unalaska before the Stimpson left.

14

15 So anyway thank you for being here
16 today. And this group has a lot of really good advice
17 for your -- the State Troopers as well when we -- you
18 work with subsistence folks. There's a lot of things
19 that, you know, you should understand about how, you
20 know, subsistence works in Alaska and I'm sure you've
21 been trained extensively on it, but every community is
22 really unique and super important. And again you're
23 going to find things in Atka and Akutan you'd never see
24 other places.

25

26 SERGEANT WALSH: Yes.

27

28 MR. PRICE: You have to understand
29 that. So thank you very much for being here.
30 Appreciate it.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Pat, go ahead.

33

34 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I would like to
35 express my appreciation and I'm sure the Council does
36 and certainly the people of Unalaska because before the
37 week was out after our last meeting Tyler was trying to
38 solve this, talking to people, doing lots of
39 coordination with the different agencies and so at the
40 end of the meeting I think everybody should shake his
41 hand for getting this moving ahead. And I think having
42 Nathan involved will help a bunch. I think what didn't
43 get mentioned is that Tyler reaffirmed that the local
44 Fish and Game Staff who are basically shellfish
45 management folks and if they've got a crab fishery
46 going they're working 18, 24 hours a day, but that they
47 will be providing their assistance where they can. And
48 I believe the City of Unalaska is also going to help
49 with their police department again; is that correct?

50

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1 SERGEANT WALSH: Yeah, through the
2 Chair. That's something I discussed with Vince
3 Tutiakoff, the Mayor of Unalaska last fall and he was
4 looking to kind of touch base with the new Trooper out
5 there when he got in place. So that's hopefully
6 something that will happen this spring to kind of get
7 people together to talk about those issues and kind of
8 see how they can all work together in the best way
9 possible.

10

11 MR. HOLMES: You know, I think that
12 would be swell because when I was out there I was like
13 the only enforcement person and the city, I forget,
14 Tiny Chastain might have been Mayor or something, but
15 he had the city police going out and they could do more
16 of the active stuff than I could. And so I just wanted
17 to compliment you and Fish and Wildlife Service
18 Protection. I was wondering if it would help in the
19 whole discussion because I know so often midsummer,
20 early fall when the -- particularly when the reds are
21 running in town, that's a big problem area for
22 enforcement. And could it possibly help or at least
23 not hinder if our Council were to write a letter, a
24 resolution supporting that if at all possible if you
25 have someone that's stationed at Unalaska that they
26 could remain there during this critical period.
27 Because the salmon runs are so small and yet, you know,
28 more than half the population is associated with
29 processors and I'm just making the emotional judgement
30 here, but a whole lot of them claim to be residents and
31 they're not.

32

33 And you could almost tell when I was
34 there when the shift changed out when, when you went
35 out towards -- you know, to the north or to any of its
36 streams, there would be a surge of people showing up
37 down there with their Alaska flies which I define as a
38 spark plug with three halibut hooks on the bottom and a
39 piece of yarn fishing. And of course when I -- they'd
40 see my truck coming and they'd go back to
41 (indiscernible) and so it was if -- I guess my question
42 to you, Nathan, is would it help at all in this process
43 if we were to have one of our letters or our comments
44 or resolutions asking to -- asking if possible to have
45 someone there during that critical period when these
46 violations occur as far as the salmon runs. And then
47 of course Chris pointed out there's so much other
48 things going on in Dutch Harbor as you know, and then
49 they move the Fish and Wildlife Protection vessel out,
50

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1 back to Kodiak and so that leaves an even bigger
2 deficit.

3

4 And so we just really hope that we can
5 find somebody to help and assist on this and we really
6 thank you guys for trying to solve it.

7

8 SERGEANT WALSH: Yeah, so I think any
9 letter written that's brought up to our attention or
10 even further up to Anchorage definitely helps us kind
11 of at -- you know, at a Trooper level, even a Sergeant
12 level it's we're -- our hands are still bound because
13 especially in those summertimes during June and July
14 unfortunately a lot of us are pulled from our post and
15 taken out to Bristol Bay. So our one Dutch Harbor
16 Trooper is now pulled out of Dutch Harbor to go to
17 Bristol Bay to help us with enforcement there because
18 we're short on people. So I think the more voices
19 heard through our Department, even further up, Gov --
20 to the Governor, just requesting more Trooper presence
21 in these rural areas is super important. Is it going
22 to help anything, can -- is it going to change tomorrow
23 if a letter goes through, probably not. But I would
24 super -- really appreciate it if people start voicing
25 their opinion on that because I think it is important.
26 And even Kodiak here in the summertime we're pretty
27 depleted on Troopers and we get a lot of complaints
28 about snagging on the Buskin or snagging here and there
29 because a lot of people know a lot -- most of us are
30 gone. So it -- it's a concern for sure.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: So if we were to
33 send a letter to the Anchorage level who is that or
34 what role is that, who do we address the letter to is
35 what I'm trying to get at? And you can follow-up later
36 if you're not sure right now, just so that we send it
37 to the right place.

38

39 SERGEANT WALSH: Yeah, I mean, if -- it
40 would go to our colonel, Colonel Chastain would be the
41 highest up in the Wildlife Troopers or the
42 Commissioner, Jim Cockrell, he's our Commissioner for
43 DPS as a whole. So he overlooks the State Troopers and
44 Wildlife Troopers as well. So I think Colonel Chastain
45 would be the best.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Pat, go ahead.

48

49 MR. HOLMES: I know you can't comment

50

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1 to this because it's political, but I think individual
2 members of our Council and folks that we know out at
3 Unalaska could also be sending notes to Senator Stevens
4 and Louise Stutz. And like I say to the Governor
5 himself and, you know, just to kind of stimulate a
6 greater awareness of this problem not only for Kodiak,
7 but for Unalaska in particular. And like I say boy,
8 when you get to the Bristol Bay opening there's nobody
9 in town here, one -- one enforcement person and half
10 the time that's just a State Trooper and not a Fish and
11 Wildlife guy.

12

13 So anyway my hat is off to you folks
14 wherever it is, there it is.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. HOLMES: Thank you, very much.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Any
21 other.....

