

BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

TELEPHONIC
February 9, 2021
8:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dan Dunaway, Acting Chair
Samantha Herrick
Lary Hill
Robert Larson
William Trefon
Richard Wilson

Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

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

2

3 (Telephonic - 2/9/2021)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I want to
8 welcome everybody and we'll call this meeting to order.
9 The way I got my computer right now I don't know what
10 time it is. It's approximately 8:41. And thanks
11 everybody for joining us.

12

13 And, with that, I'd like to turn the
14 mic over to Lary Hill for an invocation at the
15 beginning of the meeting, and I thank you Lary for
16 helping us with this.

17

18 MR. HILL: Hi, this is Lary.

19

20 (Invocation)

21

22 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you, Lary,
23 appreciate that. Nice to get off to a good start.
24 And, Donald, you wanted to take this time, go ahead.

25

26 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, yeah, after the
27 roll call and establishing a quorum, I'd just like to
28 go over quick notes for the agenda and we'll move
29 forward with the business at hand.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. I don't
34 have a full roster, would you be able to do the roll
35 call.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, Mr. Chair.
38 This is Donald Mike, Council Coordinator. I can do the
39 roll call and I'll start off with Ms. Nanci Morris
40 Lyon.

41

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. Ms. Lyon is
46 unavailable and she's out of state and out of cell
47 service so she couldn't be attending this meeting via
48 teleconference.

49

50

1 Mr. Billy Trefon.
2
3 MR. TREFON: Yes, I'm here.
4
5 MR. MIKE: Ms. Samantha Herrick.
6
7 MS. HERRICK: I'm here.
8
9 MR. MIKE: Mr. Dan Dunaway.
10
11 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Here.
12
13 MR. MIKE: Mr. Lary Hill.
14
15 MR. HILL: Here.
16
17 MR. MIKE: Mr. Robert Larson.
18
19 MR. LARSON: Present.
20
21 MR. MIKE: Mr. Richard Wilson.
22
23 MR. WILSON: I'm here.
24
25 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, we have six
26 members present. We have a quorum.
27
28 And, before I move on I'd like to
29 welcome Ms. Samantha Herrick from Pedro Bay. She's our
30 newest Council member on the Bristol Bay Regional
31 Advisory Council and I'd like to welcome to her to the
32 public session of the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
33 Council and her first meeting. So we look forward to
34 meeting you in future, Ms. Samantha.
35
36 Dan.
37
38 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, sir, thank
39 you. Yes, thanks everybody and, yeah, look forward to
40 meeting our new members and hello to Robert in
41 Koliganek, and everybody else.
42
43 I guess at this point do you want to do
44 those notes or do we want to do introductions, Robert
45 -- I mean Donald.
46
47 MR. MIKE: Yeah, before we get into
48 introductions I'd like to go over what I noted.
49
50

1 If we take a break I'd like to do the
2 roll call of all the Council members present on
3 teleconference so that way we know we have a quorum for
4 this Council.
5

6 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, go ahead.
7

8 MR. MIKE: And before any action -- or
9 if we come to any business by the Council, you know,
10 during discussions and Council actions, whoever is
11 making the motion is to state the motion and state
12 their name. And whoever makes the second, state your
13 name that you are seconding the main motion.
14

15 And for those participants on the
16 teleconference line, if the Council requests any public
17 comments or seek agency specific comments on any
18 particular item, please state -- address Mr. Chair and
19 state your name. And for those folks on Teams that
20 wish to address the Council, make sure if you wish to
21 speak to the Council, raise your hand, and there's a
22 little hand on the upper right side for those public
23 and agency that wish to address the Council. And just
24 state your name and address, Mr. Chair, and state your
25 name and the Chair will recognize you.
26

27 And there's some last minute meeting
28 materials, not specifically action items, but
29 information materials that did not make it in the
30 meeting materials, book publication date, but this
31 would be -- they will be posted under our OSM website
32 under supplemental materials under Bristol Bay Regional
33 Advisory Council.
34

35 And that's all I had, Mr. Chair.
36

37 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you.
38 Question, you say additional materials, I saw the Park
39 Service pamphlet, was there other stuff, because I kind
40 of went looking but I didn't find anything. Okay.
41

42 MR. MIKE: There's one report from
43 Becharof Alaska Peninsula, they have an agency report
44 and I should be getting that this morning and I'll have
45 it posted on our website. In addition, I'll forward it
46 to the Council members, via email.
47

48 Thank you.
49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, we'll look
2 forward to that. I don't know how to split up my screen
3 to here to look at it and keep on Teams but, okay.
4 Bear with me folks, I'm not in the real habit of
5 Chairing, particularly, this level of a meeting. But
6 also I'm kind of hoping we don't have a pile of work
7 items so I'm hoping we can get through this today but
8 still give full attention to important -- to all the
9 details so holler at me if I'm lagging.

10
11 With that, can we go to welcome and
12 introductions, and, again, thanks everybody for logging
13 on. I look forward to the meeting.

14
15 Go ahead.

16
17 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, it's Donald.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, sir.

20
21 MR. MIKE: Yes, if we can have welcome
22 and introductions. We can start off with those folks
23 on teleconference line that do not have access to
24 Microsoft Teams. For those folks on teleconference
25 line, you can introduce yourself and state which
26 community or your agency and then we'll move on to the
27 Microsoft Teams. What I like to do for welcome and
28 introductions, we can go by agencies, we can start with
29 Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, BLM,
30 BIA and any Native organizations.

31
32 So with that, Mr. Chair, we can start
33 with folks online that are not participating on
34 Microsoft Teams to introduce themselves.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: That sounds
39 good.

40
41 (Teleconference interference)

42
43 MR. MIKE: Do we have anyone on the
44 teleconference line that wishes to introduce themselves
45 and please state your name and which community or
46 organization you are from.

47
48 MR. ANDERSON: Donald, this is George
49 Anderson representing the Chignik InterTribal Coalition
50

1 for the tribes of Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Lake, Chignik
2 Bay, Ivanoff Bay, and Perryville.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 MR. MIKE: Thank you, George. Anyone
7 else.

8

9 MR. GERKEN: Hey, Donald, good morning.
10 Good morning, Mr. Chair. This is Jon Gerken, I work
11 with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Federal in-
12 season manager for Bristol Bay and Chignik. I won't be
13 able to participate on Teams but I'll be listening in.

14

15 (Teleconference interference)

16

17 MR. MIKE: Thank you, John. Anyone
18 else.

19

20 MS. ANDERSON: Good morning, Mr. Chair
21 and -- I'm sorry, I'm speaking over someone. This is
22 Susan Alexander, Refuge Manager for Alaska Peninsula
23 and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges.

24

25 Good morning, everyone.

26

27 MR. HARRIS: Good morning. This is
28 Frank Harris, I'm a fish biologist with the U.S. Fish
29 and Wildlife Service.

30

31 (Teleconference interference)

32

33 REPORTER: Could you please repeat your
34 name, I didn't get that.

35

36 MR. HARRIS: My name's Frank Harris.

37

38 REPORTER: Oh, Frank, okay.

39

40 MR. HARRIS: I'm a fish biologist with
41 the Fish and Wildlife Service.

42

43 REPORTER: Sorry about that, Frank,
44 okay.

45

46 MR. GUSSE: Good morning. This is
47 Walker Gusse with the Bureau of Land Management of
48 Anchorage, Ranger pilot, law enforcement.

49

50

1 MR. LIND: Good morning everyone. This
2 is Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of
3 Subsistence Management. (In Native)
4

5 MS. CHISOLM: Good morning. This is
6 Linda Chisolm, subsistence coordinator for Aniakchak
7 National Monument.
8

9 MS. JOCHUM: Good morning. This is Kim
10 Jochum, subsistence program analyst, Alaska Regional
11 Office for the National Park Service.
12

13 MR. MIKE: Can you restate your name
14 please.
15

16 MS. JOCHUM: Kim Jochum, J-O-C-H-U-M.
17 Thank you.
18

19 MR. MIKE: I'm sorry I wasn't clear on
20 that, can you spell your name.
21

22 MS. JOCHUM: Thank you. My name is Kim
23 Jochum. The first name is K-I-M, my last name is J-O-
24 C-H-U-M. Was that more clear?
25

26 MR. MIKE: Thank you.
27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, good morning. This
29 is Vince Mathews with the InterAgency Staff Committee
30 with the Fish and Wildlife Service calling in from
31 Fairbanks. Thanks.
32

33 MS. RUPP: Good morning. This is Liza
34 Rupp from Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. I'm
35 the subsistence coordinator.
36

37 MS. JONES: Hi, good morning. This is
38 Bronwyn Jones for the Alaska Department of Fish and
39 Game, Division of Subsistence. I'm a subsistence
40 resource specialist in Anchorage.
41

42 MR. BORDEN: Hello, this is Lee Borden.
43 I'm the Bristol Bay area manager for the Division of
44 Sportfish for Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
45

46 MR. BURCH: Hello. This is Mark Burch
47 with the Department of Fish and Game. Mr. Chair, I'd
48 just like to point out also that we have wildlife
49 biologists online that are happy to give updates prior
50

1 to your discussion of proposals, if you'd like that, so
2 that you can be better informed.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. RILEY: Good morning. This is Brian
7 Riley, area biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish
8 and Game out of Dillingham.

9

10 MR. MERIZON: This is Rick Merizon,
11 Statewide Small Game Program Coordinator for the Alaska
12 Department of Fish and Game. Thank you.

13

14 MR. MOSS: Good morning. This is Danny
15 Moss. I'm the Deputy Refuge Manager at Alaska
16 Peninsula Becharof National Wildlife Refuges in King
17 Salmon.

18

19 MS. MILLION: Good morning. This is
20 Bonnie Million. I'm the Field Manager for the BLM's
21 Anchorage Field Office.

22

23 MR. STURM: Good morning. Mark Sturm,
24 National Park Service, Superintendent at Aniakchak
25 National Monument and Preserve and Katmai National Park
26 and Preserve.

27

28 MR. ADERMAN: Andy Aderman, Wildlife
29 Biologist, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. Good
30 morning.

31

32 MR. MOOS: Kenton Moos, Refuge Manager
33 for Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

34

35 MR. SEPPI: Bruce Seppi, BLM, Anchorage
36 Field Office.

37

38 MR. WALSH: Pat Walsh, Togiak Refuge.

39

40 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Good morning. This
41 is Susanne Fleek-Green, Lake Clark National Park and
42 Preserve.

43

44 MR. HAMMOND: Good morning. This is
45 Troy Hammond with the National Park Service in King
46 Salmon.

47

48 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, Donald.
49 This is George Pappas, Office of Subsistence

50

1 Management. I am the State Subsistence Liaison, but
2 more recently I'm the acting Fisheries Division Lead.
3 Good morning and looking forward to a good meeting.
4

5 MR. MCFADDEN: Good morning, Donald.
6 This is Steve McFadden. I'm with the Office of
7 Subsistence Management, Acting Wildlife Division Chief.
8 Looking forward to today's meeting.
9

10 MS. SKORA: Good morning, everyone.
11 This is Leslie Skora, I'm the wildlife biologist at
12 Katmai National Park and Preserve and Aniakchak
13 National Monument and Preserve.
14

15 MR. STONE: Good morning. This is
16 Jared Stone with the Office of Subsistence Management.
17

18 MS. LAVINE: Good morning everyone.
19 This is Robbin LaVine, anthropologist with the Office
20 of Subsistence Management. And I just want to let you
21 know that I miss you all. The Bristol Bay Regional
22 Advisory Council meeting in Naknek at Dolly's Hall was
23 the last meeting I attended in person and it's bitter-
24 sweet. It's good to hear all your voices and look
25 forward to a productive meeting.
26

27 Thanks.
28

29 MR. MIKE: Thank you. Is there anybody
30 else that hasn't introduced themselves yet. And I want
31 to thank George Anderson from the Chigniks, as a public
32 participant to call in. Is there any other public
33 members that did not introduce themselves on line.
34

35 MR. LARSON: Good morning, Donald and
36 everyone. This is Cody Larson with the Subsistence
37 Fisheries Program for BBNA. Good to be online and
38 hearing all the familiar voices.
39

40 MR. MIKE: Thank you.
41

42 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Donald. This
43 is Glenn Chen for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
44

45 MR. MIKE: Okay, thank you. Anyone
46 else.
47

48 (No comments)
49
50

1 MR. MIKE: And my name is Donald Mike.
2 I'm the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council
3 Coordinator. And Tina's our court recorder, she'll be
4 recording the Council proceedings. And for those
5 participating, please speak clearly into the
6 teleconference line so that the court recorder will be
7 able to record what is stated on record.
8

9 Mr. Chair, if you wish, you can request
10 that your Council members introduce themselves and
11 which community they are from and then we can go from
12 there.
13

14 Thank you.
15

16 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you,
17 Donald. And thanks everybody for calling in, feeling
18 like a pretty popular meeting here. Welcome to all the
19 old friends and faces and welcome, too, to the new
20 faces and names here. I'm really happy to see our new
21 biologist designated to Dillingham to be on. I haven't
22 yet met him but we've been corresponding. So, with
23 that, if the Council members could weigh in and I'll go
24 left, so go ahead.
25

26 MR. LARSON: Hi. This is Robert Larson
27 from Koliganek.
28

29 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Welcome, Robert.
30

31 Billy.
32

33 MR. TREFON: Yeah, Billy, right here,
34 go ahead.
35

36 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. And
37 you're from Nondalton, right?
38

39 MR. TREFON: Yes, Nondalton.
40

41 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: That guy's got a
42 million dollar view, he shares it on FaceBook a lot.
43 Okay, others.
44

45 MR. HILL: Lary Hill, Iliamna.
46

47 MR. WILSON: Richard Wilson, Naknek.
48

49 MS. HERRICK: Samantha Herrick, Pedro
50

1 Bay.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Who else do we
4 -- does that just leave me?

5

6 MR. MIKE: Yeah, that leaves you, Mr.
7 Chair.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'm sorry
10 here. Okay, and I'm Dan Dunaway, I live in Dillingham,
11 and I guess officially from the commercial/sport seat
12 but try to represent everybody. It's interesting, we
13 got a lot of Lake area folks, welcome.

14

15 So, okay, with that I guess review and
16 adopt the agenda. Has everybody had a chance to look
17 through it and are there any corrections, additions
18 that you want to add to the agenda.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Do we have a
23 motion to adopt the agenda.

24

25 MR. WILSON: Rich Wilson, I so move.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you,
28 Richard. Second. Is there a second.

29

30 MR. LARSON: Robert Larson. Second.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
33 Robert. Donald, or any other folks, is there any
34 additions that we need to put in here? Okay.

35

36 MR. TREFON: I have a question, this is
37 Billy, Nondalton.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead, Billy.

40

41 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I was wondering if
42 there was going to be a discussion about the infection
43 with the Mulchatna Herd?

44

45 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. We can request
46 the State, if they have any information on the
47 Mulchatna Herd, on the recent developments on the herd.
48 If we have any biologist that will discuss this issue.

49

50

1 Thank you.
2

3 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, that
4 sounds good. I would expect, possibly, the Togiak
5 Refuge biologist might be aware of it as well. But we
6 should make a note to talk about that. Any other
7 items.
8

9 MR. TREFON: Billy, I'm right here,
10 Trefon.
11

12 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Well,
13 assuming there's no other additions or corrections, I
14 guess I'll -- do we do a roll call on this, Donald, or
15 just call for a unanimous consent? Okay.
16

17 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, we can do a roll
18 call since we're doing teleconference. And Mr. Richard
19 Wilson moved to adopt the agenda and it was seconded by
20 Mr. Robert Larson and discussion, Mr. Trefon requested
21 additional information on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
22 disease, and the Togiak Refuge or the Alaska Department
23 of Fish and Game may have some information on that
24 during the agency reports. And with that, Mr. Chair,
25 someone needs to call the question and I can do a roll
26 call.
27

28 MR. WILSON: Call for question.
29

30 MR. TREFON: Billy Trefon.
31

32 MR. WILSON: Question.
33

34 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you
35 guys.
36

37 MR. MIKE: And the question was called
38 by Mr. Wilson.
39

40 REPORTER: Yes.
41

42 MR. MIKE: Who called the question?
43

44 REPORTER: Richard did.
45

46 MR. WILSON: Rich Wilson.
47

48 MR. MIKE: Okay, thank you. Okay, Mr.
49 Chair, a roll call vote on the review and adopting
50

1 agenda. Mr. Wilson moved to adopt the agenda and
2 second by Robert Larson and question called by Mr.
3 Wilson.
4
5 Mr. Billy Trefon.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 MR. MIKE: This is a roll call vote to
10 adopt the agenda as presented.
11
12 MR. TREFON: Yes, I approve.
13
14 MR. MIKE: Ms. Samantha Herrick.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 MR. MIKE: Samantha are you still with
19 us?
20
21 MS. HERRICK: Sorry. Yes.
22
23 MR. MIKE: Okay, thank you.
24
25 Mr. Dunaway.
26
27 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes.
28
29 MR. MIKE: Mr. Lary Hill.
30
31 MR. HILL: Yes.
32
33 MR. MIKE: Mr. Robert Larson.
34
35 MR. LARSON: Yes, I approve.
36
37 MR. MIKE: Mr. Richard Wilson.
38
39 MR. WILSON: Yes.
40
41 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, we have a
42 unanimous vote, six to zero, the meeting agenda is
43 adopted. Thank you.
44
45 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thanks,
46 everybody. Next on the list is election of officers.
47 And I think in talking to Donald yesterday I was going
48 to turn this over to Donald to conduct, so at this time
49 if he could take it, Donald, thank you.
50

1 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
2 is Donald Mike, Council Coordinator. Item No. 6
3 election of officers. We'll go through the election of
4 the Chair, then the Vice Chair, and then the Secretary.
5

6 The election of officer for Chair is
7 now open. Anyone can nominate a person to serve as the
8 Chair. Nominations are open now.
9

10 MR. WILSON: I nominate Nanci Lyon.
11

12 MR. MIKE: Pardon.
13

14 MR. WILSON: Richard Wilson is
15 nominating Nanci Lyon.
16

17 MR. MIKE: Okay, there's a nomination
18 for Nanci Lyon made by Mr. Richard Wilson. Any other
19 nominations.
20

21 MR. TREFON: I request nominations be
22 closed.
23

24 MR. MIKE: Okay, there's a request for
25 nominations to be closed. Any objection.
26

27 (No objection)
28

29 MR. MIKE: Okay, if none, we can do a
30 roll call vote for nominations for Nanci Morris Lyon to
31 serve as Chair for another term.
32

33 Roll call vote.
34

35 Mr. Billy Trefon.
36

37 MR. TREFON: Yes for Nanci.
38

39 MR. MIKE: Samantha Herrick. Ms.
40 Samantha Herrick.
41

42 MS. HERRICK: Yes.
43

44 MR. MIKE: Mr. Dan Dunaway.
45

46 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes.
47

48 MR. MIKE: Mr. Lary Hill.
49
50

1 MR. HILL: Yes.
2
3 MR. MIKE: Mr. Robert Larson.
4
5 MR. LARSON: Yes for Nanci.
6
7 MR. MIKE: Mr. Richard Wilson.
8
9 MR. WILSON: Yes.
10
11 MR. MIKE: Okay. The nomination is
12 unanimous, Nancy Morris is nominated as the Chair for
13 another term.
14
15 Next, we will open the nominations for
16 Vice Chair. Nominations are now open.
17
18 MR. WILSON: I nominate Dan Dunaway.
19
20 (Teleconference interference)
21
22 MR. TREFON: I nominate Dan Dunaway.
23
24 MR. MIKE: Pardon.
25
26 REPORTER: Okay, so it's just one at a
27 time, please.
28
29 MR. TREFON: Okay, Billy Trefon,
30 Nondalton. I nominate Dan Dunaway.
31
32 REPORTER: Thank you.
33
34 MR. MIKE: Okay. There's a nomination
35 on the floor by Mr. Trefon -- Mr. Billy Trefon, Jr.,
36 nominated Mr. Dan Dunaway for Vice Chair. Any other
37 nominations.
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 MR. MIKE: Any other nominations for
42 Vice Chair.
43
44 MR. HILL: This is Lary Hill, move that
45 nominations be closed.
46
47 MR. MIKE: Okay. Mr. Lary Hill moved
48 to close nominations for Vice Chair and Mr. Billy
49 Trefon nominated Mr. Dan Dunaway for Vice Chair.
50

1 Roll call vote for Vice Chair for Mr.
2 Dan Dunaway.
3
4 Mr. Billy Trefon.
5
6 MR. TREFON: Yes for Dan Dunaway.
7
8 MR. MIKE: Ms. Samantha Herrick.
9
10 MS. HERRICK: Yes.
11
12 MR. MIKE: Mr. Lary Hill.
13
14 MR. HILL: Yes.
15
16 MR. MIKE: Mr. Robert Larson.
17
18 MR. LARSON: Yes, for Dan.
19
20 MR. MIKE: Mr. Richard Wilson.
21
22 MR. WILSON: Yes.
23
24 MR. MIKE: And, Mr. Dan Dunaway, you
25 can vote for yourself I guess.
26
27 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, I don't
28 want to appear to egotistical, but, okay, yes.
29
30 MR. MIKE: Okay. The nominations vote
31 -- the roll call vote was unanimous, Mr. Dan Dunaway
32 has been nominated as the Vice Chair for the Bristol
33 Bay Council. Mr. Dunaway, you have the gavel for
34 nominations to open the seat for Secretary.
35
36 Thank you.
37
38 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay,
39 thank you, Donald. And thanks everybody for your
40 confidence, it's humbling. I did try to email Nanci
41 last night just to see if she'd e willing to serve if
42 elected but I think what's knocking out her cell phone
43 is knocking out her email as well. I suspect she's
44 willing, so just to reassure you. She's done a good
45 job.
46
47 Okay, with that, I'll open the
48 nominations for Secretary.
49
50

1 MR. TREFON: Who was our last
2 secretary, Richard?
3
4 MR. HILL: I think so.
5
6 MR. WILSON: I am very willing to pass
7 that baton on to anybody that wishes it.
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 MR. TREFON: Well, I'll nominate you
12 anyway. I nominate Richard Wilson.
13
14 (Laughter)
15
16 MR. LARSON: I second.
17
18 REPORTER: Okay, who was the -- who
19 nominated and who did the second?
20
21 MR. LARSON: Robert Larson seconded.
22
23 MR. TREFON: Billy Trefon nominated
24 Richard Wilson.
25
26 REPORTER: Thank you.
27
28 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Any other
29 nominations.
30
31 (No comments)
32
33 MR. WILSON: The floor is open, guys,
34 anybody else interested.
35
36 (No comments)
37
38 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I can hear that
39 train a running somewhere so.....
40
41 MR. LARSON: I move to close the
42 nominations.
43
44 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Is that Robert?
45
46 MR. LARSON: Yes.
47
48 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
49 Robert. Okay, Donald, if you could conduct a roll
50

1 call.

2

3 MR. MIKE: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Donald Mike, Council Coordinator. Mr. Trefon, Jr.,
5 nominated Richard Wilson for Secretary seat and it was
6 seconded by Mr. Robert Larson, and Mr. Larson requested
7 that nominations be closed.

8

9 Mr. Billy Trefon.

10

11 MR. TREFON: Yes, for Richard Wilson.

12

13 MR. MIKE: Samantha Herrick, Ms.
14 Samantha Herrick.

15

16 MS. HERRICK: Yes.

17

18 MR. MIKE: Mr. Dunaway.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, Richard.

21

22 MR. MIKE: Mr. Lary Hill.

23

24 MR. HILL: Yes, for Richard.

25

26 MR. MIKE: Mr. Robert Larson.

27

28 MR. LARSON: Yes, Richard.

29

30 MR. MIKE: And the vote is unanimous.
31 Richard Wilson, you want to vote for yourself.

32

33 REPORTER: Yes, he does.

34

35 MR. WILSON: If I must.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. MIKE: Mr. Wilson has been
40 nominated as Secretary for the Bristol Bay Council.
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 And, if I may, I corresponded with
44 Nanci last night regarding the election of officers and
45 she didn't have any objections to serve another term
46 for Chair for the Bristol Bay Council.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you.
2 That's good to know. I know we've been cautious in the
3 past not to elect somebody without them having at least
4 some head's up so, good, thank you. She's very capable
5 and so is Richard, so thank you folks.
6

7 Okay, next on the agenda, review and
8 approve previous minutes. Has everybody had a chance
9 to review the minutes and is there any corrections that
10 they want to see -- or, first, I guess, do we have a
11 motion to adopt.
12

13 MR. WILSON: Rich Wilson, I so move.
14

15 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you,
16 Richard. Do I have a second.
17

18 MR. HILL: Lary Hill. Second.
19

20 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you, Lary.
21 Any corrections for the minutes.
22

23 (No comments)
24

25 MR. TREFON: Question.
26

27 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay.
28

29 MR. MIKE: Who called the question,
30 please?
31

32 MR. TREFON: Oh, excuse me. Billy.
33

34 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, with that,
35 Donald, can we conduct roll call.
36

37 MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Adopting
38 the previous meeting minutes, Mr. Richard Wilson moved
39 to adopt and seconded by Lary Hill. Roll call vote to
40 adopt the meeting minutes.
41

42 Mr. Billy Trefon.
43

44 MR. TREFON: Approve, yes.
45

46 MR. MIKE: Ms. Samantha Herrick.
47

48 MS. HERRICK: Yes.
49
50

1 MR. MIKE: Mr. Dan Dunaway.
2
3 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes.
4
5 MR. MIKE: Mr. Lary Hill.
6
7 MR. HILL: Yes.
8
9 MR. MIKE: Mr. Robert Larson.
10
11 MR. LARSON: Yes.
12
13 MR. MIKE: Mr. Richard Wilson.
14
15 MR. WILSON: Yes.
16
17 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, the vote's
18 unanimous to adopt and approve the meeting minutes.
19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21
22 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
23 Donald. And I want to thank our recorders for the good
24 job they do, and it sure is a great service to the
25 Council members. I'm secretary on the Advisory
26 Committee here in Dillingham, and it's a heck of a lot
27 of work. So I really, really appreciate that we have
28 official recorders.
29
30 With that, we go to reports. Council
31 member reports and a Chair report. Are any Council
32 members have things they'd like to report.
33
34 MR. TREFON: This is Billy in
35 Nondalton. I do, but I'm looking and it would probably
36 would come under tribal or public comment because
37 Council member -- Council member's supposed to be on
38 but I'm representing the tribe and it's a discussion
39 about extending the moose hunt and the caribou hunt for
40 subsistence -- discussion for now.
41
42 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: You want to do
43 it later?
44
45 MR. TREFON: Yeah.
46
47 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you,
48 Billy. Next.
49
50

1 Samantha, I'll invite you, maybe just
2 tell us a little bit about your end of the lake and if
3 there's concerns or interests you have. Okay.
4

5 MS. HERRICK: Hi. Yes, I live in Pedro
6 Bay. And I haven't heard or have seen anything needing
7 to report.
8

9 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you.
10 Anybody else.
11

12 MR. TREFON: Questions for her -- this
13 is Billy -- I do have a question for Pedro Bay. How
14 about the wolves that Verna is always posting over
15 there, there's no problem with them?
16

17 MS. HERRICK: Yeah, I haven't heard too
18 much trouble with the wolves. There hasn't been any
19 reports that no one has told me about.
20

21 MR. TREFON: Oh, okay, yeah, Verna was
22 posting pictures about wolves and wolf tracks. Just
23 wondering.
24

25 MS. HERRICK: Oh, okay, thank you.
26

27 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: You got anything
28 for us, Richard. Thank you, Samantha.
29

30 MR. WILSON: Yeah, good morning. Yeah,
31 as you all know we got pretty trying times here in the
32 winter. It's kind of up and down, up and down. We
33 finally got a little snow on the ground here, a little
34 ice in the rivers, people are starting to cross and
35 starting to hunt on that herd south of the Naknek River
36 here with kind of a minimal amount of ice. The river
37 has gone out at least once and it refroze again. So
38 people are utilizing that and getting caribou down
39 there.
40

41 I haven't seen or heard of any
42 infectious stuff yet from that herd. People have been
43 getting them. Understand we may have a report later on
44 the Mulchatna side. But there is some Mulchatna Herd
45 moving in closer. They kind of -- it sounded like they
46 were kind of spread out a bit, all the way from the
47 west side of the Bay here, the Kvichak Bay, and we have
48 some in our backyard here, towards SugarLoaf and, you
49 know, there's, I guess, a couple thousand had crossed
50

1 the Kvichak here a few weeks ago and they're kind of
2 spreading out so that's encouraging.
3

4 We've been talking a lot about the
5 ptarmigan population and that seems to be coming along
6 fairly decent. People are seeing flocks of 50, 100
7 here and there. I get a little flock of 20 coming
8 through the yard here every once in awhile.
9

10 But the smelting is good.
11

12 Very few moose caught in December here.
13 They usually pick on -- you know, up here at King
14 Salmon Creek and other areas, but the other creeks have
15 been open so nobody's traveled up Big Creek and Smelt
16 Creek and those areas so, yeah, very few months. Even
17 few have been spotted in that drainage there.
18

19 So that's about all I got for now.
20

21 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: That's a pretty
22 thorough report. Anybody else. Lary.
23

24 MR. HILL: Mr. Chair, Dan. Donald.
25 Yes, I didn't think I had much to report but I guess
26 there is some. We had a few winter season moose that
27 were harvested. I don't know, what else, the small
28 game, we got one rabbit running around here that's
29 driving the dogs crazy.
30

31 (Laughter)
32

33 MR. HILL: People are really conc --
34 some people are concerned about the infection to that
35 Mulchatna Herd and how far it reaches and how do you
36 tell if an animal is infected if they don't show any of
37 the outward signs.
38

39 And last, something that's happened
40 here before, is I had a report where there were three
41 or four -- I guess the only term I could use, the lake
42 silvers, they're the -- oh 18 inches long, maybe 20
43 inches long that were caught, I didn't get any, stuff
44 in their stomach, I didn't find out until later, but
45 they look just like silvers, the scales are like the
46 silvers, they got the same coloring, and the flesh is
47 kind of pink.
48

49 So that's all I can think of.
50

1 Thank you.

2
3 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. How about
4 Robert, what you're seeing up there at Koliganek.

5
6 MR. LARSON: Well, I don't have very
7 much to report. I've been gone majority of the winter
8 for health reasons and I've just gotten back here last
9 week. What I've seen what looks like a few people out
10 getting some wolves. So I guess that -- a few guys are
11 taking some of those down here.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Oh, that skin
14 guy, he's hard on those wolves. So cool. Well, I hope
15 your health is good and as well as everybody else's.

16
17 Let's see is that everybody but me?

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, I think
22 so. Over here on the Dillingham side, I think it was
23 kind of a big disappointment with the restrictions on
24 the caribou, both the Mulchatna and Nushagak Peninsula
25 Herds. I think it's been slow to get across to a lot
26 of people the dire condition of the Mulchatna Herd,
27 especially when they, I think, showed up around NewStu
28 awhile back. I think this infection is a huge concern
29 and looking forward to a discussion on that.

30
31 There has been an effort for the winter
32 moose in 17A but the up and down weather interfered
33 somewhat. I heard recently this last weekend that some
34 wolves had kind of chased quite a bunch of moose and
35 kind of a restricted area and people went out and tried
36 to get a moose but I don't know if any were caught. I
37 think we'll get a report from Togiak Refuge on the
38 reported harvest.

39
40 And I do hear about a few ptarmigan but
41 I haven't heard any real reliable reports.

42
43 Lary, that's interesting on the
44 possible silver salmon. I'm seeing some discussions
45 about people over on the Kenai saying that there's
46 silvers going in the Kenai River all the way up into
47 January but they didn't discuss size.

48
49 But, yeah, the small herd sizes,

50

1 there's going to be some much more restricted proposals
2 with the Board of Game, through Fish and Game, though
3 the Board of Game -- we can also get an update on that,
4 I believe most actions are going to be postponed for
5 now.
6

7 With that, I think we'll invite public
8 and tribal comments on nonagenda items and I should, at
9 this point, too, encourage anybody public listening in,
10 I think there's a verbal way to let us know that you
11 want to speak and I'm not quite sure how we do the
12 official signing, maybe, Donald, you could cover that,
13 but definitely we encourage and invite public comment.
14

15 Donald.
16

17 MR. MIKE: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Donald Mike, Council Coordinator. Yeah, for the public
19 or tribal comments on nonagenda items, if the public
20 wishes to address the Council, please state your name
21 and which community or organization you are from.
22

23 And under reports -- the Chair's
24 report, I just want to inform the Council that the
25 Federal Subsistence Board met in January and all the
26 fisheries proposals for the Bristol Bay region were on
27 the consensus agenda so the Federal Subsistence Board
28 adopted, or opposed, as recommended by the Bristol Bay
29 Regional Advisory Council on the fisheries proposals
30 for the Bristol Bay region.
31

32 And we provided a brief update to the
33 Federal Subsistence Board on the positioning of animals
34 and we will be discussing that later on during the
35 meeting.
36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38

39 And then for public and tribal
40 comments, please state your name and which community
41 or organization you are from.
42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44

45 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
46 Donald, for filling that in. So at this time, if
47 there's any public, Cody, do you want to speak at this
48 time or Mr. Anderson or any others, please speak up.
49 Okay.
50

1 MR. ANDERSON: Yes, sir, Mr. Chair.
2 George Anderson here with the Chignik InterTribal
3 Coalition. We would like to submit a comment when
4 there's time.
5

6 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, is that on
7 a particular issue that's in the agenda or separate
8 from that -- okay.
9

10 MR. ANDERSON: I would say this is a
11 nonagenda item, Mr. Chair.
12

13 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Well,
14 I'll look a little bit to you, Donald, would this be a
15 good time or should we wait until later.....
16

17 MR. MIKE: Yes.
18

19 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY:but I
20 certainly want the participation -- okay.
21

22 MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Donald
23 Mike. This is a good time for Mr. Anderson to provide
24 public comment.
25

26 Thank you.
27

28 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you. Go
29 ahead, Mr. Anderson, I really appreciate you taking the
30 time to join us.
31

32 MR. ANDERSON: Okay, thank you, Mr.
33 Chair and Council members. I'll read this and then I
34 can supply a written copy to the recorder because,
35 technology.
36

37 Okay.
38

39 The Chignik InterTribal Coalition is
40 working towards solutions to ensure the well-being of
41 our communities. Our social and cultural well-being is
42 tied to the health of the lands and the water which
43 surrounds us.
44

45 As you know the abundance of one main
46 subsistence resource has languished the past three
47 years. We are asking the Council to voice our need to
48 the State and Federal agencies that share the mutual
49 goal of sustainable resource management. We hope the
50

1 Council receives our comments in good faith, that we
2 are doing what we can, locally, yet, additional
3 assistance in recovering our subsistence salmon
4 resources through Federal management actions.
5

6 In response to the closures and
7 restrictions of the 2018, 2019 and 2020 on Federal
8 public waters of the Chignik River drainage for
9 subsistence harvest of chinook and sockeye salmon, we
10 are requesting a formal stock assessment research and
11 recovery plans to support the conservation of healthy
12 populations and the continuation of subsistence harvest
13 opportunity on those lands.
14

15 Also we would like to ask at this time
16 that these comments be included in your annual report
17 to the Federal Subsistence Board members, that they may
18 give direction to the -- and resources to the Federal
19 in-season managers and Staff in the Chignik area.
20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and Council
22 members for hearing us.
23

24 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, sir, thank
25 you for that comment. And we look forward to getting
26 the written comment. I don't know if you've listened
27 in to some of our previous meetings but we've been
28 very, very concerned of the status of salmon in the
29 Chigniks. I wonder if the rest of the Council, do we
30 want to discuss it more here or is there another place,
31 but I'll invite the other Council members to speak, if
32 they have something. Okay.
33

34 (No comments)
35

36 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, hearing
37 none. We'll definitely include it in our minutes and
38 maybe when we get to agency reports we might hear from
39 Fish and Game and other agencies down there, what is
40 being done. One quick question, Mr. Anderson, I don't
41 know you but are you already -- have you been working
42 with the Fish and Game and other agencies at this
43 point? Okay.
44

45 MR. ANDERSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. Yes,
46 starting back in '18 at our first economic disaster
47 declaration we -- well, even previous, we had been in
48 talks with OSM there and ADF&G and we've kind of had
49 our eyes on a multi-agency project to address some of
50

1 these issues utilizing the FRMP funds that we plan on
2 applying for. And some of those goals that we'd.....
3

4 (Teleconference interference - placed
5 on hold)
6

7 MR. ANDERSON:like to accomplish
8 is escapement enumeration and quality of escapement of
9 those. As you know the State is struggling with
10 funding the Chignik weir so hopefully we can get on the
11 shoulders beginning and ending of that, and maybe use
12 some of those funds to keep the weir in a little
13 longer. And then also getting a better assessment on
14 the subsistence take all the way from June into the
15 late fresh fish take into December.
16

17 So, yes, we're reaching out to your
18 folks there and I sure appreciate the time.
19

20 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you.
21

22 (Teleconference interference - placed
23 on hold)
24

25 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I don't know if
26 somebody needs to mute their phone or something but,
27 George, I'm glad to hear that the -- the coalition
28 tells me there's a lot of people working together.
29 That's what it'll take. But, yes, the FRMP Program is
30 there and I think bringing -- for us, we're extremely
31 concerned. Nanci isn't here but when she is here --
32 she does fish down that way and knows a number of folks
33 in the Chignik area, I think she's made some trips down
34 there to attend some meetings. It's huge, still it's
35 unimaginable to how once one of the hottest fisheries
36 in the state has.....
37

38 MR. MIKE: Yeah, excuse me, Mr. Chair.
39

40 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY:become.....
41

42 MR. TREFON: Somebody needs to push
43 mute to mute their phone.
44

45 REPORTER: Excuse me, this is Tina, the
46 reporter. So Donald gave a lot of instruction when we
47 first started and we didn't say, please do not put your
48 line on hold because the only way I can take that off
49 is if I break the call and go in and ask the operator
50

1 to. So we could take a minute or so and I can go in
2 and ask the operator to drop that line, or if you could
3 maybe put a -- somebody could put a little thing in
4 your Team chat thing, maybe it's one of those people;
5 please hand up and don't put us on hold.
6

7 MR. MIKE: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
8 Donald. If we could take Tina's suggestion and take a
9 five minute break and have her unhook the line.
10

11 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, thank you,
12 Tina, and thank you, Donald -- oh, and then it got
13 quiet -- maybe.
14

15 MR. TREFON: No, it didn't.
16

17 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Let's go ahead
18 and take five minutes.
19

20 REPORTER: Okay, I'll call the
21 operator.
22

23 MR. MIKE: We're taking a five minute
24 break.
25

26 (Off record)
27

28 (On record)
29

30 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, Donald.
31

32 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Donald Mike, Council Coordinator.
34

35 Mr. Billy Trefon.
36

37 (No comments)
38

39 MR. MIKE: Billy, are you still with
40 us?
41

42 (No comments)
43

44 MR. MIKE: Ms. Samantha Herrick.
45

46 MS. HERRICK: I'm here.
47

48 MR. MIKE: Mr. Dan Dunaway.
49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, sir.
2
3 MR. MIKE: Mr. Lary Hill.
4
5 (No comments)
6
7 MR. MIKE: Mr. Lary Hill, are you still
8 with us?
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 MR. MIKE: Mr. Robert Larson.
13
14 MR. LARSON: Here.
15
16 MR. MIKE: Mr. Richard Wilson.
17
18 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I'm here.
19
20 MR. MIKE: Okay, back to Mr. Billy
21 Trefon, are you with us?
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 MR. MIKE: Mr. Lary Hill, are you with
26 us?
27
28 MR. HILL: Yes, I just switched to my
29 other office, I'm here.
30
31 MR. MIKE: Okay. So we have five
32 members present, we're still waiting on Mr. Billy
33 Trefon. And while we are waiting I'd like to remind
34 the participants on teleconference, please have your
35 phones muted and also if you need to go somewhere,
36 please do not put your phone on hold otherwise we'll
37 hear elevator music and that disrupts the proceedings.
38 And for those folks on Microsoft Teams, please have
39 your Microsoft Teams muted also.
40
41 Mr. Billy Trefon, are you with us yet?
42
43 (No comments)
44
45 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, we have five
46 members present and if you wish to continue with public
47 and tribal comments we can go with that.
48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you,
2 Donald. Yeah, I was going to reiterate and, again,
3 invite public and tribal comments. Make sure people
4 have opportunity to participate. So are there any more
5 comments or -- from public or tribal agencies -- okay.
6

7 (No comments)
8

9 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: It sounds pretty
10 quiet. Our next two items are kind of our action
11 items, I believe, so I kind of want to stand by a
12 little bit to hear if other members rejoin us. So
13 we're just missing Billy at this time -- over.
14

15 (No comments)
16

17 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Hello, Donald.
18

19 (No comments)
20

21 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, real quiet
22 here.
23

24 REPORTER: Okay, we're still connected
25 Dan.
26

27 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, Mr. Chair, George
28 Pappas. I could step in while we're waiting for
29 members to rejoin. This is a nonagenda item, it's a
30 comment on the comment about February silvers.
31

32 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay.
33

34 MR. PAPPAS: In the Kenai, the studies
35 indicate that there are adult silvers, I think the only
36 system in Alaska that has adult silvers 11 months a
37 year. There aren't adult silvers in June, that was
38 done about 15 years ago, a massive project that was
39 undertaken. And, also, yes, on occasion they -- in the
40 lake in Chignik Lake and you can ask George Anderson to
41 vouch on this, there have been a few caught in
42 February, I think one even as late as March, they seem
43 to be not full size, you know, five pounds, seven pound
44 adults, they seem to be 18 to 20 inches long. The
45 reports I've had is they cut them open and the spawn's
46 not quite developed yet but just like everywhere else,
47 the scientists never get their hands on them, all they
48 do is get a spine and part of a tail usually by the
49 time they find out about it, because it's the first
50

1 fresh salmon anybody's had for awhile.

2

3

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5

6 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: That's very
7 interesting. I've often thought -- we had a guy here
8 in Dillingham claimed to catch a king salmon through
9 the ice in the winter sometimes but it's really a
10 strategy to avoid some predation, going in under the
11 ice might be the way, just the extreme cold would be
12 the counter indication there. But, thanks, George, for
13 that information.

13

14

15

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50

MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. I was just
corrected, Mr. Chair. Frank Harris from the Kenai Fish
and Wildlife Field Office there indicated they just
found out that coho -- adult coho are in the Kenai for
12 months a year now, so they must have found some in
June, so they came in early or barely alive from last
year. So I stand corrected.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

And that actually matches the record
out in Attu, there was, at Attu, a Coastie out west in
Dutch Harbor there, there used to be salmon runs that
ran all year-round until World War II and then the
military messed them up, but interesting, we have new
information.

Thank you, sir.

ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, that's
fascinating. Yeah, I was amazed that Sand Point saw an
eagle in a bush in a tiny, tiny creek in November and
about a mile away, open tundra, went over to see what's
going on and the eagle chased a couple of silvers in
under that bush and was trying to get them. But
November's' not near the surprise that February is. So
that's very interesting.

Thanks for the info, as a retired fish
guy.

Donald, or Billy, are you guys there?

MR. TREFON: Yeah, I got disconnected
and then I almost didn't get back on there, so, here,
I'm back.

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: All right.
2 Okay. I'm assuming we got all six of us now. We've
3 called for public and tribal comment, just on an open
4 agenda there, and we have heard no more, so at this
5 point we are in old business. And, maybe, Donald, can
6 you introduce us on this material.

7
8 MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair, thank you.
9 Donald Mike, Council Coordinator.

10
11 Under old business, the National Park
12 Service individual C&T determination, you can find it
13 in your meeting materials beginning on Page 14. And
14 this was first presented to the Council at its fall
15 meeting, October 2020, and the Council, at its fall
16 meeting, deferred any public -- any further action
17 until they reviewed the document thoroughly and in
18 preparation for developing their comments on this
19 individual C&T. And that's where we're at, and we have
20 -- Mr. Chair, if we can have the National Park Service
21 Staff present the document in summary and then we can
22 -- the Council can get into question and answering
23 session and then provide its comment from there.

24
25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, thank you.
28 I'm glad to know we have several Park Service Staff on
29 this -- I started reading through it and for a few
30 minutes I was kind of panicking and then my memory
31 started working and I started remembering, some of this
32 was introduced. Appreciate the thorough information
33 here, but Mr. Sturm, would you be the lead guy to
34 discuss this -- I'll invite you or others to discuss
35 this.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MR. STURM: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
40 No, I wouldn't be. I believe this would be the
41 Regional Subsistence Office led by Josh Ream -- Josh,
42 are you on?

43
44 MR. PATTERSON: Good morning, Mr. Chair
45 and Council members. I'm not sure if Josh is on the
46 call, but my name is Dylan Patterson, and I'm a
47 Pathways Intern with the National Park Service's
48 regional team. If it's all right, I'd like to make a
49 couple points on this issue this morning.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, what was
2 your first name, Mr. Patterson, and go ahead.

3
4 MR. PATTERSON: It's Dylan.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Dylan, okay,
7 thank you.

8
9 MR. PATTERSON: Yes. So today I am
10 here to report on the recent decisions made by the
11 Federal Subsistence Board on the process used to make
12 customary and traditional use determinations for
13 individuals.

14
15 You might recall that the NPS Staff
16 offered a lengthy presentation on this issue at your
17 fall meeting. As a reminder, individual customary and
18 traditional use determinations are rare and eligibility
19 to hunt and trap in National Parks and National
20 Monuments is a rather complex issue compared to other
21 Federal public lands. Almost all customary and
22 traditional use determinations are for communities and
23 areas, not for individuals. Because individual
24 determinations are so rare, most people are unfamiliar
25 with them and the process used to make them was also
26 not well established. NPS suggested some tweaks to the
27 process to make it easier to understand and timelier
28 for both the public and for Staff.

29
30 This is an important issue. We are not
31 proposing a new type of C&T, only improvements to
32 something that already exists.

33
34 Last fall we asked all 10 Subsistence
35 Regional Advisory Councils and the seven Park
36 Subsistence Resource Commissions for feedback. We
37 incorporated this feedback into our proposed process
38 and this is what was adopted by the Federal Subsistence
39 Board at its January 2021 meeting.

40
41 The revised process includes two
42 critical RAC recommendations.

43
44 First, that there is no delegation of
45 authority to NPS. The Federal Subsistence Board will
46 retain the final decisionmaking authority.

47
48 Second, the process now includes the
49 formal recommendation from both the affected RACs and
50

1 the affected SRC.

2

3 Perhaps the biggest change is the
4 process is no longer tied to the lengthy biennial
5 regulatory proposed cycle, instead the application
6 window is open continuously once the RAC and SRC have
7 weighed in. The Board will take action on the
8 applications at its next public meeting. This
9 accomplishes an important goal of being able to process
10 applications in a more timely manner. Many of the RACs
11 and SRCs voted to defer action until they had more time
12 to study this issue. While the Federal Subsistence
13 Board took action to help improve the process, the
14 Board still welcomes any feedback that you might have
15 for further improvement either now or at any point in
16 the future. Ultimately the National Park Service and
17 the Federal Subsistence Board just wants this to be as
18 streamlined and responsive as possible.

19

20 Thank you for your time. I would be
21 happy to answer any questions that you may have. And
22 if you have any additional feedback for the Board I'd
23 be happy to deliver that, too.

24

25 MR. TREFON: Yes, this is Billy Trefon
26 in Nondalton. We live right by the Park. And my
27 question is, how will this affect my community when we
28 basically almost 100 percent of our traditional use is
29 within Park land and Park Preserve. Is that -- would
30 the local Park Service have any say so or is this going
31 to be a Park Service plan, ask no questions.

32

33 MR. PATTERSON: So if I understand your
34 question correctly, individual customary and
35 traditional use determinations won't in any way affect
36 community or area-wide customary and traditional use
37 determinations. So, again, these are very rare and
38 they are made for individuals that have customary and
39 traditional use in those Park lands, but do not, for
40 whatever reason, still live in the resident zone
41 communities.

42

43 MR. TREFON: So if we're in the village
44 we're fine but if we live somewhere else and we could
45 (indiscernible) subsistence use on Park land it would
46 be -- you'd have to come to a committee decision,
47 something like that?

48

49 MR. PATTERSON: Correct. Yes. So just

50

1 as an example, if you once lived in a community that
2 had a community-wide customary and traditional use
3 determination and utilized that for subsistence within
4 Park lands and you moved to a more urban area then you
5 could apply for an individual customary and traditional
6 use to return to those Park lands for subsistence uses.

7
8 MR. TREFON: Okay. How about
9 enforcement, how is that done? Because we got
10 traditional land, these people that are not from
11 Nondalton but they continue using traditional land,
12 which is their right, but they live in Anchorage where
13 the jobs are or Juneau or wherever, but they come back
14 to continue their traditional lifestyle, do they have
15 to go and submit this paper?

16
17 MR. PATTERSON: So if I understand your
18 question correctly, this only applies to National Park
19 lands and National Monuments so.....

20
21 MR. TREFON: This is National Park
22 lands I'm talking about because we traditionally use
23 Kvichak all the time. We use a lot of the Park land up
24 there for subsistence use.

25
26 MR. PATTERSON: Sure. Yeah, so my
27 understanding is that you have to have a customary and
28 traditional use determination, be that either a
29 community or individual or area C&T. So I'm not
30 sure.....

31
32 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Right. I can.....

33
34 MR. PATTERSON:if that's.....

35
36 MS. FLEEK-GREEN:if -- yeah.....

37
38 MR. PATTERSON:if that's
39 answering your question.

40
41 MS. FLEEK-GREEN:Billy, I can
42 jump in and maybe Liza can as well. This is Susanne
43 with Lake Clark National Park. So if you are within
44 National Park or Preserve boundaries, you would then
45 have to qualify as a Federal subsistence user so --
46 versus a State subsistence user, so then that would
47 mean that, yes, you are a resident of one of our
48 resident zone communities, in which case there's not
49 really much of a process, or if you are outside of one

1 of those resident zone communities, but still within
2 the region and can demonstrate that you have -- that
3 you live there year-round, and all of that, then you
4 can get a 13440 subsistence use permit. If you are
5 outside of the region, so for example, if you live in
6 Anchorage year-round, so you are no longer a local
7 Federally-qualified subsistence user, then you would go
8 through this process of getting a C&T permit that is
9 then reviewed by the Federal Subsistence Board,
10 correct.

11
12 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I understand
13 how.....

14
15 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Well, by the National
16 Park Service, sorry, not the Federal Subsistence Board,
17 but that per -- that C&T application would be reviewed
18 by the National Park Service because you are -- you are
19 saying that you have a long-term traditional
20 subsistence use of the area but you no longer are a
21 permanent year-round resident of the area.

22
23 MR. TREFON: Okay. Because I'm seeing
24 a lot more people from outside purchasing property so
25 there's going to be a lot more people using the land so
26 the enforcement is what my question is. Law
27 enforcement, what kind of document do we have to
28 present when they land by our subsistence camps? These
29 permits?

30
31 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: So, yes -- well, if
32 you are a local resident and you're already a
33 Federally-qualified subsistence user, meaning you have
34 come to, in our example, you've come to Lake Clark
35 National Park and you've provided -- you can provide
36 your driver's license, you can provide bills, you know,
37 documentation that shows that you are, in fact, a year-
38 round resident, or if you don't have those documents
39 there's other things you can do, you know, you can have
40 testimonials from other people in the community that
41 say, yes, Billy Trefon, is a year-round resident, then
42 we issue you that subsistence use permit. If someone
43 just flies in and is fishing on the -- within Lake
44 Clark National Park, our law enforcement officers, you
45 know, our law enforcement officers live out there, they
46 recognize a lot of local people, sometimes they don't
47 and they will ask you whether or not you are a
48 qualified subsistence user. Is that what you mean by
49 enforcement?

50

1 MR. TREFON: No, I.....

2

3 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: And we definitely,
4 you know, people call us, too, and they say, hey, so
5 and so has set a net out in this location, they are not
6 a qualified subsistence user and then our law
7 enforcement officers will go check on that person and
8 try and determine whether or not they actually are a
9 qualified subsistence user and meet those residency
10 requirements.

11

12 MR. TREFON: Because what I understand
13 is, Nondalton has never went to the Park Service, in my
14 experience and knowledge to fill out these paperworks
15 to go to Kvichak to put up fall fish. Are -- I
16 mean.....

17

18 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: That's because.....

19

20 MR. TREFON:mean we have to --
21 we didn't have to do it for the moose and big game but
22 we don't want to be harassed when we're doing our --
23 now that's traditional subsistence use there and
24 there's nets involved and there's guns involved and
25 listening to this guy talking that they're going to
26 start enforcing the rules and it's going to -- it seems
27 like it's going to change things up there.

28

29 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Well, it shouldn't
30 change things for residents of Nondalton because
31 Nondalton is one of our resident zone communities. So
32 you -- if you live in Nondalton you're automatically a
33 qualified Federal subsistence user within Lake Clark
34 National Park.

35

36 MR. TREFON: I understand that. But
37 lots of people, like I was saying, live in Anchorage,
38 they live someplace else but they come back to
39 traditionally fish, they don't -- and their physical
40 address is not Nondalton, but they continue their
41 traditional lifestyle, they don't have the paperwork
42 saying they live in Nondalton.

43

44 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Right.

45

46 MS. JOCHUM: Excuse me.....

47

48 MR. TREFON: So my.....

49

50

1 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: And so those --
2 sorry, is somebody else jumping in there?
3

4 MS. JOCHUM: Excuse me, Susanne. Yeah,
5 this is Kim Jochum, subsistence program analyst and
6 work with Dylan as well in the National Service
7 regional office, Subsistence Program. I just thought
8 maybe I could chime in for one second if that's okay.
9 Susanne, is that okay?
10

11 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Yes, go ahead, Kim.
12

13 MS. JOCHUM: Okay, thank you so much.
14 So.....
15

16 MR. MIKE: Hold on, hold on, you need
17 to address the Chair and need to be recognized. Thank
18 you, this is Donald Mike.
19

20 MS. JOCHUM: Okay, no problem. So good
21 morning, Mr. Chair and Council members.
22

23 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, so.....
24

25 MS. JOCHUM: I just thought I could
26 maybe help for a second here. Because there is nothing
27 new, those are not new permits, it was just a -- it was
28 a proposed new process on how to handle those
29 applications. So nobody who moves into the city will
30 be qualified for any of those permits, or I mean the --
31 the subsistence -- the 13440 permit nor to apply for
32 individual C&T determinations. So you have to be in a
33 nonrural area, which means to be a Federally-qualified
34 subsistence user still. So this will not affect really
35 anything and overall Alaska-wide, we have less -- we
36 have six of those applications currently in place. So
37 this is not the people that you see coming back as you
38 -- what you -- what you were trying to refer to like
39 they'd move to the city and come back and -- and --
40 yeah, follow traditional hunting practices. So that
41 does not -- those do not qualify for an individual C&T
42 permit, or an individual C&T permit. I hope that's
43 helpful.
44

45 MR. TREFON: Yeah, that's just for my
46 information and also for the tribe, I mean, is there
47 anywhere I can get this information from, where it --
48 is it even out yet?
49

50

1 MS. JOCHUM: Yes. Also the updated
2 information on the Board's decision on how to -- on how
3 that process is going to -- going to work now and how
4 the -- the changes they approved, we definitely have
5 that information as well so I can definitely share more
6 information with you to make sure you have -- have that
7 in place if -- if -- because I know what's in your --
8 in your Board book before you is the old paperwork
9 still. So I can make sure to get that information to
10 you.

11
12 MR. TREFON: All right, I would
13 appreciate that because Nondalton, I would have to say
14 99 percent of our land use is within the Preserve and
15 the Park, that's why I'm asking so many questions.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MS. JOCHUM: Okay, no problem.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you.
22 Does that satisfy you, Billy?

23
24 MR. TREFON: Yes. If I get the
25 information that'll -- that'll make things a lot -- at
26 least I'll have it in black and white. Appreciate it.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay.
29 Yeah, I was blown away how big a chunk of our book was
30 filled up with Park Service forms and had kind of a
31 sudden feel of dread. But I think I talked -- and I'm
32 forgetting the intern's name here. I think I
33 corresponded with him some on this and it -- it gets
34 narrowed down pretty fast. But before I go on is there
35 like -- we have a lot of our members are affected by
36 Parks so Richard or Lary or Samanth -- is it Samantha,
37 any of you have comments on this -- okay.

38
39 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, this is Donald.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, sir.

42
43 MR. MIKE: Yes. When we get through
44 with Council question and answer session, I think the
45 Aniakchak SRC met on this issue and when there's a time
46 later on during the discussion you can call on the SRC.

47
48 Thank you.

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you
2 for that. It was pretty quiet there, it sounds like --
3 I guess one more chance to bring that up before we
4 invite the SRC. Does anybody else have comments --
5 okay.
6

7 MR. HILL: Mr. Chair, this is Lary.
8

9 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, go ahead,
10 Lary, thank you.
11

12 MR. HILL: I'm referring to what Billy
13 was talking about and I don't want to put words in his
14 mouth, but I think there's some feeling about people
15 that live in Anchorage full-time, and come out here,
16 who had been traditional users in the Park and Preserve
17 who live in Anchorage all year-round, who come out here
18 for two weeks, load up the fish and then take off. And
19 nobody wants to be the bad guy and tell them they're
20 not qualified subsistence users. Is there a way to
21 address those same people and suggest that they do need
22 a special permit to come in and do that?
23

24 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, maybe -- I
25 think this C&T process here proposed is to address
26 that, am I correct, Kim or Liza -- okay.
27

28 MS. JOCHUM: Hello, this is Kim Jochum
29 again with the National Park Service, Regional
30 Subsistence Program. Yeah, well that really is not the
31 case, we -- we never talked about rural residents so if
32 people move to a rural area that's defined as rural
33 under the Federal regulations they are not eligible to
34 come back and do -- yeah, on the -- on the -- they're
35 not qualified to continue to subsistence use in other
36 areas, so they have to be a nonrural [sic] resident to
37 be a Federally-qualified subsistence user.
38

39 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this.....
40

41 MS. JOCHUM: So that is.....
42

43 MS. LAVINE:is Robbin.
44

45 MS. JOCHUM:that is not the case
46 -- yeah, please go ahead Robbin.
47

48 MS. LAVINE: All right, thank you, Kim
49 and Mr. Chair. I just want to clarify that actually to
50

1 be Federally-qualified you must be a rural resident and
2 I'm sure that's what Ms. Jochum meant, so yo must be a
3 rural resident and you must have customary and
4 traditional use of a resource.
5

6 So some people move back to nonrural
7 areas. Nonrural areas like Anchorage or Fairbanks or
8 Juneau. If you become a permanent resident of a
9 nonrural area you are no longer Federally-qualified,
10 even if you once did have customary and traditional
11 use. But let's say, you, Billy, but say your son moves
12 to Bethel, a rural area for work, but -- so he's a
13 rural resident and he, as a rural resident of Bethel,
14 he may be able to participate in the subsistence way of
15 life there, but he wants to come home. He wants to
16 come home with you, his family, and his community, to
17 subsist on the lands that are customary and traditional
18 for him. This process would help people like that.
19 But not people that move to nonrural areas and are no
20 longer rural residents.
21

22 Thanks.
23

24 MR. LARSON: Hi, this is Robert Larson.
25 I just wanted to know when this rule came in and was
26 applied?
27

28 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Park Service.
29

30 MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chair, if I can --
31 this is Dylan Patterson and I can speak to that.
32

33 So the Federal Subsistence Board made
34 the decision to revise the process for individual
35 customary and traditional use determinations at its
36 meeting this past January. However, there was already
37 a process in place for individual customary and
38 traditional use determinations, that was just revised
39 this past Federal Subsistence Board meeting.
40

41 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Does that
42 help Robert?
43

44 MR. LARSON: Yeah, it does but it seems
45 like you're going to get a lot of -- we've been getting
46 a lot of contradictions.
47

48 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah.
49
50

1 MR. TREFON: Yeah, this is Billy again.
2 Lary pretty much hit it on the head, I mean, because
3 like we do get people that use this land all their
4 lives, until they got -- and they still use the land
5 custom -- but they live in Anchorage year-round and
6 they come back to continue their traditional lifestyle,
7 customary use, is what they're doing. And so what I'm
8 hearing, from what Lary said, they no longer qualify,
9 they have to go jump through the hoops to come back and
10 put up their fish and.....

11
12 MR. LARSON: Yeah.

13
14 MR. TREFON:do whatever it is
15 they do, to get their fall fish, they have to follow
16 Park rules, that's what I'm -- is that what I'm
17 understanding?

18
19 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Yes. Billy, that is
20 -- if you are.....

21
22 REPORTER: Okay, who's talking.....

23
24 MS. FLEEK-GREEN:if you are no
25 longer.....

26
27 REPORTER: Excuse me.....

28
29 MS. FLEEK-GREEN:a permanent
30 year-round.....

31
32 REPORTER: Excuse me.....

33
34 MS. FLEEK-GREEN:resident, you
35 are -- this is Susanne Fleek-Green, Lake Clark National
36 Park.

37
38 REPORTER: Thank you.

39
40 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Through the Chair.
41 If you live in Anchorage, you might have grown up in
42 Nondalton, but now you are a permanent year-round
43 resident in Anchorage, you are no longer a Federally-
44 qualified subsistence user within the boundaries of the
45 National Park.

46
47 MR. TREFON: Oh, and how.....

48
49 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. And.....

50

1 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: And we.....

2
3 MR. TREFON:I mean this is.....

4
5 MS. FLEEK-GREEN:hear -- we hear
6 this concern a lot. I think Lary talked about it, we
7 hear a concern a lot about urban Alaska residents
8 coming in the summer and subsistence fishing when they
9 are no longer Federally-qualified users. And certainly
10 would, I guess, the growth in Port Alsworth, there's
11 more pressure on those subsistence resources and so
12 there is greater concern about people from outside the
13 area who are not year-round residents coming and
14 subsistence fishing within the Park boundaries.

15
16 MR. TREFON: Wow. I think this is
17 going to be a head's up for you, Liza and Susanne.
18 When I bring this back to the Council they're going to
19 have questions and maybe you might end up meeting with
20 us.

21
22 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Yeah, we would be
23 happy to do that Billy. We are -- whenever the Council
24 wants we can come and talk to them. This is -- I mean
25 this is not a new rule, right, this has been since the
26 beginning of the Park and so we would be happy to come
27 and talk to the Council about it.

28
29 MR. TREFON: That's -- well, the Park
30 guy that came on that totally just represents NPS so
31 I'm -- so that's why I had a question, the enforcement
32 of it, there's more people living in Lake Clark now and
33 buying more property up there.....

34
35 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Uh-huh.

36
37 MR. TREFON:so the Park Service
38 law enforcement's going to be a lot more busy because
39 they wouldn't know who from who and who just moved in
40 and who just moved out. Last year I seen four new
41 residents up there at Case Point and new cabins.

42
43 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Uh-huh.

44
45 MR. TREFON: So that was my question, I
46 mean so the Council is going to want -- because we
47 never done it in my experience of growing up around
48 here, even back when I my dad and them did it, nobody
49 ever went to the Park Service other than -- because we

50

1 never went to the Park Service to get a permit to go up
2 and get our fall fish, we never went to the Park
3 Service to go and get spawned out -- or even bears
4 inside -- because you have to go certain areas and
5 these places are within the Park boundaries, hunting
6 moose, they're all within the Park boundaries for
7 Nondalton people.
8

9 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Right. And, again,
10 it's different if you're a resident of Nondalton,
11 because Nondalton is a designated resident zone
12 community, Case Point is not.
13

14 MR. TREFON: So.....
15

16 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: So if you live in
17 Case Point you would have to come to the Park Service
18 to get one of these 13440 permits demonstrating that
19 you are a year-round permanent resident within the
20 boundary of Lake Clark.
21

22 MR. TREFON: Okay. What if I just
23 showed up at fall fishing and then law enforcement
24 didn't know me, what kind of paperwork am I going to --
25 do I have to present; that's going to be another
26 question.
27

28 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Yeah, I think you're
29 right, it would be great, we should -- our preCovid
30 times, we had more ability to come to different
31 communities and talk about these rules and the process
32 and we would be happy to figure out a way to do that
33 again with the Council or with the community as a
34 whole. We'll have to figure out a way to do that by
35 phone -- when we're not allowed to gather still in
36 large groups under Covid.
37

38 MR. TREFON: Okay, yeah, because that's
39 going to be a great concern because a lot of our people
40 that live in Anchorage and Soldotna and Kenai, they
41 come back here to put up fish every year, fall fish,
42 and when the fish arrive, it's -- it's a traditional
43 customary use. And then when they find out they're no
44 longer qualified, that's -- that's what I got to bring
45 back to the Council.
46

47 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you.
48 This is Dan, again. It's good we get this discussion.
49 I've encountered people that maintain cabins off the
50

1 road between Iliamna and Nondalton who come back but I
2 believe they do subsistence under State rules where
3 they're still qualified. But, yeah, it's good to work
4 it out and clarify it. But I still understand that the
5 ultimate goal of all this paperwork is really still
6 more streamlined, though, it's geared for more like if
7 Robert there in Koliganek could prove that he had
8 customary and traditional use up in the corner of the
9 Preserve he could get a permit and it would probably be
10 easier and he wouldn't have to wait two years, is my
11 understanding. So it does sound like the Park would be
12 wise to have some public outreach to the communities
13 there to clarify -- okay.

14
15 MR. TREFON: Yeah, because we --
16 subsistence for State, we have that State permit and
17 that's a real simple form to fill out. But the Federal
18 -- and if they ask for it and if you have to carry it
19 with you, they probably would, but if law enforcement
20 rolls up on you when you're out there with your net set
21 out in Kvichak trying to get fall fish and law
22 enforcement don't know you, they're going to -- they're
23 going to write you up. I mean history has shown that
24 YK last experience with the elder, that's why I'm so
25 concerned about the enforcement of this -- because I
26 never heard about it so I'd like to get that clarified.

27
28 And I think we beat that one to death.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, we
31 probably should move on if we can but I don't want to
32 cut things short. You know, Billy, I don't know a lot
33 of.....

34
35 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Mr. Chair.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY:maybe you
38 don't, but a lot of people carry their driver's license
39 and I bet in a lot of cases, like yourself, if you had
40 that on you, that'd probably be sufficient for law
41 enforcement. But did somebody else want to say
42 something, go ahead.

43
44 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Yes, Mr. Chair. This
45 is Susanne Fleek-Green again with Lake Clark. I just
46 want to followup very quickly on our enforcement, you
47 know, we try and be very aware of who are residents and
48 who are not residents and our law enforcement have
49 really learned a lot over the last 20 years and for the
50

1 most part we are -- we do not issue tickets, we try and
2 do a lot of education on site so that people understand
3 the rules. If -- if we don't know you. And like I
4 said, we work hard to have our law enforcement rangers
5 living in Port Alsworth and doing their best to get out
6 into communities, again, preCovid times, so that we --
7 we know folks because we -- we don't want to be issuing
8 tickets. That is not the goal here at all.
9

10 So I just wanted to clarify that.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you,
13 Susanne.
14

15 Okay, Donald, this was a potential
16 action item, if I'm correct, were we looking for a vote
17 of confidence on this or how on that, Donald?
18

19 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, this is Donald
20 Mike, Council Coordinator. As you recall the Park
21 Service initially presented this to the Council at its
22 fall meeting seeking comment and input, and the Council
23 went ahead and deferred it to this winter meeting to
24 further discuss it. And I believe this Council has
25 submitted these comments and the Park Service took note
26 of it and we'll go from there. I believe the Park
27 Service is taking all your comments and will comprise
28 it into a document for their use.
29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31

32 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, so thank
33 you, Donald. A discussion for Park Service. I guess
34 one last call, Richard or others do you have anything
35 you want to pick up -- okay.
36

37 MR. HILL: Mr. Chair. This is Lary
38 Hill. On the application form on Page 21, what
39 physical address is currently indicated on your -- and
40 it gives Alaska hunting fishing license, drivers
41 license, tax return, boater registration, Alaska
42 Permanent Fund Dividend, so would a person who is
43 applying have to list all of those or just one?
44

45 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Is there a park
46 Service person who could answer.
47

48 MR. STURM: Through the Chair, Mark
49 Sturm, Superintendent at Katmai National Park and
50

1 Preserve Aniakchak National Monument. Is it okay if I
2 speak Dan.
3

4 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Please, go
5 ahead.
6

7 MR. STURM: Thank you. So just to be
8 clear we do occasionally have to assess the
9 qualification of an individual as a Federal subsistence
10 user and the answer to all these questions is how we do
11 it. Essentially the bar is where is an individual's
12 primary residence. And a lot of residents -- a lot of
13 local -- communities around Parks have properties that
14 are owned by individuals, but the assessment of whether
15 or not someone is a qualified subsistence user does
16 indeed truly depend upon where their primary residence
17 is and one way to do that is to assess what individuals
18 use for the various things that we all have, you know,
19 tax returns, driver's license, those kind of things.
20 So filling out that form is how we assess the overall
21 qualification of an individual as a subsistence user or
22 not on Federal land.
23

24 MR. HILL: Okay, primary residence, now
25 -- this is Lary Hill, Mr. Chair. Your -- the primary
26 residence is something Lake and Peninsula Borough has
27 dealt with as far as qualifications a any Federal
28 judge, I believe, I don't know the name or the actual
29 court case, but his ruling was your primary residence
30 is wherever you say it is. I don't know if you know
31 anything about that or can you address that?
32

33 MR. STURM: Well, again, the Federal
34 subsistence -- individuals that qualify for Federal
35 subsistence are, by definition, rural residents of
36 qualified communities and so, you know, I guess what we
37 have done and it's only been a few instances where this
38 comes up, but we do look at the individual case, you
39 know, and assess the specifics of a particular
40 situation, each time that these issues about does this
41 individual qualify for these -- to take advantage of
42 these resources or not. And, you know, it is -- it is
43 absolutely, I guess, an individual assessment of each
44 case as it comes up to make that determination,
45 applying some level of consistent interpretation of
46 where an individual's residence is. But at the end of
47 the day if you primarily live for, you know, eight or
48 nine months of the year in an urban area, in accordance
49 to the Federal Subsistence Program, as it's managed,
50

1 you do not qualify as a Federal subsistence user. And
2 so, yeah, that's kind of the process that we have gone
3 through.
4

5 MR. HILL: Okay, thank you. I just
6 wanted to see if you needed to do all of them, that
7 would really be a good background check.
8

9 Okay, thank you.
10

11 MR. STURM: If I could just add one
12 final comment. The process that the Subsistence
13 Program has gone through is essentially trying to
14 expedite these determinations for individuals, if I
15 have my facts straight, so if you did qualify or did
16 qualify for a customary and traditional use permit,
17 before you required, I guess, Board approval, and,
18 Dylan, if I'm correct, the Board has determined that
19 the agency, in this case the National Park Service can
20 make that determination much more quickly than the
21 Board would ultimately be able to do it, it would take
22 years for the Board to determine.
23

24 MR. PATTERSON: Mr. Chair, this is
25 Dylan Patterson. And as a point of clarification, the
26 initial proposed revision to this process did have the
27 Park Service Regional Director as the decisionmaker,
28 however, the Federal Subsistence Board decided at their
29 January meeting that the Federal Subsistence Board
30 would retain the decision -- the role of decisionmaker.
31

32 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, great. I
33 like that idea. How does the rest of the Council feel.
34

35 (No comments)
36

37 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, is there
38 any discussion on this. I was kind of hoping to move
39 along but I don't want to squelch anything -- okay.
40

41 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, Rich Wilson.
42

43 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, Richard.
44

45 MR. WILSON: Yeah, hi, thanks. A lot
46 of good discussion here. You know here on the Naknek,
47 you know, we have the National Park system up river
48 from us and there is no subsistence use in that Park,
49 you know, only in the Preserve section so when these
50

1 applications are -- you know it's a little confusing
2 for a guy like me, knowing that we are strictly a
3 customary traditional use in this Park and we have very
4 little of that, but in the Preserve section, you know,
5 a lot of this subsistence stuff applies. You know so
6 we got to make sure that that -- that we're not -- you
7 know it's a bit different because there is no
8 subsistence availability here in Katmai National Park,
9 only in the Preserve section. So it's a little bit of
10 a learning curve here looking at some of these
11 applications. But to simplify things for people is
12 really, you know, it's what it's going to come down to.
13 You know people get -- you know things could get
14 complicated pretty easy so keeping it simple is good
15 for us.
16

17 Thanks.
18

19 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you,
20 Richard. Yeah, what Naknek and Paug-Vik went through
21 just to get red fish is -- I think every time I see a
22 Park Service form my eyes kind of glaze for a few
23 minutes so -- but I do want to compliment the Park
24 Service for their efforts to move away from killing
25 things with forms and bureaucracy and really trying to
26 be more responsive, is my understanding of this whole
27 thing.
28

29 Last call on comment before we move.
30

31 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair.
32

33 MR. HILL: Mr. Chair, I have another
34 comment on this Page 27 of this document here by the
35 National Park Service.
36

37 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you,
38 Lary, go ahead.
39

40 MR. HILL: Okay. On Page 27 there's a
41 footnote about pattern of use. It says there might be
42 variation by region and Old Park on what constitutes a
43 pattern of use, that's -- that's what I'm concerned --
44 curious about -- how much of a pattern of use is
45 sufficient to enable a person to actually complete this
46 application?
47

48 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Good point. Is
49 the Park Service prepared to touch on that or has the
50

1 -- and I don't know if we've ever heard from the SRC
2 yet on this so -- but if somebody can answer I'm ready
3 to hear it. Go ahead.
4

5 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair. This is Josh
6 Ream, the Alaska Regional Program, Subsistence Manager,
7 I'm on the call now and can answer that question.
8

9 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, go ahead,
10 please.
11

12 MR. REAM: Sure. Thank you. So the
13 reason that we put in that there are variations in
14 pattern of use among regions is so that we can look to
15 the Regional Advisory Councils as well as the Park
16 Subsistence Resource Commissions to help us to
17 understand what they feel is an acceptable pattern of
18 use in making a determination for customary and
19 traditional use. So just like in the Board's new rural
20 determination policy, the Board looks to the affected
21 Regional Advisory Council to understand what they
22 believe rural and nonrural to mean in their region.
23 The Park Service is also seeking to look to the RACs
24 and the SRCs to help us define that pattern of use that
25 is acceptable as well.
26

27 I hope that helps.
28

29 Thank you.
30

31 MR. HILL: Yes, this is Lary Hill. I
32 was concerned about that. It almost felt like the SRC
33 or the local people who deal with this are being kind
34 of phased out of making this initial decision whether
35 this person has an actual enough pattern of use to
36 qualify for this permit.
37

38 MR. REAM: Through the Chair.
39

40 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, Lary.....
41

42 MR. REAM: Oh, go ahead.
43

44 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, go ahead,
45 is that Josh, go ahead, please.
46

47 MR. REAM: Sure. Just in response to
48 the comment, we wanted to avoid that, we wanted to make
49 sure that local people did have a say in these
50

1 customary and traditional use determinations. The
2 Regional Advisory Councils under the previously
3 existing process were the ones making the formal
4 recommendations. The Park Service had proposed that
5 this shift even more locally to the Park Subsistence
6 Resource Commissions, however, some of the Regional
7 Advisory Councils noted that they would also like to
8 retain their voice. So the policy that the Board
9 adopted in January includes recommendations from both
10 the Regional Advisory Councils and the Park Subsistence
11 Resource Commission, so really trying to make sure that
12 we have local input in analyzing these proposals for
13 individual use determinations so that those arguments
14 can be heard by the Federal Subsistence Board when they
15 make their determination.
16

17 MR. HILL: Okay. I don't want to go
18 much further, it just seemed like there might be a
19 conflict between the initial decisionmakers and what
20 the local SRC or local people feel is a sufficient
21 traditional use. That was my worry about this
22 footnote.
23

24 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you,
25 Lary. Yeah, if anything, it seems like it's empowered
26 those two. And it looks like Linda has got her hand
27 up, Linda Chisolm, did you want to say something, go
28 ahead.
29

30 MS. CHISOLM: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
31 Council members. I wish I had some additional
32 information to illuminate for you all today. As Mr.
33 Donald Mike mentioned earlier the Aniakchak SRC began
34 its review of the individual C&T process this fall and
35 deferred the discussion to their winter meeting. We
36 held our winter meeting last week but were not able to
37 obtain a quorum. And I think because of that lack of
38 quorum, the members who were in attendance declined to
39 have a client or discussion on this matter.
40

41 Thank you.
42

43 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you for
44 that, and I don't know how long your hand was up. I'm
45 not used to scanning the screen so much so -- but thank
46 you very much. Are there any other SRC comments.
47 Over.
48

49 (No comments)
50

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Hearing none,
2 have we covered this adequately, I really would like to
3 move on. But I'm really glad that we got a thorough
4 explanation.

5
6 MR. HILL: Dan, I guess one more.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay.

9
10 MR. HILL: This is Lary Hill.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead, Lary.

13
14 MR. HILL: On Page 15, the title,
15 individual customary and traditional use determination
16 pursuant to 50 CFT 100.(indiscernible) it references
17 the Board -- the Board -- that's what I don't
18 understand.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: So you're asking
21 which -- who is the Board, if, again, Josh, or Mark or
22 someone could answer, please speak up, go ahead.

23
24 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
25 is Joshua Ream. I just want to make sure that I
26 understand the question, being who is the ultimate
27 decisionmaker, per regulation, and if that is the
28 question, it is the Federal Subsistence Board. They
29 have the authority to delegate according to the
30 Solicitor but they opted not to do that, they want to
31 retain the authority. And that was a recommendation
32 that was made by several of the Regional Advisory
33 Councils, that the Board continue to make the final
34 call on individual customary and traditional use
35 determinations.

36
37 MR. HILL: Okay. In reference to that,
38 my concerns about that is this Board will determine
39 which fish stocks and wildlife populations have been
40 customary and traditionally used for subsistence, and
41 this is kind of in reference to what Richard Wilson
42 talked about with use of red fish in the Preserve, and
43 that's what I would be worried about or concerned
44 about, where is this Board getting the information
45 about which fish stocks and wildlife populations have
46 been customary and traditionally used for subsistence?