22

23 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Madame Chair.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER:comments or
26 questions. Go ahead.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: This Della. I
29 just wanted to comment, Tyler, thank you for -- I know
30 this -- we've had lengthy discussions on this in Cold
31 Bay and it's a concern that I've heard from Cold Bay
32 for many, many years I think, especially in the August,
33 September seasons. And I appreciate the effort and I
34 did talk to our Board I think in regard to King Cove
35 corporation lands and different things that happen over
36 there. And I look forward to working with you. But I
37 just appreciate your effort and the efforts of the
38 Troopers and working with the communities, you know,
39 Kodiak, Unalaska, Cold Bay, and helping try to resolve
40 this. And hopefully this issue with the shortages,
41 this is actually one of the things we should try to
42 press on our younger kids coming out of high school or,
43 you know, in -- at an age up to 25 to get involved
44 maybe with law enforcement. It's an important issue in
45 our region.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Any

50

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1 further comments or questions.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Seeing
6 and hearing none, thank you. And thank you a lot for
7 following -- you know, really grabbing this and running
8 with it after the Cold Bay meeting.

9

10 All right. Thank you both.

11

12 Okay. So that would move us on
13 potentially to item 13k which is review and approve our
14 annual report. I'm going to pause and check in with
15 the RAC. I would suggest we at least do this next
16 annual report item so we could do that item and break
17 for the day or we could plan to go closer to 5:30. So
18 however much we get through by the time we get to 5:30.

19

20 What is the preference of the group.

21

22 MR. HOLMES: Go for it.

23

24 MR. PRICE: Are you saying we can let
25 all these people go and we'll work on that? No.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Well, I mean,
30 the public can leave anytime they want. So I'm just
31 going in agenda order so the annual report -- this is,
32 you know, it's our report so we don't necessarily need
33 other input for that. The next item after that would
34 be the correspondence policy. So we are going to need --
35 or at least the people listed are Lisa Grediagin and
36 Robbin LaVine for that. I'm thinking that between the
37 annual report and that at the pace we've been going
38 might take us to 5:30.

39

40 How -- for the FRMP long is that, is
41 that a short one, very, very short. Okay. So
42 potentially we could get through -- we could get
43 through item O and as Jason said he kind of already did
44 item O earlier, but i'm going to make him repeat the
45 regulatory cycle.

46

47 So we'll go until 5:00 -- I mean, am I
48 hearing 5:30 or -- okay. All right. That's what we're
49 going to do. So we're going to go to approximately

50

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1 5:30, whatever's the natural break point either a
2 little before or a little after.

3
4 Lisa.

5
6 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yes, Madame
7 Chair, members of the Council. Just to kind of go back
8 the last presentation and you had mentioned writing a
9 letter to the Troopers. And is -- if that is something
10 that the Council would like us to do then I just need
11 to have you vote on that to see if you want me to write
12 -- help you write the letter. I guess that's how that
13 works.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, and I
18 guess I was.....

19
20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Madame Chair.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER:expecting
23 that if people wanted to come up with talking points
24 for that we could always take it up tomorrow rather
25 than trying to do that right now, give people overnight
26 to do that.

27
28 And I think Della's trying to jump in.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah, just maybe
31 as a comment. I know in the past on the annual report
32 we kind of point it off toward the end of the meeting
33 because after other reports and discussion there were
34 items we wanted to add to that or remove then we did it
35 at that time. So it might be just a suggestion like
36 Lisa did mention the letter. Other things might come
37 up through the course of tomorrow prior to adjourning.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah. So my
40 plan is to have Lisa go through the annual report as it
41 is now. If people want to wait then until tomorrow to
42 do the final approval in case you want to add stuff we
43 can do that, but I definitely want to have Lisa walk
44 through what we have today. And then like I said if
45 there's other action items like a letter I think it
46 would be most productive if people could think about
47 what talking points they want in that letter so that
48 when the motion is made we can give clear direction to
49 the Council Coordinator so it can be drafted.

50

0148

1 Okay. So we're going to go on to item
2 13k which is review and approve the FY 2022 annual
3 report. And I'll just note we may be tabling action on
4 this until tomorrow, but, Lisa, if you could go ahead
5 and present what we have that would be great.

6
7 Thanks.

8
9 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Thank you,
10 Madame Chair, members of the Council. So just a
11 background again reminder about the annual report.
12 ANILCA established the annual reports as a way to bring
13 the regional subsistence uses and needs to the
14 Secretaries' attention. The Secretaries delegated this
15 responsibility to the Board. Section 805(c) deference
16 includes matters brought forward to -- in the annual
17 report. The annual report provides the Councils an
18 opportunity to address the Directors of each of the
19 four Department of Interior agencies and the Department
20 of Agriculture for a service in their capacity as
21 members of the Federal Subsistence Board. The Board is
22 required to discuss and reply to each issue in every
23 annual report and it takes action with -- when within
24 the Board's authority. In many cases if the issue is
25 outside of the Board's authority the Board will provide
26 information to the Council on how to contact personal--
27 personnel at the correct agency. As agency Directors
28 the Board members have authority to implement most of
29 the actions which would affect the changes recommended
30 by the Councils, even those not covered in section
31 805(c). The Councils are strongly encouraged to take
32 advantage of this opportunity.

33
34 So at our last meeting we identified --
35 you can look on -- so it's on Page 53 of your Council
36 book. And it outlines the letter that was written to
37 the Federal Subsistence Board that you're going to
38 either need to just adopt or modify. And we're
39 identifying the different concerns that you have. So
40 we had seven different concerns and I'll -- I'm not
41 going to read them entirely, but I'll talk to you about
42 the main points. So at -- anyway just at the -- the
43 letter reads that the Kodiak/Aleutian Regional Advisory
44 Council -- you apprec -- just said you appreciate the
45 opportunity for the Federal Subsistence Board to look
46 at your issues for the FY 2022 annual report. And it
47 was at your public meeting held on September 21st and
48 22nd in Cold Bay that your Council identified the
49 concerns and recommendations for this report. So we're
50

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1 again looking at you to approve your annual report on
2 this date, on March 29th and 30th held at the public
3 meeting here today in Kodiak.