47
48 MR. REAM: Through the Chair. This is
49 Joshua Ream. Again, I would like to reiterate that
50

1 individual customary and traditional use determinations
2 are similar, and the process that's used to make them,
3 between individuals, communities and areas, the
4 process, you know, starts with a request by an
5 individual, the request specifically includes
6 information about why they believe there is an existing
7 pattern of use, that then leads to an analysis that is
8 either conducted by the Office of Subsistence
9 Management or by the National Park Service to see what
10 data is available to support those arguments, and then
11 we turn to the Regional Advisory Councils and the
12 Subsistence Resource Commissions for them to weigh in,
13 about not only their recommendation but what they know
14 about the pattern of use, and so all of that
15 information, including information from the public, you
16 know, there's public comment, both in written and
17 verbal form as well as tribal and ANCSA Corporation
18 comment, all of those things go before the Federal
19 Subsistence Board to help them in understanding the
20 request and what existing pattern of use exists for
21 that species in that area.
22

23 MR. HILL: Okay. Mr. Chair, my
24 response to that. My reason for asking these
25 questions, I think we're all kind of gun shy about
26 someone who lives outside the area who has no really,
27 you know, very in-depth knowledge of subsistence just
28 making decisions for us on what we can or cannot do, so
29 thank you for the answer.
30

31 I'm done, Dan.
32

33 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Boy.
34

35 MR. TREFON: Billy one more time here.
36

37 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, Billy.
38

39 MR. TREFON: Back to what Lary was just
40 saying about, I'm looking at Page 15, CFR 100.24,
41 person granting individual customary and traditional
42 use determination will be notified in writing by the
43 Board. The Fish and Wildlife Service and the local
44 National Park Service will maintain a list of
45 individuals having customary and traditional use on the
46 Park and Monument, a copy of this list will be
47 available upon request when there is a determination
48 for specific communities and area residents in a unit.
49 So what this is saying is basically nothing about our
50

1 Council approving anything, it looks like the Park
2 Service and the Fish and Wildlife have the final say
3 so.
4

5 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, kind in
6 the beginning there it talks about the Federal
7 Subsistence Board determined -- I haven't read this
8 very thoroughly for a few days but I guess -- I think
9 this would kind of go, Billy, to kind of if the Park
10 Service maintains this list and they come along your
11 net up in Kvichak or something and it's like, oh, yeah,
12 here's Billy Trefon, he's good, or say more likely
13 somebody like Robert that somehow qualified but he
14 lives in Koliganek, for an arbitrary example, and they
15 could say, okay, sure your name is here, yeah, you got
16 something kind of shows who you say you are and catch
17 more fish or something. Am I correct Park Service, go
18 ahead Josh, if you have something, or Mark.
19

20 MR. REAM: Sure. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 So the list is simply so that it exists in multiple
22 places for someone that wants to know what these
23 individual customary and traditional use determinations
24 have been. We do not publish individual names in the
25 Federal Register as part of a regulation on customary
26 and traditional use determinations so you can't just
27 look to the Code of Federal Regulations to figure out
28 who has C&T. So that list simply is a list of those
29 determinations that have already been made by the
30 Federal Subsistence Board, so the decision is made by
31 them. Of course, five Federal agencies are represented
32 on the Board and three rural subsistence users and
33 those eight members are the ones making the final
34 determination.
35

36 And, you know, generally, if a -- these
37 are so rare, that if a determination is made, the
38 Park's local Staff should be well aware of who has an
39 individual C&T and, you know, who is able to be
40 participating in subsistence harvest within the Park
41 boundaries because of an individual C&T.
42

43 The Park and the Regional Office and
44 the Fish and Wildlife Service will all be in possession
45 of that list of previous determinations, and anybody
46 can ask for that list at any time and we can provide
47 it. Unfortunately under the previous process the list
48 -- it was so rare for these things to happen that the
49 list was never maintained but the Board has sort of
50

1 addressed that in their new policy that the list will
2 be available for the public to review.
3

4 MR. TREFON: Well, I think it's going
5 to change after people realize that they no longer
6 qualify because they don't live here anymore and they
7 have to go fill paperwork out.
8

9 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay. I'm
10 going to have to cut it off unless there's really
11 something else burning here. I think some of this, for
12 some areas might be good to deal with at the SRC level
13 and locally, but I sure appreciate everybody speaking
14 up.
15

16 Can we move then to positioning of
17 wolves discussion.
18

19 And I think Park Service got adequate
20 input at this point -- okay.
21

22 MR. MIKE: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 This is Donald Mike.
24

25 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead.
26

27 MR. MIKE: Yeah, if the Council wishes
28 to do so they can move to endorse this National Park
29 Service individual C&T determination process with their
30 comments discussed during this proceedings as part of
31 the record, the Council can go ahead and make a motion
32 to endorse the Park Service's individual C&T, Mr.
33 Chair.
34

35 Thank you.
36

37 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
38 Donald. Does anybody want to make a motion on this
39 Park Service process, I am ready to hear it.
40

41 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair, Richard
42 Wilson here.
43

44 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
45 Richard.
46

47 MR. WILSON: Dan, I'm wondering if, you
48 know, have we had enough discussion, I mean is there --
49 I mean are we all satisfied with what we heard and do
50

1 we feel like we can give the okay for this agenda item?
2 I'm not totally certain, maybe somebody can help me out
3 here.
4

5 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, Council
6 members, what do you think.
7

8 MR. TREFON: This is Billy. Well, for
9 me, like I said, it's probably the best idea for us up
10 here to meet with the Park Service and go from there
11 because what I'm gathering here there's going to be
12 some really disappointed people here that don't live
13 here -- are from here but don't live here.
14

15 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Lary or
16 Samantha.
17

18 MR. HILL: Mr. Chair, this is Lary.
19

20 MR. HILL: Go ahead. I feel like
21 there's not enough discussion but it seems like, what's
22 the word, I can't think of it now, but how is
23 simplifying the process, how is it simplifying by
24 adding more paperwork as a requirement, or is it a
25 deliberate attempt to make it extremely difficult, even
26 if it is rare?
27

28 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, Lary, when
29 I was looking into this last week, I think in the past
30 you could only apply every couple years and I don't
31 think the SRCs and the RACs had as much opportunity for
32 input on this. So my overall understanding is that
33 this really is better, that it could be more responsive
34 as people apply instead of making people wait awhile.
35 And I think a lot of the consternation here is actually
36 rediscovering Park rules that have been in place for
37 awhile but unless there's -- when we don't talk about
38 them much people lose track of what they are. But --
39 so I'm inclined to support this as a good effort to
40 simplify. But since I don't really have to deal with
41 the Park I'm reluctant to go farther than that because
42 so many of you do -- you know, you're on the edges of
43 that Park. So it's kind of up to you guys, if you want
44 to move or have any other final comment or if we can
45 move on to the next agenda item -- okay.
46

47 MR. TREFON: Well, for Nondalton, I
48 think I'm ready to move on.
49
50

1 MR. MIKE: Okay, Mr. Chair, Donald
2 Mike. It sounds like that the Council provided its
3 comments and would like to move on, and if the Council
4 wishes to do so we can place this on our fall meeting
5 agenda again to provide further comments and public
6 testimony on the subject.
7

8 Thank you.
9

10 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
11 Donald. Do you guys like that suggestion, it sounds
12 like a good one to me -- okay.
13

14 MR. WILSON: If we still have the time,
15 Richard Wilson, yes, that'd be a good one.
16

17 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Donald Mike. And just to notify the Park Service, the
19 Council provided its comments on the record and we've
20 addressed this agenda item topic.
21

22 Thank you.
23

24 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, great,
25 thank you. Thanks for all the input. Maybe some PR
26 outreach between now and fall to explain it to
27 community members would be very helpful.
28

29 With that I would like to move on to
30 positioning of wolves and wolverine, and, Donald, can
31 you bring us up to speed on that.
32

33 MR. MIKE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Donald Mike, Council Coordinator.
35

36 At the Federal Subsistence Board we
37 provided a briefing along with OSM Staff -- Robbin
38 LaVine and I, provided a briefing to the Federal
39 Subsistence Board at its January 2021 meeting and we
40 stated to the Board that the working group requested
41 additional guidance on positioning of animals and this
42 working group was established by the Federal
43 Subsistence Board at its spring 2020 meeting to develop
44 language on positioning of animals and this working
45 group comprised of Federal and State representatives.
46 We met three times and this working group needed
47 additional guidance as far as how to go forward with
48 developing recommendations for language.
49
50

1 And with that I'd like to turn it over
2 to my colleague, Robbin LaVine, for additional
3 information for the Council. And after Robbin's
4 briefing, the Council continues to provide additional
5 recommendation on how should the working group move
6 forward or if they wished to provide some additional
7 background information for future or potential wildlife
8 proposals.
9

10 Thank you.
11

12 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you,
13 Donald. Yeah, Robbin, you're welcome to carry on.
14

15 MS. LAVINE: Thank you. Hello, Mr.
16 Chair. Members of the Council. Again, for the record
17 this is Robbin LaVine, anthropologist with the Office
18 of Subsistence Management. I know we've been taking a
19 bit of time this morning, but I recognize we have some
20 new Council members, we might have some new Staff folks
21 from different agencies that are online. So because of
22 that I'd like to give you a little bit of a background
23 on this issue. Before we proceed, what does it mean,
24 we're talking about a working group, we're talking
25 about deferred Proposal 20-26.
26

27 So with your approval, Chair, I can
28 proceed with some history.
29

30 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, please do.
31 I'm realizing in my mind, I'm kind of also involved
32 with the Advisory Committee here and we also discussed
33 this same issue and after awhile it all gets kind of
34 muddled together so go ahead. I'll even appreciate it
35 too.
36

37 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. All
38 right. So to understand this issue I'm going to
39 describe a series of proposals on snowmachine use for
40 Federal Subsistence Board subsistence harvest that were
41 submitted across the state, and I'm going to start in
42 2016.
43

44 So in 2016 Wildlife Proposal 16-48
45 requested that Federal subsistence hunters be allowed
46 to use a snowmachine to position a caribou, wolf, or
47 wolverine for harvest and it was going to take place in
48 Unit 23, so up north. The Board adopted the proposal
49 but modified it to say: This method of harvest could
50

1 only happen on Bureau of Land Management lands, as the
2 regulatory language for this agency does not
3 specifically prohibit the use of snowmachines to
4 position animals for hunting. The Board also noted
5 this harvest method is allowed on some State lands in
6 Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.
7

8 So in 2017, Wildlife Proposal 18-24 was
9 submitted requesting pretty much the same thing as 16-
10 48, that Federally-qualified subsistence users be
11 allowed to use a snowmachine to position caribou,
12 wolves and wolverine for harvest in Unit 17, so that's
13 your area, provided the animals were not shot from a
14 moving vehicle. A same proposal, called, 148, was
15 submitted to the Board of Game. So the Board of Game
16 met first and the Board of Game adopted Proposal 148
17 but modified it to caribou only, shot from a stationary
18 snowmachine, with further clarification describing
19 exactly how the snowmachine may be used for subsistence
20 harvest.
21

22 The Federal Subsistence Board
23 deliberated the proposal on record, the one that came
24 -- when it came to the Federal Subsistence Board's
25 turn, they deliberated and rejected it, citing concerns
26 over a lack of clarity and consistency among existing
27 regulations, especially those on U.S. Fish and Wildlife
28 Service lands and Park Service lands.
29

30 In the lead up to the 2020 regulatory
31 cycle, the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council formed
32 a working group to discuss next steps. They were
33 strategic in splitting Wildlife Proposal 18-24, the
34 failed proposal, into two separate proposals, one for
35 caribou to align with the recent State regulations on
36 snowmachine use in Unit 17, and another one on wolves
37 and wolverine because Wildlife Proposal 16-48 set some
38 precedent for positioning caribou, wolves and
39 wolverines on BLM lands for -- because there were no
40 agency-specific prohibitions.
41

42 So Wildlife Proposal 20-27 requested
43 Unit 17 specific regulations allowing the use of a
44 snowmachine to assist in the taking of a caribou and
45 allowing caribou to be shot from a stationary
46 snowmachine using the regulatory language adopted by
47 the Alaska Board of Game back in February 2018. And if
48 it'd be helpful I can read that proposed regulatory
49 language to you now.
50

1 So this is what they came up with for
2 Wildlife Proposal 20-27 and it mirrors the language of
3 the modified proposal 148, and it goes like this:
4

5 In Unit 17 a snowmachine may be used to
6 assist in the taking of a caribou and caribou may be
7 shot from a stationary snowmachine. Assist in the
8 taking of a caribou means a snowmachine may be used to
9 approach within 300 feet of the caribou at speeds under
10 15 miles an hour in a manner that does not involve
11 repeated approaches or that causes a caribou to run. A
12 snowmachine may not be used to contact an animal or to
13 pursue a fleeing caribou.
14

15 So during our April 2020 Board meeting
16 the Board took up Wildlife Proposal 20-27 first before
17 20-26, the caribou proposal, discussed it and adopted
18 it. And then the Board took up Wildlife Proposal 20-
19 26, which states -- oh, do I have it here -- requesting
20 that Federally-qualified subsistence users be allowed
21 to use a snowmachine to position wolves and wolverines
22 on BLM lands in Units 9 and 17 as long as they're not
23 shot from a moving snowmachine.
24

25 So the Board took up Wildlife Proposal
26 20-26, discussed and then deferred it back to the
27 working group and back to you, the proponent. So as
28 Donald said, we've had a number of meetings over time.
29 We had a briefing with the Federal Subsistence Board a
30 couple weeks ago. As Working Group Member, Mr.
31 Dunaway, you, the Chair, knows when the working group
32 met January 21st, a big part of the discussion was
33 Board of Game Proposal 23, so the -- basically the
34 exact same proposal, the use of snowmachine to harvest
35 -- or to position wolves and wolverine was submitted to
36 the Board of Game and it's Board of Game Proposal 23,
37 and it was submitted by the Nushagak Advisory Committee
38 and the working group wanted to hold its recommendation
39 on 20-26 until Board of Game action on Proposal 23,
40 however, we now know that due to Covid, the Board of
41 Game won't meet on this issue until 2022, so the
42 working group has now expressed a desire to take a lead
43 on this issue rather than wait for the State.
44

45 So the working group has already
46 supported expanding the analysis of this proposal to
47 include all Federal lands in Units 9B and C and Unit
48 17B and C, so not just BLM lands, but all Federal
49 lands, Park Service lands, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
50

1 Service lands. The working group is still considering
2 Board guidance on identifying specific regulatory
3 language that may reduce complexity between State and
4 Federal regulations, assist enforcement in recognizing
5 a traditional practice and provide clarities for
6 hunters in consideration of Federal agency specific
7 regulations.
8

9 So the next steps, you, as the
10 proponent, Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council, can
11 take, could include -- you could modify the proposal to
12 use the same language the working group approved for
13 Wildlife Proposal 20-27. You know, I'd note that this
14 language was approved and passed by the Board, but that
15 was for caribou.
16

17 You could proceed with the proposal as
18 written. The only change being to expand the analysis
19 and proposed regulation to include Park Service and
20 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands in addition to BLM
21 lands in Unit 9B and C, and Unit 17B and C.
22

23 Or you could come up with new proposed
24 language.
25

26 And you can do all these now on record
27 or you could ask the working group to meet again and
28 follow through on any of these options.
29

30 So, finally, to finish up, I would
31 remind you that you, the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
32 Council, you are the proponent of this proposal and the
33 working group was formed to help inform your actions on
34 this issue.
35

36 So with that I will complete my
37 presentation and I'm ready for questions and support
38 your discussion.
39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41

42 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
43 Robbin. Excellent job. Like I said, my memory's
44 gotten jumbled on it, but, yes, what she said. So any
45 questions from Council members.
46

47 (No comments)
48

49 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Or a comment.
50

1 MR. TREFON: I don't see any problems
2 with it, if I mean if you're shooting from a stationary
3 snowmachine. If you're shooting from a moving machine
4 that'd mean you're actually right next to the animal
5 going full bore all out. But it's a good idea, I like
6 it.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 Billy Trefon.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
13 Billy. Yeah, and how do folks feel about expanding it
14 to beyond BLM. It's our understanding from the working
15 group that the original proposal language, they're
16 seeking the most likely acceptable language but really
17 we're hearing from the folks really out there that the
18 more widely -- the more wider lands that could be
19 included, the easier it would be to know you're in
20 compliance, BLM lands in -- over here around Dillingham
21 are kind of postage stamps with other lands around
22 them, it makes a difference so.....

23

24 MR. TREFON: Yeah.....

25

26 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Did
27 somebody.....

28

29 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I support
30 completely. I mean it sounds like a great idea and
31 most of 9B is within the Preserve, I'd like to know the
32 Park Service's view on that because wolves are
33 predatory and wolverines -- I mean I've never heard of
34 anybody here hunting wolverine, trying to get it
35 positioned, but, wolves, I've heard stories about
36 people tracking wolves and hunting them with
37 snowmachines. But it's kind of hard to shoot in my
38 country from a moving machine, you're going to hit a
39 tree or drive off a mountain.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah. Yeah,
44 anybody else.

45

46 MR. HILL: Mr. Chair, this is Lary.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead, Lary.

49

50

1 MR. HILL: Part of the words I heard
2 was when you can use a snowmachine say with caribou and
3 not to pursue a fleeing animal. Is there a footnote or
4 anything like that through that -- through that
5 stipulation because if the animal is wounded sometimes
6 you have to go after it, you have to pursue it, and it
7 will be fleeing, and so can we make a note on that
8 somehow where if the animal is wounded, if you don't
9 chase after it, it could run a quarter mile and hide
10 from you and you won't be able to find it. It's like
11 some of the ground cover being, you know, pretty thick,
12 so is there a way we can address that particular set of
13 circumstances?
14

15 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, Lary, this
16 proposal addresses wolves and wolverine, I kind of hate
17 to drag caribou back in it. The State regulation does
18 have some more details, I think, about speed or -- and
19 possibly distance. I don't have the regulation at my
20 fingertips here but there was quite a discussion, the
21 caribou aspect was addressed at a Board of Game meeting
22 here in Dillingham, as Robbin outlined, but at this
23 point if we could keep it to wolves and wolverine. I
24 would add that the Nushagak Advisory Committee has a
25 similar, Proposal 23, they double downed on supporting
26 it 11-0 at our December meeting prior to the Board of
27 Game. And we have a couple of guys here real strong
28 for it, one of them's our -- probably one of our
29 biggest full-time trappers and he really wants to see
30 it for wolf and wolverine from the standpoint of
31 traditional practices plus up in Game Unit 18 and I
32 think Robbin listed others, it's already allowed. So
33 out here we're saying if it's okay in Unit 18 it should
34 be okay in 17.
35

36 But, anyway, before I dominate too
37 much, any other comments.
38

39 Thank you.
40

41 MR. HILL: Dan, just go along with what
42 Billy talked about, I like the idea of this extending
43 beyond just BLM land.
44

45 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Agree. Thank
46 you. Other people.
47

48 (No comments)
49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Billy
2 said.....
3

4 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.
5

6 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY:he wasn't
7 aware of folks up his way. I know early on in my time
8 here that I heard of both wolverine and wolves being
9 hunted from snowmachines out in the Igiugig area, I
10 suspect others, and they bump up against the Park. But
11 did somebody else want to speak, go ahead.
12

13 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.
14 I would just like to point out that when we -- if you
15 decide, if you choose to expand the analysis to include
16 all Federal lands, not just BLM lands, we run into
17 agency specific regulation that conditions the use of
18 snowmachine in such a manner as to prevent the herding,
19 harassment, hazing or driving of wildlife. It doesn't
20 specifically say you may not position an animal. So
21 some of it may be really dependent on how we define
22 what it means to position. But given past Board action
23 on this issue, it seems that there is an interpretation
24 that to position an animal is equivalent to herding,
25 harassing, hazing or driving. So I would just make
26 note of that. It doesn't specifically state you may
27 not position an animal anywhere in our regulations but
28 I recognize Federal Board decisionmaking that has
29 indicates there may be an interpretation, maybe for
30 wildlife, maybe for land managers that equates
31 positioning an animal with herding, harassing, hazing
32 or driving.
33

34 Thanks.
35

36 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you.
37 And I think we talked about that in the working group
38 and, in particular, that's -- like, I think, BLM is
39 maybe the least restrictive, and activities in the
40 Park/Preserve areas is probably the most restrictive,
41 and, yeah, we're real aware that how do we navigate all
42 those. But what's the pleasure of the Council.
43

44 MR. WILSON: Rich Wilson here. I'd be
45 willing to move on it.
46

47 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Could you, you
48 know, put a few more words in there on what you would
49 like to move -- okay.
50

1 MR. WILSON: Well, please identify it
2 for me, is that WP20-26?
3

4 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes.
5

6 MR. WILSON: Okay. I'll move to
7 approve WP20-26.
8

9 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: And would that
10 expand this proposal to include other Federal lands,
11 beyond BLM?
12

13 MR. WILSON: Yes, it would. Thanks for
14 adding that. Yes, that was my intent.
15

16 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
17 you. I guess so that's your motion, is there a second.
18

19 MR. HILL: This is Lary Hill. Second.
20

21 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, Lary,
22 second. Is there any other discussion.
23

24 (No comments)
25

26 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Is there any of
27 the agencies that want to speak up -- over -- or
28 public.
29

30 MR. TREFON: Question. Billy.
31

32 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, this is Donald.
33

34 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I think I heard
35 Billy and then Donald, did you have something Billy.
36

37 MR. TREFON: I was calling for
38 question.
39

40 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Donald,
41 go ahead.
42

43 MR. MIKE: Yes, just to clarify the
44 maker of the motion by Mr. Richard Wilson to adopt 20-
45 26, is that the motion to clarify the current analysis
46 we have to expand or to extend positioning of animals
47 beyond BLM lands; is that correct, maker of the motion?
48

49 MR. WILSON: Rich Wilson, yes, that is
50

1 correct. All Federal eligible lands.

2

3 MR. MIKE: Okay. So the motion, if you
4 can help me out, Ms. Robbin LaVine, the motion was to
5 adopt WP20-26 to expand the current analysis that are
6 currently being developed right now, is to expand the
7 analysis to include all lands beyond -- all Federal
8 lands beyond BLM managed lands in Unit 9 and Unit 17.
9 Robbin, is that what you heard?

10

11 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair. Yes, this is
12 Robbin LaVine. And I'm understanding that the Board --
13 sorry, the Council -- would like to proceed with the
14 proposal as written, the only modification is that the
15 proposal will expand to include all Federal lands in
16 Units 9B and C and Units 17B and C, but that the
17 regulatory language will not be changed, it will remain
18 as written.

19

20 MR. MIKE: Okay. Mr. Chair, does the
21 maker of the motion agree with that?

22

23 MR. WILSON: Rich Wilson, here. Yes,
24 it was said nicely, thanks.

25

26 MR. MIKE: Okay. And the second was
27 called by Lary Hill.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes.

30

31 MR. MIKE: Okay. Mr. Chair, if you're
32 ready for a roll call vote.

33

34 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, sir, I
35 believe Billy called the question so please proceed.

36

37 MR. MIKE: Okay. Roll call vote on
38 motion to accept WP20-26 to expand the current analysis
39 to include all Federal lands beyond BLM lands.

40

41 Mr. Billy Trefon.

42

43 MR. TREFON: Yes, I approve.

44

45 MR. MIKE: Samantha Herrick.

46

47 MS. HERRICK: Yes.

48

49 MR. MIKE: Mr. Dan Dunaway.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes.
2
3 MR. MIKE: Mr. Lary Hill.
4
5 MR. HILL: Yes.
6
7 MR. MIKE: Mr. Robert Larson.
8
9 MR. LARSON: Yes, I approve.
10
11 MR. MIKE: And Mr. Richard Wilson.
12
13 MR. WILSON: Yes.
14
15 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, the motion
16 passes. Thank you.
17
18 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you
19 very much. Thanks for all the input on there. So,
20 with that, we have new business. Do we need a break or
21 should we carry on.
22
23 MR. MIKE: I need a break.
24
25 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Let's
26 take a five minute break, thank you, I could use one
27 too.
28
29 (Off record)
30
31 (On record)
32
33 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: We've got Lary
34 and Richard and Billy and myself, and I don't know
35 Robert or Samantha.
36
37 MR. MIKE: Okay, Mr. Chair, I can do a
38 quick roll call of all the Council members.
39
40 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: If you would, go
41 ahead please.
42
43 MR. MIKE: Okay.
44
45 Billy Trefon.
46
47 MR. TREFON: Yep, go ahead.
48
49 MR. MIKE: Samantha Herrick.
50

1 MS. HERRICK: I'm here.
2
3 MR. MIKE: Dan Dunaway.
4
5 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Here.
6
7 MR. MIKE: Lary Hill.
8
9 MR. HILL: Here.
10
11 MR. MIKE: Robert Larson.
12
13 MR. LARSON: Here.
14
15 MR. MIKE: Richard Wilson.
16
17 MR. WILSON: Here.
18
19 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, we have everyone
20 present.
21
22 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
23 everybody. So we were just starting new business and
24 first on the list there is the call for Federal
25 wildlife proposals. And were we going to have wildlife
26 status updates at this point, is that what -- what's
27 the pleasure of the Council here -- okay.
28
29 MR. TREFON: I'd like to hear a report
30 from the agencies -- Billy.
31
32 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Sometimes
33 it makes sense to hear from the agencies before we
34 plunge off into proposals, kind of know what's needed
35 versus what's already done. So how do we normally do
36 this, Donald.
37
38 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, Donald Mike,
39 Council Coordinator. First of all the call for
40 wildlife proposals, just some background information
41 for the Council's reference, begins on Page 36 of your
42 meeting materials. How to submit a proposal to change
43 Federal subsistence regulations. And if there's any
44 specific wildlife issues that the Council has and any
45 potential proposals coming of that, the Council can
46 request some status updates on any wildlife population.
47
48 Thank you.
49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. This is
2 how to change the proposal, there's a whole process.
3 Yes, well, we do have a lot going on in the Game Unit
4 17 big game population. But I guess first off, does
5 people have -- I think it might be more streamlined if
6 we have any people who want to make a proposal right
7 now to maybe discuss that briefly. Because I know we
8 get into the wildlife populations -- could run awhile
9 -- okay.

10
11 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair, I might give you
12 a little bit of an idea. This is Mark Burch from Fish
13 and Game. Just give you an idea of kind of what's on
14 deck if you'd care to hear that.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, Mark,
17 yeah, I think we'd appreciate that, go ahead.

18
19 MR. BURCH: We have Todd Rinaldi, who
20 is the management coordinator, online, and he's
21 prepared to give an update on the Mulchatna and some of
22 the work that we've been doing out there over time.
23 And, of course, he is the supervisor of the area
24 biologist who's also online, and can speak to other
25 game species such as moose and that kind of thing, if
26 you're interested. And then Rick Merizon is also
27 online, you might recall he's our program lead for
28 small game, so he can talk about hares and ptarmigan,
29 especially.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay.
34 Council.....

35
36 MR. WALSH: Mr. Chair.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, sir.

39
40 MR. WALSH: Mr. Chair, this is Pat
41 Walsh.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead, Pat.

44
45 MR. WALSH: Yeah, I've also -- the
46 Council asked us to prepare a presentation for this
47 meeting on wolf and bear predation on Togiak Refuge
48 moose and I have information for you on that topic.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay.
2 Excellent. What you say, Council, should we hear from
3 these guys first, or if -- or if you have some burning
4 issues, at least do a head's up before we go on to that
5 -- go ahead.

6
7 MR. WILSON: Rich Wilson. I'll wait
8 for some discussion from agencies.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thanks, Richard.
11 Billy said about the same thing. Anybody else.

12
13 MR. LARSON: Robert Larson, I'll hear
14 from them also.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay.
17 Let's proceed with Fish and Game comments here then
18 because, yeah, this latest development of caribou is, I
19 think, has got all our attention. So, Mark, if you
20 could kind of work with Todd and you guys run through
21 your information, go ahead.

22
23 MR. BURCH: Yes, Mr. Chair. I think
24 Todd is ready to go, thank you.

25
26 MR. RINALDI: Good morning. This is
27 Todd Rinaldi with Fish and Game in Palmer, can you hear
28 me?

29
30 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Loud and clear.

31
32 MR. RINALDI: Great. Well, thanks for
33 having me this morning. There's a number of topics
34 that I think you want to hear about, things I've
35 gleaned from this morning's conversation and from
36 information requests in between meetings. I hope this
37 morning to give you an update on the status of the
38 Mulchatna caribou, including -- well, nothing's changed
39 since we spoke last about population, but we do have
40 some composition information. I'm going to speak a
41 little bit about wolves and wolf distribution in the
42 area. I'm going to speak a little bit about calf
43 mortality and causes of mortality. And then I can
44 speak to brucellosis and specifically talk about --
45 there were some questions here about how to tell if
46 meat's infected, I can speak to that. And then,
47 finally, I'll finish up speaking about Unit 17A moose
48 as it pertains to RM575 and 576, which closed on
49 Monday.

50

1 So does that sound like a plan, is
2 there anything else that you'd like me to discuss
3 beyond that?
4

5 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I think that's a
6 pretty good list so go ahead.
7

8 MR. RINALDI: All right. So we talked
9 not too long ago about the status of the Mulchatna Herd
10 so I'm just going to give you an overview on some of
11 the S&I, the survey and inventory activities that we've
12 been engaged in. I think we spoke in the fall. So
13 this information really hasn't changed.
14

15 But, you know, for a number of years,
16 going back well, five, six, seven, eight years, we had
17 indications through S&I activities, through calf
18 mortality studies, through composition assessments that
19 the herd was actually growing and we had some
20 information, even some population information to
21 suggest that. They were a couple years towards 2017
22 and 2018, I think we struggled to get a survey in, but
23 we completed a survey in 2019 which revealed that we
24 were down to 13,500 animals. At the time there was a
25 lot of discussion and question as to whether or not we
26 adequately surveyed and sampled all the animals in the
27 area. We were pretty confident in 2019 -- but we went
28 forth in 2020 in June and July of 2020, despite the
29 pandemic and we flew a lot of airplanes and a lot of
30 time and a considerable amount of money out there to
31 determine whether or not we had missed any animals.
32

33 Our survey technique uses collared
34 animals and known groups of animals to find uncollared
35 animals in unknown groups of animals. So we had five
36 planes, including a 206, and a couple of 185s and
37 SuperCubs flying for at least five days before the
38 survey. When the animals grouped up we completed the
39 photo survey and we came up with pretty much the same
40 exact number as in past years, which is 13,500. And as
41 a result of that, as you know, we looked at some
42 ratios, bull to cow ratios and determined that we would
43 probably be able to hold a fall hunt, limited to bulls,
44 and that hunt -- we issued close to 800 permits, about
45 half of those people reported as hunting and the
46 reported take across the full range of RC503 was about
47 55 caribou from those 800 permits. The season closed
48 at the end of September as scheduled and the winter
49 season did not open. October rolled around and we had
50

1 an opportunity to get people into Dillingham and to
2 complete a composition assessment of the herd. We
3 spent two days, actually locating and comping a
4 substantial portion of the herd. We completed this on
5 October 19th and the -- well, let me back up here -- we
6 determined a combined ratio of 36 calves per 100 cows
7 which is higher than last year, 2019, and is above the
8 30 to 100 objective for the second time in the past
9 seven years. The percent calves in the herd, which is
10 21 percent is slightly higher than in 2019 and it's
11 also the highest since regulatory year 2010.

12
13 (Cell phone ringing)

14
15 MR. RINALDI: Excuse me. The percent
16 of bulls in the herd is 19 percent and is the lowest
17 marginally since RY13, but combining the bull to cow
18 ratios, if we look at them as combined, instead of east
19 and west, they are actually meeting objective. The
20 total sample size for the composition was 5,400 caribou
21 and the total number of caribou counted in both
22 segments is 5,780 caribou.

23
24 So with that information, our current
25 calf to cow ratio is 36, the objective is 30. The bull
26 to cow ratio is 35 and it's currently at 34. It was at
27 42 in the previous year.

28
29 So basically what's that telling us now
30 -- I guess the other important piece of information
31 that came out of this composition assessment is the
32 fact that we have a very large group of young bulls,
33 three year old bulls moving up, and we had to go out a
34 second day to make sure that we classified those
35 animals right because it was a really high percentage
36 of bulls within that age cohort. We believe that this
37 is a huge growth spurt spurred on by a relatively lean
38 winter and a relatively low predation spring in the
39 calving areas.

40
41 So that brings us up to the comp
42 surveys in the fall.

43
44 I guess I'll speak a little bit about
45 the wolf work that we're doing currently. As you know
46 there is same day airborne as part of a wolf predation
47 control plan in portions of Units 17, 9 and 19. The
48 area has two -- the area comprises almost 10,000 square
49 miles which is what we were allocated by the Board of

1 Game, and we can arrange that predation control area,
2 we can separate it, segment it and move it around so
3 that we can best cover the current calving grounds of
4 the Mulchatna caribou. There are two predation control
5 areas out there. There is the Kimuk area, which is a
6 smaller area located near Kimuk and it's an area that
7 doesn't open up until February 1st. So it just opened
8 up for predation control. And that's basically a
9 handshake agreement with the local communities to allow
10 for local hunters and trappers to get out there in
11 November, December and January and try to take some of
12 those wolves on the ground through trapping and hunting
13 methods, and as I've heard earlier this morning, the
14 conversation that sounds like that's been pretty
15 productive this winter.
16

17 As far as wolf numbers go, we have a
18 wolf project going on. We've been collaring a number
19 of wolves each year and trying to determine
20 distribution and abundance and trying to answer some
21 questions related to the effects of wolf removal and
22 caribou survival. As you can imagine collaring wolves
23 in a predation controlled area where there also can be
24 a high level of hunting and trapping can be a challenge
25 for the Department and frustrating for the researchers
26 on the ground to try to keep those collars out on
27 wolves, but that's part of the information we're
28 looking for. So unfortunately it's an artifact of the
29 project that we've undertaken.
30

31 Numbers. I completed a wolf assessment
32 out in Unit 17, 9 and -- well, 17 and 19 back in --
33 many years back when I was a researcher. The takeaway
34 message from that work was that we were seeing group
35 sizes of wolves ranging from two to six with an average
36 of four. Now, this was a while ago. The minimum
37 density of wolves was estimated at 1.8 wolves per
38 thousand square kilometers so that's about 4.7 wolves
39 per thousand mile square and that's a number that our
40 researchers have come up with through alternative
41 methods through the collaring and capturing efforts out
42 there in Unit 17. We can't say anything definitively
43 about the role of wolves out there other than, you
44 know, what we've presented to the Board and how we're
45 addressing the predation issues and the growth of the
46 Mulchatna Caribou Herd, but we feel that that number is
47 4.7 wolves per thousand square miles is a general --
48 it's an average of most areas in the state where you
49 would expect a healthy wolf population. Obviously this
50

1 number can be higher in years where low trapping and no
2 SDA activity is occurring due to weather and
3 participation, and I'm sure pack sizes are varying
4 higher than two to six as the dynamism of wolf removal
5 and wolf recolonization takes place in Units 17, 9 and
6 19 and 9 [sic].
7

8 So one of the other projects that --
9 one of the other research projects that has been going
10 on for a considerable period of time is the calf
11 mortality and survival project. The calf mortality and
12 survival project started in 2011 and went to 2014, that
13 was the same time that we did that original wolf
14 evaluation and there's a second effort of caribou
15 mortality and survival, that's a project that's been
16 going on since 2017 and is funded at least until next
17 year. Adult survival. We've been going back and
18 looking at adult survival with the full 30 years of
19 information that we have. It's one of the pieces that
20 we haven't been focused closely on because we've been
21 focused on the causes of neonatal mortality and
22 productivity and parturition but it is something that
23 we are evaluating currently and will be able to assess
24 adult survival in addition to neonatal survival. And
25 one of the new projects that's also come on board since
26 we have a new caribou research biologist, is, you know,
27 we'll continue to be looking at abundance and survival
28 but they're also looking at body condition and using
29 fat index scores amongst other things to evaluate the
30 health of the herd and obviously we'll continue to
31 sample the traditional samples that we take from
32 animals that we handle. Those samples are regularly
33 screened through our department vet and through DEC and
34 through that regular screening is how we detected the
35 brucellosis which I will talk to you in a little bit
36 on.
37

38 So moving a little bit further ahead on
39 the control -- I'm sorry on the Mulchatna calf survival
40 information. We have basically captured almost 700
41 calves during this time, 350 females and 300 males and
42 for some reason there's 50 unknown calves with an
43 unknown sex. This includes capture, radio collaring.
44 We try to do a cause of death determination and that's
45 through birth through 15 days of age. So that's that
46 term neonate that we use or neonatal mortality. That's
47 basically a -- it's just a newborn basically in the
48 first two weeks of life is how we use that term, at
49 least in -- for Fish and Game, and in the community.
50

1 And then we also try to determine the fate of non-
2 neonates -- and as I mentioned we're going to be doing
3 that survival analysis to have more information.
4

5 One of the things that's really
6 interesting to note, in addition to that slug of young
7 bulls that seem to be in the two to three year range
8 that are coming up, I think that should add heartedly
9 to our productivity. The mean capture weights of our
10 neonates, of our calves, they've been big and healthy
11 and they've been big and healthy through the years,
12 that we've also just run brucellosis -- brucellosis
13 analysis on and, you know, one of the things that can
14 be a sign of brucellosis is young -- obviously it's
15 abortions and a few other things, but it's -- it can be
16 giving birth to calves that don't have the brucellosis
17 but they are compromised and have a tough time of
18 making it happen when you being life with a deficit.
19 But our newborn calf weights have been very healthy and
20 in the last few years they've been extremely high. We
21 basically have seen the males go from 7.9, back when I
22 was working on this project in 2011, to an average of
23 9.7, and that's kilograms, so those are pretty fat
24 little calves in some of the more recent years, so
25 that's a plus.
26

27 The short yearlings -- the short
28 yearlings are the animals, those are the calves that
29 were born in the previous summer, we call them short
30 yearlings because we handle them and evaluate them at
31 10 months of life, it puts it in March typically, and
32 so they're just short of a year, hence the name. One
33 of the things that we've observed over the last 20
34 years is that the body mass -- there was a real low
35 body mass reported, so body mass essentially weight,
36 low body mass reported post the 1996 decline. So we
37 were starting at a really low number. And the first
38 information we have on that puts the mean weight under
39 105 pounds -- so kilograms is 2.2 so 105 pounds is --
40 that's pretty -- well, we won't do that calculation,
41 I'll just talk in pounds for the purpose of this. We
42 started off in 2002 -- 2000 with really low body mass
43 weight of under 105, it has risen steadily since that
44 time and as I mentioned with the neonates we're now
45 averaging 125 pounds plus for our short yearlings. We
46 haven't been able to get information from short
47 yearlings last year due to the pandemic and I think
48 there might have been an issue -- anyway, the story is
49 is that we're going to be going out and getting
50

1 additional short yearling weights this year. The
2 overwinter survival is an important piece that we need
3 to look a little more closely at and the short
4 yearlings is the group that we'll be looking to. So
5 that's a plus. Those are both positive signs with the
6 herd and those are signs that we've been observing for
7 a number of years. That, combined with that slug of
8 young bulls has us pretty optimistic that we might see
9 -- continue seeing upwards trends -- I know we've said
10 that before but we have a full suite of information
11 that is suggesting that despite the brucellosis
12 information.
13

14 So when we look at neonatal mortality,
15 calf mortality in the first 15 days of life, predation
16 in our study is accounting for 85 percent of the
17 mortality. 15 percent of it was due to nonpredation.
18 Unfortunately a lot of those little calves out there --
19 we have found them laying on the ground, I don't have
20 the numbers specifically for that, but the
21 nonpredation, 70 percent of it is drowning and I'm
22 guessing that a lot of you folks have seen this happen
23 at different times of the year. You've got all those
24 little rivulets everywhere and those little feeder
25 streams and cutting across the tundra and those little
26 -- if mom jumps across it or runs through it and then
27 the little moose calf or the little caribou calf can't
28 get out of that little slough and then they end up
29 getting hypothermic and end up usually drowning. So 70
30 percent of our calves that we handle drowned. 26 ended
31 up -- 26 percent ended up in starvation and that could
32 be due to a variety of causes, and four percent are
33 unknown. If we look a little bit closer at the
34 predation portion of the cause of death in 44 percent
35 of the calves that were preyed upon were preyed upon by
36 brown bears; 26 percent were preyed upon by wolves, we
37 had 7 percent by black bears -- not a lot of black
38 bears in the area to begin with, general bear is
39 another 6 percent, meaning that we couldn't really
40 determine the difference between the two; golden eagles
41 have accounted for 8 percent, and that's been mostly
42 observed, obviously in Unit 17 but up in the northeast
43 portion up near the Park and up near Tundra Lake and
44 some of those areas where we've seen a lot of golden
45 eagles coming out of the hills and focusing on caribou
46 calves at that time of year; and then one percent is
47 wolverine and 8 percent is unknown predation.
48

49 So if we look at the proportion of
50

1 radio collared kills attributed to bears and wolves, it
2 basically starts off with bears having a higher
3 proportion killed in the first week of life and -- and
4 then the proportion of calves taken by wolves increases
5 in the second week of life, and that may be -- and that
6 may have something to do with prey shifting, you know,
7 we've observed that in other areas where bears are
8 focused a little more on moose calves in Unit 13 and
9 some other areas and wolves are a little bit more
10 focused on the abundant caribou calves. We're not sure
11 what the effect is here. Obviously if we have removed
12 a significant number of caribou calves from the calving
13 area we might see a shift in predation as a result of
14 those lower wolf numbers. So a lot of good information
15 there but we're still going to need some pieces to --
16 to tease the rest of it out.