4

5 So the Council wishes to share
6 information and raise a number of concerns dealing with
7 implementation -- the implementation of title VIII of
8 ANILCA and the continuation of subsistence uses in the
9 Kodiak/Aleutian region. So your first concern was
10 fisheries enforcement concern. So we just had a pretty
11 good overview on that and some updates on that. And
12 I'm not going to go into the description about that.
13 Your second item was the proposed King Cove Road. So
14 your Council wanted to see that further action
15 continues, get the project moved forward, you wanted to
16 support that. Number 3 was the importance of holding
17 meetings in non-hub communities. And so I think part
18 of your concern was to try to get into a little bit
19 more of the remote communities and not just the main
20 areas which I think are currently in Cold Bay and
21 Kodiak recently. Changing ocean -- number 4, changing
22 ocean conditions and climate change are having a big
23 impact on our communities and subsistence lifestyle.
24 Item 5 was a bipartisan infrastructure law, BIL, should
25 have funded weirs.

26

27 And, Rebecca, you can -- if we have
28 questions you can talk more about that, right?

29

30 Number 6 is increased access to Federal
31 subsistence permits in the Kodiak and tidying up the
32 permitting process. And number 7 was Lake Andrew
33 outlet on Adak Island access to sea is blocked off for
34 fish due to ocean debris.

35

36 So, Madame Chair, members of the
37 Council, those were your four items.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Is
42 there discussion on this.

43

44 Go ahead, Pat.

45

46 MR. HOLMES: If you're receptive I
47 haven't.....

48

49 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Madame Chair.

50

0150

1 MR. HOLMES:completely done my
2 homework on this, but I'd like to suggest that on that
3 item number 1, about line 8, starts out with the
4 population of Unalaska is over 4,000 people and there
5 are only a few salmon streams. I'd like to add before
6 salmon, stressed salmon streams, with weak returns.
7 And I think that would juice up the whole thing and
8 really emphasize the importance.

9
10 And I'd also like to toss out for
11 discussion on number 2, the King Cove Road. I think
12 that one of the things that we haven't pointed out in
13 there is that it provides access for the King Cove
14 community, it provides access for them for subsistence
15 harvest of fish and game. So that just sticks in a
16 little -- makes a better connection to what we're
17 doing.

18
19 And on the others I think those are
20 fine. I want to after what Jeff was talking about I
21 wanted to maybe add something a little later on to
22 item 7, Lake Andrews, maybe perhaps suggesting that we
23 hope to develop a study team or get some folks with the
24 Federal and State government to develop a plan
25 basically, but I'll give you some verbiage on that in a
26 bit.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
29 Thanks, Pat. Della, were you trying to jump in.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yeah. I agree
32 with what Pat said on those items. I -- I'm not sure
33 exactly how to word this, but as we go think about it
34 maybe to add it as -- when we get to the end of the
35 meeting. But I've asked for the migratory bird reports
36 and a number of items for a reason. And the reason is
37 and, Rebecca, you kind of hit on this in a different
38 way and it's regard to region against region in regard
39 to resources. And the process I think is -- my
40 thoughts are to the Statewide level. We need to start
41 education -- educating our region on what the process
42 is in times of limited resources. I think in this
43 case, you know, I'm saying well, we don't want -- I'm
44 going to use the road as an example too only because
45 you people will be killing off all the birds. Well, we
46 don't kill off the birds. But is there -- there's a
47 process that you go through and when you start seeing a
48 lack of resource in this case let's say they're birds
49 or brandt or something. You know, what is the -- what
50

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1 are the steps to (indiscernible - distortion) a
2 management team that consists of the State, the
3 Federal, here -- you're local tribal people that work
4 and when you have to start closing things down. But
5 when you're looking at other resources in case of
6 migratory birds or marine mammals that aren't part of
7 this system, I think we need to -- we should -- it
8 would really be helpful to be educated on what those
9 processes are. And just something to think about and
10 including does it start at the top where you -- you
11 know, you've got a problem if you -- user groups, who--
12 when you come down that line and realizing that
13 subsistence users do have priority to some degree what
14 are your steps or the processes that are entailed in
15 making decisions. Just think about that. I'm not sure
16 of the way to word it, but.....

17
18 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
19 Thanks, Della. You were breaking up a little there,
20 but I think we got the gist and we will think about
21 some verbiage for that.

22
23 Are there additional comments or
24 suggestions from other Council members.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. I
29 don't see anyone else's hand up. I would suggest
30 definitely under item 1 the fishery enforcement
31 concerns, I would like to have a sentence included
32 expressing our appreciation for however this needs to
33 be worded, basically Tyler's efforts following the Cold
34 Bay meeting. And I could probably come up with more
35 words, but basically I want to acknowledge that after
36 our Cold Bay meeting they did an awful lot to address
37 that.

38
39 And probably a similar sentence under
40 number 7 that just acknowledges who worked on it and
41 the fact that there has been some effort made although
42 with Lake Andrew I think it's going to be a much longer
43 process.

44
45 Coral, go ahead.

46
47 MS. CHERNOFF: I guess I have a
48 question. So in number 6 when we're talking about
49 increased access to Federal subsistence permits, I
50

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1 think that was kind of my idea to like suggest
2 something about this. But I guess my question is
3 before we send that through is -- how do they decide
4 which offices, like are we, ourselves able to change
5 the offices that these permits -- because we could just
6 take care of that problem ourselves if we are able to
7 change what facilities these permits are offered out
8 of. So I feel like if that -- you know, might not
9 necessarily be something that we need to address with
10 the Council if say our permits could be moved from the
11 Buskin Refuge to this downtown office or from the
12 Buskin Refuge out to the village councils. Then it
13 becomes a nonissue.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: So my
16 perspective on that is if there's an identified issue
17 which it seems like there is documenting it is always
18 going to be helpful. And we can once even -- when we
19 document it we can still be exploring these alternate
20 paths, but I would highly recommend we document it
21 because if you don't document it it didn't happen. And
22 I don't know if Della wants to jump in, my impression
23 is that Della handles some of the permits out of her
24 office in her area. So I do think there's flexibility.
25 but like I said I think this should stay in there
26 because it's a real -- it's a real problem. I mean,
27 it's not a huge, huge, huge problem, but it's a real
28 problem.

29

30 And did you have additional items.

31

32 MS. CHERNOFF: I did. I just had
33 another comment about as we're commenting if someone is
34 deciding to add something how we may address that in
35 that -- like as far as the King Cove Road, if we add
36 that road which has always been put forth as an
37 emergency -- for emergency healthcare and then if we
38 add and for additional subsistence use that could cause
39 an issue with them because I think that is part of the
40 problem is that there -- there's a lot of fear that now
41 this road will be used to access resources.

42

43 So I guess I have a little trepidation
44 about adding that to it.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: And so on that I
47 guess would defer to Della. Della, the suggestion was
48 to add a sentence in number 2, the King Cove Road
49 paragraph, that the road could also be used for

50

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1 subsistence users to better access subsistence
2 resources. The concern has been raised that if that's
3 in the letter that could come back to basically bite
4 the community of King Cove because it could be used as
5 a negative point for the road going in. I, myself
6 would definitely defer to you so if you think that is a
7 bad thing to include, I'm going to -- I'm going to
8 follow your lead, if you think it would be helpful I
9 will follow that.

10

11 So can you speak to that.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Thank you. Yes,
14 I think as we go through this process one of the issues
15 that came up as -- that hadn't been addressed was
16 actually subsistence. So we are going to be working on
17 it anyway as we move forward. And the regulations on
18 any of these roads, the reg -- you know, the current
19 regulations you can't hunt there. You know, there are
20 regulations that Cold Bay, Izembek has on their current
21 systems that we can and can't (indiscernible -
22 distortion) I think. And the bigger issue for us is
23 basic -- is access between these communities in times
24 of emergencies, but just plain access. I mean, we
25 don't -- you know, the bottom line is we don't -- safe
26 access, we don't get mail for two to three weeks, we
27 get the clinic and the people running out of their meds
28 because -- and, you know, when you're having to wait
29 and then end up hauling 8,000 pounds of mail because
30 you can't -- you know, sometimes people don't get it if
31 their -- their meds are on the bottom of that stack.

32

33 So there's a lot of -- there's a lot of
34 issues to it, but it basically -- yeah, you -- I don't
35 think it's going to be a problem, it's not going to
36 allow us to subsistence off of the road system, might
37 allow us to get to Cold Bay for subsistence. But yeah,
38 and I think -- I don't think it's that big of a
39 problem. The bigger issue is the safe access though.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Thanks. Go
42 ahead, Pat.

43

44 MR. HOLMES: Yeah, I agree with Della
45 on that. I spent many years out in that neck of the
46 woods and, you know, folks have to take a boat or
47 borrow a skiff and run across the Bay which is a really
48 exciting thing when the wind's blowing, to be able to
49 get over to where -- because that's where the red

50

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1 stream is, there's nothing in King Cove. All you have
2 over there is basically some pinks and a couple of
3 silvers. But that's where folks get their red salmon
4 if it doesn't come from commercial fishery. Also it's
5 the most accessible place for them to go over and go
6 hunting, whether it's waterfowl, there's not diddley
7 for lakes near King Cove and also for caribou when the
8 populations are up. So I think it's an important
9 thing. I understand your point of view, Coral, but
10 that's my thoughts on that.

11

12 Thank you, Madame Chair.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. And
15 then so my plan is to not try to approve this report
16 right now. We'll table the approval until closer to
17 the end of the meeting. But I did want to follow-up on
18 Della's comment about the management of resources.....

19

20 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Correct.

21

22 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER:and pitting
23 region again region. And my interpretation -- part
24 interpretation of what she said is that we have
25 management systems in place that are designed to
26 effectively manage these resources and we should be
27 using those system rather than people suggesting that
28 we make these emotionally based decisions that aren't
29 really related to the management systems and may not be
30 based on data because most of our management systems
31 are, you know, data based management systems. So it
32 seems like that's a -- that could be a paragraph that
33 stands on its own so that could be number 8. That
34 paragraph -- so one, I guess I want confirmation from
35 Della that that's kind of what she said or at least
36 it's related to what she said and then number 2, just
37 nods from the Council that the Council is okay with --
38 is probably okay with at least drafting up a paragraph
39 that we can review tomorrow. But if everyone's not on
40 the same page I don't want, you know, I think it would
41 be better to have an idea of that now before somebody
42 spends time drafting something up.

43

44 So I guess first I'll go to Della.
45 Della, did that at least relate to what you were
46 describing and then I'll ask the Council if they're
47 okay with -- if it seemed -- if they're at least
48 opening to reviewing a bigger paragraph tomorrow and
49 for the full report.

50

0155

1 MADAME CHAIR TRUMBLE: Yes, Madame
2 Chair. Yes, I think that the issue is each of the
3 agencies, whether it's migratory birds, marine mammals,
4 you know everybody's got a process in place as to what
5 the steps are in times of the resources if there's a
6 concern on lack of resources. And trying to come up
7 with some sort of a process I think that we have --
8 that we should be educated about a little better, all
9 of Councils I think would be helpful for -- especially
10 some of them that are not really familiar. I think in
11 the case of the Kodiak/Aleutians we work with quite a
12 number of these organizations or agencies more so
13 sometimes than other regions do.

14
15 I agree, yes, with that.

16
17 The other thing maybe just to make a
18 note on, Rebecca, was the issue around the permits.
19 The issue around the permits is like I always volunteer
20 to do it out of my office, I didn't -- didn't -- when I
21 worked at the tribal office, I was administrator, we
22 actually did it out of there. And in some of the
23 communities that's -- the tribal will be the place to
24 do it or the city office that will help with issuing
25 the permits. And I'm not exactly even sure, False Pass
26 I think may work directly with Izembek on getting their
27 permits. But I do know I -- I still hand them out here
28 in my office.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
31 Thanks, Della. Are there any further comments on
32 discussion before we move away from this item and again
33 I guess if I could get a motion to table this until --
34 probably table it -- we'll put it right after 14f so
35 it'll be right before future meeting dates.

36
37 Go ahead, Pat.

38
39 MR. HOLMES: I'll probably make that
40 motion. If I might suggest here's a sentence we could
41 include in number 7 at the end of the first paragraph.
42 Our Council encourages Fish and Wildlife Service, ADF&G
43 and the comma, Navy RAB which is the Restoration
44 Advisory Board and the community of Adak to develop a
45 solution to maintain the outlet of Lake Andrews for
46 salmon. And then that'll allow particularly the Refuge
47 and Fish and Game folks to try to put together a grant
48 proposal or do some investigations on it.

49
50

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1 MR. KOSO: I'll second Pat's motion.

2

3 MR. HOLMES: And with done if nobody
4 objects then I'd suggest we table this until we take it
5 up again.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. Would
10 someone like to second the tabling motion.