17

18 So I'm going to leave it there for now
19 for the Mulchatna population.

20

21 And I'm going to talk a little bit
22 about brucellosis right now, but because I'm jumping
23 around to a bunch of different -- I mean it's related
24 to Mulchatna but because I'm jumping to some topics,
25 what if I pause here and take some questions on the
26 first half of this presentation.

27

28 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, thanks,
29 Todd. That is probably good to take a break, you were
30 whipping through a lot of stuff there. Anybody have
31 questions, speak up.

32

33 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, this is Donald.

34

35 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, Donald.

36

37 MR. MIKE: Yeah, just quickly, you
38 know, we're on new business, call for wildlife
39 proposals and wildlife status updates, but before we
40 take up any potential proposals we have an update on
41 the proposed rule process and when we're done with this
42 section we can move on to that section.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, yeah,
47 thanks for the reminder. And you might have to remind
48 me again so -- but anybody have specific questions for
49 Mr. Rinaldi -- over.

50

1 MR. TREFON: This is Billy, no, I'm
2 just curious to hear about this infection that the
3 caribou herd has and is it edible.
4

5 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, that's the next
6 thing that I'll get into and I'll specifically talk
7 about that. I'll provide you guys with some resources
8 that I'll email to you as well and some of you may have
9 already received them but I'll make sure that you guys
10 get them, or I'll get into that in a minute -- or, I've
11 already started so maybe I'll just go with it.
12

13 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, I had one
14 quick one for your Todd, I.....
15

16 MR. RINALDI: Okay.
17

18 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY:just wanted
19 to make sure other folks spoke first -- okay.
20

21 MR. RINALDI: Sure.
22

23 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, if nobody
24 else has a question. I didn't hear you mention coyote
25 predation. It's been some time but there was a big
26 search and rescue flight effort here, early in my
27 career here, and some of my friends that flew it came
28 back surprised how many coyotes they were seeing. I
29 haven't come across that many recently but could you
30 differentiate between wolves and coyotes out there
31 or.....
32

33 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, so in most areas of
34 the state where we see reductions of wolf populations,
35 and, again, wolf, coyote distribution in your area has
36 been a recent -- they're recent colonizers in the west
37 and certainly out to the southwest, they are pretty
38 prolific all the way out to -- God, I think all the way
39 out to Cold Bay now, but when we see wolf predation,
40 wolf removal or reduction in wolf numbers we often see
41 an increase in coyote numbers and wolverine numbers.
42 The big take home that our Staff have seen, not only
43 back in 2012 when I was doing that wolf work, but even
44 more recent stuff, is we're seeing a really high number
45 of wolverine tracks and activity, which is good. We
46 haven't had any calves documented as being killed by
47 any -- killed by a coyote. We don't have much
48 information on coyotes because coyotes are not required
49 to be sealed in most areas of the state so we don't get
50

1 many information -- we don't get much -- we don't
2 really get any information outside of the trapper
3 questionnaire about coyote harvest, which can be a
4 problem.
5

6 I am pretty familiar with the
7 literature. I haven't seen much to discuss about
8 coyotes and caribou calves, you know, when you have
9 these bigger -- my sense is that the coyotes are
10 probably a lot more opportunistic and scavengers out
11 there much like the wolverines. They certainly have it
12 in their capacity to take down a caribou calf, we've
13 seen it with sheep ewes before but, you know, with the
14 other predators on the calving grounds at that time and
15 with the larger cows with antlers and stuff, it would
16 probably be difficult for a single coyote to have any
17 effect. Obviously coyotes can hunt in packs again --
18 but the long answer short is we don't have much
19 information and we haven't documented any coyotes
20 taking any calves, not to say that it hasn't happened
21 but it's likely rare.
22

23 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you.
24 Yeah, I figure a 17 to say 25 pound calf, it sounds
25 like if they could catch them it wouldn't.....
26

27 MR. RINALDI: Yeah.
28

29 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY:be too
30 tough a deal. Okay, well, I don't want to prolong
31 things so if you want to go -- unless there's any other
32 questions lets go on to brucellosis -- okay.
33

34 MR. TREFON: This is Billy. You
35 actually brought up one interesting question about the
36 coyote. I've been watching videos of feral pig hunts
37 and coyotes, what is the population growth if they do
38 kind of come into an area?
39

40 MR. RINALDI: Well, it really depends.
41 They are easily preyed upon by -- not necessarily fed
42 upon, but it can happen, by both bears and wolves and
43 obviously they have other relationships with other
44 furbearers. As I mentioned before the coyotes in your
45 area are relatively recent colonizers. They've
46 actually moved all the way out to the Peninsula. But,
47 again, we have very little information about coyote
48 populations. We have information about ranges and we
49 have some anecdotal information from hunters. One of
50

1 the interesting trappers -- one of the interesting
2 things about coyotes though is when they come into
3 denning in April and May, they are one of the few
4 species that'll actually move their den during the
5 denning season. They will actually pick up their pups
6 and move them to new site and that makes them pretty
7 susceptible to harvest in April and in May. But I
8 really don't have a good answer. You know, I think
9 they are really are mostly -- I mean obviously they
10 rely more on the smaller micro -- the smaller voles,
11 the mice, the hare, and obviously during hare years
12 there can be a direct competition with lynx and some
13 other species for that prey. So they're really limited
14 by the prey that's available and also by the predation
15 or the other pressures from competition that they may
16 feel from bigger predators. It kind of keeps it in
17 check.

18
19 MR. TREFON: Okay, that makes sense.
20 Because I've only seen one in my entire life and.....
21

22 MR. RINALDI: Yeah. I've flown a lot
23 and only seen a couple of -- you know I did a lot of
24 wolf work in the early 2000s and late '90s and in 13
25 and out here and I very rarely see a coyote and I've
26 only seen one at a time -- well, I saw a pair once.
27 But -- now the big take home from the field work that I
28 did out there, and of course it's a few years ago, but
29 when they were doing some work out there a couple of
30 winters ago, Lauren, you know, our last temporary AB,
31 she had commented as well as Nick, who is our -- is our
32 wolf researcher out there, they both commented on the
33 number of wolverine tracks that they seen, especially
34 in the north and especially as you go north into 19, so
35 that's a good sign. But, yeah, not much on the -- not
36 much on the coyote front.

37
38 Just an anecdotal thing, you know, we
39 had wolf control and removal in Unit 16 for a number of
40 years and that place, it had -- it was one of the
41 slower places to recolonize -- Unit 13 recolonizes
42 within a season and they reestablish traditional
43 territories, even if there isn't an ancestral linkage
44 to those previous populations, and so Unit 16 did not
45 colonize -- recolonize as quickly as we had expected.
46 But in that time we did see -- we did have more
47 observations of coyotes and that may be because it's
48 one of the few dogs that you're kind of seeing out on
49 the landscape and those are the few tracks that you're
50

1 seeing. Obviously tracks can be different sizes. But
2 even in that situation we didn't see an explosion of
3 coyote activity in an area where the wolf activity was
4 low for four or five years after we ceased wolf
5 control.

6
7 So really anecdotal, but just something
8 for context there.

9
10 MR. TREFON: Thank you.

11
12 MR. RINALDI: So, yes, brucellosis, so
13 we regularly collect blood samples from all the animals
14 that we handle and from those blood and tissue samples
15 we can submit -- we archive this for future studies,
16 for future genetic and disease screening opportunities,
17 and that's what happened with this suite of samples
18 from the past few years from Unit 17.

19
20 The research monitoring efforts on the
21 Mulchatna identified a higher than normal prevalence of
22 antibodies to a bacterin called brucellosis-souv, I
23 guess, of Variant4, so much like Covid19, this is
24 Variant4, so this is brucellosis-souvNo.4. And so this
25 is a lot higher compared to other herds and it will
26 lead to a disease known as brucellosis in both wild
27 caribou and moose and domestic ungulates, reindeer,
28 bison and cattle, although it seems to be a different
29 -- a different variant of brucellosis in bison and
30 cattle.

31
32 Observations of caribou with a typical
33 swollen front knee or an enlarged scrotum and the
34 detection of the bacteria in the tissues of two dead
35 caribou from this past fall further support the
36 findings of an increase of brucellosis in the herd.
37 The bacteria are mainly spreading amongst caribou from
38 contact with birthing fluids during calving and humans
39 can become infected with the brucella bacteria if they
40 come in contact with bodily fluids of infected animals.
41 So this is important, obviously because it has
42 ramifications for human health. But this is another
43 piece of the puzzle that will add to our understanding
44 of what's going on with the Mulchatna caribou, and it
45 might help us answer some of the adult survival
46 questions and a few other things. You know, we have
47 observed swollen knees. We have observed maybe a
48 prolapsed uterus, or maybe an abortion in the past few
49 years, but we're not seeing prolific signs of it.

1 However, the bacteria has been detected and it's been
2 detected at a very high -- or relatively high rate.
3

4 So what can it do to humans. In the
5 short-term, people who become infected with brucella
6 bacteria, they often exhibit flu-like symptoms, which
7 is not what we need right now, under our current
8 pandemic. That includes a fever that comes and goes,
9 chills, loss of appetite, sweats and fatigue.
10 Untreated, infections can cause severe medical
11 complications but they are treatable with multiple
12 rounds of antibiotics.
13

14 And so what can we do to avoid
15 infection. You know, well, first off there is no
16 harvest of the Mulchatna caribou currently across its
17 full range so no animals should be taken for any
18 purposes currently right now. That's the first step to
19 avoid infection.
20

21 Hunters should be aware of the constant
22 low level presence and the potential risk of
23 brucellosis in caribou herds, and it's not the
24 Mulchatna, but, you know, it's the Western Arctic, the
25 Teshekpuk, the Central Arctic and Porcupine, it is
26 something that occurs in all these herds at low levels.
27 There was -- Western Arctic had a break, an outbreak a
28 few years ago, as I've been told. So when folks are
29 butchering animals that have potentially been infected,
30 they should avoid touching the blood or any body fluids
31 from the animals, so wearing gloves and thoroughly
32 washing your hands, and all of your processing is
33 really important. Do not cut into enlarged or
34 abnormally appearing organs or meat, and do not cut
35 into the womb. So a lot of this fluid is actually in
36 the womb and so it's really important about not poking
37 the uterus and popping it open. Smoking, drying and
38 pickling may not kill all the potential pathogens in
39 the game meat, and I know that's unfortunate, but you
40 need to cook all the meat thoroughly to a minimum
41 temperature of 165. Wash your hands, your knives, the
42 food processing surfaces with hot, soapy water after
43 handling the meat, and do not consume raw bone marrow
44 as this is a high risk area for infection with the
45 brucellosis. And, finally, do not feed diseased or
46 uncooked parts to pets, because they can get sick and
47 carry it as well.
48

49 So what are we doing as we move forward
50

1 here. So the Division of Wildlife Conservation
2 monitors the health of caribou and that, as I mentioned
3 before, does include the periodic testing specifically
4 for brucellosis by animals handled by Staff and as well
5 as harvested wildlife with potential signs of disease.
6 We have no reports from the public this year of any
7 diseased animals encountered through the fall hunt. We
8 will continue to monitor and investigate the prevalence
9 of brucella as well as several other factors that may
10 be contributing to the population decline.
11

12 So what we're asking folks to do or to
13 be aware is that if you are experience symptoms and
14 they are concerned about a possible infection, you
15 should tell your health care provider that you may have
16 been exposed to Brucella, and if signs of the disease
17 are seen in wildlife, it should be reported to the
18 Department of Fish and Game as soon as possible, and
19 that can be reported to any Fish and Game office.
20

21 We have some additional information for
22 best practices to prevent infections and how to report
23 a diseased caribou. We have a wildlife parasites and
24 diseases web page, which I can send the link to the
25 group and also there's a bulletin called brucellosis,
26 answers to frequently asked questions, and that was
27 issued by the Alaska Native Health Consortium and
28 that's also on our web -- we have that linked to our
29 website and I will provide that information for you.
30

31 Any questions.
32

33 MR. TREFON: Billy here, I got one. Do
34 you have any human cases of -- anybody get in contact
35 with it?
36

37 MR. RINALDI: No, not that I know of.
38 I do know that there was a case in the YK Delta in the
39 last 20 years, I don't remember when that was, but it
40 was not in the last four or five years and it doesn't
41 seem to be related to this current situation. So
42 fortunately it is pretty rare that it happens, but it
43 does happen.
44

45 MR. TREFON: Thank you.
46

47 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair, Rich
48 Wilson here. Todd, what about the North Peninsula
49 Herd, any there, and then in that small herd that lives
50

1 out at Kukotlik, any studies there?

2
3 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, because the
4 Department and Togiak Fish and Wildlife Refuge have
5 been handling the Nushagak caribou we do have blood
6 samples from them and they have been getting screened
7 regularly. We are going to be sending more samples to
8 the lab to see if we can determine if we can see a rise
9 or a decline, and the occurrence of the bacteria. You
10 know, one of the things that we're talking about is the
11 prevalence of the bacteria, so it's occurring, but, you
12 know, prevalence doesn't mean that it's manifesting
13 itself into sick animals or dying animals, which can be
14 problematic, so the bacteria can still be there, it
15 might not be manifesting itself, much like Covid and
16 asymptomatic symptoms. But we will be taking samples
17 from animals that we handle this spring, if we are able
18 to do captures, as well as historic samples from the
19 Nushagak, if they haven't already been submitted, we'll
20 make sure that they get submitted because there's
21 obviously a very good opportunity for that to spread
22 between herds whether it be from predators or from the
23 animals themselves.

24
25 MR. WILSON: Okay. I was requesting
26 the North Peninsula Herd here on the.....

27
28 MR. RINALDI: Oh, I'm sorry you said
29 the NAP, not the Nushagak.

30
31 MR. WILSON: No, I said, yeah, the
32 North Peninsula, yeah, that one there, and then the
33 Kukotlik, the little bunch there, any word on those?

34
35 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, that little bunch
36 there, you know, I think we're going to probably try to
37 put some collars on those animals because, you know,
38 we've had questions and we've had conversations about
39 them for awhile so we're going to want to make sure
40 that the next capture opportunity we get out there that
41 we put some collars on there. I don't think we have any
42 collars in there currently. And so that would be the
43 first opportunity that we're able to take samples from
44 that seemingly isolated group.

45
46 The same with the NAP, Dave's got some
47 -- well, I don't think Dave Crowley's doing any capture
48 work this spring. He's got some moose captures going
49 and he's got a bunch of parturition work on his three

50

1 herds but he won't be handling animals, but he'll be
2 observing all three of those herds this spring. Same
3 situation as with the Nushagak Peninsula, or even the
4 SAP or even the Unimak Herd for that matter. We
5 regularly submit these samples for disease screening
6 and we only really hear back if there's a positive or
7 an issue, so we'll be continuing to monitor, not only
8 this herd, but different herds.
9

10 MR. WILSON: So at this time you're
11 saying that you haven't heard anything from the NAP
12 population yet?
13

14 MR. RINALDI: No, we haven't detected
15 it. We haven't detected it in the NAP or the SAP or
16 the Unimak Herd.
17

18 MR. WILSON: Okay, appreciate it,
19 thanks.
20

21 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Anybody else.
22

23 (No comments)
24

25 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Say, I don't
26 know if it's your phone running down, Richard, but it's
27 getting a little crackly when you talk. But, anyway,
28 thanks, Todd, I.....
29

30 MR. RINALDI: I do have -- if you
31 would, I do have a few more pieces of information and I
32 have some stuff to talk about in 17A, too, if you guys
33 want a quick update on that.
34

35 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, you may as
36 well, go ahead.
37

38 MR. RINALDI: Okay. So I guess the
39 other take home message from the Mulchatna caribou is
40 we're starting -- we're meeting -- multi-agencies are
41 meeting to discuss a plan and moving forward with the
42 potential of -- with a potential plan so we've been
43 discussing this pretty regularly with our Federal
44 counterparts. Right now we are not seeing a
45 harvestable surplus on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd, and
46 we don't expect anything to change dramatically in the
47 next couple years. So while there hasn't been a
48 decision to not hold the hunt this year, it's very
49 likely that we're not going to be able to have any
50

1 opportunity for the Mulchatna caribou this year based
2 on the numbers.
3

4 So just wanted to give you a little
5 head's up on that. Like I said it hasn't been
6 solidified in stone. We are going back to the Board to
7 discuss some things in March -- 19th, or something like
8 that, so that may come up again.
9

10 And then so finally, you know,
11 unfortunately we weren't able to hold the 17C and 17B
12 late season moose hunt this year. It's 585, I believe
13 it is. In part, because in Unit 17, we had a pretty
14 high fall harvest and participation, and that 585 is a
15 winter hunt that's to be announced, and that's to be
16 announced when we have the surplus animals to be able
17 to take, and considering the number of animals that
18 were taken this fall we did not open up the 585 hunt in
19 17B and 17C because of declining, or reduced
20 populations and some of the objectives not being met.
21 So what we did, knowing that that was an issue and
22 knowing that there was reduced opportunities on
23 Mulchatna, we really tried to get folks to focus on 17A
24 moose where we are currently above objectives out
25 there. And so we tried to provide as much of a
26 subsistence opportunity, because the population is well
27 over objective, and currently the -- the community, or
28 the group management plan that was developed with, I
29 believe members of the RACs, ACs, and Togiak, it
30 doesn't address the current situation that we're in,
31 being the 800 plus moose over our current population
32 objective. So we opened up RM565 and 56 -- no, wait a
33 minute I got it backwards, I screwed up my numbers --
34 we opened up those registration -- 575 and 576. One is
35 for an antlered bull and one is for an antlerless
36 moose, and if you did not take a moose in the fall in
37 the 2020 season you could have been afforded two moose
38 in that hunt, one antlerless and one antlered. If you
39 took a moose in the fall elsewhere you were only
40 allowed one additional moose. And people took
41 advantage of it. We provided -- we were able to
42 provide a substantial food opportunity, subsistence
43 opportunity this fall.
44

45 The previous harvest in this hunt --
46 this is one of -- this is that hunt that is to open up
47 for a 31 day period between December and February, I
48 believe is what it is, the past X number of years we
49 tried to open it up when the snow conditions and travel
50

1 conditions are ripe. Unfortunately usually when
2 they're ripe they deteriorate a couple days later.
3 That's been a problem for us. And so we've had to do
4 extensions to this hunt by emergency order the last few
5 years. There is a Board of Game proposal for next year
6 that is looking -- that we proposed and submitted to
7 the Board of Game that would make this hunt a fixed
8 window of 60 days or 61 days or something -- 60 days, I
9 believe, it would still close by EO when the quota is
10 reached, and we hope that that's going to be a better
11 way of providing a more substantial opportunity for
12 this late winter, or mid-winter hunt, as late moose
13 season opportunity. Over the last number of years
14 we've been -- the number of animals has kind of -- has
15 kind of increased, we took 29, 28 and 23 animals in
16 2016, '17 and '18. We took 48 animals -- 48 moose last
17 winter in 2019 and this winter, because we did not
18 close the hunt, and we did not cap the quota because
19 we're so far above the objective right now, we
20 harvested 84 moose out of those two hunts. A
21 substantial number of those were cow moose from RM576.
22 So we've essentially doubled the harvest in that area
23 this season and I'm hoping that that provides a
24 significant food source to the folks out there in the
25 absence of other subsistence opportunities.

26

27 Thanks.

28

29 Oh, and the hunt did close on Monday
30 and so we're asking everyone to -- we put out a press
31 release today asking everyone to submit their hunt
32 reports as soon as possible so we can finalize this
33 hunt and have some information.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MR. TREFON: I got -- this is Billy, I
38 got one more question about the Mulchatna Herd. Have
39 their ranges changed, which also has been a question
40 that you might be the person to answer -- and has the
41 caribou been coming into 9B?

42

43 MR. RINALDI: You know, there's a few
44 that are coming into 9B. There's a group that's down
45 by Portage Lake now.....

46

47 MR. TREFON: But that's.....

48

49 MR. RINALDI:but for the most

50

1 part there hasn't been -- I mean they're starting to
2 move down there, there's that group down by Iliamna and
3 stuff but for the most part the two main groups of the
4 Mulchatna are Central, Northern, Unit 17 and Central
5 Southern Unit -- I guess Central Unit 18. They have
6 been.....

7

8

MR. TREFON: Yeah, that's.....

9

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MR. RINALDI: They have been moving
around, you know, but they haven't made considerable
movements. This movement down to Portage Lake is
pretty new -- I think it's Portage Lake -- we haven't
seen them down there since I was working out there in
2012 or '13 so -- but the main calving areas, could be
surprised this year, because they always like to keep
us guessing. They've been pretty predictable for the
last few years.

MR. TREFON: Okay. So the reason I
brought that up is because our experience caribou since
they moved in that direction is we very rarely see them
and maybe somebody will get one, two in a year if
they're lucky.....

MR. RINALDI: Yeah.

MR. TREFON:and we're going to be
submitting -- the Council is going to be submitting a
proposal to extend the caribou and the subsistence
moose hunt because of.....

MR. RINALDI: Yeah, they're.....

MR. TREFON:that the game is so
hard.

MR. RINALDI: Yeah, there's a
significant -- there's a significant gap right now
between where the Mulchatna are and have historically
been and where the Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd has
been so there's a pretty good gap there. So that being
said there is really no -- I mean there might be some
caribou calving activity up there in 19 but we're not
seeing any harvest coming out of 19 as far as I recall,
and unfortunately those folks are reporting that
they're not seeing caribou in their neighborhoods,
which is probably an issue with this.....

1 MR. TREFON: Yeah, this is 9B I'm
2 talking about.
3

4 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, yeah, I -- you
5 know, yeah, same deal, so there's a big separation
6 there between where the two herds have been and there
7 might be an area out there where there's no caribou, or
8 won't be caribou for -- unless they shift or the
9 numbers increase or.....
10

11 MR. TREFON: Well, then you must be
12 kind of new because this used to be their traditional
13 calving.....
14

15 MR. RINALDI: Oh, yeah, no, I
16 understand that.
17

18 MR. TREFON:grounds up in.....
19

20 MR. RINALDI: I remember when there was
21 200,000 running all over Lake Clark. I worked for Lake
22 Clark back then.
23

24 MR. TREFON: Because.....
25

26 MR. RINALDI: So I know where they've
27 been it's just not where they are now.
28

29 MR. TREFON: Yeah, that's what I --
30 that's why we're going to be bringing that to the
31 attention of probably this and our RAC local -- a
32 proposal for expanding the subsistence hunt because of
33 lack of animals and lack of access.
34

35 MR. RINALDI: Sure, yeah, that's fair.
36

37 MR. TREFON: All right, thank you.
38

39 MR. RINALDI: Thank you.
40

41 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Any other
42 questions or comments.
43

44 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, this is Donald.
45

46 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, go ahead,
47 Donald.
48

49 MR. MIKE: Yeah, we're at the lunch
50

1 hour and we're still on call for wildlife proposals.
2 If the Council wishes to take a lunch break we can
3 review the agenda topic, call for wildlife proposals
4 after lunch, but I'll leave it up to you and the
5 Council members.
6

7 Thank you.
8

9 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Oh, thanks for
10 reminder. What's the pleasure of the Council -- over.
11

12 MR. TREFON: Take a lunch.
13

14 MR. WILSON: I can tell Donald's
15 hungry.
16

17 (Laughter)
18

19 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, can we do
20 it, what, in a half hour, 45 minutes. I don't want to
21 over rush but what's your pleasure.
22

23 MR. TREFON: 1:00.
24

25 MR. WILSON: 45 minutes sounds good,
26 quarter 'til.
27

28 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Not hearing
29 other folks, let's try for 1:00 o'clock, but we're
30 going to have to move hasty to be done today -- okay.
31

32 MR. WILSON: Can we get it quarter to
33 1:00.
34

35 MR. TREFON: Works for me.
36

37 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Maybe that's --
38 what Billy.
39

40 MR. TREFON: I said it'll work for me,
41 quarter 'til.
42

43 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, let's do
44 quarter 'til. I can go grab my Pilot bread and pickled
45 herring eggs. So quarter to 1:00. Thanks everybody.
46

47 MR. MIKE: Okay, thanks, Mr. Chair.
48 Recess until 12:45. Thank you.
49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you.
2
3 (Off record)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Let's get see if
8 we can get going because I'd still like to try and wind
9 it up today. So, Donald, if you could do a roll call.
10
11 MR. MIKE: Okay. This is roll call and
12 we're back from recess.
13
14 Billy Trefon.
15
16 MR. TREFON: I'm here.
17
18 MR. MIKE: Samantha Herrick.
19
20 MS. HERRICK: I'm here.
21
22 MR. MIKE: Lary Hill.
23
24 MR. HILL: Here.
25
26 MR. MIKE: Robert Larson.
27
28 (No comments)
29
30 MR. MIKE: Robert Larson, are you with
31 us?
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 MR. MIKE: Richard Wilson.
36
37 MR. WILSON: Here.
38
39 MR. MIKE: Okay, Dan, we have everybody
40 here except for Mr. Larson. We're on agenda Item No.
41 11, new business, call for wildlife proposals. And
42 before we get started on going any further, I just want
43 to provide a briefing for the Council on our proposed
44 rule and with that I'll defer to George Pappas. And,
45 again, we're under new business, call for wildlife
46 proposals, and just mainly a wildlife status update, so
47 the Council or the public can think about submitting
48 wildlife proposals.
49
50

1 Mr. Chair, if we can defer to George
2 Pappas, he'll provide a briefing.
3

4 Thank you.
5

6 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Well,
7 let's do that, and then when we first started talking
8 about agencies I think the Togiak Refuge had a
9 presentation, so after George, and since it kind of
10 meshes right with what Fish and Game was covering, I'd
11 like to do that. But go ahead, George.
12

13 MR. PAPPAS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair
14 and members of the Council. So what you're hearing
15 here is something new. The timing of presenting to the
16 Council with agency Staff during the proposal process
17 -- about six months ago, the Eastern Interior RAC
18 approached and asked how can the Regional Advisory
19 Councils and the local Advisory Councils work closer
20 together with sharing information, and through
21 discussions with March Burch and support Staff of the
22 Board of Fish and Board of Game different topics came
23 up, and one of the topics that came up is timing for
24 presenting information to base proposals on. And, you
25 know, what you're hearing here is, Todd, was given the
26 opportunity to speak at the beginning of the meeting,
27 and.....
28

29 (Cell phone interruption)
30

31 MR. PAPPAS: So anyways, long story
32 short, you're hearing Mr. Rinaldi's covering some of
33 the subject matters, and this is the first out of the
34 chute for this opportunity and idea. We'd like
35 feedback at the end of the meeting. If there's a way
36 we can dial it in so it's not a full presentation, like
37 a normal agency presentation at the end of the meeting,
38 but if there's a subject matter for proposals you want
39 discussed, this is new, and we're trying to improve
40 and, yes, it has taken more time and I've been having
41 some feedback from Staff and individuals, it's taking
42 more time than we'd expected and this is not normal,
43 this is new, so we could move on from here, and if the
44 RAC does want to hear, the Council does want to hear
45 more information from Refuge, other Fish and Game folks
46 and different subject matters, we can make that happen.
47

48 Bottom line we're just trying to try
49 something new, possibly something that'll be more
50

1 beneficial then you'll have the information in front of
2 you.
3

4 But you made a very good comment, Mr.
5 Chair, you had a lot of numbers passed at you and you
6 couldn't keep up with those numbers and how's that
7 going to help you make a proposal is my question. So
8 we'll work this direction and any ideas or suggestions,
9 that's what we'd like to do, to try to make it better.
10

11 So moving on to -- let's see here. I
12 do have one presentation that was approved about the
13 proposed Refuge rule and let's see here, it's trying to
14 load up here.
15

16 (Pause)
17

18 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Did George just
19 get cut off or did I?
20

21 MR. PAPPAS: Can you hear me, sir?
22

23 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, now I can
24 hear you.
25

26 MR. PAPPAS: Okay, sorry about that.
27 So the proposed rule, and right now, Mr. Chair and
28 Council members, with the new Administration in the
29 office, all Federal agencies in the process of
30 publishing rules and regulations were directed to
31 withdraw these documents so they could be reviewed by
32 the new Administration. This is a common practice and
33 has occurred within the last two new Administrations.
34

35 Our Program requested a special
36 reconsideration for our proposed rule, that is for the
37 wildlife cycle. This request was accepted by the new
38 Administration, we resubmitted our proposed rule and is
39 currently going through the clearance process. At this
40 time, while we do not have the proposed rule published
41 and the Program cannot accept proposals, as a Council
42 you can still meet, discuss and draft wildlife
43 proposals, you may also accept proposals from the
44 public. You will have to hold on to them until the
45 publication of the proposed rule takes place. Once the
46 proposed rule is published we can accept the proposals
47 and enter them into the system and proceed as if we
48 would in our normal cycle. So right now we're on delay
49 in D.C., but that doesn't stop us from what we're doing
50

1 now.

2

3

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

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And, again, we have some folks standing by, you indicated a Refuge individual, we have Fish and Game standing by with this report on Unit 17 hares if you're interested. Let us know what you want, and the idea is to provide as much information as possible to the Regional Advisory Councils so they could make educated decisions and proposals.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you, George. That was breezing by pretty quick. So the way I understand it is with the new Administration, things are asked to be kind of put on hold somewhat but we could still carry on and have things get ready to be moved forward as soon as we get the okay.

What's the -- well, first off, I was understanding we might have some material from the Togiak Refuge that meshes right with the moose and caribou concerns of 17 -- Fish and Game for 17 and 9 and so on. What's the pleasure of the Council, hear them and maybe wait on the small game stuff or -- from Fish and Game, or how, I'd like to hear from the rest of the Council.

Thank you.

MR. WILSON: I'd gladly listen to what they have to say, Dan. Richard.

ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you. Anybody else.

MR. TREFON: Yeah, I'd like to hear what they have to say, the more information from other areas, the better.

ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay.

MR. HILL: Yeah, Dan, Lary Hill, here, go ahead.

ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you. Yeah, there's been times in some of our meetings in the

1 past we charged into proposals and then we got the
2 reports and then we started to have second thoughts
3 about our proposals, so, yeah, with that I'd like to
4 invite Togiak Refuge Wildlife just to fill us in. And
5 I'm not -- you know, I'm trying to figure out how this
6 -- there's supposed to be some visuals with this as
7 well -- oh, something's popping on my screen. So those
8 of you on Teams, hopefully you could see this and with
9 that I'll hand the mic off to Togiak -- okay.

10

11 MR. WALSH: Okay, thanks, Mr. Chair.
12 This is Pat Walsh. I'm the lead biologist on Togiak
13 Refuge and Jared Stone is going to advance my slides
14 through this presentation.

15

16 So we were asked by this Council for a
17 presentation on wolf and bear predation on Togiak
18 Refuge moose and so I'm going to provide that now. I'm
19 going to give you an update on the bear status on the
20 Refuge, on the wolf status on the Refuge, and the
21 predation on moose and caribou by bears and wolves.
22 I'm briefly going to touch on caribou, although the
23 focus is mostly on moose here.

24

25 But please change slides.

26

27 We first began working to understand
28 bears in 1993 with a study that we did in collaboration
29 with Yukon Delta Refuge and ADFG. That was a 10 year
30 long study, which was a radio-tracking study on adult
31 female bears. The objectives were to determine home
32 range, survival and some other objectives. The
33 relative -- or the relevant thing for this talk is that
34 the study occurred in this outlined area on the map
35 there toward the northern edge of Togiak Refuge, and
36 extended north into Yukon Delta Refuge, but with more
37 of an Interior rather than a Coastal brown bear study.
38 Even so, one of the findings that came out of this was
39 that bears used a disproportion of the amount of their
40 time to focus on salmon when salmon were available. So
41 that's even though they are an Interior population.

42

43 I guess I should ask, is anybody
44 hearing this but me?

45

46 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I can hear you
47 Pat.

48

49 MR. WALSH: Okay. Okay.

50

1 MR. MIKE: You're on Pat.

2

3 MR. WALSH: Okay. I once gave a talk
4 for like five minutes before I realized I was talking
5 to myself.

6

7 So the study also determined that bear
8 home ranges averaged 356 square kilometers or if you
9 think in terms of miles, that's 137 square miles. So
10 I'm going to bring this point up a little bit later so
11 you don't need to remember that number, but I'll remind
12 you what it was.

13

14 Another relevant point that came from
15 this study was that it measured the population rate of
16 increase. What this is is a measure of whether a bear
17 population is increasing or decreasing and -- and the
18 number hovered around 1.0, which indicates population
19 stability. This suggested a bear population that was
20 neither growing nor declining. The results of this
21 were published in the two citations that you see here
22 in the box on the bottom of the screen, and on each of
23 these future slides you'll see similar publications, or
24 if you're interested in any more details I can get you
25 the publications.

26

27 But please change slides.

28

29 So how many bears do we have.

30

31 Bear populations are difficult to
32 survey so our understanding is limited to a single
33 population estimate that we performed in 2003 and 2004
34 and we used a method developed by ADFG that was an
35 aerial survey that collected data in a way that permits
36 the analysis to account for bears that were not seen.
37 We flew about a thousand transects, saw 330 bears, and
38 estimated that bear population density was about 40
39 total bears per thousand square kilometers, and that
40 results in an estimate of about 855 total bears.
41 However, the survey method we used was later determined
42 underestimate -- a reassessment of the survey method by
43 ADFG at another study site found that the original
44 estimate underestimated by about 46 percent. That was
45 a forested area rather than open tundra that we have
46 here so I assume that we did underestimate but probably
47 less than the 46 percent they found. But the bottom
48 line is our total bear population is somewhat more than
49 855 but not too far from that.

50

1 So please change slides.

2

3 So how do we compare with other areas.

4

5 On this graph, to the far left is a
6 measure of bear population density for Interior Alaska
7 areas. And bear population density from about 15
8 studies that I had averaged there ranged from six to 35
9 bears per thousand square kilometers. The Togiak
10 Refuge has more bears than that, about the same as
11 what's present on the Kenai Peninsula, but quite a bit
12 less than populations on the Alaska Peninsula, and way
13 less than those on Kodiak Island, which is the far
14 right. We've got a moderate bear population relative
15 to other Alaska populations. And so what's the best
16 explanation for why bear density is so different on
17 these different areas. Let's use the Togiak Refuge and
18 Kodiak Refuge -- or Kodiak Island examples -- or as an
19 example for this.

20

21 But please change to the next slide.

22

23 And what you see here is a comparison
24 between Togiak and Kodiak. The table there in the top
25 row shows the total amount of salmon that's available
26 for bears on these two different areas, 3.7 million
27 kilograms of salmon available on Togiak versus more
28 than 12 on Kodiak. The areas are quite a bit different
29 with in terms of thousands of square kilometers, Togiak
30 is 21,000 versus Kodiak's 12. So we're a very much
31 larger area which amplifies this difference. In terms
32 of bears, and I've got a value for independent bears on
33 this third line on the table, independent bears are
34 adults without the cubs and I'm using that value here
35 because that's what was reported in the Kodiak study,
36 there's 579 for Togiak versus more than 2,000 on
37 Kodiak. So huge differences. But when you go to the
38 fourth line on the table and boil this down to the
39 amount of salmon available per bear it's almost the
40 same. And if you increase the number of bears on
41 Togiak Refuge because this estimate is probably an
42 underestimate, like I just mentioned, then they really
43 are virtually the same number, which really argues that
44 bear populations are a function of salmon availability.

45

46 So move to the next slide, please.

47

48 Okay, we've covered the size of the
49 population and how it compares elsewhere, and the fact

50

1 that salmon's the likely big driver, so how does
2 harvest affect the population. Bear harvest have
3 increased greatly in the last 30 years as a result of a
4 number of regulatory changes that were designed to
5 increase harvest and so those rules work. We did
6 increase harvest. However, to test whether that really
7 changed the bear population we hypothesize that if this
8 harvest was causing change it would affect the age
9 structure of bears, and much of the harvest is
10 accounted for by sporthunters, who prefer large bears,
11 instead of just selecting bears at random, they take
12 the biggest and oldest bear that they can find. So if
13 this increased harvest was affected things, it should
14 cause the harvest to become younger.
15

16 Change slides.
17

18 This slide shows the age of harvested
19 bears over time and there's no evidence that the
20 harvested population has gotten younger. No change.
21

22 Go to the next slide, please.
23

24 This is the measure of skull size,
25 which should decrease if the harvest is changing the
26 population. And, again, there's no evidence of a
27 decline in skull size, in fact it got a little bit
28 bigger. So it doesn't appear that human harvest has
29 been a strong population driver with Togiak Refuge
30 bears.
31

32 Please change.
33

34 We conclude that we have a moderately
35 abundant bear population that's strongly influenced by
36 the availability of salmon but hasn't been much
37 affected by the legal -- or the harvest.
38

39 Go ahead and change.
40

41 And I want to give you an update on the
42 wolf status. We've performed radiotelemetry studies on
43 wolves from 2007. We first studied the affect of wolf
44 predation on Nushagak Peninsula Caribou and from 2015
45 until present we've been investigating wolf predation
46 on moose. Over this period of time we've captured and
47 radio'd 68 individual wolves. We've collected more
48 than 200,000 locations.
49
50

1 So please change.

2

3 What you see here are the distribution
4 of radio'd wolf packs from 2016 through 2019. The
5 points that you're seeing there are locations of
6 individual wolves. It's not the number of wolves
7 themselves. In some cases we had several wolves
8 radio'd in a single pack while in other cases just two
9 wolves. The line circling each set of points shows the
10 pack's home range.