11

12 MS. CHERNOFF: Second.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
15 Thank you. Okay. So we have a motion to table it to --
16 well, it will become -- follow after 14f so right
17 before the future meeting date discussion. Is there
18 any objection to that.

19

20 (No opposing votes)

21

22 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
23 Seeing no objection we will table approving the annual
24 report so we'll revisit it tomorrow.

25

26 Okay. So the next agenda item is 13l,
27 it's the updated draft Subsistence Regional Advisory
28 Council correspondence policy, 2023. This will be Lisa
29 Grediagin and Robbin LaVine.

30

31 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right. Thank you,
32 Madame Chair, members of the Council. For the record
33 my name is Lisa Grediagin and I'm the Wildlife Division
34 Supervisor with OSM. The meeting materials for this
35 agenda item can be found on Page 57 of your Council
36 book.

37

38 The Office of Subsistence Management
39 would like your review and comments on a suggested
40 update of the current Council correspondence policy
41 which has been in effect and unchanged since 2004. The
42 update is meant to streamline and clarify the policy.
43 Hopefully the suggested edits eliminate any unnecessary
44 language or information, clarifies the guidance on the
45 official scope of Council correspondence, to whom
46 Councils may or may not correspond directly and the
47 process for correspondence. The draft updated version
48 of the policy can be found on Page 57. Any new
49 language is presented in bold while the proposed
50

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1 removed language is not represented. For comparison
2 the existing policy can be found on Page 115.

3

4 The primary changes in the draft policy
5 include a shortened preamble, the introductory
6 paragraph of the policy summarizing the intent of the
7 policy and the authorities foundational to the
8 Councils. Element one uses clear language to define
9 the content and focus of Council correspondence;
10 element five combines elements that define the
11 correspondence process; element seven confirms that
12 Councils can submit comments on State regulatory
13 proposals directly to the Board of Fish and Board of
14 Game without review by the OSM Assistant Regional
15 Director; and element nine clarifies that Councils may
16 not write directly to Federally elected or appointed
17 officials due to Hatch Act restrictions.

18

19 Finally and most importantly these
20 changes will not prevent Council members from writing
21 to whomever they wish as private citizens or in other
22 capacities.

23

24 Please take a moment to review the
25 suggested changes or if you prefer I can read the
26 policy into the record. Once again please share your
27 comments and questions if you have any which will be
28 noted. The Board will taken on this draft policy
29 during the summer work session and you'll be updated on
30 the final policy at your fall meeting.

31

32 Robbin LaVine, Subsistence Policy
33 Coordinator, is on the phone to also answer any
34 questions.

35

36 Thank you, Madame Chair.

37

38 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Do
39 we have any questions or comments.

40

41 Go ahead, Pat.

42

43 MR. HOLMES: Madame Chair, it seems to
44 be pretty reasonable and particularly things like that
45 Hatch Act, number 9. I mean, that's just the law
46 anyway. And I particularly like the number 7 that
47 would allow us to do some communications on other
48 issues with other groups particularly the Alaska Board
49 of Fish and Board of Game because that would certainly
50

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1 speed up the process of getting our input because at
2 times things change and having to wait six months or a
3 year to flow it through the system I think that's
4 great. So I'd be in favor of adopting this.

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Sam.

9

10 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair. I --
11 the policy item number 1, correspond -- Council
12 correspondence shall be limited to subsistence related
13 matters. I don't really like it being limited to
14 subsistence related mat -- that makes me nervous. I
15 know our RAC in the past has had disagreement over
16 things we said are subsistence related and OSM or other
17 Federal agencies said no, that's not subsistence
18 related.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: So.....

21

22 MR. ROHRER: And -- well, and for -- I
23 mean, one prime example is the King Cove Road. We're
24 commenting on the King Cove Road. Well, who's to say
25 that's a subsistence related matter.

26

27 I have some more comments, but I'll
28 start with that one and -- and.....

29

30 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, I was
31 just going to say I had the same thought so I went to
32 Page 115 to look at the existing policy and my read is
33 that the rewritten number 1 just puts it in plainer
34 English because it used to say the subject matter of
35 Council correspondence shall be limited to matters over
36 which the Council has authority under section
37 805(a)(3), section 808, section 810 of title blah,
38 blah, blah. So I think all of that if you boil it down
39 it says the same thing, it just now says it in a
40 plainer English. But I hear you and I share your
41 concern on it.

42

43 MS. LaVINE: Madame Chair.

44

45 MR. HOLMES: That's a good point there,
46 Sam, but, you know, I think maybe that's -- if we got
47 something that some people might view as being iffy
48 then we need to have that sentence stuck in there, you
49 know, about providing their access to that area because
50

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1 that's historically where they did their subsistence
2 work.

3
4 And anyway, thank you.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. And
7 then you had a few more, Sam.

8
9 MR. ROHRER: Yeah, but it sounded
10 like.....

11
12 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: No, please go
13 ahead, Sam.

14
15 MR. ROHRER: Okay. I'll come -- I need
16 to formulate my thoughts on some things.]

17
18 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
19 Chris, go ahead.

20
21 MS. LaVINE: Madame Chair.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, Robbin,
24 I'm going to come back to you after Chris.

25
26 MR. PRICE: I was just going to ask the
27 Council member if he thinks that limiting that language
28 to subsistence related matters weakens the -- you think
29 our ability to do what we need to do as a group. I'm
30 wondering if that's what you're trying to say and what
31 you really mean by that?

32
33 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair. Yeah,
34 from time to time I think it does. I think there's a
35 couple different examples I can think of, but one of
36 the -- I think one of the primary ones was back on the
37 wolf control issue on the Southern Alaska Peninsula
38 Herd. We had lots of discussion about that and some
39 head butting with our Council with -- head butting's
40 not the right way to put it, but there was some -- we
41 felt -- I mean, we certainly felt it was a subsistence
42 issue and I think there was some pushback from OSM
43 Staff on it and that notice wasn't a subsistence issue
44 and we wanted to comment on it. So I -- it's things
45 like that. So I don't know, I don't know how we deal
46 with that, but there's sometimes disagreement over what
47 we think subsistence issues cover.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah. And, I
50

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1 mean, I would say the end of the sentence says and
2 issues relative to the subsistence way of life and I do
3 view our role is sometimes to help people understand
4 what is relevant to the subsistence way of life because
5 it may not be obvious to people who are not living a
6 subsistence way of life.