11

12 Okay, change slides.

13

14 Now, this shows the size of the pack
15 ranges. Packs averaged 2,245 square kilometers, but if
16 you think in terms of miles that's 867 square miles per
17 pack. These are cumulative pack ranges over a period
18 of four years, so when we break these down later by
19 years they'll be a bit smaller but probably not much.
20 And you may recall earlier that I mentioned bear home
21 ranges averaged just 356 miles compared to this 2,200
22 -- or square kilometers compared to this 2,200. So
23 they are very much smaller, and that's because the
24 social order of the two species is very different.
25 Wolves are territorial and they defend large home
26 ranges against other wolves and bears aren't. They've
27 got smaller home ranges and they readily share those
28 ranges with other bears.

29

30 Please change.

31

32 This is the same slide I showed a
33 minute ago but included here are three shaded areas
34 that are located where I'm aware of other wolf packs,
35 but I've not been able to radio collar them, so
36 combined with the nine radio'd packs here, our total
37 for this time is 12 packs of wolves. You'll probably
38 also notice there are some unoccupied areas on Togiak
39 Refuge where I have no wolf data, while I'm uncertain
40 of the status of those areas, other than I do know that
41 wolves pass through them, but moose are scarce there so
42 it's reasonable to believe that there are no
43 established packs in those areas. If the moose or
44 caribou population increases there then it's reasonable
45 to believe that another pack or two will develop. But
46 I don't expect the wolf population to continue to grow
47 very much. Wolves are territorial so they defend their
48 pack ranges against other wolves so when an area is
49 saturated with wolf packs there isn't space to grow,

50

1 even if the food supply increases.

2

3 Okay, change slides.

4

5 So how many wolves do we have. Don't
6 worry about reading the numbers here, I just want to
7 show you this to explain the basis for how I'm
8 estimating pack size. The slide shows the estimated
9 size of wolf packs by year during spring when packs are
10 at their lowest and fall, after the new pups are added
11 and about the -- half of the values here come from
12 actual counts, but in cases where I was not able to
13 count wolves, I estimated their numbers by averaging
14 known counts. And those are the areas shaded in grey.
15 So the overall number of wolves per pack was 6.1 in
16 spring and 7.2 in fall. In comparison, Denali wolf
17 packs averaged 5.8 in spring and 7.4 in fall. Todd
18 just mentioned some figures showing the wolf packs in
19 this study area were a little smaller than this but all
20 of them are relatively similar.

21

22 So go ahead and change.

23

24 So to summarize all the pack counts. We
25 can come up with an overall population estimate of 81
26 total wolves in spring, on average and 88 in the fall.
27 And this estimate doesn't account for wolves that are
28 not part of the packs. We know these wolves exist, but
29 it's difficult to come up with a basis for estimating
30 how many there are. An estimate of about 10 percent
31 has been used by some wolf investigators so if you
32 accept that our spring estimate is around 90 wolves and
33 the fall estimate is around 100 wolves.

34

35 Go ahead and change slides.

36

37 So we conclude that there is about 12
38 wolf packs currently on Togiak Refuge and the total
39 population is somewhere up to about 100. Their
40 territories average about 2,200 square kilometers, and
41 those territories have pretty much filled the available
42 space on Togiak Refuge and the rest of the population
43 can't grow very much.

44

45 So change.

46

47 All right, I've given the status on
48 bears and wolves and now I want to talk about their
49 predation on moose. We've got three relevant studies.

50

1 So change slides and I'll talk to a cow
2 moose mortality study.
3

4 This first study is part of a moose
5 radiotelemetry project that Andy Aderman has led since
6 1998. And what you see on this slide is the number of
7 mortalities of cow moose totaled by month through the
8 22 years of this study. Out of 67 total mortalities
9 documented, 47 were from unknown sources, that's the
10 green diagonal checks. Next, brown bears accounted for
11 40 percent, so that's the -- that's the second highest
12 and that's kind of consistent with what Todd found in
13 terms of bears being -- and I mean Todd's study was on
14 neonate caribou rather than adult moose so this is
15 interesting that these things are similar.
16

17 (Teleconference interference -
18 participants not muted)
19

20 MR. WALSH: So other mortality sources
21 included 13 percent human harvest and five percent wolf
22 predation. Most of the mortality occurred in May and
23 June, and this is around the time of calving.
24

25 So please change slides.
26

27 So if you extrapolate these results to
28 estimate mortality due to predators on an annual basis,
29 there were an average of 34.7 female moose collared
30 annually and of them mortality averaged three on an
31 annual basis. Total mortality throughout the study
32 were 67 and that came from a combined total of 764 cow
33 years so that's 8.8 percent annually, of that, bears
34 accounted for 40 percent, so annual mortality of cows
35 due to bear predation totalled about 3.5 percent. If
36 you do this same analysis based on known wolf
37 mortality, annual mortality is less than a half of
38 percent. One thing to keep in mind here, though, is
39 that these results took place in the early years of
40 moose population growth on Togiak Refuge, and when the
41 moose were in low numbers, we assumed wolves were in
42 low numbers, but there were just pretty much the same
43 number of bears. So we're not sure that this
44 percentage is accurate for now and we have a more up to
45 date study that I'm going to get to in just a minute.
46

47 Okay, change slides please.
48

49 This slide is focused on caribou,
50

1 rather than moose, and it shows the results from a
2 study of wolf predation on the Nushagak Peninsula
3 Caribou Herd and the object there was to determine
4 whether wolf predation was controlling the size of this
5 herd. And so the graph shows an index to wolf
6 predation and that's the pink line with the square
7 points, and it's related to the size of the population
8 of caribou, which is the purple line with diamond
9 points, and over the course of this study, both
10 increased, and they were highly correlated with each
11 other. So these kind of analyses don't do a real good
12 job of answering cause/effect questions but logic can
13 tell us that it's not reasonable to believe that
14 increase in wolf abundance caused the caribou
15 population to increase, but on the contrary it's
16 completely believable that increases in caribou caused
17 the wolf to increase their time preying on caribou. So
18 this argues that wolf predation did not control caribou
19 population dynamics, but, instead caribou numbers grow
20 wolf predation choices. So rather than focusing on
21 moose, which were available to these wolves off the
22 Peninsula, when caribou became abundant, wolves
23 switched their focus to caribou.

24

25 So please change slides.

26

27 This is the last study I'm going to
28 mention, it's a wolf and bear diet study that's still
29 ongoing but it's nearing completion. The information
30 I'm going to give you now is preliminary and will be
31 refined but there is some useful points to bring out
32 now. There are several objectives in this study but
33 the one that's most relevant to this discussion is to
34 determine the quantity of moose annually preyed upon by
35 wolves and brown bears throughout the Togiak Refuge.
36 Once we complete this we're going to have a far more
37 current view of moose predation than that from our
38 previous work. The study is based on analyzing stable
39 isotope data to determine the proportion of moose in
40 bear and wolf diets. And so if you're not familiar
41 with that term, stable isotopes are alternate forms of
42 the same element like carbon or nitrogen, and they can
43 be identified from each other in a lab analysis. And
44 this is useful in a study like this because animals
45 like bears and wolves are composed of what they eat.
46 If a wolf ate nothing but moose all its tissues, like
47 muscle, blood, hair it'd all be chemically identical to
48 the chemical composition to the moose that they ate.

49

50

1 Okay, let me show you an example of
2 this, so please change slides.
3

4 This graph shows two primary wolf diet
5 components, moose and salmon, and they're plotted with
6 the isotope nitrogen15 on the vertical axis and
7 carbon13 on the horizontal axis, and you can see that
8 each species is widely separate so they're isotopically
9 different from each other.
10

11 Okay, change slides.
12

13 This slide adds Togiak Refuge wolves to
14 the same slide and you can see that they cluster in an
15 immediate position because they're composed of
16 quantities of moose and salmon, if they just ate moose
17 they'd be clustered over in the moose values or
18 similarly if they ate just salmon.
19

20 Okay, please change.
21

22 So to do this study we collected
23 fishing samples from brown bears and wolves. For the
24 bears we collected hair, which begins to grow around
25 the time that bears emerge from their dens, quits
26 growing in the fall when bears return to their den. So
27 the hair captures pretty much their entire annual diet.
28 We collected bear hairs by using small pieces of barbed
29 wire attached to wolf snares that were built with
30 rubber breakaways, this snare would close around a
31 bear's neck and when it broke free it would leave a bit
32 of hair attached. We set about 600 snares and obtained
33 291 samples to get the analysis. The wolves we
34 collected both hair and blood when we handed wolves
35 captured for radio collaring. The hair represented the
36 wolf's summer diet, it grows from spring to fall just
37 like bear hair, and the blood was collected in March
38 and represents the winter diet.
39

40 Okay, please change.
41

42 So these are plots of wolf isotope data
43 plotted relative to the isotopic values of salmon,
44 caribou and moose. The upper graph is the summer diet
45 based on hair samples, while the lower graph is winter
46 diet based on blood. As you can see the distribution
47 of wolf data points is different in the two graphs. It
48 extends towards the salmon extreme in the top one,
49 that's the summer graph, but it clusters around moose
50

1 and caribou in the winter when salmon aren't available.

2

3

Okay, please change.

4

5

6

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

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MR. WALSH: The results of the analysis (indiscernible - cuts out) the contributions of these diet components to overall diet. So this is summer diet that you're seeing on this slide here. It's broken down into Nushagak Peninsula wolves there on the left, versus other Togiak Refuge wolves on the right, and we've done that because wolves on the Nushagak Peninsula have a dependable source of caribou that are available, while those elsewhere on the Refuge are lacking caribou or -- or it occurs in far less quantities. So the data here suggests that caribou compose the majority, 65 percent of the summer diet of wolves that use the Nushagak Peninsula while moose provide about 30 percent of their diet. The wolves that use the rest of the Refuge, moose compose about 75 percent of their diet in the summertime, while salmon composed about 25 percent.

Now, again, understand these are preliminary results and they could be reinterpreted as we continue. And also we're too early in this stage to provide an analysis of the winter diet based on blood and so when that is available I'll provide an update to this Council.

Please change slides.

And what you see here is a plot of bear isotope data, and that's plotted relative to the values of salmon and moose. Included with moose are values with vegetation that bear consume as we're not able to discriminate moose from vegetation and that makes sense, and moose are composed of vegetation.

Change slides.

My collaborator who ran this analysis was *Gangle Schindler. He ran a number of different diet scenarios for bear diet and I'm presenting the one that provides the most reasonable answer at this time. So under this model salmon provide 77 percent of bear diet and moose and vegetation constitute 23 percent.

1 So once we obtain the sensible estimates of these diet
2 proportions for wolves and bears we will quantify their
3 level of predation based on our population estimate of
4 wolves, bears and moose, and we expect to have this in
5 a few months.
6

7 Okay, please change to the last slide
8 I'm going to show you.
9

10 This is the history of the moose
11 population growth for Togiak Refuge which has increased
12 continuously for 30 years. It's exceeded our
13 population objectives for Game Management Unit 17A and
14 it's growing on other parts of the Refuge. Those
15 population objectives were established habitat, this
16 moose growth has occurred in the face of wolf and bear
17 predation.
18

19 They've got four conclusions.
20

21 The first is that the bear population
22 hasn't increased due to moose population growth as
23 bears are more likely regulated by salmon abundance
24 than anything else.
25

26 The second is the wolf population
27 probably has grown because it's unlikely that the
28 current population could have existed when moose were
29 absent or in very low numbers.
30

31 Third, wolf population size is at or
32 near its maximum potential. Because wolves are
33 regulated not just by the abundance of ungulates that
34 they eat but also by space, and there's just not much
35 room left for new packs to become established.
36

37 And the last thing is the combined
38 level of both wolf and bear predation doesn't seem to
39 be serving as a real strong population control for
40 moose. Although predation is working in the same
41 direction as management, which we desire to slow moose
42 population growth, it really hasn't occurred yet.
43

44 So that's all I have Mr. Chairman.
45

46 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Woowee, another
47 drinking out of the firehose kind of deal, there's an
48 awful lot of interesting items there. Do any of the
49 RAC members have questions or comments.
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, speak up
4 if you have -- the one thing I thought was pretty
5 interesting is there's two or three packs there, Snake
6 Lake, Ongoki, and I forget the other one now, dang near
7 on top of each other. I thought that was kind of
8 interesting. Is there any more -- a little -- can you
9 enlighten us how that happens or what -- there we go --
10 thank you.

11

12 MR. WALSH: Yeah. Yeah, that -- that
13 is an interesting point and it's pretty cool that you
14 noticed that. When we break this down by year there's
15 going to be more discrimination between the areas that
16 they use so they shift some over time. But packs do
17 overlap, even though they're territorial, and those
18 boundaries are probably good boundaries, they --
19 there's border wars and one pack will increase in
20 number and power and take over country that another
21 pack had previous, so packs that overlap are quite
22 common even though they are territorial.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thanks.
25 This is closer to my home and, in fact, I think I'm
26 picking up a couple -- or maybe the same wolves in a
27 trail camera a few times a year. I'm over towards
28 Snake Lake where I have my camera.

29

30 Any other comments or questions.

31

32 MR. TREFON: Hey, this is Billy. You
33 actually brought up one here, I noticed it was on your
34 brown bear report, it was predominately brown bear I
35 noticed, but do grizzlies come into that country?

36

37 MR. WALSH: Yeah, the -- when they're
38 in the Interior people refer to them as grizzly bears
39 and when they're near the Coast people call them brown
40 bears, but they're the same species.

41

42 MR. TREFON: Yeah, we usually call them
43 -- we could tell a tell difference because they're
44 smaller and meaner bears and most of them are
45 silvertipped and they kind of mix here in the lake
46 area, Lake Iliamna or Lake Clark.

47

48 MR. WALSH: Yep, well, that's very much
49 the same here. They're smaller and they seem to be

50

1 meaner.

2

3 MR. TREFON: Yeah. So they're
4 basically the same bear.

5

6 MR. WALSH: Yeah, same -- same species.
7 It's probably a function of salmon.

8

9 MR. TREFON: Yeah, that's the only
10 thing I -- I've always heard grizzly and brown bear,
11 and for awhile I used to always thought they were the
12 same bear and then as I traveling around you actually
13 could see the difference in them. Yeah, basically size
14 and attitude.

15

16 MR. WALSH: I think you have that
17 exactly right.

18

19 MR. TREFON: All right, thank you.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thanks, Billy.
22 Anybody else.

23

24 MR. HILL: Hey, just a little tidbit of
25 information here, around the area, the coast off of --
26 out in the bay there, outside of William's Port, in
27 that area, down towards the south and the north there's
28 a group of bears that are -- they're full grown adults
29 and they look like cubs, they don't get very tall, but
30 they're full grown adults, and we've seen a number of
31 them over the years. It's just a mutation, I guess, or
32 something, so has anybody seen anything like that?

33

34 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, if there's
35 any biologists that can speak to it that's on the line
36 I'd be interested to hear them, I don't know if Troy or
37 somebody over that way has anything.

38

39 MR. HAMMOND: Hey, Dan, or Chairman
40 Dunaway, Troy Hammond with the Alaska Park Service. I
41 did not quite catch the context of what they were
42 hoping for from us on this side.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead, Lary.

45

46 MR. HILL: Just I -- interested in the
47 different size brown bears you're talking about the
48 grizzly and then the actual brown bear, same species,
49 but out on the coast, outside of -- you know, where the

50

1 Park goes to the coast and down towards like Becharof,
2 there's a group of bears, I don't know if it's just a
3 mutation or what, but they're full grown adults and
4 their ages are -- you know you can tell by their teeth,
5 that have been harvested and they're really small but
6 they're living on the coast where there's a lot of
7 fish, so I wondered if there's anything -- any
8 recordings of that at all.
9

10 MR. HAMMOND: Oh, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
11 Hill, I am not familiar with that data, I would be
12 interested to see it. We do have a variety of sizes of
13 bears within our population structure, but they are
14 generally pretty large compared to the more inland
15 bears throughout the area as far as I'm aware. And so
16 I haven't seen that in our -- in our data here. And so
17 -- but I'd be -- I'd be really interested to see it.
18 But as far as it goes, depending on which as -- as Mr.
19 Walsh said, depending on kind of how you're -- how
20 you're defining your brown versus grizzly distinction
21 of -- sometimes people say 50 miles from the coast,
22 sometimes they'll say 100 miles from the coast is where
23 that distinction arrives, either way it doesn't really
24 happen on the Peninsula, the Peninsula's too narrow, so
25 everything on the Peninsula is still regarded as a
26 brown bear. But operationally it seems like it's more
27 defined by access to that high density coastal or
28 salmon resources and.....
29

30 MR. HILL: Okay, thank you.
31

32 MR. HAMMOND:the observation --
33 yeah, and the observations people made about -- and
34 you, yourself, made about the differences, I would
35 concur, they're generally fairly visually significant.
36 I apologize but I'm not familiar with the group that
37 you're referring to, though, but I'd be happy to find
38 out about them.
39

40 MR. HILL: Yeah, thank you. I just
41 wanted to bring that up in case there's anybody that
42 noticed anything like that. That's all, thank you.
43

44 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
45 you. It's my impression that's kind of -- the
46 presentations about big animals in the area, and kind
47 of looking for guidance, do we feel a need to make any
48 proposals regarding large animals in the Bristol Bay
49 area or should we carry on with more wildlife reports,
50

1 or what's the pleasure of the Council.

2

3 MR. WILSON: Continue on with more
4 reports.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Yeah, and
7 for the other agency folks, are BBNA, or others, if you
8 have concerns you want to bring to us raise your hand
9 at some point here, but, yeah, I get the sense we don't
10 have any burning proposals. We're hoping to -- the
11 ones we already got in the hopper we're hoping to see
12 move forward.

13

14 So with that, was it -- I'm sorry, I
15 forget the small game guy, but I've heard your name and
16 I've even talked to you, with Fish and Game, but if you
17 wanted to go on with your small game presentation we'll
18 hear it now.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, this is Donald.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Oh, Donald, go
25 ahead.

26

27 MR. MIKE: Yeah, before we move on, I
28 just hear some of the Council members state that they'd
29 like to proceed with agency reports, but just for
30 process on our agenda, the call for wildlife proposals,
31 there are no proposals that this Council wished to
32 submit and if the public or the Council members wish to
33 submit wildlife proposals and they need assistance, we
34 have Staff in OSM to provide the technical assistance
35 they need. If there are no further call for wildlife
36 proposals, we can move on to our next agenda items, and
37 then get into agency reports. That's one option for
38 the Council to consider.

39

40 Mr. Chair.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: As always, thank
43 you, Donald, I appreciate the guidance. One thing I
44 meant to ask earlier, what is the -- I was skimming the
45 book, what's the deadline for proposals in this cycle?

46

47 MR. MIKE: Standby, let me find the
48 date.

49

50

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Donald.....

2
3 MR. TREFON: This is Billy.
4

5 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead, Billy.
6

7 MR. TREFON: Yeah, you were saying that
8 this is the only proposal we have on the book, on the
9 table right now?
10

11 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: We don't really
12 have anything on the table. You know the positioning
13 of -- wolf and wolverine positioning's kind of been in
14 the hopper, for, what, a year now, and we're hoping --
15 we voted to move it forward here. But like if there
16 was anything new, I was just going to speak up, if any
17 of you have been sitting in on your Advisory Committee,
18 Fish and Game Committees, and had any issues pop up
19 there that we need to be aware of here -- okay.
20

21 MR. TREFON: This is Billy. I sit on
22 the Lake area local advisory and our concerns never
23 really change about the caribou and where's the moose,
24 and of course predation.
25

26 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah. Same here
27 in the Nushagak. I think there's discussion of going to
28 Tier II for the State system. There's also a proposal
29 by the Fish and Game -- there's several proposals of
30 interest to Nushagak, I think we spoke out on them at
31 the AC meeting about expanding permits for nonresident
32 moose hunters in the Togiak area, which the Nushagak
33 Advisory Committee, I believe, opposed. And there's
34 also one discussing expanding wolf control areas into
35 -- I think into Game Unit 18 and more of 17. And off
36 the top of my head I don't remember what our position
37 was. You'd think I wrote all those minutes I'd
38 remember, but I'm foggy on it right now. But they are
39 ones that we should be paying attention to. I'm not
40 quite sure with the change in the Board of Game cycle,
41 how, when -- we probably should be looking at some of
42 those at the RAC level but I'm a little unclear what --
43 when is the best time -- okay.
44

45 MR. TREFON: Yeah, and the other
46 important thing up in this area is fish and looking at
47 the chart there had a pretty good return, I mean not a
48 great return, but normal.
49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Oh, yeah, on the
2 sockeye salmon, Billy?

3
4 MR. TREFON: Yeah. Submitted a list
5 from Park Service -- that was sent out by Donald, I
6 think.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Oh.

9
10 MR. TREFON: It goes all the way back
11 to 1980, Newhalen and the Kvichak.

12
13 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Yes, this is Susanne
14 Fleek-Green, Lake Clark National Park. Through the
15 Chair. That sounds like Lake Clark National Park data
16 from our River Mile 22 station that.....

17
18 MR. TREFON: Yes.

19
20 MS. FLEEK-GREEN:yes you're
21 right, Billy, last year was an average year.

22
23 MR. TREFON: Yeah, Dan Young sent it.
24 Yeah, it's pretty good -- I mean I like it, I mean
25 there's a big gap in there where it looked like there
26 was no count for almost 10 years.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Just so I
29 don't get too lost, Donald, did you come up with a
30 deadline on wildlife proposals for the Federal system?

31
32 MR. MIKE: Not exactly a deadline, but,
33 you know, with the new Administration, the published
34 rule for the Federal Register, that has been delayed,
35 and the proposed rule calling for the call for wildlife
36 proposals hasn't been published yet, but we will move
37 forward as though it is published and we will take
38 proposals until the proposed rule is published. So
39 feel free to submit your proposals to our office. If
40 you need help, technical assistance, we can provide
41 that. Otherwise you can just go on to the -- when the
42 proposed rule is published, you can go on
43 regulations.gov and submit proposals through that
44 portal and that's all I have. So as far as what I have
45 on Federal wildlife proposals -- call for wildlife
46 proposals.

47
48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
2 Donald. And so for all of us, if we hear of community
3 members or tribal Councils, any other group of folks
4 that wants to see a change in Federal hunting
5 regulations, don't hesitate to encourage them to pursue
6 it.

7
8 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, go ahead.
11 I'm not sure who spoke up but go ahead.

12
13 MS. LAVINE: Hi, Mr. Chair, this is
14 Robbin LaVine.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
17 Robbin.

18
19 MS. LAVINE: Hi. I just wanted to
20 clarify that until we actually have the proposed rule
21 announced, until we begin our call for proposals, we
22 won't be accepting proposals. But that doesn't mean
23 that you, the Council, cannot work on proposals.
24 Additionally, the -- you, as a Council, can accept
25 proposals and hold proposals as representatives of your
26 region. So if other people are interested in working
27 on proposals, they can talk to you. Once the
28 announcement hits then you'll be notified and, of
29 course, I think, we have 45 days to collect proposals
30 at that time.

31
32 So I just wanted to clarify that we
33 can't accept proposals until the proposed rule has been
34 announced and at that point we will have a call, we
35 will announce our call for proposals, and we will
36 submit them, or you can submit them at that time, and
37 until that time you guys can be working on them and
38 we're here to support you.

39
40 Thanks.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, Robbin,
43 that's very, very helpful. So everybody out there -- I
44 know BBNA is usually pretty vigilant on that and been a
45 real help as well in developing proposals and keeping
46 track of them. So thank you, Robbin.

47
48 I guess at this point can we proceed
49 with the small game stuff, and everybody keeping in
50

1 mind if you come up with an idea while we're still in
2 the meeting we could maybe flesh it out, but I want to
3 keep an eye on the clock here, so, again, sorry for the
4 wildlife biologist, he wanted to -- the hares and
5 ptarmigan guy, if he's available -- okay.
6

7 MR. MERIZON: You bet, yep, this is
8 Rick Merizon, the statewide Small Game Program
9 Coordinator for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
10 And, Mr. Chairman and other Council members I
11 appreciate your time. I know you're trying to wrap
12 this meeting up today so I'll try to keep my comments
13 fairly brief with space at the end to ask some
14 questions, if you have any of me.
15

16 Really, today, I just wanted to keep
17 the Council abreast of some of the small game related
18 proposals that we've been working on this year and
19 obviously have been delayed, one additional year, due
20 to the change in schedule for the Board of Game.
21

22 So beginning back in 2017 our program
23 started looking pretty intensely into Alaska hare
24 populations, also known as jackrabbits, or Tundra hares
25 across Western Alaska. We were concerned and wanted to
26 learn more about the species. We'd been hearing quite
27 a few reports that the population was lower than it had
28 been in years past and frankly we really didn't know
29 much about the species. So we started a research
30 project in 2018 that has been successful in capturing
31 and radio collaring four Alaska hares, three of which
32 are still on the air and giving us movement data, which
33 is very exciting, specifically in Unit 17. And we've
34 been learning a great deal about their movement and
35 sort of just refining what we know about life history
36 with that species.
37

38 Another prong of our Alaska hare work
39 has also been looking at and addressing the regulatory
40 -- hunting regulatory structure for that species
41 throughout its range, which really, in Alaska, is from
42 about Kotzebue along the extreme Western coast all the
43 way down throughout Bristol Bay and down the Alaska
44 Peninsula.
45

46 Back in 2018 the Alaska Board of Game
47 created a season date, bag limit and salvage
48 requirement for Alaska hares in Unit 9 and then just
49 last year in region -- what we call our Region 5, Units
50

1 18, 22 and 23, the Board of Game further created a
2 management structure for Alaska hares in those game
3 management units also creating a season date, bag limit
4 and salvage requirement. And this year we submitted a
5 proposal that was scheduled to be heard last month at
6 the Region 4, Board of Game meeting, which obviously
7 has been postponed until next year, specific to Unit
8 17, which is the only game management unit that
9 currently does not have a management structure for
10 Alaska hare. And so that's a proposal that we
11 submitted and will be heard next year.
12

13 Secondly, looking at snowshoe hare,
14 we've also created a proposal that was scheduled to be
15 heard at this March statewide meeting but, again,
16 obviously has been delayed for a year, and that is
17 creating a salvage requirement for snowshoe hare, the
18 second native species of hares that we have here in
19 Alaska. And just -- you know a lot of folks use
20 snowshoe hares and Alaska hares for a wide variety of
21 things, trapping, to eat, to sew with the hide, a wide
22 variety of uses, and the salvage requirement for
23 snowshoe hare will sort of recognize that broad use of
24 those animals, and the salvation requirement -- there's
25 two types of salvage requirements that the Board of
26 Game recognizes. One is for human use, and the other
27 is for human consumption. So human consumption is
28 similar to what we might recognize as typical salvage
29 requirements for big game animals, having to salvage
30 the hindquarters, the backstraps, that type of thing.
31 For human use, really allows the hunter to utilize that
32 animal in any way. It could be utilized for dog food,
33 for sewing or human consumption. It could be used for
34 trapping. Just as long as that animal is used. And
35 that is the definition that we're seeking through that
36 proposal to the Board of Game for snowshoe hare, is
37 just for human use.
38

39 So I just wanted to highlight those
40 small game issues to the Council. And at this point I
41 can try to answer any questions you might have.
42

43 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Council, any
44 questions.
45

46 (No comments)
47

48 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Pretty quiet,
49 I'll have one. I heard that you got a collar on a hare
50

1 out near Clark's Point, or Ekok, that way, and then did
2 I hear you're working up towards Ekwok recently --
3 over.
4

5 MR. MERIZON: So we just got back from
6 a trip about a week or two ago where we were successful
7 in deploying our second and third GPS radio collar down
8 near Clark's Point. We have not moved to other areas
9 in Unit 17 yet for intensive field work. We do have --
10 the research that we're doing is kind of a two-pronged
11 effort. One is to deploy radio collars to learn more
12 about movement and mortality. And then the other is to
13 identify whether pellets, picking up pellets would be a
14 method that we could use to kind of index abundance on
15 a broad scale. And so the other field component we're
16 working on now is creating long-term snowmachine
17 transects where field Staff will run these 10 to 20
18 mile long transects and pick up Alaska hare pellets
19 along the transects multiple times throughout the
20 course of the winter that could be used as a
21 mark/recapture abundance estimate.
22

23 So, to answer your question, no, we
24 have not moved up to that area. We have expanded our
25 research to other areas across the range of the species
26 though and we do have a number of field sites both for
27 capture and pellet pick up in Unit 23 and 22.
28

29 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Cool. I'm
30 fascinated. I'll look forward to updates. Especially
31 we get Brian in place here in Dillingham, we'll
32 probably have a little better pipeline for what's next.
33

34 So anything else from the Council for
35 Rick.
36

37 (No comments)
38

39 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, hearing
40 none. Donald, where do we go from here?
41

42 MR. MIKE: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 Donald Mike, Council Coordinator. I think we got done
44 with the call for Federal wildlife proposals, and we
45 heard some wildlife status updates from agencies. So
46 if the Council wishes to hear any other reports we can
47 wait for those reports under agency reports and then we
48 can move on to the Council charter review and review of
49 the 2020 annual report, and update on the Fisheries
50

1 Resource Monitoring Program.

2

3 Mr. Chair.

4

5 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair.

6

7 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead,

8

9 Richard.

10

11 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I did have one
12 thought, just one short comment there for Rick on the
13 hare -- on the Arctic hare.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead.

16

17 MR. WILSON: I just wondered, you know,
18 as he's compiling all this information, that if he
19 hasn't gone to the village -- I know he's working in
20 certain areas, but if you were to like send fliers out
21 to communities and ask for samples, you know, if people
22 do see them, that might be a way for him to get more
23 info quicker, you know, in those broader areas, too.
24 So just a thought there.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, citizen
27 participation, it'd be nice.

28

29 MR. MERIZON: Sorry, this is Rick
30 Merizon again. I appreciate that comment, and, yes,
31 absolutely citizen science and local resident
32 participation has always been something we've been
33 strong advocates for. We do have a sort of another
34 approach to just gaining broader insight into Alaska
35 hare abundance, and we've sent out -- beginning in 2018
36 we sent out posters that I hope are still broadly
37 available across the range, where a person could rip
38 off a post card and send in their observations of
39 Alaska hare. So that is definitely an option and we
40 would very much welcome anyone's individual field
41 observations of that field species.

42

43 MR. WILSON: That might be one thing
44 you want to refresh if it's been a few years.

45

46 MR. MERIZON: Yeah, thank you, we'll
47 look into that.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, great.
50 Yeah, all of these noninvasive sampling like scat and

1 hair seem like neat ways to go.

2

3 Okay, well, not hearing any other
4 motions here, let's move on to the Council charter
5 review and I'll look to you, Donald.

6

7 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8 Again, this is Donald Mike, Council Coordinator for the
9 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council. And in your
10 meeting materials starting on -- beginning on Page 57
11 is the current charter we have for Bristol Bay.

12

13 And under the Federal Advisory
14 Committee Act, the Council charter is reviewed -- or
15 renewed every two years, and before the charter is
16 renewed the Council has the opportunity to discuss any
17 changes that they would like to propose to the Federal
18 Subsistence Board and the Board reviews the proposed
19 changes and if the Board agrees, the request for
20 proposed changes is forwarded to the Secretary of
21 Interior. There's a lot of language in our charter
22 that's actually required by the Federal Advisory
23 Committee Act and its implementing policy so you can't
24 change that language.

25

26 The changes you can request are the
27 changes to name of your Council, or the number of
28 members on the Council, but you will need to have a
29 reasonable justification for it.

30

31 You can also request, in addition to
32 that, that species a desired membership balance that,
33 if achieved, allows the members of the Council to
34 represent an entire region. For example, a few years
35 ago the Kodiak/Aleutians Council requested and was
36 granted approval to geograhic -- rebalance the
37 membership to have four members from the Kodiak
38 Archipelago, three from the Alaska Peninsula and three
39 from the Aleutians Pribilofs Island. That region is so
40 spread out that the Council wanted to state that having
41 broader geographic representation is a value for the
42 Council.

43

44 During the last charter review, the
45 Western Interior Alaska Council also added similar
46 language to their charter.

47

48 Additionally, with the delays of
49 Council appointments experienced over the last few

50

1 years, the Council also may want to consider requesting
2 adding a provision to its charter that allows a member
3 to serve after expiration of his or term until a
4 successor is appointed. This is what is called a
5 carryover term that will come in play if the
6 appointment letters are late. Rather than a member's
7 term expiring and the Council having empty seat on the
8 Council, that member would continue to serve until an
9 appointment letter comes in.

10

11 If the Council is satisfied with all
12 the charter provisions as is and requests no change
13 then the Council can just simply vote to forward the
14 charter to the Board.

15

16 And as a reminder, during the last
17 charter review in 2019, the Secretaries improved new
18 language suggested by the Councils to their charters
19 that alternate members may be appointed to the Council
20 to fill vacancies if they occur out of cycle. An
21 alternate member must be approved and appointed by the
22 Secretary before attending the meeting as a
23 representative. The term for appointed alternate
24 member will be the same as the term for the member
25 whose vacancy is being filled, however, in order to
26 have alternates there needs to be a sufficient number
27 of applications in your region. Alternates are
28 appointed as members only if a seat was vacated because
29 of a member passing, resigning or moving out of the
30 region.

31

32 So that's a summary of our charter
33 review. Like I stated earlier, the Council can request
34 to add language for a membership balance or they can
35 make suggestions to the number of seats available.

36

37 Mr. Chair, thank you.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
40 Donald, that was very helpful. I did look through it
41 but some of those items I wasn't aware of. Again,
42 pleasure of the Council, do you have any ideas.

43

44 MR. TREFON: Has anybody objected to it
45 in the past, I mean from looking at this, I mean if it
46 still works we should just continue carrying it over
47 and review it for the next meeting.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, I was

50

1 wondering that possible route. I saw this intriguing
2 -- I was a little shocked here early in January where
3 we really only had three or four members because of
4 whatever sorts of things had disrupted the appointment
5 process. I'm also on another Board where we have a
6 carryover feature like Donald discussed. And then also
7 the alternate, I thought we once talked about
8 alternates because we have ended up where we're really
9 hurting for full seats.

10

11 What's your thoughts on that fellow
12 members.

13

14 MR. WILSON: Dan, Rich, here.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, sir.

17

18 MR. WILSON: Yeah, you know the
19 alternate idea is a good idea. You know sometimes
20 these seats, like you say, it takes so long for them to
21 re-up, that if we had an alternate standing by there
22 wouldn't be that lapse of a quorum and, you know, it
23 would sure help us as a Council to move things along.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah. I've seen
26 it on some of the other boards where an alternate
27 position can also kind of be a little bit of a learning
28 and training opportunity. It requires a real dedicated
29 person, but if they participate, or at least even sit
30 in then, yeah, they're a little bit more up to speed.
31 It does strike me, we struggle to even get full board
32 -- on the board, and then in fact I got a reminder here
33 that you can still apply to be on this RAC until
34 February 15 and I know it's a year long vetting process
35 before your name can get into the hopper.