7

8 All right. Robbin, you wanted to jump
9 in.

10

11 MS. LaVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
12 Actually the conversation kind of rolled back around to
13 the point I wanted to make which is when you look at
14 the language that says issues relevant to the
15 subsistence way of life. I might argue that we look to
16 you, the members of this Council, to help us understand
17 what is relevant to your role on the Subsistence
18 Regional Advisory Council, and the issues you need to
19 learn more about or to teach our program about because
20 they are related. They are related to how you use and
21 rely upon the resources surrounding you. And they can
22 be resources, they can be activities, they can be
23 different social dynamics, but we do look to you to be
24 the experts to help us understand what is most
25 important to you in your role on the Subsistence
26 Regional Advisory Council.

27

28 Thank you, Madame Chair.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
31 Thank you. I have a comment on number 5. I actually
32 appreciate that the correspondence process is explained
33 in the updated policy. My sense is that this is what
34 is being done now so it's just basically explaining to
35 everyone this is how this works. I do suggest that --
36 and I think this happens now. After the Council
37 Coordinator drafts a correspondence that I assume a
38 draft is then sent back to the Chair to review before
39 the draft is sent to the Assistant Regional Director.
40 I guess that -- that's a question and if that's not --
41 I guess if that's not how it works I would suggest that
42 that be added in. If that is how it works I would very
43 strongly suggest that that be added in.

44

45 Thanks.

46

47 MS. LaVINE: Madame Chair, this is
48 Robbin.

49

50

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1 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Go ahead,
2 Robbin.

3
4 MS. LaVINE: Thank you. That is
5 exactly how it happens now. And you're right, it
6 should be in this correspondence policy.

7
8 Thank you for noting that.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Are
11 there any further suggestions, comments or questions
12 from Council members.

13
14 Chris, go ahead.

15
16 MR. PRICE: I mean, I don't know if
17 this is more like a work session or what, but, I mean,
18 seems there's a lot of work we probably need to flesh
19 out in that definition of subsistence way of life
20 because there's a commercial application to almost
21 everything that happens in subsistence. Alaska Native
22 rights to handi -- you know, artwork and things like
23 that, should be -- should they be defined here or not,
24 I mean, if -- do we need to keep adding that or is it
25 included in that law, I'm not sure, that they refer to
26 on Page 115. But, I mean, are we going to go through
27 every commercial application up to subsistence, with
28 bear hunting it would be something different, with
29 caribou it might -- I mean, with birds it might be
30 different.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: So my suggestion
33 is is that -- that one, the way this is written --
34 again I think the change in how it's written really
35 just puts into plain language what it said before
36 because before it just reference leg -- had legal
37 citations. So I think now it's easily understood what
38 number 1 means. Number 2 -- I think number 1 as
39 written is broad enough that we could pretty much -- we
40 can bring up anything we want to talk about, we will be
41 able to explain or justify why it relates to
42 subsistence. So as written I'm confident that we will
43 be able to explain and defend and justify why our
44 comments relate to the job we're doing here at this
45 table. Number 3, if we try to add in a bunch of
46 language I'm not sure that's even going to go anywhere.
47 So number 4, I -- I mean, my recommendation is because
48 I think this is broad enough that we go with this. If
49 it turns out that it's a problem then we would
50

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1 absolutely be including that in our next annual report
2 that hey, your correspondence policy has this, this,
3 and this problem in it that needs to be fixed.

4

5 MR. PRICE: Okay.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: So that would be
8 my suggestion just based on how things usually go.

9

10 Go ahead, Sam.

11

12 MR. ROHRER: Through the Chair. And,
13 Chris, I -- yeah, I guess I -- so I appreciated what
14 Robbin had to say there in response that I think.....

15

16 MR. PRICE: Uh-huh.

17

18 MR. ROHRER:eventually got back
19 to response to my question.

20

21 MR. PRICE: Yeah.

22

23 MR. ROHRER: So the way I interpret it
24 is issues relevant to the subsistence way of life. We
25 have to provide the link. So if there's something we --
26 if there's something that this Council wants to talk
27 about that others feel is outside of subsistence
28 related matters the onus is on us to provide the link,
29 what's the connection to the subsistence way of life.
30 And if we can provide that link then we write about it.
31 So that's -- I guess that's a challenge to us is we
32 have to -- which we should, that's our role is if
33 there's a link to subsistence then we make the link, we
34 make that argument. So that was -- that's fair enough
35 in my mind.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Coral, go ahead.

38

39 MS. CHERNOFF: I'm wondering also, I'm
40 sure we could all look it up ourselves, but if it's
41 possible to get these references like ANILCA title
42 VIII, 805, 808, 810, CFRs, and those things. And maybe
43 if people read them for themselves they could feel
44 better about this.....

45

46 MR. PRICE: Right.

47

48 MS. CHERNOFF:and what it's
49 saying. Because someone's saying this is what it says,

50

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1 but I guess I always like to go back and really see
2 what it says myself. But I would like it if somebody
3 could do that for me, that would be easier.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: So are you --
6 are you saying you want to have those made available
7 and read them.....

8

9 MS. CHERNOFF: Yes.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER:before we
12 vote to approve this or.....

13

14 MS. CHERNOFF: I would, yeah.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. All
17 right. Then the question is that something that can
18 easily -- is it in our book now and can it easily be
19 provided to us.

20

21 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, we can easily
22 provide it, but, I mean, yeah, tomorrow, now like
23 immediately.....

24

25 MR. PRICE: Not right now.

26

27 MS. GREDIAGIN:right now. And I
28 don't know.....

29

30 MR. PRICE: Okay.

31

32 MS. GREDIAGIN:if we're able to
33 print anything out, I mean, we can certainly email it
34 to you.....

35

36 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: I -- yeah, I
37 think that.....

38

39 MS. GREDIAGIN:but I don't know
40 what our printing.....

41

42 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah.

43

44 MS. GREDIAGIN:probably the
45 Kodiak Refuge could print it, but.....

46

47 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: I think the
48 emailing is fine.....

49

50

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1 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER:I don't --
4 if we're going to look at that first I don't intend to
5 try to vote on this tonight. This will need to be
6 tabled until tomorrow as well.