36

37 So any thoughts from other folks.

38

39 MR. TREFON: Yeah, this is Billy here.
40 I was looking at that list we have, what, three
41 vacancies, and I actually have a person in Nondalton
42 that's interested and we're going to go through the
43 process and we're going to talk with Donald about what
44 to do and we'll take a look at what needs to get done
45 and submit. How many people could we -- one area
46 submit, that would be a good question.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, that's a
49 good point and that kind of gets to that other item

50

1 about geographic distribution. Right now we've got
2 pretty good representation around the lake. I also had
3 a person from Kokhanok asking he about how to get on
4 but we're really hurting for anybody out of the
5 Chigniks. But I think, in my mind, getting people
6 willing to serve is primary. But, anyway, do you have
7 any comments or suggestions, Donald.
8

9 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Donald Mike, Council Coordinator. As far as how many
11 applications we can receive from a particular area, in
12 my mind there's no limit, it's just a, you know, a
13 matter of geographic distribution and these last few
14 cycles our program has been receiving low numbers of
15 applications from the entire state so we're trying to
16 encourage as many people to apply for a seat on the
17 Council. So for this cycle, the nominations
18 application period ends on February 15th and we may
19 extend that, I don't know if it's been approved or not,
20 but the application period may be extended. But,
21 currently, now, the application period ends on February
22 15th. But if we do get an extension we will notify the
23 public of that.
24

25 But by all means, Council members,
26 encourage the public to submit their applications and
27 if they need assistance, OSM Staff will gladly be of
28 assistance to them to submit their applications.
29

30 Thank you.
31

32 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
33 Donald.
34

35 MR. HILL: This is Lary.
36

37 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Did somebody
38 want to speak.
39

40 MR. HILL: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
41 Lary. If we have an alternate, could it be perhaps say
42 someone who maybe has one from the Iliamna Lake area
43 and one from Southwest who could fill in from either
44 area, so that might be a way to look at it.
45

46 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, are you
47 going to make a motion to include into our charter a
48 system of some alternates.
49
50

1 MR. HILL: Well, it wasn't exactly a
2 motion, just something to think about since we're
3 having such a hard time to get anybody to apply.
4

5 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah.
6

7 MR. MIKE: Yeah, Mr. Chair.
8

9 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: So the question
10 -- yeah, go ahead Lary.
11

12 MR. HILL: No, that was all I had.
13

14 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, this is Donald.
15

16 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead.
17

18 MR. MIKE: Yeah, this is an opportunity
19 for the Council to submit their comments. This is the
20 Council charter review, so any comments or suggested
21 changes is on the table for alternates or a number of
22 members to sit on the Council so this is good
23 discussion.
24

25 Thank you.
26

27 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you,
28 Donald. So -- but if we really wanted to make a
29 serious change would a motion be in order or just like
30 discussion with maybe some consensus -- okay.
31

32 MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair, thank you.
33 Donald Mike, Council Coordinator. Yes, if the Council
34 wishes to take action on it, the Regional Council
35 charter, the Council make a motion and provide its
36 comments to the charter review, to include alternates
37 or other comments that they'd like to see to the
38 charter.
39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41

42 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you,
43 Donald. And is it kind of like -- some of this is kind
44 of a little new to all of us. Would we need to do it
45 now or could we discuss it a little bit and try to put
46 it on the agenda for the fall as a little more hard
47 business point -- okay.
48

49 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
50

1 just trying to find out when the Federal Subsistence
2 Board will take up this topic at their work session,
3 either this summer or next fall, does OSM Staff have
4 any idea when the Federal Subsistence Board will take
5 up the charter review for the 10 regions in the state.
6 I'm looking to leadership team at OSM.
7

8 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I'm willing to
9 entertain comments.
10

11 MR. TREFON: I got a question about
12 selections. I mean if we do that because, is the
13 Secretary of Interior going to select who gets on this
14 board because I got a letter with his signature on it,
15 would that change anything to add alternates -- would
16 the Federal government at that level be involved?
17

18 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, Billy, I
19 would assume the appointments would kind of follow the
20 same track. It's a long track. First time I applied I
21 was amazed. But I don't know if, Donald, or anybody
22 else can answer that.
23

24 MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Donald
25 Mike. As far as the alternates, you know, the
26 alternates will go through the same process as the
27 nomination cycles. Our program interviews all the
28 applicants and makes recommendations to the Federal
29 Subsistence Board and the Federal Subsistence Board
30 submits its recommendations to the Secretary of
31 Interior. So with the nomination process in our
32 office, you know, alternates will be identified
33 alongside with the candidates name for nominations on
34 the Regional Advisory Council so it'll go in as a
35 package to the Federal Subsistence Board and Secretary
36 of Interior.
37

38 MR. TREFON: Billy here again.
39

40 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead.
41

42 MR. TREFON: So for us, do we have to
43 start that process like right now, like a proposal at
44 this meeting to go forward if we're going to do an
45 alternate, I mean to speed things up.
46

47 MR. MIKE: Yeah, I believe so, Mr.
48 Chair. The alternate seats, as we discussed, will need
49 to be provided as a comment to the Federal Subsistence
50

1 Board to include on the current -- on our current
2 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council charter, but that
3 will be need to be included in our charter as a draft
4 for recommended changes to the current charter we have.
5

6 Thank you.
7

8 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
9 Donald. Yeah, there's some interesting concepts here.
10 They're all appealing to me, the alternate, the carry
11 over, and then there's times when we've been a little
12 bit stuck on making recommendations. I remember for
13 Chignik when we didn't really -- really hadn't heard
14 anything from the people from Chignik, or even Lower
15 Bristol Bay, and like right now we don't have a voice
16 from, say, Togiak, I kind of feel like -- well, we got
17 Robert here, but I'm probably the farthest west voice
18 on the Council, but for geographic distribution, I
19 would want that on an agenda where we very carefully
20 discuss it with as much representation as possible
21 rather than kind of off the cuff.
22

23 I wonder how the rest of the Council
24 would feel like, I'm still eager to hear some comments,
25 but if we maybe ask to add for the fall meeting, the
26 discussion of these three concepts, what do you guys
27 think -- over.
28

29 MR. TREFON: Is this for discussion,
30 this is Billy here again. Yeah, that's a good idea, I
31 mean if it's all about changing something to our
32 charter -- adding something to our charter and that's
33 about it, it sounds like, and that'll take care of
34 that, for alternates, is that what we're discussing
35 alternates only, or the carry over.
36

37 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, Billy, I
38 was actually inviting comment on carry over, on
39 alternates and on geographic distribution, you could
40 speak to one or all of them. I'm just curious what
41 other people are thinking -- okay.
42

43 MR. TREFON: Okay. Yeah, well, I mean
44 I think it's a good idea as far as the discussion goes
45 to add alternates.
46

47 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. How about
48 Robert, what do you think, did you manage to join us?
49
50

1 (No comments)
2
3 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Or Samantha.
4
5 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, this is Donald.
6 I just wanted to make sure that we haven't lost anybody
7 and let's do a quick roll call.
8
9 Billy Trefon.
10
11 MR. TREFON: Here.
12
13 MR. MIKE: Samantha Herrick.
14
15 MS. HERRICK: I'm here.
16
17 MR. MIKE: Dan's here.
18
19 Lary Hill.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 MR. MIKE: Lary, are you still with us?
24
25 MR. HILL: Hi, I had it on mute. Yeah,
26 I'm still here.
27
28 MR. MIKE: Robert Larson, you're still
29 with us?
30
31 MR. LARSON: Yes, I'm here.
32
33 MR. MIKE: Okay.
34
35 Richard Wilson.
36
37 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I'm here.
38
39 MR. MIKE: Okay. So, Mr. Chair,
40 continuing with the discussion, there's a lot of good
41 comments from the Council, some discussion on
42 alternates and the other discussion that the Council
43 was thinking about was carry over terms and this is a
44 good time for this Council to provide its comments to
45 the Federal Subsistence Board. And like I said
46 earlier, the charter is renewed every two years, on the
47 odd numbered years, and we provide opportunity for
48 Regional Advisory Councils to provide comments on the
49 charter on odd years and like I said, the charter is
50

1 renewed every two years. And the Federal Subsistence
2 Board will address the charters in their August work
3 session this summer.
4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6

7 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you.
8 Well, that tells me that if we really had a burning
9 issue we want them to address we should talk about it
10 now because we probably won't meet before their August
11 meeting. But we need to move on as well. Personally,
12 I'd like to discuss it at our next meeting and maybe
13 have samples of how the other RACs have addressed those
14 comments, it might help us a little. And I think none
15 of us were prepared to really rewrite the charter
16 today.
17

18 So if it's okay with everybody else
19 could we leave it at that and move on or is there any
20 more comments on charter.
21

22 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair.
23

24 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Samantha.
25

26 MS. WESSELS: No, Mr. Chair, this is
27 Katya Wessels, and I'm with the Office of Subsistence
28 Management. I'm Acting Policy Coordinator. I just
29 want to clarify that this your only chance to comment
30 on the charter, is during this meeting. Because the
31 charters are going to be reviewed by the Board during
32 their August executive session. So, you know, if you
33 would like to make any changes to the charter you would
34 need to make your suggestions now during this meeting.
35 I mean you can delay it until tomorrow or later in the
36 meeting, but I would advise you not to delay it until
37 your next meeting, because then the new charters will
38 be enforced for the next two years.
39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41

42 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you
43 for that. That adds some emphasis. What I'm thinking,
44 ma'am, though, is that overall we feel it's working
45 pretty well as it is and I don't know that any of us
46 are -- have a burning issue or are ready to really dive
47 into more substantial changes at this point so.....
48

49 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair.
50

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, sir, who's
2 talking.

3
4 MR. WILSON: Yeah, Rich Wilson.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead.

7
8 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I would at least
9 want to, you know, put in the charter as a possible
10 change is the carry over because, you know, it takes so
11 long for another seat or to renew the seat and the way
12 we've been going, we've been barely making it so we
13 should at least put in that, you know, the carry over
14 would be awful nice just so we're protecting ourselves
15 so we won't ever be short of a quorum.

16
17 So I'll propose that as a proposed
18 change in the charter.

19
20 MR. TREFON: I second it.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Does the
23 Council support Richard's proposal.

24
25 MR. TREFON: This is Billy, I'd support
26 that.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
29 Billy. Others.

30
31 MR. HILL: This is Lary, yes.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you, Lary.
34 Anybody else.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Hearing none, I
39 would speak in favor of that as well. I just keep
40 thinking Donald called me pretty concerned, earlier
41 this year, about we only have four people on the
42 Council and we can't afford -- or it didn't seem right
43 to try to have a meeting if we didn't have any members.
44 So if we have the consensus of the Board, if we could
45 forward the carry over as a strong interest, and it
46 appears we have a pretty strong interest in the
47 alternates as well. Would that work, Donald?

48
49 MR. MIKE: Yes, if there's a strong
50

1 consensus among Council members, we can take that
2 comment to the Federal Subsistence Board to have in the
3 charter, a carry over for membership on the Council
4 and, you know, the alternative is to take a roll call
5 vote and go from there. But if there's a strong
6 consensus, I'm good with that, but otherwise we can do
7 a roll call vote.
8

9 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, let's do a
10 -- if the Council's willing, let's do a roll call vote.
11 Donald.
12

13 MR. MIKE: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 Donald Mike, Council Coordinator. Mr. Richard Wilson
15 moved to have language in the charter for a carry over
16 seat or carry over language for Council members that
17 their terms are ending and that was seconded by Billy
18 Trefon.
19

20 Billy Trefon.
21

22 MR. TREFON: Yes.
23

24 MR. MIKE: Samantha Herrick.
25

26 MS. HERRICK: Yes.
27

28 MR. MIKE: Dan Dunaway.
29

30 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes.
31

32 MR. MIKE: Lary Hill.
33

34 MR. HILL: Aye.
35

36 MR. MIKE: Robert Larson.
37

38 MR. LARSON: Yes.
39

40 MR. MIKE: And Richard Wilson.
41

42 MR. WILSON: Eeee.
43

44 MR. MIKE: Qu yana.
45

46 (Laughter)
47

48 MR. MIKE: So it's unanimous to go
49 forward with the comment to have carry over seats on
50

1 the Council. Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you very
4 much everybody. With that, let's review and approve
5 the annual report that shows on Page 51 in our books.

6

7 Is there any information you want to
8 add, Donald.

9

10 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. These annual
11 report topics were developed at our fall meeting in
12 2020 on teleconference. We had three items -- three
13 topics submitted. The first item was Regional
14 Advisory Council teleconference public meetings. Item
15 No. 2 Chignik salmon fishery. And No. 3, the Nushagak
16 Peninsula Caribou Herd. And those were the three
17 annual report topics that were discussed at the fall
18 meeting. And if the Council wishes to add additional
19 topic items we can go with that.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Open to
22 comments from the Council.

23

24 MR. TREFON: Question.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, Billy, the
27 one thing I was wondering if we could add brucellosis
28 concerns.

29

30 MR. TREFON: Yes, I think that would be
31 important.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I was also going
34 to -- if Mr. Anderson was still on from Chigniks, point
35 out to him that our No. 2 concern is the Chignik salmon
36 fishery, and add our reassurance and sense of support
37 that we definitely are concerned about their plight --
38 okay.

39

40 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, this is Donald.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead.
43 Somebody started to say something.

44

45 MR. MIKE: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
46 Donald, if I could.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead.

49

50

1 MR. MIKE: Yeah, earlier today we heard
2 public testimony from Mr. George Anderson of the
3 Chignik InterTribal Coalition. And in his testimony he
4 requested that this topic be included as part of this
5 Council's annual report to the Federal Subsistence
6 Board.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Council,
9 does that sound good to you?

10
11 MR. WILSON: Aye.

12
13 MR. HILL: Aye.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. So I
16 wonder if we could update that a little bit with we're
17 in support of their -- they've got quite a coalition
18 going that we support all their efforts to address poor
19 salmon in Chignik area; would that sound right, Donald?

20
21 MR. MIKE: That sounds right. The
22 Council, during its discussion on the annual report we
23 had three items that we were going to go forward with
24 and does the Council agree to include the brucellosis
25 concern on the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and the concern
26 from the Chignik InterTribal Coalition.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, that sounds
31 good. Do we need to vote on that, or how -- over.

32
33 MR. MIKE: Yeah, if the Council wishes
34 to vote on this I can make the additions discussed or
35 we can come with a consensus and I can share the next
36 draft with the Council for additional input.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. So
39 Council, do you want to vote or do you -- can we say we
40 have a consensus -- over.

41
42 MR. WILSON: Rich Wilson, I'm in favor.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Favor of
45 consensus or a roll call?

46
47 MR. WILSON: Consensus, if we can just
48 all say yea or nay we'll be good.

1 MR. LARSON: Robert Larson, good.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, I sense
4 there's a consensus, I hear no objections. Maybe we
5 can move on to the FRMP discussion.

6

7 Thank you, Donald.

8

9 MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I think for
10 the next agenda item we have Jared Stone or Ms. Robbin
11 LaVine.

12

13 MR. STONE: All right, good afternoon,
14 Mr. Chair and members of the Council. My name is Jared
15 Stone and I'm a fisheries biologist with the Office of
16 Subsistence Management. I'm joined here today with my
17 colleague Robbin LaVine, who is a Staff anthropologist.
18 And I'm here today to update you on the Council -- or
19 I'm sorry, to update the Council on the Fisheries
20 Resource Monitoring Program, and this is not an action
21 item today.

22

23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted)

25

26 MR. STONE: The Monitoring Program
27 solicits investigators to submit proposals that are
28 responsive to the priority information needs that you
29 have developed over this last year during the fall 2020
30 meeting. The 2022 notice of funding opportunity was
31 recently posted online and closes March 15th.

32

33 We are seeking proposals for projects
34 that gather information to manage and conserve
35 subsistence fishery resources in Federal public waters
36 in Alaska. The Monitoring Program is also directed at
37 supporting meaningful involvement in fisheries
38 management by Alaska Native, and rural organizations
39 and promoting collaboration among Federal, State,
40 Alaska Native and rural organizations.

41

42 For the 2022 funding cycle it is
43 anticipated that there will be roughly 2.25 million
44 available for the first year of new projects. Anyone
45 wanting to apply can find additional information about
46 the program at the Federal Subsistence Management
47 website or by visiting www.grants.gov, and searching
48 for our notice of funding opportunity using the FDA No.
49 15.636, that's under Alaska Subsistence Management.

50

1 After this funding window closes, the
2 investigation plans will then be reviewed by the
3 Technical Review Committee. The results of that review
4 will be presented to you at the next fall 2021 Council
5 meeting.
6

7 This concludes the Fisheries Resource
8 Monitoring Program update, and if there are any
9 questions I would be glad to address them now.
10

11 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Council,
12 anything.
13

14 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, Richard Wilson.
15

16 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, Richard.
17

18 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I know we've got a
19 list of this Monitoring Program that's ongoing now and
20 I just want to reiterate on our chinook, how important
21 it is in our, you know, like here we have a couple of
22 small streams that are real big for survival,
23 especially the Big Creek here, you know, for our king's
24 survival. And I know they've got some -- you know,
25 we're scheduled in for some monitoring but I just want
26 to make sure that that's there and it's active because
27 it's a pretty big concern. There's still a lot of
28 traffic in that creek there and it's a pretty small
29 area, and a lot of anglers are going up in there for
30 other species but in doing it, you know, they're
31 killing off a lot of the chinook. So it's a big
32 concern here on the smaller systems like that that
33 can't handle the pressure.
34

35 So I just want to just highlight that.
36

37 Thanks.
38

39 MR. STONE: Mr. Chair, this is Jared,
40 if I may.
41

42 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead.
43 Thanks, Richard.
44

45 MR. STONE: I just want to bring up the
46 point that that is an excellent point. And this last
47 year when your Council and the Kodiak/Aleutian Council
48 got together to form the priority information needs for
49 the upcoming call, they actually identified a priority
50

1 information need that is going to hit on exactly that
2 issue that you had brought up. And that particular,
3 PIN, or priority information need is reliable estimates
4 of chinook salmon escapement and evaluation of quality
5 of escapement measures in Alagnak River, Big Creek,
6 Nushagak River, Naknek River and Togiak River,
7 including elements of potential egg deposition, sex and
8 size, composition of spawners and spawning habitat
9 quality and utilization for determining the
10 reproductive potential of spawning stocks.

11

12 And so the hope is that we find an
13 investigator that is willing to listen to your
14 recommendation today and try to address that particular
15 priority information need, and so I thank you for
16 making that reminder.

17

18 MR. WILSON: Yeah, thanks. Rich Wilson
19 here again, through the Chair. Yeah, it -- I believe
20 that's one of our important factors here in this little
21 system that we have here in the Naknek for the king run
22 and that's one of the major places that they hold up
23 and spawn out in. And there is way too much traffic in
24 there, that time of year, so it just needs to be
25 highlighted.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MR. STONE: Thank you.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you
32 both. Yeah, I do recall we discussed that some. I'm
33 glad to know it's in there and noted.

34

35 Anybody else.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. I think
40 possibly when we get down more to agency reports we
41 might hear from Lee Borden also about interest in kings
42 on the Naknek and everywhere else and possibly Big
43 Creek. Right, I'm hoping that Mr. Anderson is still
44 listening too, that I think he even talked about
45 seeking FRMP support and I certainly hope he does. And
46 if any of you are in contact with him, encourage him or
47 the rest of the Chigniks. They could probably use that
48 entire allocation down there.

49

50

1 Anything else before we go to agency
2 reports.
3

4 (No comments)
5

6 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: So, okay, I see
7 Robbin LaVine suggesting we need to add additional ways
8 to encourage the public to tune into these meetings.
9 And there have been advertisements on the KDLG radio
10 and last I heard there's a repeater in Togiak. It's
11 supposed to repeat that, and so on. And also through
12 emails and other context where we can encourage people.
13

14 Thank you.
15

16 Unless there's something else maybe we
17 can go to agency reports and roll -- okay.
18

19 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair.
20

21 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, Robbin.
22

23 MS. LAVINE: I just want to be really
24 brief, but I thought one of us folks from OSM might
25 actually speak directly to those people who are
26 listening in. If you are a member of the public, if
27 you're not, you know, one of our agency folks who are
28 attending and supporting this discussion, but if you
29 are a member of the public in the Bristol Bay area, and
30 you have experience in subsistence and you are in touch
31 with your local communities, we need people to
32 participate on the Councils. And we're looking for
33 elders, we're looking for people who are actively
34 hunting, and we're looking for young new people.
35

36 So, again, as people have discussed
37 during this meeting, we're also looking for members of
38 the public from Togiak, Manokotak, the Chigniks,
39 communities along the Nushagak River, we need your
40 local expertise and representation of the region. And
41 so, again, I'm just making a heartfelt plea to anybody
42 listening in that might be tempted to participate as a
43 member of this Regional Advisory Council, reach out to
44 us at OSM, and you can find the application on our
45 website.
46

47 Thanks. I'm done now.
48

49 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
50

1 Robbin. Yeah, and some of us members, you know, we
2 rattle around the communities, we're available and
3 would be willing to help. Like I said I forwarded a
4 bunch of information to a person over in Kokhanok just
5 in the last few days they were asking about it. And
6 also, again, I want to thank Robert up on Koliganek for
7 stepping forward, it's really helpful to have somebody
8 from up that way.
9

10 Okay, with that I'm going to move to
11 the agency reports and I think we start out with tribal
12 governments. I don't know if Heidi or Cody, I'll leave
13 it up to you to stand up and provide us your report.
14

15 Thank you.
16

17 MR. LARSON: Good afternoon, Mr.
18 Chairman, Cody Larson here. Good to hear everyone on
19 the phone.
20

21 I believe I may be the only member of
22 the Natural Resources Department Staff from BBNA on the
23 call today. Heidi may be on as well. Gayla was not
24 able to make it but sends her best wishes to all.
25

26 For a plug for our department, we are
27 still recruiting for an additional person to join our
28 team and work with us on subsistence projects and
29 working with our communities. So that is still open
30 and we're seeking someone to join us.
31

32 Another plug, I guess, is I'm still
33 putting together the summer internship and as we all
34 know, this year, things have kind of been up in the air
35 and some things are put on pause until we know more
36 about how we can logistically operate safely with
37 interns and field Staff, and putting our projects
38 together this summer. But with that if there are any
39 folks listening on the phone call today, you bet, would
40 like to plan on having an in-person intern field
41 season, please contact me and we can work out how to
42 implement a successful season there and partner as
43 we've done in the past.
44

45 I don't have a lot other than that
46 update from the fisheries Program.
47

48 One comment that I'd like to make the
49 Council aware of that I made to the Federal Subsistence
50

1 Board last month was with regard to a fisheries
2 proposal. I recognize that this is a wildlife cycle,
3 but I wanted to at least acknowledge that I had made
4 these comments to the Federal Subsistence Board with
5 regard a proposal to change the areas of closure of
6 waters to subsistence fishing around the region, and I
7 think that everyone should be familiar with that. If
8 not, it's certainly in the past meeting minutes. I
9 recognize that at the Federal Subsistence Board meeting
10 in January there were at least 20 -- I believe there
11 were upwards of 25 reviews for closures to Federal
12 fisheries areas around the state, and my recommendation
13 was that rather than a proposal to change the closure
14 of the waters to all species, you know, there was some
15 conversation at the last RAC meeting that it was too
16 broad, that it needed more review prior to the RAC
17 being comfortable with looking at allowing any species
18 to be taken within 300 feet of a stream mouth used by
19 salmon. And so my recommendation was rather than that
20 be -- attempted to be narrowed through a proposal, that
21 it be up for a Federal closure review much like the
22 other 20-some reviews that were done at the last --
23 during the last cycle.

24
25 So I just wanted the Council to be
26 aware of that, that I had made that comment and that it
27 is an attempt to bring more information back to the
28 Council on what those closed waters mean and how they
29 were initially closed to subsistence uses, with the
30 caveat that some of those areas of water are open to
31 other users harvesting. So I wanted to bring that to
32 light, and that's all I've got. I can take any
33 questions.

34
35 Thank you, very much, Mr. Chair, and
36 for your service as Council members.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you, Cody.
39 Any comments from the RAC.

40
41 MR. TREFON: This is Billy here.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Billy.

44
45 MR. TREFON: Hey, Cody, do you have a
46 phone number for the contact if we come up with a name?

47
48 MR. LARSON: Yes. Yep. We're all still
49 working from home here so a good contact for me is 843-

50

1 1800. With that, if anyone on the phone is looking to
2 make State finfish proposals for the Bristol Bay area,
3 those are due May 10th, and I can assist any of your
4 community members with developing language for the
5 State Bristol Bay finfish regulations.
6

7 Thank you.
8

9 MR. TREFON: Thank you, Cody.
10

11 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair. Rich
12 Wilson here. Cody, make sure that you, you know, you
13 got fliers out like to our high schools and that for
14 those internships, that'd be great.
15

16 MR. LARSON: Through the Chair. Thank
17 you, Richard. Will do.
18

19 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you,
20 Cody. Yeah, I've seen them put stuff on FaceBook,
21 various places, too, and I just remember when I was
22 working, I was pretty proud that we were able to work
23 in some young folks across the bay in joint projects.
24 It helps them understand, and you always hope that
25 they'll get a few career motivated folks, or just that
26 they learn for the summer.
27

28 So any other comments from the Council.
29

30 (No comments)
31

32 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Are there any
33 other tribal governments that wish to speak, Curyung or
34 (indiscernible) or anybody else -- over.
35

36 (No comments)
37

38 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Hearing none,
39 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We had part of
40 Togiak's report. I assume they have more, they usually
41 have a very thorough report. Kenton or Patrick or --
42 you're on.
43

44 MR. ADERMAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Andy
45 Aderman here. How do you read me?
46

47 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Oh, sorry, Andy.
48 Loud and clear, go ahead.
49
50

1 MR. ADERMAN: Okay. Yeah, so our
2 report is in the meeting materials, it starts on Page
3 39.
4

5 The first thing I was going to -- or
6 don't really need to cover is Mulchatna Caribou, I
7 think Todd Rinaldi did a pretty good job of that other
8 than just to mention that we continue to assist the
9 Department with the monitoring surveys and we're on
10 that management technical working group and will
11 continue to be.
12

13 Starting at the bottom of the page,
14 Nushagak Peninsula Caribou. This is all pretty much
15 information you got at your last meeting. The herd is
16 down just a little over 200. No caribou were reported
17 harvested during the month and a half long fall hunt.
18 I am aware of two caribou that were harvested, most
19 likely from that herd early this winter, and I learned
20 that through law enforcement and so there's some
21 investigation going on there. We did get a composition
22 survey in in October. The results of that estimated 33
23 bulls per 100 cows and 49 calves per 100 cows. So
24 they're both pretty good ratios.
25

26 Todd covered harvest of 17A moose.
27 This is by far our largest, you know, one year harvest
28 and it's likely to bump up a little bit more as more
29 hunt reports turn in, but we are up to, right now 143
30 moose. This is a combination of fall hunts and the
31 winter hunt that just closed, which 94 are bulls and 49
32 are cows.
33

34 Let's see, I'm going to move over
35 towards the bottom of Page 42, recovery of overgrazed
36 lichen on Hagemeister Island. This is a study that Pat
37 Walsh led, and I've got a thing -- I'm not going to
38 read what I have written there but I just wanted to
39 summarize to say the study occurred following over
40 grazing by reindeer. The study measured lichen biomass
41 at two points in time, 12 years apart, and calculated
42 time to full recovery using three different models with
43 the fastest estimating recovery in about 77 years. And
44 lessons learned, you know, there on Hagemeister are
45 helping to guide our management on the Nushagak
46 Peninsula Caribou. And kind of swinging back to
47 Nushagak Peninsula Caribou, we've been trying, here for
48 the last four or five years to bring that herd down and
49 we have and it's a little lower than what we had hoped
50

1 but the big concern there is the declining amount of
2 lichen cover. And so it was kind of, you know, through
3 management and working with the planning committee for
4 that herd that, you know, we enacted liberal
5 regulations and we actually got the favorable
6 conditions for people to get out and harvest those
7 caribou. But we got a couple of lean years ahead of
8 us, I think, before, you know, -- I think we'll still
9 continue to harvest but we'll see what the population
10 is after calving and convene with the committee and
11 come to some sort of consensus on what we want to do as
12 far as hunting goes.

13
14 I think -- I guess two more quick
15 things.
16

17 A lot of our summer camps that involve
18 youth, well none of them happened and a lot of the
19 school presentations that Terry and John Dyasuk have
20 done, you know, throughout Southwest Alaska, a lot of
21 those didn't occur because of Covid, hoping that'll get
22 switched around this coming year but we'll wait and
23 see.
24

25 The very last thing is, on the last
26 page, though, we did hire two new people. The first is
27 Janelle Trowbridge, she's a resident of Nome that just
28 got her degree from UAA. She came on board, I think it
29 was early June this -- or June of last year. And then
30 Deputy Refuge Manager Stan Cullings. He arrived in
31 October.
32

33 And that's all I have and I'd be happy
34 to take any questions if there are some.
35

36 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you, Andy.
37 All interesting stuff. Questions from the Council.
38

39 (No comments)
40

41 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, pretty
42 quiet. My one comment is it sounds like the Covid
43 stuff really hampered some of the earlier large animal
44 survey efforts and it seems to me we know enough about
45 Covid these days that I hope we can overcome that and
46 it doesn't hamper your work as much as it did last
47 spring -- okay.
48

49 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah, I appreciate that,
50

1 Mr. Chairman. You know, we are able to use our
2 aircraft and our pilots only so we're in the same
3 position, kind of as we were, the end of last March
4 when, you know, all vendor aircraft was prohibited from
5 us using them, and so we were able to get some of the
6 work, like the composition survey on Nushagak Peninsula
7 Caribou, ADF&G took care of that because that involves
8 a helicopter and Fish and Wildlife Service doesn't have
9 any helicopters, at least in Alaska. So, you know,
10 working together we got some stuff done. We were able
11 to get in some caribou population surveys and moose
12 survey work out west. So I appreciate that comment.
13

14 Hopefully things will turn around and
15 we'll be able to use other pilots and aircraft that we
16 don't have.
17

18 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, great.
19 Yeah, shoot, next thing you'll know you'll be darting
20 us with antivaccine stuff.
21

22 (Laughter)
23

24 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: So okay if
25 that's everything from Togiak, let's see, how about
26 Becharof. I thought I saw Susan on a little bit
27 briefly there. Are you ready?
28

29 MS. ALEXANDER: Hello, yes, thank you,
30 Mr. Chair and members of the Council, guests. Susan
31 Alexander, Refuge Manager for Becharof and Alaska
32 Peninsula National Wildlife Refuges.
33

34 I wanted to start out by introducing
35 our new Deputy Refuge Manager, Danny Moss, who's on the
36 call and to give him just a moment to say hello to the
37 Council.
38

39 Danny, do you want to take the floor.
40

41 MR. MOSS: Hello, can everyone hear me?
42

43 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes.
44

45 MR. MOSS: First off I just want to say
46 what an honor it is to be here, be on this call and
47 privilege to be a part of it. It's good to be in
48 Alaska. I've been trying to get here for many years
49 and so it's good to be here.
50

1 Just a little bit about myself. I'm
2 the offspring of immigrants from Scotland and Ireland
3 and my maternal and paternal grandparents all settled
4 in Vicksburg, Mississippi. One set of grandparents
5 were bakers, my other grandfather was a mill rite and
6 did a lot of steel work and things like that. And so
7 that's who I am.
8

9 Not to digress, but right now I'm in
10 the Native Alaska Relations 101 course, and one of the
11 things we were talking about is learning from our
12 elders. And so I remember when I was in psychology, in
13 college, a professor told us, he wanted us to go home
14 and talk with our grandparents and find out something
15 about them we didn't know. So in 1927 there was a huge
16 flood on the Lower Mississippi, and so in talking with
17 my grandmother I found out that she and my grandfather
18 were living right in that area when this happened.
19 They'd never mentioned that to me in all my life. And
20 so.....
21

22 (Teleconference interference -
23 participants not muted)
24

25 MR. MOSS: Can you hear me?
26

27 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, sir.
28

29 MR. MOSS: So anyway so that's -- I've
30 always had an interest in my lineage and everything
31 else. My greatgrandmother on my maternal side was a
32 full-blooded Choctaw Indian and as you well know back
33 in those days birth certificates were probably not
34 recorded, nor death certificates and maybe not even
35 marriage licenses, so we're still in the process of
36 trying to get our tribal number and establish that
37 designation. So anyway I won't go into any more of
38 that but I just wanted to take a minute and thank you
39 for this time and it's such an honor to be working in
40 Alaska and I work forward to working with all of you.
41

42 MR. TREFON: Well, welcome to Alaska.
43

44 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, thanks,
45 Danny.
46

47 MR. MOSS: Thank you.
48

49 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: (Indiscernible)
50

1 we might get to talk.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. MOSS: Great.

6

7 MS. ALEXANDER: All right, thanks,
8 Danny, and thanks members of the Council and Mr. Chair.

9

10 So a brief update on Staffing for us.
11 I know I've spoken about this every meeting for a
12 number of meetings. We're obviously making some
13 progress, we have filled the Deputy position with Danny
14 and also an additional admin position I've been given
15 the go ahead to fill, and have that new person on
16 board. Unfortunately, among the positions I have not
17 yet been given permission to fill are our visitor
18 services position and our permits coordinator, and
19 perhaps most near and dear to the hearts of the RAC and
20 why we're all here is, our big game position -- big
21 game biologist position, which has been vacant for four
22 years now, I'm still not able to fill, and our
23 subsistence and avian biologist positions have now been
24 vacant since fall of 2020, and I do not have authority
25 to fill those yet. However, we are still pushing to
26 keep an emphasis on subsistence even with those three
27 key -- those are basically our three primary biological
28 Staff positions other than our supervisor and our
29 pilot. So we're still pushing ahead.

30

31 And like everybody else we had a
32 reduced field season last year because of Covid but we
33 were able to get some good work done. And I am
34 prepared to go over it myself, but I wanted to check
35 briefly and see if Bill Smith is on the phone, he's our
36 supervisory wildlife biologist. He had a family urgent
37 commitment today but was going to try to get on after.

38

39 Bill, are you on the phone.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MS. ALEXANDER: Okay, I will go ahead.
44 So moose composition surveys. We flew seven
45 composition surveys from mid-November to early December
46 in 9C and 9E with fortunately excellent survey
47 conditions and that data has been provided to the
48 Department of Fish and Game for analysis.

49

50

1 As we've discussed previously with the
2 RAC, we are still intending to make an effort to survey
3 the Black Lake area. We weren't able to do that in
4 2020 due to weather but we're hoping to at least fly
5 abundance rather than composition for moose in that
6 area in February while we still have snow. So that's
7 coming up very, very soon.
8

9 Working with Fish and Game again we
10 were able to fly some bear stream side composition
11 surveys that haven't been flown in decades to basically
12 resurvey those streams. And the protocols for these
13 surveys were designed by Dave Crowley at Fish and Game
14 and the original plan was for him to fly them in our
15 aircraft but thanks to Covid protocols we were unable
16 to have Dave in our aircraft so we put Fish and
17 Wildlife Staff in there and flew them that way and
18 provided the data to Dave.
19

20 Caribou winter forage monitoring is
21 something that we're starting to make in-roads into.
22 We will fly this month, the Northern Alaska Peninsula
23 Herd winter range to look for habitat use areas for
24 future monitoring. We're starting to try to map some
25 of this out. We're presuming that such communities
26 along the Naknek and like near Becharof may be likely
27 areas and we're looking to identify areas to establish
28 long-term habitat monitoring locations so we're
29 starting some of that work coming right up.
30

31 Another new project is long-term
32 habitat change monitoring in general, not just geared
33 towards caribou, and this is a project that we
34 contracted last summer with ABR Incorporated. I know
35 some of you are probably familiar with them, and that
36 will involve two things. One is repeat photographs of
37 photographic monitoring for change. We'll be trying to
38 duplicate historical images and that will give some
39 qualitative and quantitative monitoring including
40 things like shrub expansion, glacial retreat, water
41 levels, coastal erosion. And then we will also
42 establish 20 new monitoring plots and quantitatively
43 measure vegetation at one meter intervals along three
44 sampling lines of each plot. So that's coming up
45 primarily this summer.
46

47 Our water temperature monitoring, we're
48 continuing and expanding. I know, we all remember
49 2019, too vividly with dying fish and dry creeks. On
50

1 lakes we are continuing to monitor Upper Ugashik,
2 Mother Goose Lake, and Needle Lake, which is near
3 Mother Goose for anyone who's not familiar with that
4 further down on the Peninsula. And we are planning on
5 reestablishing the monitoring Ray and Becharof Lake,
6 that was lost early on in this effort and we tried very
7 hard to find it and finally given up. It's a big lake.
8 So we think we have a better location where we're more
9 likely to be able to hang on to that.

10
11 In addition, after that 2019 year with
12 salmon kills everywhere, we were approached by a group
13 of Ugashik setnetters represented by Ms. Katie Bursch
14 (ph), and those folks have a number of efforts going
15 on, I gather, in relation to getting temperature
16 sensors installed in the main stream of the Ugashik
17 River and perhaps other locations. I haven't spoken
18 with her recently but in connection with that, at her
19 suggestion we provided our lake temperature data to the
20 Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute and the Cook
21 Inlet Keepers to help just get that information shared
22 as broadly as possible. We also, every year, routinely
23 upload that data to the Alaska Online Aquatic
24 Temperature Site, or AKOATS, which is operated by UAA
25 with funding from Fish and Wildlife and in conjunction
26 with the Western Alaska Landscape Conservation
27 Cooperative. So that's -- our data always goes there
28 but now we've also shared it a little more broadly at
29 the urging of those folks who were working -- focusing
30 mostly on the Ugashik.

31
32 Also in connection with stream
33 temperature monitoring, we plan to initiate some long-
34 term stream temperature and dissolved oxygen monitoring
35 this year and we're also looking at trying to identify
36 changes over time to -- or excuse me -- the emphasis of
37 that temperature monitoring is to identify changes over
38 time related to chinook and coho salmon spawning runs
39 on Big Creek and the King Salmon River are the first
40 priorities for that, that's the southern King Salmon
41 River down by Ugashik and Mother Goose.

42
43 So last bit to report on at the moment,
44 relates to ptarmigan, Willow ptarmigan in particular,
45 that we had planned in 2020 to conduct another
46 ptarmigan density estimate on our established trend
47 sites in 2015 but were unable to do so due to Covid and
48 we're not sure that we'll be able to do that this year
49 either. And we're also intending to start working on
50

1 some Alaska hare inventories, of course, cooperatively
2 with Fish and Game to try to compliment what they're
3 doing there, and we're hoping to initiate those next
4 year in 2022.

5
6 So that's the quick and dirty version.

7
8 Does the Council have any questions on
9 any of that?

10
11 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Any Council
12 questions.

13
14 (Teleconference interference -
15 participants not muted)

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you,
20 Susanne, or did somebody start to say something?

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Boy, this
25 Covid sure is interrupting science, I hope it gets over
26 with. So thank you very much, Susan, and we have Ellen
27 with NOAA next, go ahead.

28
29 MS. YASUMIISHI: Hi, good afternoon,
30 Mr. Chair, members of the Council. This is Ellen
31 Yasumiishi. I'm presenting today from Juneau, Alaska
32 where we have minus 10 degrees, very unusual weather.

33
34 Anyways I work for NOAA Fisheries. I'm
35 a research fishery biologist and I'm a past member --
36 editor of the Alaska Marine Ecosystem Status Report.
37 I'm going to try to share my screen and I'm wondering
38 if you can see the PowerPoint Presentation.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I can see it.

41
42 MS. YASUMIISHI: Great.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: It's a dot.

45
46 MS. YASUMIISHI: I have kind of a long
47 presentation with 35 slides but I'll try to go through
48 it -- I tried to write the main points on each slide.
49 I'm going to talk about last year and this year's sea
50

1 temperatures and ice in the Bering Sea. Most of our
2 research is ecosystem surveys in the Eastern Bering Sea
3 to support stock assessments of groundfish fisheries.
4 But we also catch a lot of juvenile salmon in our
5 surveys, and other forage fish.

6
7 So I'll talk about sea temperature ice
8 and then some of the 2020 NOAA surveys.....
9

10 (Teleconference interference -
11 participants not muted)
12

13 REPORTER: So hang on, Ellen. So we
14 could either have people mute their phones, if you
15 could take a second and just check and make sure your
16 phone's muted for the interruption.
17

18 MS. YASUMIISHI: So this shows in the
19 last 20 years we've had the top 10 warmest summers in
20 the Bering Sea, that's east of 180, in the last 10
21 years we've had seven of the warmest years in the last
22 120 years, and 2020 was the third warmest summer. So
23 we're also seeing variability. In the 2000s we did
24 have some average and below average temperatures.
25

26 So this slide here is our time series
27 of seasonal temperatures from this summer through
28 December, I guess, and for the Northern Bering Sea on
29 the left and the Southern Bering Sea on the right. And
30 the blue line shows that 2020 temperature time series
31 relative to the average, the purple line from 1985
32 through 2019, and the black line is this year. We're
33 starting off a little cooler than last year, but not
34 quite at the average, the long-term average. And this
35 information is available online and it's being updated
36 by Jordan Watson that includes contact information
37 there. He has a page where you can go and create this
38 graph for yourself for your presentations.
39

40 And Rick Thoman at the International
41 Arctic Research Center in Fairbanks, a climatologist
42 has provided us a look spatially at what's going on in
43 the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska current sea
44 surface temperatures, and this is the week of January
45 18th through the 24th temperatures from -2 and those
46 are the ice areas up through -- up to four degrees by
47 the Aleutians. It's warmer in the Gulf of Alaska.
48

49 The next slide just shows the ana --
50

1 how anomalous this information is this year relative to
2 the time series back to 1971. And it's a little --
3 actually a little cooler in the Bering Sea than that --
4 relative to the time series, especially in the Bristol
5 Bay area, the dark blue is about two and half, three
6 degrees cooler than the average and warmer off shore
7 off the shelf in the Central Bering Sea.
8

9 One of the reasons for that could be
10 that the ice has melted more. We're not seeing ice in
11 the Bristol Bay area this year like we did last year so
12 the red that shows where the ice is at the week of
13 January 24th. So the ice is farther north this year,
14 but it's also distributed farther off -- off the shelf
15 into the Central Bering Sea.
16

17 This slide shows the Western Norton
18 Sound average sea temperatures time series from 1982
19 through 2020. Over time it just shows that 2020 was
20 cooler on average for the June and August than it was
21 in 2019. And much cooler particularly in June.
22

23 And, again, for the Bristol Bay area,
24 55 miles off shore of Pilot Point shows similar trends
25 and the Southern Bering Sea is the north where there is
26 a cooling of sea temperatures in 2020 relative through
27 2019.
28

29 Deeper in the water column we have a
30 survey near the edge of the Continental Shelf in the
31 Gulf of Alaska all the way through the Bering Sea area
32 and that showed a trend of warming relative to the warm
33 blob in 2014, above average temperatures throughout the
34 water column, which is a little concerning, and then in
35 2020 we saw a cooling relative to 2019. Particularly
36 in the middle of the water column. But it was still a
37 little bit warmer on average, particularly in the Gulf
38 of Alaska and in deeper areas of the Bering Sea.
39

40 So in 2020 we had, of course, Covid,
41 drastically affect the number of our surveys. Our main
42 survey, the Bering Sea bottom trawl survey estimates
43 population numbers of adult pollock and many of the
44 commercially important graphs of species did not
45 happen, and right now we are just working on logistics
46 with State and Federal regulations for getting people
47 on board vessels during Covid.
48

49 So I'll talk a little bit about the
50

1 survey that we did have last year, which was the
2 longline survey on -- and this is from -- this map
3 shows the station locations on the shelf where we have
4 longline to estimate population numbers for sablefish,
5 Pacific cod, (indiscernible - muffled) Turbot,
6 roughey, blackspotted, and shortraker rockfish, and
7 those are used in the stock assessment that are
8 presented to the North Pacific Fisheries Management
9 Council. We also collect information on, you know,
10 temperature and growth rate, whales coming on to the
11 lines that take fish off the line. So this is the only
12 long-term survey that we conducted in 2020.

13
14 Some of the results of the survey were
15 really interesting, particularly for sablefish in the
16 Bering Sea area since the blackcod and (indiscernible -
17 muffled) and shows that the 2014 and 2016 year classes,
18 so that's the year these fish were born, those are
19 starting to show up in the population in huge numbers,
20 so our catches were 40 percent higher in 2020, relative
21 to 2019. And I know this has been an issue with
22 bycatch in other fisheries.

23
24 We've also had above average Pacific
25 cod numbers. In 2019 -- there were 17 percent more
26 fish in 2020 than 2019. And below average catch of
27 turbot.

28
29 This slide shows the Bering Sea
30 research surveys. So these are just kind of like
31 ecosystem surveys where we go out and collect more
32 comprehensive oceanographic information, zooplankton,
33 physical and biological oceanography. We collect fish
34 in surface waters and look at their diets and their
35 condition. We use this information to let the Councils
36 know what conditions are like for the juvenile fish and
37 that's a critical time in their life that determines
38 their survival to adulthood.

39
40 Only one survey was conducted this
41 year, distributed biological observatory, and these are
42 just sites where we try to hit every year when we're
43 out, you know, to collect oceanographic information,
44 you know, that's around St. Lawrence Island.

45
46 But in 2019 the highlights were that it
47 was really warm and, of course, and there were a lot of
48 herring and this is typical what we see in late summer
49 a lot more herring during warm years and a lot fewer
50

1 chinook salmon, we see fewer capelin, and higher
2 catches of -- lately we've been catching a lot of
3 juvenile pink and sockeye in the last like four years.
4 Working with Curry Cunningham on using our juvenile
5 sockeye catches to help inform the Bristol Bay sockeye
6 returns.

7
8 We also see in warm years there's low
9 krill and low copepod abundances so large copepods and
10 those are used by a lot of the forage fish to -- as
11 lipid -- those are lipid rich prey and that helps --
12 helps them survive the first winter in the ocean.

13
14 So some of the research highlights,
15 just wanted to show you the trends that we're seeing.

16
17 Capelin we catch mostly in the Northern
18 Bering Sea around St. Lawrence Island. A little bit
19 below Nunivak Island. And they really show up in the
20 cold years in our surveys and we've seen the -- the
21 trend, of course, since the warming is -- is a decline
22 in their (indiscernible - muffled), they may be moving
23 north out of the survey area, but they just started
24 disappearing in warm years.

25
26 On the other hand, herring, which you
27 also see mostly in the north around Nunivak and Norton
28 Sound, they show up near shore and mostly in the warm
29 years and currently their populations have been
30 increasing and on the rise in the Southeast Bering Sea
31 as well.

32
33 Juvenile sockeye trends. So we have --
34 so this is our survey information since 2002. That's
35 when we started this large Bering Sea ecosystem survey.
36 In recent years, in 2012, we've only surveyed every
37 other year, so in even years we've had the opportunity
38 to go out and survey. So in 2014 with that warm blob
39 we saw decreases in catches and abundance of juvenile
40 sockeye, through 2018, and unfortunately we did not
41 have a survey last year and because of an odd year, we
42 probably won't have funding to go out this year, but
43 hope to get out in 2022 again.

44
45 Our pollock catches, age zero pollock
46 we see a lot in the surface waters, particularly during
47 warm years and -- and that middle domain, in the middle
48 area of the Bering Sea Shelf, yeah, and they're just
49 everywhere, they're thick. Their abundances are the
50

1 highest of all the species along with the juvenile
2 sockeye during these warm years. And during cold years
3 you see a lot more herring.
4

5 So this slide is just a summary of our
6 catches, really, in the Northern Bering Sea for forage
7 fish showing the trends and the declines in the
8 capelin, juvenile pollock and juvenile chinook salmon
9 in the recent -- in the last five years. Stable
10 catches in the last five years were Pacific herring and
11 juvenile chum and coho.
12

13 And then in the Southeast Bering Sea
14 we're seeing more herring and more juvenile salmon,
15 these are the non-salmon which are primarily the
16 juvenile sockeye.
17

18 So the importance of this slide is a
19 little complicated, but it just shows how important sea
20 ice is to production of large copepods and that's a
21 primary lipid rich prey for a lot of these fish. And
22 when the ice -- in colder years when the ice retreats
23 later the ice melts and the algae is released from the
24 ice and at that time there's more sun available and so
25 there's a big bloom of algae and that provides food for
26 these baby copepods that become the large copepods that
27 are important for a prey item for -- for fish. So we've
28 been able to estimate the abundance of large copepods
29 in the Southeast Bering Sea in our survey data and use
30 that to predict survival of the commercially important
31 fish species, particularly we focused on pollock, we've
32 correlated large copepod abundances also with growth
33 rates of juvenile chinook salmon. And one of the
34 things we're doing now that is a next step is to
35 incorporate large copepod densities in our chinook
36 (indiscernible - muffled) models for a particular area.
37 A few Western Alaska stocks of chinook and chum salmon.
38 That project is just starting.
39

40 So -- and we also have -- before we go
41 on, just the climatologists are developing longer time
42 series of large copepods because our data only goes
43 back to 2002, they've been able to use our data as well
44 as climate data to (indiscernible - muffled) predict in
45 the backwards and forwards, a longer time series of
46 large copepods so that we can use that in models
47 predicting say chum salmon growth, or chinook salmon
48 growth or pollock recruitment into the future.
49
50

1 Anyways, not to digress, but I'll get
2 back to the slides, and these are a time series of the
3 diets of age zero pollock just showing the presence of
4 large copepods, things like lipid rich hamburger food
5 in these colder years.
6

7 And then I was talking a little bit
8 about the importance of sea ice and chinook salmon
9 growth and this is a paper I published a couple of
10 years ago showing that it's really more highly linked
11 to chinook salmon in the south -- Southern Bering Sea,
12 in the Kuskokwim River chinook versus in the -- in the
13 north, and we think that it's because the ice is, you
14 know, more variable. Sometimes there's a lot of ice in
15 the north -- or in the south and in some years there's
16 hardly any. So it really -- it's more tightly linked
17 with the production of, you know, algae and large
18 copepods and food linked, the densities of large
19 copepods with growth rates of Kuskokwim River chinook
20 salmon and this is using scale pattern analysis of
21 adult chinook salmon that return to the river.
22

23 And finally I just wanted to mention a
24 new project that I'm working on with Curry Cunningham
25 and another project student to look at where the
26 essential fish habitat for juvenile salmon in the
27 Bering Sea. And this is an update that was -- we're
28 supposed to do every five years, and so we're trying to
29 figure out if juvenile salmon are avoiding certain
30 habitat conditions like areas that are too warm, or
31 areas that don't have a lot of zooplankton in them.
32

33 So in conclusion 2020 was cooler than
34 2019 and this year it's starting out a little cooler
35 than 2020 but we're seeing low sea ice in Bristol Bay.
36 Many of our 2020 NOAA surveys were cancelled due to
37 Covid so it's really a data poor year. But we are
38 really optimistic about getting back out there this
39 year and doing our best to develop policies for Covid
40 and mitigation measures.
41

42 So with that then -- and then I'm
43 really honored to be here and to be invited to present
44 what we're doing. I just wanted to say if you have any
45 kind of information that you're interested in asking us
46 about or other information you want me to present,
47 please feel free to email (indiscernible - cuts out)
48 collaborate.
49
50

1 So thank you, Mr. Chair and members of
2 the Council for your time.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes. Thank you,
5 Ellen. Especially that part there about how sea ice is
6 important to juvenile kings is pretty interesting. Is
7 there anything from any of the Council members.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Then.....

12
13 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair, Rich
14 Wilson here.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
17 Richard.

18
19 MR. WILSON: Yeah, just a big shout
20 out, thank you, Ellen, very well done. A lot of good
21 info there. And for a lot of us that are life
22 residents of the area and seeing these changes, this
23 kind of information is very helpful, so thank you so
24 much.

25
26 MS. YASUMIISHI: Thank you. Thank you
27 for your interest.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, we're
30 discovering more and more how important that ice was
31 because people didn't dream that there was such a
32 biological community dependent on it. So any other
33 Council members.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, hearing
38 none, we've got a few more folks to go but I wonder if
39 we need a five minute break.

40
41 MR. TREFON: I would like a five minute
42 break.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: So you'd like
45 one?

46
47 MR. TREFON: Yep.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Let's take five
50

1 and try to get back real quick and -- because we're --
2 I think we'll make it here but we need to keep clipping
3 along, so thank you.
4

5 MR. TREFON: 25 after.
6

7 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah.
8

9 MR. TREFON: 25 after, that's good.
10

11 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, is that
12 good Donald?
13

14 MR. MIKE: Yes.
15

16 (Off record)
17

18 (On record)
19

20 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I don't think
21 our sundials all match here, I'm looking at 3:26 here,
22 how are we doing?
23

24 MR. WILSON: We're moving right along.
25

26 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Do we got
27 everybody back with us?
28

29 MR. TREFON: Billy here.
30

31 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, Billy's
32 everybody. So.....
33

34 (Laughter)
35

36 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: That's fun. I'm
37 glad we're all friends here. So if we're all back then
38 Susanne are you going to lead the charge for the Park
39 Service.
40

41 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: I will, yes, thank
42 you, Mr. Chair. This is Susanne Fleek-Green, Lake
43 Clark National Park and Preserve. And I just want to
44 reiterate what Robbin said this morning, and I
45 certainly would rather be with all of you in person
46 right now but maybe we will get there by the fall
47 maybe, and let's hope so.
48

49 So hopefully you can all see my screen.
50

1 I know not everyone is on Teams right now but I'll just
2 try and highlight some key points and go quickly.
3 Krista Barts also is going to follow me and do a little
4 bit more in-depth report per your request from last
5 fall's meeting on mercury in lake trout. So I will go
6 ahead and dive in. I'm going to focus on what we hope
7 to be doing in this coming season.
8

9 In the fall I gave you a report about
10 what we managed to do last summer. Certainly more and
11 more of our Staff are getting vaccinated. You know the
12 Port Alsworth Clinic is now doing vaccines and so we're
13 very thankful for that. And we did fairly well last
14 year having reduced Staff that stayed in sort of
15 individual work pods, especially our natural resources
16 Staff to do critically important aquatics and fisheries
17 work that our SRC is always very interested in. So
18 some of the subsistence projects that we plan to
19 undertake this coming summer, as I mentioned last time,
20 we hope to get underway in cooperation with Alaska
21 Department of Fish and Game two harvest surveys,
22 starting in Port Alsworth. This was a specific request
23 of our SRC, had not been done in well over decade so we
24 hope to initiate that this coming year. And then we
25 were able to secure funding to do one for Nondalton as
26 well. We'll have to see how the Port Alsworth one goes
27 first because, of course, with Covid, the typical
28 survey methods are going to be much more challenging.
29 But it will be a good experiment, and either way I know
30 we'll get some really good data since what we are
31 operating off of right now is very well.
32

33 We also will be continuing with a study
34 looking at the potential impact of an increasing beaver
35 population on water quality and salmon habitat. We did
36 some aerial surveys last summer. We'll be doing some
37 more this summer. And initially what we have found is
38 there is an increase in beaver dams around Lake Clark
39 proper. There are salmon that are still able to pass
40 by the dams. And so we -- actually what we're trying
41 to determine is how much those beaver dams are impeding
42 salmon passage as well as affecting water quality so
43 we'll continue with that.
44

45 And then we will be initiating a new
46 monitoring project. This has come up a couple of times
47 with our SRC, real concerns about increased in
48 submerged aquatic vegetation. Originally there was
49 concern that it was invasive species. We've determined
50

1 it's really not an invasive but for a number of reasons
2 do believe that there is increase vegetation which our
3 subsistence users have said really impeded their access
4 to the resources, so we'll undertake this study this
5 summer to try and determine how big a growth there is,
6 and also where, in the various lakes, again, mostly
7 around the Lake Clark proper area we've seen
8 significant growth or not and report back to our SRC on
9 that.

10

11 We'll be doing our typical fisheries
12 projects. I think most of you now are familiar with
13 our operation at River Mile 22 and (indiscernible -
14 muffled) those two counting stations. For those of you
15 on Teams, you see the counting station there at River
16 Mile 22, that's the tower. We'll have probably about
17 an eight person crew this summer rotating between those
18 two stations, and that's the data that Billy mentioned
19 earlier in the call that we've been getting for over 20
20 years now that feeds into the overall management of the
21 Bristol Bay system. We will not be doing any of the
22 gathering of otoliths that we typically -- we'll
23 typically send our Staff to fish camps and collect
24 those otoliths that help give us more data, because of
25 Covid we will not be doing that again this summer.

26

27 We experimented a lot last year in how
28 to do education and outreach to our resident zone
29 communities and beyond. We had some success and I
30 really would say that this was an experiment.
31 Typically we go in person to a number of communities
32 and conduct day camps. This past summer we sent out
33 day camp in a box. We provided over 100 elementary
34 kids in Nondalton, Newhalen and Port Alsworth with
35 these kits, that if you can see the picture, there's
36 some binoculars in there, a water bottle for sampling,
37 some guide books that the students then could take out
38 on their own during the summer and practice a little
39 bit of science. So we are preparing those kits again
40 for this coming summer although we hope that at least
41 by the fall we can do day camps, again, all depends on
42 how it goes with Covid and if that's a safe thing to do
43 or not. We will not be sending our Staff if the
44 communities still have Covid protocols in place so when
45 the team travels in and out.

46

47 We also started up a distance learning
48 program. We reached 10 schools both in the Lake and
49 Penn District and the Kenai Peninsula District, new

50

1 distance learning, we have a great bear program -- one
2 bear program working with our biologist that has some
3 of the -- similar data that we saw from Togiak looking
4 at where bears are going around the Lake Clark region
5 and working with students to try and understand what
6 those migration patterns might be -- mean for
7 populations, but also for potential development in the
8 area. So that was fun to see. Again, we will be ready
9 and willing to do that if we can't go into the schools
10 in the fall, just so that we're still reaching these
11 places.

12
13 And then if we're lucky enough we will
14 conduct some of our outdoor learning that we have in
15 Port Alsworth itself. Typically we'll do day programs
16 in Port Alsworth. We did not do them last summer but
17 we hope to do them this coming summer. And we also
18 hope to have the Quk Taz'Un Culture Camp at Kvichak in
19 August. The dates have been set. And, as always, we
20 will be working with Nondalton Tribal Council to run
21 that culture camp.

22
23 And that's really it. I'm happy to
24 take questions but I know your time is limited and
25 we're trying to get through this in a day so I will
26 pause and just thank you guys for the time and looking
27 forward to Krista's presentation on mercury.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you,
30 Susanne. Any comments, questions from the Council.

31
32 MR. TREFON: Hey, Susanne, Billy here.
33 Going back to that fish report there, when we were -- I
34 was talking -- about that gap from 1984 to
35 (indiscernible - cuts out).....

36
37 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Uh-huh.

38
39 MR. TREFON:any reason why.....

40
41 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Yeah. We did not
42 have an operation actually. 2000 is about when Dan
43 Young came back to the Park and restarted that program.
44 So due to a lack of funding we did not operate it, but
45 Dan started it as part of his Master's Program at UAF
46 and we've been very lucky enough to secure funding to
47 keep the program going since then.

48
49 MR. TREFON: Okay, that explains it.

50

1 Because that's when I actually worked for the Park for
2 the two years.
3

4 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Uh-huh.
5

6 MR. TREFON: All right, thank you.
7

8 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: You're welcome.
9

10 MR. TREFON: Yeah, and Nondalton really
11 appreciate our relationship with the Park Service. I
12 mean we had an outstanding relationship from its
13 existence. Thank you, again.
14

15 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, nice.
16 Anybody else.
17

18 MR. HILL: Hey, Dan, this is Lary. The
19 battery is going to go dead on my phone in a few
20 minutes so if I -- if you don't hear me it's because of
21 that, I haven't hung up.
22

23 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I see. You need
24 a longer wire -- okay.
25

26 (Laughter)
27

28 MR. HILL: Yeah, this is my landline
29 phone, it doesn't have a recharge thing on it.
30

31 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Oh, yeah, yeah,
32 I've got an old fashion base phone here or I'd have
33 been dead in the water a long time ago. So, okay,
34 well, maybe you can get on some how or hang in there
35 the best you can.
36

37 Thank you.
38

39 Any other comments.
40

41 (No comments)
42

43 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I have a real
44 quick one there. I'd be curious to see how you come
45 up with that vegetation -- what you come up with in the
46 future. I know some of these really warm years, low
47 water. the weeds up here at Lake Aleknagik, near the
48 boat launch are getting to where it can be very
49 difficult to get your boat out of there. And I know
50

1 Troy Hammond has always kept a sharp eye on that kind
2 of stuff from when he was over here and there in
3 Naknek, so I'd be curious what you find as you go
4 forward. But to reiterate you said that it is local
5 and it is natural but it's maybe things are more
6 abundant; is that correct?
7

8 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Right. Well, we're
9 hoping to answer a couple of questions. Whether or not
10 if the warmer waters are leading to increased growth,
11 but also certainly water levels have been lower than in
12 the past summers, and Krista actually is an expert on
13 this as well. She does a lot of our water work in the
14 Park. But, you know, is it just that water levels are
15 lower and so it's impeding and getting stuck in boat
16 motors a lot more because of the lower water levels.
17 So those are two of the questions we're going to try
18 and answer.
19

20 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Good. Because
21 it's affecting us here up north of Dillingham and I've
22 encountered heavy weed growth along the Naknek River
23 some years, so good on that.
24

25 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: And of course we'll
26 share back with the RAC what we learn as we learn it.
27

28 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Excellent. Look
29 forward to it. Okay, anything else or shall we move
30 on. These lake trout are making me hungry right now.
31

32 MR. TREFON: Coming back to the weeds
33 that are growing out there, they're pretty thick
34 outside Nondalton. And this summer one of them
35 actually spooked me, I thought I was running over
36 something, that's how much there is, I let it drop off.
37

38 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, it can be
39 a real.....
40

41 MR. TREFON: We were talking about how
42 there was a way we could mitigate that, you know,
43 remove it or something, because it's kind of like
44 watching a lake grow back over from swamp to -- from
45 lake to swamp, that's what it looks like to me.
46

47 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, I think
48 they call that utification, but, yeah, it can get
49 horrible. And I think it was 2019, getting through,
50

1 there's kind of a lagoon at the end of Lake Aleknagik,
2 before it turns into Wood River and man if you weren't
3 on a plain, you weren't going to be on a plain, you
4 were going to hack weeds and slog your way through it
5 for awhile. So I know what you mean.
6

7 Okay, with that can we move on to
8 mercury and lake trout. I'm sure this is of great
9 interest, so go ahead with it, Krista.
10

11 MS. BARTS: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
12 Chairman and members of the Council. Can you hear me
13 okay?
14

15 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Very clear.
16

17 MS. BARTS: Great, okay. And can you
18 see my slides?
19

20 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes. Until I
21 saw the mercury part my stomach was growling for lake
22 trout -- okay.
23

24 MS. BARTS: Well, I am parked in the
25 kitchen of my house right next to my router because my
26 phone -- my internet connection is a little wishy-
27 washy. And right now, right as I've just started
28 speaking, my kids have just gotten home from school so
29 this is going to be an interesting experiment in chaos.
30

31 But today I would like to talk about
32 mercury in lake trout from two Southwest Alaska Parks.
33

34 And before I dive into that story, I
35 wanted to share some context about the division within
36 the National Park Service where I work in case it's not
37 familiar to you.
38

39 So the National Park Service's
40 Inventory and Monitoring Division was created in 1998
41 first to inventory and then to monitor natural
42 resources in Federal Park Lands. At that time the
43 Parks were divided into 32 networks and they were
44 loosely organized by ecoregion, and four of the
45 networks were located in Alaska, including the
46 Southwest Alaska network, where I've worked since
47 2013.
48

49 So the Southwest Alaska network, or I'm
50

1 sure I'm going to fall into calling it by its acronym
2 SWAN covers five Park units, and those are Katmai
3 National Park and Preserve, Aniakchak National
4 Monument, Alagnak Wild and Scenic River, Lake Clark
5 National Park and Preserve, and Kenai Fjords National
6 Park. So within those Park units we monitor a suite of
7 indicators that we call vital signs in six project
8 areas, and then we communicate what we learn with Park
9 managers and with the public. Those six project areas
10 are weather and climate, air quality, terrestrial
11 vegetation, wildlife, near shore marine systems, and
12 fresh water systems. So from here forward I'm going to
13 drill down into the fresh water vital signs.

14
15 SWAN monitors or at least helps to
16 monitor four fresh water vital signs -- oh, let's see,
17 there we go, now I'm on the right slide.

18
19 For each of these vital signs -- so
20 sorry, they are water quantity, water quality, sockeye
21 salmon, and resident lake fish. And then for each of
22 these four vital signs we track a range of variables.
23 So those are things like lake level and discharge for
24 water quantity, temperature and pH for water quality,
25 adult abundance and age for sockeye salmon, and then
26 mercury concentration for resident lake fish. And then
27 the rest of this talk is going to focus on an ongoing
28 study by the National Park Service and the U.S.
29 Geological Survey examining mercury concentrations in a
30 long lived top predator lake fish species, which is
31 lake trout.

32
33 The impetus for the study was a report
34 issued in 2014 by the USGS and National Park Service.
35 It was titled Mercury in Fishes from 21 National Parks
36 in the Western United States. And according to this
37 report mercury concentrations in lake trout from Lake
38 Clark National Park were among the highest of the 21
39 Parks included.

40
41 For example, here's a figure from that
42 report. The bars in this figure show the average
43 mercury concentration for multiple fish species from
44 multiple sites grouped by size, which is shown in the
45 legend of the figure, and by Park, which is shown in
46 very, very small font along this X axis in the figure.
47 So that black arrow right there points to the lake
48 trout results from Lake Clark National Park. And then,
49 furthermore, routine monitoring around that same time
50

1 as the report suggested that average mercury
2 concentration in lake trout and Northern Pike from
3 several lakes in Katmai National Park were in this same
4 neighborhood of mercury concentration, if not higher.
5

6 So these results begged the question,
7 why do long-lived top predator resident lake fish from
8 SWAN Parks have such elevated mercury levels, and what
9 accounts for the differences in fish mercury levels
10 among lakes.
11

12 Previous studies showed that factors
13 driving fish mercury levels can be grouped into four
14 broad categories, loading, methylation,
15 bioaccumulation, and biomagnification. Loading
16 pertains to the source of the mercury, which can be
17 distant, as in the case of mercury rich emissions from
18 coal burning powerplants overseas, or it can be local.
19 For example, underlying geology, which may be enriched
20 in mercury where natural deposits or actively
21 offgassing volcanos exist; melting glaciers which may
22 contain latent reservoirs of atmospherically deposited
23 mercury, and finally spawning salmon, which return to
24 these parts in the hundreds of thousands each year and
25 they import mercury acquired while at sea just like
26 they import marine nitrogen and phosphorus.
27 Methylation pertains to the process by which mercury
28 changes from an inorganic to an organic form, and it's
29 determined by local ecological conditions such as
30 nearby wetlands, which provides favorable anaerobic
31 conditions for methylation, and water quality
32 variables, like temperature and pH, which are believed
33 to control the bioavailability of that inorganic
34 mercury. Right so what about bioaccumulation and
35 biomagnification.
36

37 Here I'm going to pause to provide some
38 background on mercury in fish.
39

40 So most mercury in fish tissue is
41 methyl-mercury, which is a potent neurotoxin. Methyl-
42 mercury bioaccumulates and biomagnifies. Specifically
43 it bioaccumulates in a single organism over time
44 because it accrues in that organism faster than it's
45 excreted and it biomagnifies across many organisms as
46 you move up the food chain. So all other things being
47 equal, older fish at the top of the food chain will
48 have higher concentrations of mercury.
49
50

1 Okay.

2
3 (Teleconference interference - constant
4 static)

5
6 MS. BARTS: So getting back to our
7 study design. It encompasses 16 lakes from two Parks.
8 10 lakes from Lake Clark National Park, and those are
9 shown in green here. And then six lakes from Katmai
10 National Park which are shown here in blue.
11 (Indiscernible - cuts out) span a range of wetland
12 cover and glacier cover in the water shed. So the
13 wetland cover is shown in this graph on the Y axis, and
14 the glacier cover is on the X axis. We were also
15 selected to span a range -- spawning salmon density
16 which is indicated by the size of the points on the
17 graph. So we collected various samples from each of
18 the 16 lakes. And those samples were 10 or more lake
19 trout, (indiscernible) sockeye salmon if they were
20 present, water samples, plankton samples, and sediment
21 samples. We then analyzed the fish samples for various
22 things like total mercury, total nitrogen, and total
23 carbon as well as stable isotopes of mercury, nitrogen
24 and carbon, and then otoliths which give us our reading
25 on the fish age.

26
27 All right, so I'm going to switch gears
28 now and offer two slides of preliminary results.

29
30 The first slide summarizes fish total
31 mercury results with (indiscernible - cuts out)
32 depicting the range of mercury for the fish samples in
33 each lake. In this graph the lakes are arranged on
34 this Y axis along a north to south gradient. With the
35 lakes from Lake Clark National Park showing in green
36 and the lakes from Katmai National Park showing in
37 blue. Dark green or dark blue boxes represent lake
38 trout, you can see that in the legend here, and also
39 light green or light blue boxes represent sockeye
40 salmon. Total mercury in fish muscle tissue is found
41 on the X axis here in nanograms per gram, wet weight,
42 and finally the vertical line, this vertical grey line
43 here represents the upper limit for unlimited human
44 consumption of Alaska caught fish, specifically for
45 women of child bearing age, nursing mothers and
46 children, and that is set at the 200 nanograms per gram
47 wet weight (indiscernible - cuts out) by the state of
48 Alaska. So these results suggest that lake trout
49 exhibit a wide range of total mercury levels, both
50

1 within some lakes and across all lakes. The median
2 value of lake trout total mercury is above the State's
3 fish consumption threshold in 7 of those 16 lakes. By
4 comparison, sockeye salmon total mercury levels are
5 consistently low, in these boxes here, and they exhibit
6 little variability.

7
8 All right, so to understand which
9 drivers best explain the observed patterns in lake
10 trout total mercury concentrations, we've been
11 developing a handful of statistical models. These
12 models include variables measured at the fish level or
13 once per fish, like age, and also at the lake level or
14 once per lake or watershed, like the percentage of
15 wetland cover.

16
17 So this is definitely a work in
18 progress and it has been for quite awhile, and sadly
19 we're still fine tuning the lake level variables. But
20 so far the fish level variables that best explain
21 mercury concentrations include lake trout age, so we're
22 finding that mercury is higher in older fish, which is
23 no surprise. But also lake trout body condition.
24 We're finding that mercury is higher in skinnier fish.
25 And finally lake trout diet specialization. So mercury
26 is higher in fish feeding off shore according to their
27 carbon stabilize isotope signatures, at least. So the
28 more negative that stabilize isotope signature for
29 carbon is, the higher the mercury.

30
31 All right.

32
33 So what might these results mean for
34 people who eat these fish regularly. Are lake trout
35 and sockeye salmon in these lakes safe to eat.

36
37 I think the short answer is yes, but
38 the amount that's safe to eat depends on the species of
39 fish, where it's caught and also who's eating it.

40
41 So to justify this answer I'm going to
42 rely on guidance published by the Alaska Department of
43 Health and Human Services. The guidelines apply only
44 to women who are or can become pregnant, nursing
45 mothers and children under the age of 18. Everyone
46 else can eat as much Alaskan seafood as they like. So
47 for that at risk group the guidance is to eat as much
48 as you'd like of the species in this box on the left,
49 which includes all the species of Pacific salmon, but

1 for species in this box, kind of at the top right,
2 which includes lake trout, you should limit consumption
3 to four meals per week.
4

5 And with that I think I will stop and
6 take questions and thank you for your time.
7

8 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you,
9 Krista, that's pretty interesting. So are there
10 questions from the Council.
11

12 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, Rich Wilson.
13

14 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, go ahead,
15 Richard.
16

17 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I'm not on that
18 Microsoft Teams that you guys are looking at, so is it
19 possible to get some, you know, if you guys could email
20 me those last two presentations there. There's a lot
21 of good information there that I'd like to see, the
22 graphs and such.
23

24 MS. BARTS: Absolutely. I will make
25 that available as soon as possible. Normally I would
26 send it right away. My understanding is that for --
27 for replies or pdfs that we're sending out now from the
28 Federal government, they have to be compliant so that
29 they could be read by people who are blind, and so
30 there's a little bit of extra post processing that I
31 need to do to just add some like written captions into
32 them, but I will make that available as soon as
33 possible. Absolutely.
34

35 MR. WILSON: Thank you. I appreciate
36 that. Looks like a lot of good information there, I
37 really thank you guys for doing that type of research,
38 it's very interesting. Thanks.
39

40 MS. BARTS: You're welcome.
41

42 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, Donald.
43

44 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Was that Donald?
45

46 MR. MIKE: Yes, this is Donald Mike,
47 Council Coordinator. Mr. Richard Wilson, I emailed a
48 request to the Park Service to send the electronic
49 copies and I will forward to the Council members. And
50

1 it should be in an email later on today or tomorrow.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MR. WILSON: Thanks, Donald.

6

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ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Great. Yeah, a lot of beautiful pictures in these two. I'm curious -- or, first, are there other Council members who have questions.

MR. WILSON: Am I the only one that's got a real scratch on the phone.

ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I'm hearing that crackle too, I'm not sure, maybe somebody's phone's getting tired.

MR. WILSON: Okay.

REPORTER: Yeah, I think that's all it is and it's just been from our last presenter, so we'll have to just check and see if she mutes if that goes away.

MR. WILSON: Thank you.

MS. BARTS: I've been on mute. I'm going to mute again and then we'll see, okay, but I hear it too.

MR. WILSON: Okay.

ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Well, I have a question for you Krista, there, is it -- you know, sometimes I eat almost a half a small salmon for a meal, so what is -- when you're talking about some of these four meals a day and stuff, is this the standard -- I always look at some of these portions that they put in on the back of packages and so on, like potato chips, I go wait a minute, I eat the whole bag or something, so I'm kind of curious, I'm sure you have a weight or a mass expression, but I'm curious what it is -- over.

MS. BARTS: Yeah, absolutely. So I'm not sure how well you can see this slide now but it says, note; a meal size is six ounces, uncooked weight, or roughly the size of a deck of cards. So that's

1 pretty small. But I would also take note that, you
2 know, your salmon species are down here in this
3 (indiscernible - cuts out) category so I'm like you, I
4 eat a lot of salmon, when I eat salmon, and I don't
5 worry about -- you know, I'm also not, you know, in the
6 at-risk group so much anymore. And I think as a male
7 you wouldn't be either at your age. So I think you're
8 okay. But, you know, take a close look at this -- and
9 this guidance -- I'll send the slide, but here's the --
10 the website where you can read more about it, but
11 that's what I'd say off the top of my head.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Great, thank
14 you. I hadn't thought of that six ounces, I probably
15 had that much for lunch today with salmon. Luckily
16 salmon's got some fat in it and keeps you going, it can
17 take a lot more pike to fill you up.

18
19 So any other questions.

20
21 MR. TREFON: Yes, Billy, here.

22
23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted)

25
26 MR. TREFON: Can you hear me?

27
28 MR. MIKE: There's some disturbance
29 online, if you can mute your phone please.

30
31 REPORTER: So Donald, the only other
32 way I can take care of that is if I, you know, call the
33 operator to have the line disconnected.

34
35 MR. TREFON: Yeah, because this is
36 Billy, I could hear it too, it's loud -- and I did have
37 a question also.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: You have a
40 question, Billy, please go ahead.

41
42 MR. TREFON: Yes, about the mercury
43 levels and eating about -- I mean I could eat a
44 sandwich bag full of strips, is there a survey done on
45 the process of traditional salmon that's been dried,
46 for the mercury level?

47
48 MS. BARTS: That's a great question. I
49 don't know the answer to it. I would guess that

1 certain parts of the fish have somewhat different
2 mercury levels and I'm not sure if there have been
3 studies on the actual like process of, you know, how
4 much drying the fish would affect that. I can say that
5 when we get results back from the lab, they actually
6 run the mercury analysis on fish that have been dried,
7 and then we have to back calculate back to like a wet
8 weight for the fish. But I think that's not really
9 what your question's getting at.
10

11 So why don't -- how about this, I will
12 look into to see if I can find anything about that and
13 get back to Susanne about it or directly for the
14 Council because I think that's a really interesting
15 question.
16

17 MR. TREFON: Yeah, because there's 16
18 strips in one -- about 16 strips in one fish and
19 anybody that gets a hold of dried salmon, they could
20 eat that in a sitting and then ask for more.
21

22 MS. BARTS: Absolutely.
23

24 MR. TREFON: All right, thank you.
25

26 MS. BARTS: Yeah, thank you for that
27 question.
28

29 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, thanks,
30 Billy. How it's processed can make a real difference,
31 how you eat it could really concentrate things. Just
32 hoping no bear eats me, might get mercury poisoned.
33

34 Okay, are there any other questions or
35 is it time to move on to Katmai.
36

37 (No comments)
38

39 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Again, thank
40 you, Krista. It's really interesting, I'll look
41 forward to the electronic file. And you're on Katmai.
42

43 MR. STURM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mark
44 Sturm, Superintendent of Katmai National Park and
45 Preserve, Aniakchak National Monument.
46

47 (Telephone interference - participants
48 not muted and constant static - calling operator)
49
50

1 MR. STURM: I wonder, Krista, if you
2 can still hear me.
3

4 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, I got a
5 request, please. There's quite a bit of disturbance on
6 my phone there and if we can perhaps take a little --
7 couple minutes here, I'd really like to hear what
8 Mark's got to say so if we can clear up this phone it'd
9 be great.
10

11 REPORTER: Okay, if everybody wants to
12 standby just a couple minutes I'll contact the
13 operator.
14

15 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you.
16

17 MR. WILSON: Thank you.
18

19 MR. MIKE: Okay, thank you, Tina.
20

21 REPORTER: Yep.
22

23 (Off record)
24

25 (On record)
26

27 MR. STURM: I'll continue on, thank
28 you, Mr. Chair. And I hope you don't have high
29 expectations, those last few presentations were really
30 high quality. We're going to do our best here but my
31 information won't be nearly as engaging as some of the
32 other presentations.
33

34 But I do want to share with the Council
35 that we are focused on preparing for the FY'21 field
36 season at this time here at Katmai. There are some
37 differences. We are anticipating more visitation this
38 year than last year and we are anticipating still
39 having, obviously, significant concerns around the
40 coronavirus, Covid19. Thankfully there are some
41 additional tools available, the vaccine effort is
42 really continuing and ramping up, which is great. We
43 hope to have a number of our Staff vaccinated. We also
44 have a mask mandate that has been issued at the Federal
45 level. The President signed an executive order
46 requiring Federal agencies, and Federal buildings and
47 in areas where we cannot six feet distance to require
48 masks. And so that's a different posture than what the
49 previous Administration held around masks the last
50

1 season. What you should expect when you come and visit
2 Katmai this year, is to have a requirement for masks
3 inside buildings and in areas where congestion occurs
4 outside. Other than that it should be very much the
5 same as what was around last year.
6

7 And we are trying to understand how we
8 can increase our level of access to the Brooks Camp
9 area, in particular. That was the only area that was
10 significantly impacted from an operations perspective
11 last year. We did have to accommodate day use
12 visitation primarily for most of the season once we
13 opened. And a limited amount of overnight visitation
14 at the lodge out there. We're hoping that we can make
15 some decisions before the end of this month about the
16 campground and how that might impact our ability to
17 have overnight accommodations there. And when we make
18 those final decisions we will be issuing a press
19 release.
20

21 The Council has also expressed an
22 interest in a number of projects that are ongoing.
23 Obviously as with so many other Federal partners, our
24 efforts on some of the projects we have initiated got
25 postponed due to Covid19. But one that did -- I guess
26 that we have worked on recently is the Pike Ridge
27 Project, and I think this is what Richard is interested
28 in hearing. The Pike Ridge, for those of you that
29 might not know, is just a small portion of Katmai
30 National Park, if I can share my screen -- let me see
31 if I can do this here -- do you all see a map that
32 shows a green area of Katmai National Park?
33

34 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes.
35

36 MR. STURM: Okay. For those of you
37 that have Teams, I'm sharing an image of a portion of
38 Katmai National Park. And what I want to share is what
39 happened back after the National Election was that the
40 117th Congress asked Federal agencies if they had any
41 issues that we would like to put forward as a
42 legislative proposal to be addressed, and this is a
43 particular issue that we have worked administratively
44 to try to solve for a number of years, and the
45 community in the King Salmon, Naknek area and
46 surrounding areas of Katmai know this, but it still
47 remains as it has been for the last number of decades.
48 The current allocation of this area is National Park
49 lands and the areas in question, if you look on the
50

1 map, there is a white line, that white line was the
2 former boundary of Katmai National Monument at the time
3 of the passage of ANILCA. And what we have submitted
4 for my agency, and essentially that's the process, it
5 goes up the National Park Service chain to the
6 Department of Interior, and if there is interest in the
7 Federal leadership to try to work this issue
8 legislatively, they will engage with Congress and the
9 President's office and try to include a remedy for this
10 issue in a Federal legislative package. And so
11 essentially what we have put forward is a legislative
12 proposal to consider converting a 20,000 or 19,064 acre
13 area of Katmai National Park to Preserve, which would
14 allow for subsistence use and hunting in this area.
15 The area in question has a long existing ATV trail,
16 access trail, that you can see identified on that map,
17 it also is known to have a certain level of hunting
18 that occurs. This is something that we have worked
19 collaboratively in the local community to understand
20 and to try to understand what the community's interest
21 and needs are and we want to -- essentially, myself, as
22 a manager, what I would like to do is have this area of
23 the Park, in particular, in such a condition, that we
24 can manage the area as it is designated. And currently
25 the -- those -- the National Park designation and the
26 access that this trail allows and some of the
27 activities that occur as a result of that trail in the
28 Park are not in alignment. And so we want to align the
29 designated purpose with the actual use and this is a
30 possible way that Congress could help us do this.

31
32 The other aspect that we included as a
33 possible remedy for this, is to consider Congress
34 authorizing subsistence use for Western Expansion Lands
35 in Katmai National Park. Essentially those areas, or a
36 portion of those areas that came into Katmai National
37 Park at the passage of ANILCA in 1980, Congress could
38 consider allowing subsistence use in those areas. They
39 would -- subsistence use was explicitly prohibited with
40 the passage of ANILCA in those additional Park lands.