7

8 Pat, go ahead.

9

10 MR. HOLMES: I understand your
11 philosophy, Coral, and if that's the way you wish to
12 go, but I did sit down and try to read the whole thing
13 and it is way, way more complicated than these little
14 eight points. It -- it's -- or 10 points. This is --
15 sort of simplifies it and the Staff has worked to make
16 it more practical for our Council. But if that's what
17 you want to do that's fine, but.....

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: We'll go Lisa
22 and then Coral.

23

24 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: Yeah. Yes,
25 I -- we can certainly -- I can certainly find the title
26 VIII and send that to you in an email. And also on our
27 website we do have some information for the Council
28 that really simplifies title VIII. And I will find --
29 send you a link to that as well, it kind of puts it
30 more in laymen's terms. So at least you can kind of
31 get a broad under -- general understanding and then you
32 can dig deeper into what it -- what the -- what the law
33 is if that would be helpful.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Coral, go ahead.
36 And, Chris, do you mind hitting your microphone button.

37

38 MS. CHERNOFF: I think what I would
39 like is just the regulatory language or whatever it is,
40 not the simplified version. And is this something that
41 we have to do at this meeting or can this be kicked to
42 next meeting? Just a question.

43

44 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, this is your
45 opportunity to provide comments on the draft revised
46 policy because the Board will be taking action on this
47 in the summer, so like July or August the Board will be
48 acting on this. And then at your fall meeting you'll
49 be informed of the Board's action on the correspondence

50

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1 policy. So this -- yeah, it kind of -- if you want to
2 have input on this policy before the Board acts on it
3 this is your opportunity.

4

5 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. So
6 at this point I think it makes the most sense to get a
7 motion to table this until tomorrow pending the title
8 -- the whatever it is we're asking for, section 805,
9 808 and 810 of title VIII. So a motion to table and if
10 that passes this will be tabled, if it doesn't pass
11 then we'll proceed to vote on it right now. So is
12 there a motion to table until sometime tomorrow.

13

14 MS. CHERNOFF: Motion to table.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Is
17 there a second.

18

19 MR. PRICE: Second.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Is
22 there any further discussion or objection to tabling.

23

24 Pat, go ahead.

25

26 MR. HOLMES: I guess if we want to be
27 trying to get this in for the goal from OSM this has to
28 be approved by our whole group and tomorrow will be the
29 last day our group is together. And so if that
30 information could get to Coral she could look at it
31 tonight and then we could proceed tomorrow.

32

33 Is that a reasonable assumption?

34

35 MS. GREDIAGIN: Through the Chair.
36 Lisa Grediagin for the record. And yeah, I mean, it
37 should not take me long at all to compile this
38 information and send it out. I mean, it won't take
39 long so yeah, I can definitely get it sent out this
40 evening. But I also wanted to clarify that while this
41 is an action item for the Council, the action is
42 providing comments, it's not officially making a motion
43 and approving it. So, I mean, your Council's welcome
44 to do that if you like, but the main action is mostly
45 just seeking feedback and collecting comments from the
46 Council on this, not official Council approval of it.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
49 Thanks. Yeah, I was looking there was an asterisk

50

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1 indicating it was an action item. So if we're going to
2 take action and make any comment we do need to do it at
3 this meeting. So this is tabled until tomorrow. I
4 would suggest we do it after we approve our annual
5 report so it will be 14h, 14g is the approve annual
6 report.

7

8 Okay. It's 5:38. We can break for the
9 day or we can try to power through the FRMP since Jason
10 has waited around for us.

11

12 MR. HOLMES: Let's travel on, Madame
13 Chair.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
16 Well, let's knock out items M, N and O. Agenda item M
17 is the Fishery Resource Monitoring Program update.

18

19 Jason Roberts, Anthropology Division,
20 OSM.

21

22 MR. ROBERTS: All right. Good
23 afternoon, Madame Chair, members of the Council. This
24 Jason Roberts again, Anthropologist for OSM. Jarred
25 Stone is also on the phone, esteemed member of the
26 Fisheries Division for OSM. And so I'll be providing
27 three brief updates here on fisheries related items.

28

29 The first is the Fisheries Resource
30 Monitoring Program. And so the Fisheries Resource
31 Monitoring Program, we had a recent funding opportunity
32 going out for new projects. That actually closed on
33 February 24th And the Fisheries Division right now
34 along with members of the Anthropology Division at OSM
35 are in the process of doing kind of preliminary
36 analyses and evaluations of submissions for that new
37 funding. And just to remind you the mission of the
38 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program is to identify
39 and provide information needed to sustain subsistence
40 fisheries on Federal public lands in Alaska. The
41 Monitoring Program is also designed to support
42 meaningful involvement in fisheries management by
43 Alaska Native and rural organizations and to promote
44 collaboration between Federal, State, Alaska Native and
45 local organizations.

46

47 The recent funding opportunity sought
48 applications for projects that address priority
49 information needs developed by all the Regional
50

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1 Subsistence Advisory Councils. For the 2024 funding
2 cycle it's anticipated that they'll have approximately
3 2.5 million available for the first year of new
4 projects. And so that money is available for all the
5 projects that were submitted across the State so all
6 the regions.

7

8 Recent applications are currently being
9 reviewed by the Technical Review Committee and
10 summaries of project proposals submitted for your
11 region based on the priority information needs you
12 developed in your previous meetings. Those will be
13 presented to you at your fall, 2023 meeting for your
14 input and recommendations on which ones you feel are
15 most relevant and important to fund.

16

17 So if there are any questions related
18 to that I'd be happy to address those questions now.
19 Jarred as well will be on the line.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Any questions or
22 comments. Sorry. Can't interpret gestures at this
23 hour.

24

25 MR. PRICE: I would, I'd like to
26 comment. Thank you and can you do an overview of the
27 difference between FRMP and the Partners Program
28 and.....

29

30 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah, so I think that
31 question will be covered when I cover the update.

32

33 MR. PRICE: Tomorrow?

34

35 MR. ROBERTS: No, when I cover the
36 update.....

37

38 MR. PRICE: Tomorrow?

39

40 MR. ROBERTS: No, when I cover the
41 update for the Partner's.....

42

43 MR. PRICE: Oh, you're going to.....

44

45 MR. ROBERTS:Program.

46

47 MR. PRICE: Okay.

48

49 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah.

50

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1 MR. PRICE: Is the State an eligible
2 applicant under FRMP?

3
4 MR. ROBERTS: Yes.

5
6 MR. PRICE: Okay. Thank you.

7
8 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah.

9
10 MR. PRICE: Thank you.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Sorry, I was
13 distracted.

14
15 MS. HUTCHINSON-SCARBROUGH: I'm sorry.

16
17 MR. PRICE: We're good.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. We're
20 good. Any other questions or comments.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. So
25 that concludes that agenda item, right.

26
27 MR. ROBERTS: That -- yeah.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Okay. So moving
30 on to the next one, Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
31 Program update.

32
33 MR. ROBERTS: Uh-huh.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Jason Roberts,
36 Anthropology Division.....

37
38 MR. ROBERTS: All right.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER:OSM.

41
42 MR. ROBERTS: Yep. Yep. So just
43 moving on here. So this winter OSM sought proposals
44 for the Partners for the Partners for Fisheries
45 Monitoring Program to strengthen Alaska Native and
46 rural involvement in Federal subsistence management.
47 And I can see how this is kind of a confusing title,
48 the two of these together.

49
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1 The Partners Program is specifically
2 designed to fund salaries for biologists, social
3 scientists and educator positions in Alaska Native and
4 rural nonprofit organization with the intent of
5 increasing the organization's ability to participate in
6 Federal subsistence management. The program also
7 supports a variety of opportunities for local, rural
8 students to connect with subsistence resource
9 monitoring and management through science camps and
10 paid internships. For this funding cycle it is
11 anticipated that we'll have approximately a million
12 dollars that will be available yearly.

13
14 There were 15 proposals received for
15 this cycle. The Review Panel met in mid February to
16 determine which applicants would be funded. More
17 information about that will be provided in the near
18 future through a news release from the Office of
19 Subsistence Management. And Karen Hyer is a Fisheries
20 Biologist and she's the primary contact point person in
21 our office for the Partner's Program. And I can share
22 with you her contact information, her email address
23 currently is probably the best way to get her. I don't
24 know if you've heard, but our building has taken some
25 hits recently, a cracked roof beam and so we're not
26 allowed in there right now. So her email address is
27 karen_hyer, that's spelled H-Y-E-R @fws.gov.

28
29 And this concludes the Partner's for
30 Fisheries Monitoring Program update.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Are
33 there questions or comments.

34
35 MR. PRICE: Are there -- does OSM have
36 funds for habitat, habitat restoration or habitat
37 studies or habitat.....

38
39 MR. ROBERTS: For habitat restoration,
40 no. That generally falls outside the scope of FRMP
41 projects.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Any
44 other questions or comments on this item.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right.
49 Seeing and hearing none we will move on to 130, the
50

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1 regulatory cycle update. And again here I'm just
2 looking for a repetition of the upcoming fisheries
3 cycle and why that might be important to us.

4

5 MR. ROBERTS: All right. Jason again.
6 So just to give you all a heads up, we'll begin kind of
7 the initial phase of our next fisheries cycle during
8 your fall, 2023 meeting. At that meeting it's
9 anticipated that we'll provide your Council with draft
10 closure reviews to evaluate. And so fall, 2023 meeting
11 will also be a really good time to start thinking in
12 depth about proposals you might want to submit, to
13 formalize management regulations for any of the recent
14 closure reviews that we've recently gone through,
15 particularly the ones that have been opened. So to
16 formalize regulations that you might want to see put in
17 place for those as well as any other potential fish and
18 shellfish regulation changes. They'll be a formal
19 solicitation for proposals to change Federal fish and
20 shellfish regulations at your winter, 2024 meeting.
21 And so really the idea for giving you that heads up
22 again much like with the wildlife closure reviews we
23 just talked about earlier in the meeting is to think
24 about kind of proposals to go alongside those reviews,
25 really to formalize the way you want to see regulations
26 going forward. Because right now if you'll remember
27 the reviews -- the closures that were opened through
28 the actions you took in the previous fisheries
29 regulation cycle, they're primarily being managed by
30 in-season managers based upon just sort of the
31 restrictions on that whole process.

32

33 And that concludes the fisheries
34 regulatory cycle update.

35

36 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: All right. Are
37 there any questions or comments.

38

39 Chris, go ahead.

40

41 MR. PRICE: So are -- are you guys have
42 recommendations for us then on what alternatives you
43 have to use?

44

45 MR. ROBERTS: We will have
46 recommendations on the draft closure reviews that we'll
47 be presenting before you at the fall, 2023 meeting. We
48 will not have recommendations on the ones you've
49 already taken action on previously.

50

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1 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, and that
2 being said though I think Justin is not waiting is the
3 wrong word, but if you called him and said hey, I want
4 to talk about some potential regulations for -- say for
5 Unalaska, I think he's not anticipating -- he is ready
6 for those calls and he's ready to have those
7 conversations to start get -- you know, discussing
8 whatever that might want to look like or regulatory
9 language or, you know, to help you come up with that.

10

11 MR. ROBERTS: Yes, through the Chair.
12 That -- that's a good point. And I can get you
13 Justin's contact information if you want.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER: Yeah, because I
16 did talk to him about that at the Federal Subsistence
17 Board meeting.

18

19 Okay. Well, thank you so much for
20 sticking around to do that. So you're off the hook for
21 tomorrow morning so that's good.

22

23 Okay. So we'll go ahead and recess for
24 the day. Just a note that I -- there's a request to
25 move D2 which is the update on subsistence research
26 projects to first thing in the morning because Jackie
27 I'm assuming has conflict later in the day. So
28 somebody as part of that presentation has conflicts so
29 they've asked to move it up to first thing tomorrow
30 morning. So assuming there's no objection to that.....

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 ACTING CHAIR SKINNER:which I'm
35 not seeing. Okay. So we're okay if you just want to
36 make sure that.....

37

38 Okay. We'll go ahead and recess and
39 again we'll start at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning in this
40 room.

41

42 (Off record)

43

44 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

45

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6

7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through
12 _____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 KODIAK/ALEUTIANS FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
14 COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I electronically on the 29th
15 day of March 2023;

16

17 THAT the transcript is a true and
18 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
19 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and
20 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and
21 ability;

22

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or
24 party interested in any way in this action.

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26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 19th
27 day of April 2023.

28

29

30

31 _____
32 Salena A. Hile
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska
34 My Commission Expires: 09/16/26

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