41
42 And so we put forward both of those
43 proposals. That second proposal, I don't have a map,
44 it would be premature to show a map. We would have to
45 probably get on the phone with the RAC and other
46 stakeholders and discuss what the proposed additional
47 subsistence lands might look like. But the question
48 has been asked in general, up my chain of command, and
49 potentially to the Secretary of the Interior, and
50

1 beyond, about the possibility of rededicating the Park
2 Lands that came into Katmai upon the passage of ANILCA
3 so that they might allow subsistence use.
4

5 So those are two proposals. One is the
6 one that you have in front of you, which is -- those of
7 you that can see the Teams presentation, which is a
8 smaller version, it solves a small problem in the
9 corner of the Park, the other would be a more expansive
10 proposal. And right now the only question that we have
11 asked is Congress, or is the Department of Interior
12 interested in working with Katmai National Park to
13 address these issues.
14

15 And so with that, I'll stop. The
16 reason why -- I guess I won't stop, I will say one more
17 thing.
18

19 The 117th Congress, which is the
20 Congress that just came into session asked the Federal
21 agencies if they were interested, or had any proposals,
22 this is the first time since I've been here that we
23 have had an opportunity to put a legislative proposal
24 forward. And so we talked quickly with a number of
25 partners that are affected. The State owns some land
26 adjacent to the Park in this area. Paug-Vik Native
27 Corporation owns that purple/pink section on the map,
28 if it shows. And so we reached out to them and tried
29 to confirm their interest in floating this possible
30 solution and, indeed, they have and so we'll see where
31 it goes.
32

33 But I'll stop there and allow you all
34 to ask any questions you might have about what we've
35 done.
36

37 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Wow, this is
38 fascinating. I'm going to open it up to the Council,
39 who might have questions, is that you, Richard?
40

41 MR. WILSON: I do, but I don't need to
42 be the first.
43

44 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, I'm
45 looking to you or if anybody else wants to speak up,
46 but otherwise go ahead, Richard.
47

48 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair.
49 Thanks, Mark, for that presentation. The second
50

1 proposal that you had just talked about is new and we
2 had discussed earlier, or you had mentioned that there
3 was a timeline where all this could be submitted. Are
4 we still under that same timeline or is there -- or do
5 we have time to -- you asked, you know, if there was
6 some interest on where these boundaries might lie for
7 the community, so what does this timeline look like for
8 getting involved with helping you with that decision?
9

10 MR. STURM: So the timeline that I was
11 referencing in a previous conversation that you were
12 part of that we had about this has come and gone.
13 Essentially, we, the Park, and some of our support
14 Staff from the region had to pull together the
15 legislative proposal package for the agency, the
16 National Park Service Washington Leadership and the
17 Department of Interior, we are part of the Department
18 of Interior, to consider, and we have done that. And
19 essentially to be honest, Richard, the reason why the
20 second alternative about a possible subsistence
21 authorization for expansion -- Western Expansion Park
22 land came back on the table, because this came from the
23 community back in 2015 when we were in discussions
24 around how -- you know what's the problem, how can we
25 fix the problem, this was -- that particular option was
26 a popular option, and it came up during our
27 conversation with Paug-Vik Corporation, the Board, that
28 you were part of, and at that time I was reminded about
29 it and went and looked at the previous iterations of
30 the draft compliance that we had developed and found a
31 version that contained that proposal. And so it is
32 something we are interested in. The only thing that
33 held us up that we didn't have an opportunity to at
34 least ask the question, is Congress interested, is the
35 Department interested, and perhaps helping us solve
36 this problem. The 117th Congress gave us that
37 opportunity and we had asked the question.
38

39 Now, to answer your second question
40 around will you have opportunity; if the Department of
41 Interior and my leadership says, yes, we are interested
42 in seeing if we can work on this, there will be
43 extensive opportunity to engage with the community
44 about what this could be. So right now the question is
45 out of our hands, there needs to be some assessment at
46 the Departmental level about whether or not this is
47 something they think they could effectively advocate
48 for and are interested in. But if the answer is, yes,
49 we are and we will, then this will be a drawn out
50

1 expensive process that could lead us to a situation
2 where subsistence is authorized in these areas.
3

4 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair, Rich
5 Wilson here. My hat's off to you, Mark, you know,
6 you've done a great service there by those two
7 proposals for this community. It's something that, you
8 know, we've been striving for for a long time and it's
9 taken somebody like yourself to come into our community
10 to, you know, basically help open these doors. So we
11 are very much appreciated of it.
12

13 Thank you.
14

15 MR. STURM: Through the Chair, I
16 appreciate those comments. There's a lot of folks, not
17 just me, that are wanting to solve these problems, many
18 of whom still work for Katmai and the community members
19 in general. I do want to offer an ounce of caution.
20 That we have asked the question and we essentially have
21 said, the Park supports this possible future solution,
22 but we are one small voice in a big chain of command,
23 and I guess it could fall apart at various levels, but
24 at the same time we're an important voice and we're the
25 first one and we're trying. And so we'll see where
26 this goes.
27

28 One thing that might be worth thinking
29 about, if I could make a recommendation or a suggestion
30 is, for the RAC to consider drafting a letter to the
31 Secretary of Interior's office expressing support for
32 one or both of these possible alternatives, and I'd be
33 happy to talk offline, you know, about that a little
34 more to help frame that conversation. And so this is
35 the first that many of you are learning about these
36 options.
37

38 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay.
39

40 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair, Rich
41 Wilson here. Great idea, Mark. Great idea. And I
42 guess I'd look to our Council members for input on that
43 there.
44

45 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you,
46 Richard. Thank you, Mark. Other comments from other
47 Council members. I'm wishing Nanci was here right now
48 -- okay.
49
50

1 (No comments)
2

3 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, I have a
4 few questions. How much of this that you're sharing
5 here could be shared around with some of the other
6 communities. I would think possibly Igiugig and
7 Kokhanok might be pretty intrigued by some aspects of
8 this, Mark.
9

10 MR. STURM: So it is a question and
11 I'll be honest, you know, when do you start talking
12 about this, and to me, after talking with my Staff,
13 this is very early in the process, but this legislative
14 proposal is a instrument that could impact the work
15 that the RAC does. And I just thought that it was
16 important, even though it might be very early in the
17 process and it could result in a lot of high hopes that
18 get dashed, I thought it was important because the
19 question has been asked, at least up through the
20 Federal agency's chain, and so I thought it was
21 important to share this. At the end of the day, Mr.
22 Chairman, I guess I would say we have shared this
23 publicly to the RAC and it can be discussed in any
24 venue that you would like. There's likely to be some
25 interest and we will do everything we can to keep up
26 with the interest as we can, but there's a lot of
27 unknowns. We're going to say, I don't know, we have to
28 wait and see; those are going to be a lot of our
29 answers until we hear back what the interest of the
30 Department is about supporting something like this.
31

32 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, I
33 understand, and especially with the change of
34 Administration here, it could be very interesting.
35

36 Another question is so your Item 2,
37 would that open up more land than are shown in this map
38 that you have up -- over.
39

40 MR. STURM: So the second alternative
41 would be a subsistence only option and it would
42 essentially have Park lands similar to what exists in
43 Lake Clark that do allow for subsistence use and it's
44 possible that it could be limited to an area like this,
45 I don't think it would be smaller, but it could be
46 limited to something this size but it also could
47 include additional lands. And there is work there,
48 there's discussion there around in the Park manage --
49 can the -- you know, how do we manage access, how do we
50

1 manage subsistence. One thing I will say is that we
2 did clarify in our proposal that we would require a
3 subsistence manager, which we currently don't have,
4 that's essentially assigned as a collateral duty, and
5 it's a lot of work for a collateral duty, to be honest,
6 but we would require, because this would be a
7 significant expansion of our responsibilities, to have
8 a position dedicated to that. So that sometimes can be
9 an issue for Congressional support or Departmental
10 support. But that's a long way of getting to your
11 question, which is -- the short answer, Mr. Chair, is,
12 yes, it could include additional lands beyond what's
13 shown on this map.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Well,
16 having a little experience with bureaucracy, I can
17 appreciate it's a fine balancing act. This issue was
18 one of the first issues I became aware of, even though
19 I was just a sportfish biologist, but ever since I
20 first -- or I came back into this country in 1989, it's
21 exciting -- I feel like the Park Service is making a
22 good faith effort to fix it, and they're building a
23 track record of fixing things, and that's wonderful.

24
25 I don't know how the rest of the RAC
26 feels but I would, at the appropriate time, certainly
27 be inclined to support a letter of support from the
28 RAC, but what's the pleasure of the rest of the
29 Council.

30
31 MR. WILSON: Rich Wilson here. I'd e
32 in support of it and I think earlier the better. If
33 you wait to too long then they've already made up their
34 mind.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I see. Yeah,
37 I'm looking to Mark, too, but I didn't want to jump the
38 gun, but if this is the time to compose a letter of
39 support I'm all for it.

40
41 MR. TREFON: Yes, Billy here. I
42 support it.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I'm suspecting
45 some of my friends in Kokhanok and Igiugig might
46 support it as well, and maybe others. What would it
47 take to compose a letter, what would be the right
48 language to use or would -- can we get guidance from
49 Park Service on that or do they have to be careful?

50

1 MR. STURM: Well, we do have to be
2 careful. But I can certainly review a draft for
3 accuracy and provide some suggestions, I guess. We
4 certainly need to be careful about that. But I'd be
5 happy to at least make sure that whatever you are
6 proposing to send is consistent with what we have
7 submitted and I guess I would -- this is Mr. Sturm,
8 from the National Park, I just want to make sure, if
9 someone would like to just get in touch with me as soon
10 as possible we can have a detailed discussion around
11 how to proceed.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: That sounds
14 good. I was looking, again, to you, Richard, what do
15 you think?

16
17 MR. WILSON: It sounds like a Donald
18 Mike thing.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, it's Donald Mike.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead.

25
26 MR. MIKE: Yeah, I was going to defer
27 it to the Secretary of the Bristol Bay Council.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 MR. MIKE: No, really, if the Council
32 wishes to go forward with the correspondence to the
33 Park Service stating that they support their initial
34 plans to submit a proposal to the Congressional Office,
35 we can send a letter to Mr. Sturm, and I can work with
36 Mr. Sturm on developing language on the correspondence
37 from the Council to the Park Service.

38
39 Mr. Chair.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: That would be
42 good. And I would think, Richard, you'd might want to
43 be a little involved, or do you have a -- I'm trying to
44 think one of the really good letter writer around town
45 there that maybe is part of Paug-Vik, or whatever, that
46 might contribute. If there's a way I could help I'm
47 eager to do so. At this point I'm wondering if --
48 because it's been a problem, I've been very aware of it
49 even though I live on this side of the bay, I used to

1 spend a lot of time in King Salmon. I guess do we need
2 a motion to compose a letter of support because it
3 would be wonderful to fix that problem -- okay.
4

5 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, this is Donald
6 Mike.
7

8 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, sir.
9

10 MR. MIKE: Yes, if the Council wishes
11 to make a motion in sending correspondence to the Park
12 Service in support of the issue, the Council can move
13 forward with a motion and take action.
14

15 Thank you.
16

17 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
18 Donald.
19

20 MR. WILSON: Rich Wilson, here. I will
21 so move.
22

23 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Richard
24 you're moving to compose a letter of support for Park
25 Service finding a legislative solution to the Katmai
26 land use issues, or something to that order?
27

28 MR. WILSON: Yeah, the two proposals
29 that he has compiled.
30

31 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Is that
32 sufficient language for a motion, Donald?
33

34 MR. MIKE: Yes. The Council had a lot
35 of discussion on this and we can go back to the
36 transcripts and go with that and Mr. Richard Wilson
37 made a motion in support of the language that was
38 discussed earlier by Mr. Sturm.
39

40 Thank you.
41

42 MR. WILSON: We need a second.
43

44 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you. We
45 have a motion, do we have a second.
46

47 MR. TREFON: Billy Trefon. Second.
48

49 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
50

1 Billy. Any more discussion on it.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: I'll say one
6 thing. I'm wondering how, like Paug-Vik or other folks
7 who might benefit from this, how you could mount a
8 little bit of a PR campaign. I've seen some other
9 really reasonable Park Service ideas, but there's some
10 fanatical supporters from the Lower 48 who you even
11 mention something like this in some of these Parks, and
12 they're really well-connected, and they've squashed a
13 few ideas that are really pretty harmless, so I'm
14 wishing there's ways to, you know, so you're a small
15 community of 1,500 or something, and these guys paint a
16 picture that we're going to destroy a vast area or
17 something, which just isn't the case.

18

19 So anyway if there's any other
20 discussion, or should we look to vote -- okay.

21

22 MR. WILSON: We'll call it customary
23 and traditional use.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, it
26 certainly is, so that would certainly be appropriate in
27 there. People cherish that trail.

28

29 So any other comments.

30

31 MR. WILSON: I guess, Donald, if you
32 need me to chat with, or, Mark, later, when you guys
33 compile the letter, I'll be glad to either pass it on
34 to others and help you out that way or we can just do
35 it.

36

37 Thanks.

38

39 Call for question.

40

41 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thanks.
42 Yeah, and I bet Nanci could contribute when she gets
43 back. So I heard the question called, Donald, can you
44 read the roll.

45

46 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 Donald Mike, Council Coordinator.

48

49 A motion was made by Mr. Richard Wilson

50

1 to work with the National Park Service to find a
2 legislative solution on Park Service lands in Katmai,
3 and a second was called by Mr. Billy Trefon.
4

5 Roll call vote.
6

7 Billy Trefon.
8

9 MR. TREFON: Yes.
10

11 MR. MIKE: Samantha Herrick.
12

13 MS. HERRICK: Yes.
14

15 MR. MIKE: Dan Dunaway.
16

17 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes.
18

19 MR. MIKE: Lary Hill.
20

21 (No comments)
22

23 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Oh, did his
24 phone die?
25

26 MR. MIKE: I think his phone died.
27 Lary, are you still with us?
28

29 (No comments)
30

31 MR. MIKE: Okay.
32

33 Robert Larson.
34

35 MR. LARSON: Yes.
36

37 MR. MIKE: And, Richard Wilson.
38

39 MR. WILSON: Yes.
40

41 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. We have five yes
42 and one absent. Motion passes. Thank you.
43

44 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, that's
45 good news. I thank you for that Mark, that's a very
46 interesting development. Do you have more in your
47 report.
48

49 MR. STURM: So my Staff does. Through
50

1 the Chair, if it's okay, they have just a few things to
2 share that the Council may be interested in, if I could
3 turn the microphone over to Linda Chisolm, our
4 subsistence coordinator.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes, please do.
7 Thank you, Linda, and Mark.

8
9 MR. STURM: Thank you.

10
11 MS. CHISOLM: Thank you, Mark. And
12 thank you, Mr. Chair and Council members. This is
13 Linda Chisolm, I'm the Subsistence Coordinator for
14 Aniakchak National Monument.

15
16 And as I mentioned earlier in today's
17 called the Aniakchak SRC met last week on February 2nd.
18 Although the SRC was not able to meet a quorum, members
19 continued to meet as an information session to share
20 recent survey efforts by our local agencies in the
21 Federal and State jurisdictions across Unit 9 and
22 specifically Unit 9E. Response from our SRC members at
23 that meeting and at the recent SRC Chair's meeting that
24 we held telephonically with all of the Chairs across
25 the Alaska region indicated that folks in, especially
26 the Port Heiden region, were noticing caribou numbers
27 were up and ptarmigan numbers also appeared to be
28 increasing from the levels that were observed maybe one
29 or even two years ago.

30
31 This fall and summer we have made some
32 concerted efforts to make sure that appointments,
33 reappointment packages were completed for all three of
34 our DOI appointed SRC members. These were submitted in
35 the fall and we are awaiting a resubmission through the
36 DOI this fiscal year.

37
38 We also have one member who is
39 currently working on his RAC appointed reappointment
40 package, so I anticipate we'll have that for you all to
41 review at the next RAC meeting.

42
43 And a little bit of good news, too, I
44 am helping a member from the Chignik community with a
45 package to apply to the Bristol Bay RAC. So I
46 anticipate by the end of this week I should be able to
47 forward that package on and add to the pool of
48 applicants going forward.

1 And I think that is all for my report.
2 Thank you, very much.
3

4 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
5 Linda. Council members, any comments, questions.
6

7 (No comments)
8

9 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, I'll bull
10 ahead then. I'm glad you were able to move forward, at
11 least for an information item, and glad to hear caribou
12 and ptarmigan are looking better, as well as
13 applicants. I have some doctor friends that go down
14 that way and every time they go down I tell them to ask
15 people to apply to the RAC so maybe somebody will.
16 We've had some excellent members from down there.
17

18 Anything else.
19

20 (No comments)
21

22 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Hearing nothing,
23 thanks again, Linda and Mark. Is BLM available.
24

25 MS. MILLION: Yes, good afternoon, Mr.
26 Chair. This is Bonnie Million. I am the Field Manager
27 for the BLM's Anchorage Field Office. The BLM has an
28 update in the meeting book, I believe it starts on Page
29 46, it's a couple pages long. I'm not going to take
30 the time to read it to you.
31

32 I guess the main highlight would be
33 that we are stepping up our involvement with our sister
34 agencies of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and ADF&G to
35 participate on some of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
36 monitoring. Actually right now our law enforcement
37 pilot is out in Bethel assisting Fish and Wildlife
38 Service with some patrols of the area and we're hoping
39 to continue that for the next -- I think he will be out
40 there for another week or so.
41

42 We're also putting in for some project
43 dollars and I think several other land managers before
44 me have mentioned this, we are optimistically planning
45 for the 2021 season with the understanding and keeping
46 the flexibility of if numbers don't continue to improve
47 or if there are communities that are not too keen on
48 folks coming in, especially from the hub of Anchorage,
49 that we would adjust and adapt as needed to make sure
50

1 that everybody stays safe.

2

3 Like I said we've got updates in the
4 meeting books, if there are any questions or if there
5 is anything that I can help with, please, just let me
6 know, and that's the end of the report from my end.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Oh, my you're
9 efficient, and I somehow missed [sic] your section in
10 our book here, so this is wonderful, thank you.

11

12 MS. MILLION: You bet.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Are there any
15 questions from the Council.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you.
20 Again, I've seen some kind of unnecessary delays, in my
21 opinion, to some of the research folks are trying to do
22 out of sheer terror in some of these communities and
23 I'm hoping that, you know, folks realize the stuff is
24 not nerve gas or novichok poison and if a pilot lands
25 at the far end of the runway and gasses up his plane
26 and goes again, that he's not likely to destroy a
27 community so, you know, some fears like that have
28 totally disrupted good science. So hopefully we can --
29 as the vaccine spreads people can relax a little bit.
30 It is serious but not that deadly. So thank you for
31 that.

32

33 That leads us to Fish and Game. Is Lee
34 on or Mark, go ahead.

35

36 MR. BORDEN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
37 Lee Borden.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead, Lee.

40

41 MR. BORDEN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
42 Chair. I'll just keep mine short and sweet.

43

44 This last season, you know, everybody
45 is kind of saying the same thing and I'll be a broken
46 record, but this last season was rough, budgets were
47 impacted for the State based on, you know, low tourism,
48 and, you know, lower license sales. So the Bristol Bay
49 Sportfish Division budget got cut by over half, so I'm

50

1 still kind of reeling from that. That has resulted in
2 Staffing shortages as well as field projects being cut
3 altogether. So still trying to gather myself and
4 figure out our best path forward as far as Staffing and
5 budgets go here in Bristol Bay.

6
7 And then that being said, we had all of
8 our field projects cut for last season. I had four
9 scheduled. We were going to do some rainbow trout work
10 up in the Iliamna drainage. We were going to do some
11 coho work on the Nushagak as well as some king work on
12 the Togiak, and all of those projects got cut based on
13 our budget.

14
15 So we were able to run a Naknek rainbow
16 trout krill last fall so the second year of that
17 project. We got good data. We had to change our
18 methodologies a bit being that we could no longer
19 obtain biological samples from anglers on the river, so
20 we had our crew obtaining samples for themselves and that
21 seemed to work for this season. We found no
22 significant missing age classes or no -- nothing that
23 would cause us any kind of concern as far as the size
24 composition of the catch was, so it was a good project.
25 We did document pretty high effort and that would have
26 been, you know, obviously last fall, so before Covid
27 hit.

28
29 This season effort was down across the
30 bay for sportfishing. I personally did some counts on
31 the Nushagak and compared them to counts that were done
32 in 2019 for a krill survey and I documented that effort
33 was down by about 75 to 80 percent lower than it would
34 have normally been. So we were seeing 20 to 25 percent
35 of the anglers you would expect in a normal year on the
36 river. That trend held pretty solid for all of Bristol
37 Bay, although fishing did begin to pick up in the fall
38 as travel restrictions began to ease.

39
40 As far as fish went, you know, king
41 returns this year were low. We struggled to make
42 escapement and didn't make escapement on the Nushagak
43 based on the sonar count. That kind of held true for
44 most other rivers in the bay. Reports were that kings
45 did not come in super strong, and that fishing was
46 spotty throughout the bay.

47
48 Another note is that chums were also
49 low this year. It's kind of the first year that's ever
50

1 been on my radar. Failed to make escapement on the
2 Nushagak and had reports from Alagnak and other
3 drainages that chums did just never really showed up
4 this year.
5

6 Other than that, I don't have a whole
7 lot to give you. I can answer some questions. And
8 that's it for me.
9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11

12 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you, Lee.
13 Any questions from anybody.
14

15 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair, Rich
16 Wilson here.
17

18 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead.
19

20 MR. WILSON: Yeah, it's for Lee. I'd
21 like to hear some counts on the king salmon, like in
22 the Alagnak and in the Big Creek area, you got any of
23 those numbers?
24

25 MR. BORDEN: Unfortunately we don't
26 enumerate king salmon in the bay anywhere other than
27 the Nushagak River so we rely on reports from sportfish
28 users as well as subsistence user and commercial
29 fishing catch reports and that's kind of how we gage
30 things. So I won't have a lot of the subsistence and
31 catch data until later this year. So unfortunately I
32 don't have numbers for you, no.
33

34 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Any followups or
35 other people.
36

37 (No comments)
38

39 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Well,
40 that explains why I didn't have to can very many chums
41 out of my subsistence net. I wondered because I was
42 surprised how few I saw.
43

44 Is that everything for you, Lee?
45

46 MR. BORDEN: Mr. Chair, that'll be it
47 for me, yes.
48

49 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. I hope
50

1 they give you a little bit more budget. You were
2 having a great program planned. Is there any other
3 Fish and Game folks that were going to call in.
4

5 (No comments)
6

7 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: So I guess our
8 wildlife guy's checked out. I'm assuming that's it
9 then for Fish and Game. How about.....
10

11 MR. BURCH: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
12 Mark Burch. I can affirm that I have -- I'm not aware
13 of any additional reports. Thank you.
14

15 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
16 you, Mark. Thank you for being on. If Brian's still
17 on, I appreciate it. And really and truly appreciated
18 Todd's extensive discussion early on and please pass a
19 thank you on to him.
20

21 Is Office of Subsistence Management,
22 who do we have for that?
23

24 MR. PAPPAS: Good evening, Mr. Chair
25 and members of the Council. I have a thousand word
26 presentation that goes to all 10 Regional Advisory
27 Councils, and you're No. 1.
28

29 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
30 George.
31

32 MR. PAPPAS: All right, first of all, I
33 wanted to thank you and the Council members for your
34 hard work. It's been very difficult for all of us
35 dealing with Covid and this environment this last year.
36

37 So for teleconferences, we are holding
38 all 10 of the winter Council meetings via
39 teleconferences. This decision was made with the
40 utmost consideration and concern for the health and
41 safety of Council members, families, rural communities,
42 the public and Staff, who are all part of the Council
43 meetings. The health and safety of everyone is our
44 highest priority. The CDC and prevention guidelines
45 suggest that people avoid travel, refrain from meeting
46 in person to minimize risk and help prevent the spread
47 of Covid19.
48

49 The Regional Advisory Councils are the
50

1 foundation of Alaska's Federal Subsistence Management
2 Program. We recognize that holding face to face
3 Council meetings in rural communities across Alaska is
4 preferable to engaging the public most effectively.
5 The Federal Subsistence Management Program is fully
6 committed to resuming in-person Council meetings across
7 Alaska soon as it's possible to do so safely.
8

9 OSM Staff changes.

10
11 You've heard a few things. We've had a
12 couple of changes since the last Council meeting. The
13 following Staff changes have occurred.
14

15 Doctor Brent Vickers started at OSM as
16 the anthropology lead in December.
17

18 Greg Risdahl, the former Fisheries
19 Division Lead has moved over to U.S. Fish and Wildlife
20 Service [sic] in January, and will be on their ISC.
21

22 We are grateful to have experienced
23 people on the ISC and remain with the Program as
24 advisors for the Board members. If you recall we have
25 Josh Ream which was an anthropologist for OSM is an ISC
26 member, and now Greg Risdahl is ISC, and also Chris
27 McKee, the Wildlife Lead has moved on, and he's over at
28 ISC.
29

30 So I, am, actually at this time have
31 stepped up to be the Acting Fisheries Division Lead for
32 awhile in addition to my liaison work with the State of
33 Alaska, and because partially the Board of Fish and
34 Game decided to delay their meetings until next year,
35 that freed up a little bit of my schedule to help out
36 at this point.
37

38 Katya Wessels, Council Coordinator, she
39 is also acting as OSM Policy Coordinator.
40

41 Steve McFadden, who you met earlier
42 today and has been on the line most of the day came to
43 us from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuges to be acting OSM
44 Wildlife Division Lead.
45

46 Admin Sabrina Schmidt left, she was one
47 of our OSM clerks and she left and she took a promotion
48 with the military in January.
49
50

1 Council appointments and applications.
2 The annual Council appointment process is very complex.
3 It takes about 15 months to complete. It begins in
4 September of each year when the Federal Subsistence
5 Board announces the opening application period for
6 Council membership. During this six month application
7 period the Program conducts extensive statewide
8 recruitment and efforts. The Program distributes
9 approximately 2,000 applications throughout Alaska via
10 mail, email, individuals, agencies and organizations.
11 Basically the Program conducts wide-ranging outreach
12 through a variety of media outlets including, but not
13 limited to newspapers, radios, TV, internet, FaceBook
14 and public conferences. Last year, in 2020, the effort
15 resulted in 74 applications to fill the 64 vacated or
16 expired seats. After the InterAgency Nominations Panel
17 conducted interviews, the Federal Subsistence Board
18 reviewed the applications and forwarded their
19 recommendations to the Secretary of Interior on
20 September 4th, 2020. On January 15th, 2021, OSM
21 received copies of the Regional Advisory Council
22 appointment letters signed by the former Secretary of
23 Interior. The Regional appointment letters were sent
24 by regular post and the applicants whose appointments
25 were approved should be receiving the letters soon, if
26 they have not already received them. We received full
27 appointments for three Councils, for the KA, the
28 Kodiak/Aleutians, the Bristol Bay, and the Seward
29 Peninsula, and partial appointments for four Councils,
30 Eastern Interior, Northwest Arctic, North Slope and
31 Southcentral. Three Councils, the Western Interior,
32 Yukon-Kusko Delta and Southeast Alaska did not receive
33 appointments at all. Some Councils that received
34 partial appointments that left them with three or four
35 vacant seats. We are working with our FWS
36 Headquarter's officials as well with the Department of
37 Interior to see if we can get additional appointments
38 considered out of cycle. Application period for this
39 year's Regional Advisory Council appointments is open
40 until February 15th, and by December 2nd of this year
41 we're going to have 62 open seats for appointment or
42 reappointment, and as of today we have received only
43 three applications for this appointment cycle. The
44 cycle has been extended, I believe, for a couple of
45 weeks, and we're beating the bushes as hard as we can.
46 We're looking for any ideas or recommendations. We
47 encourage, as you've heard many times throughout this
48 meeting, Council member's whose terms expire in
49 December 2022 to reapply, and also we encourage the
50

1 Council members to make as many contacts as possible,
2 as, Mr. Dunaway, you had indicated -- I haven't heard
3 that one yet, asked the doctors to pass it along. The
4 Council Coordinator should also have contacted you if
5 your membership expires this coming December. We also
6 encourage other rural Alaskans to apply to Council
7 memberships. Serving on the Regional Advisory Council
8 is the best way to participate in the Federal
9 Subsistence Management regulatory process and help to
10 sustain the traditional way of life. Your
11 participation on the RAC allows for better regulations
12 to be developed that satisfy the needs of the users in
13 the region, and, at the same time, assure the continued
14 viability of fish and wildlife populations. Please let
15 your, Coordinator, Donald, know if you want to reapply.
16

17 Another issue, RealID for traveling to
18 Council meetings. Over the past two years we've been
19 reminding Council members about change in requirements
20 for identifications at airports. This has been
21 postponed to October 1st, 2021. We want to make sure
22 that all Council members, you will need to make sure
23 that they have the required ID for travel next fall.
24 If you do not have the correct ID, please make sure
25 that you get it before the fall 2021 Council meeting
26 cycle.
27

28 And for the lawsuit with the State.
29

30 On August 10th the State of Alaska
31 filed a lawsuit against the Federal Subsistence Board
32 after it adopted emergency special action WSA19-14.
33 This allowed the village of Kake to engage in a
34 community harvest of two antlered moose and five male
35 Sitka black-tailed deer. Also included in the lawsuit
36 was temporary special action WSA20-03 which closed
37 Federal public lands in units 13A and 13B to non-
38 Federally-qualified moose and caribou hunters. As part
39 of the lawsuit the State asked the court to issue two
40 preliminary injunctions. One to prevent the unit 13
41 closure from taking affect and the other to vacate the
42 Kake hunt and prohibit the Board from allowing any
43 additional emergency hunts related to Covid-19. On
44 September 18th the U.S. District Court denied the
45 State's request for a preliminary injunction on the
46 Unit 13 closure. The court found that because the
47 State has not demonstrated either a likelihood of
48 success or serious questions on the merits of its
49 claim, the court need not consider the remaining
50

1 elements of the preliminary injunction analysis.

2

3 A few months later on November 18th,
4 the Court also denied the State's motion for a
5 preliminary injunction against the Kake hunt after
6 Judge Gleason concluded that the State had not
7 determined -- or, excuse me -- had not demonstrated a
8 likelihood of success on the merits, raised serious
9 questions on the merits of its claims, or demonstrated
10 any likelihood of irreparable harm.

11

12 While these rulings are on preliminary
13 injunction are encouraging, they do not resolve the
14 litigation. Settlement negotiations between the
15 Department of Justice, the Department of Interior
16 Solicitor's Office, the USDA Office of General Counsel,
17 and the State are ongoing. The parties have agreed to
18 delay the court proceedings while these discussions are
19 underway. Barring a settlement, the Solicitor's Office
20 now estimates that the briefing should be complete in
21 summer 2021 and that the court will issue its decision
22 in late summer. Based on legal guidance, Program Staff
23 does not comment on any active litigation directed
24 against the Federal Subsistence Board beyond what has
25 been set forth here.

26

27 I'd be happy to answer any of your
28 questions, Mr. Chair.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank
33 you, George. A bunch of interesting stuff in there.
34 Any questions, comments from Council members.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Everybody's
39 watching the clock for the end, I think.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you,
44 George. And if.....

45

46 MR. PAPPAS: You're welcome, sir.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Pardon.

49

50

1 MR. PAPPAS: I said, you're welcome,
2 Mr. Chair. Standing by, thank you.
3

4 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, that's
5 interesting on the RealID, I keep forgetting that
6 myself. I'm feeling fortunate that we got our
7 membership reappointed before this freeze. So anyway
8 that seems to conclude -- or are there any other
9 agencies or groups that we need to hear from at this
10 point -- over.
11

12 (No comments)
13

14 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, that takes
15 us down to future meeting dates. We need to confirm
16 the fall meeting date and location. I'm hoping it's
17 not on the phone. And I forget what the time is, if
18 you want to chime in, Donald. It looks like we're
19 looking at October 27/28 in Dillingham. What do people
20 think of that.
21

22 (No comments)
23

24 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: If I hear no
25 objection I'm going to assume that everything's fine.
26

27 MR. WILSON: That generally works for
28 Mrs. Lyon.
29

30 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, and it
31 works for me, too, by then you're happy to stay inside
32 somewhere. Everybody else okay with it.
33

34 (No comments)
35

36 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay, thank you.
37 And we need to pick a winter 2022 dates and location.
38 Typically it's been Naknek, what's our options at this
39 point, Donald.
40

41 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, Donald Mike. If
42 you look on Page 56 of your meeting materials we have
43 the 2022 Council meeting calendar. So the window opens
44 February 7th and closes on March 25th, so we have the
45 whole calendar to ourselves since we're first on the
46 docket to set up meeting dates.
47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Oh, wow, usually
2 we're kind of painted into a corner by the time we get
3 to it. I'm open to comments from the Council.
4

5 MR. WILSON: It seemed to work out, you
6 know, this time of year, this time of month here it
7 seemed to work.
8

9 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yeah, it does.
10 It does. Would February 8th and 9th or 15th and 16th;
11 what's everybody's preference.
12

13 MR. WILSON: 8th and 9th, for me.
14

15 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: You want to make
16 it into a motion.
17

18 MR. WILSON: I'll move to have our 2022
19 meeting February 8th and 9th.
20

21 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Got a second.
22

23 MR. TREFON: Question on location.
24

25 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Typically we've
26 had it in Dillingham [sic] to try to, you know, cover
27 both sides, I mean I'd rather have it in Nondalton,
28 Billy, but they say that doesn't work so.
29

30 (Laughter)
31

32 MR. TREFON: Yeah, Dillingham will
33 work.
34

35 MR. WILSON: We usually have the
36 February one in Naknek.
37

38 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Oh, Naknek,
39 you're correct, you're correct. Do you want to put
40 that in your motion.
41

42 MR. WILSON: I believe I did.
43

44 (Laughter)
45

46 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Oh, okay, I
47 missed that. Okay, so do we have a second for a motion
48 to meet February 8 and 9 in Naknek.
49
50

1 MR. TREFON: I so move.
2
3 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Is that
4 Billy.
5
6 MR. TREFON: Yes.
7
8 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Can we
9 treat that as a second, Richard made the motion?
10
11 MR. TREFON: Yes, it's a second.
12
13 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Okay. Well,
14 we're all No. 1, right, so any discussion.
15
16 (Laughter)
17
18 MR. LARSON: Question.
19
20 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Donald, can you
21 call the roll.
22
23 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 Motion was made to have the Bristol Bay Council meet
25 February 8th and 9th in Naknek, and seconded by Mr.
26 Billy Trefon.
27
28 Billy Trefon.
29
30 MR. TREFON: Yes.
31
32 MR. MIKE: Samantha Herrick.
33
34 MS. HERRICK: Yes.
35
36 MR. MIKE: Dan Dunaway.
37
38 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Yes.
39
40 MR. MIKE: Lary Hill.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 MR. MIKE: Robert Larson.
45
46 MR. LARSON: Yes.
47
48 MR. MIKE: And Richard Wilson.
49
50

1 MR. WILSON: Yes.

2

3 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, we have five in
4 favor in one absent. Thank you.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Excellent.
7 Thank you. Well, I hope we all get to see each other
8 in Naknek next winter. So closing comments. Looking
9 to guidance, Donald, do you have any or anybody else.

10

11 MR. MIKE: Yeah, just real quickly. I
12 want to, again, thank and welcome Ms. Samantha Herrick
13 of Pedro Bay. I know this is her first meeting and
14 it's kind of difficult holding a meeting
15 teleconference, but hopefully at our fall meeting we'll
16 meet in person. And I want to thank our OSM Staff and,
17 particularly, Mr. Jared Stone, he's normally chasing
18 fish tails but this time around he was our main person
19 contact on our Microsoft Teams. Good work Mr. Jared
20 Stone, thank you.

21

22 MR. PAPPAS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, George
23 Pappas, I have something to add.

24

25 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
26 George.

27

28 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, so thank you for
29 indulging us and trying to move a few folks around for
30 the proposal process. We have nine more Regional
31 Advisory Councils and we're going to look at trying
32 this with. And moving closer to working with the
33 Regional Advisory Councils and local ACs, at 6:30
34 tonight, our Fisheries Team at OSM will be on the
35 Kodiak/Aleutians RAC explaining the fisheries closure
36 review process. They moved to defer all their closures
37 to next fisheries cycle because it was new to them and
38 they wanted more local -- the RAC demanded more local
39 buy-in from tribes and local ACs, so we are doing that.
40 We've met with some tribes, we're going to meet with
41 the ACs that are affected by the different closures
42 that are in place that are potentially going to be
43 repealed.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's all I
46 have. Great meeting. And good to hear you again, Mr.
47 Dunaway.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,

50

1 George. And best wishes for that. Say howdy to Pat
2 Holmes and I don't know if Tom Schwantes is still on
3 there but best wishes, and of course the lady from King
4 Cove, Della, she's quite a lady, really impressed. So,
5 thank you.
6

7 Any other comments.
8

9 MR. WILSON: Mr. Chair, Rich Wilson.
10

11 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
12 Richard.
13

14 MR. WILSON: Yeah. Just I thought it
15 went real well. I mean, you know, having some of those
16 agency reports prior to the proposals really went well.
17 Some of them were a little lengthy but the information
18 was really vital. So I really appreciate all that, and
19 Donald's work and your work and just pray everybody
20 keeps safe.
21

22 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
23 that's nice. Samantha, you have anything, or Robert or
24 other folks.
25

26 MR. LARSON: Hi, this is Robert Larson.
27

28 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Go ahead,
29 Robert.
30

31 MR. LARSON: I just want to say thanks
32 to all the presenters for all their information and it
33 was all very interesting. And I want to thank all the
34 other members for being efficient for their regions and
35 for everyone to be safe, and hopefully we'll see
36 everyone else at the next meeting.
37

38 Thank you.
39

40 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
41 Robert. Yes, excellent. Let's see, Lary's probably
42 still off. Billy you got anything.
43

44 MR. TREFON: Yeah. I'd like to thank
45 everybody for the meeting. It was very, very
46 informative and a lot of questions, especially for me,
47 that came up with some of the topics that came up. And
48 like Richard was saying it was very well done even
49 though some of the topics were lengthy, and it is a
50

1 good idea maybe we start having the agencies present
2 before the resolution committee.
3

4 Thank you, very well done meeting.
5 Lots of information.
6

7 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Thank you,
8 Billy. You got to pester those guys across the lake
9 there for some more info so. And, Samantha.
10

11 MR. TREFON: Yeah.
12

13 (No comments)
14

15 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, Samantha,
16 you haven't been real outspoken. Don't let a big mouth
17 intimidate you, but we're really glad to have you on
18 board and look forward to meeting you in the future.
19

20 Anybody else.
21

22 (No comments)
23

24 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Well, not to
25 prolong it, but I want to thank everybody for bearing
26 with me, I'm not in the habit of Chairing this at all,
27 and so I put a little extra work on Donald. That guy
28 -- I don't know how he carries the load he does, thank
29 you so much Donald. Thanks again to our recorder.
30 Thanks to all of the Federal folks. And, yes, some of
31 those presentations, I sat the other day looking at the
32 Katmai Park pamphlet that was emailed to me and I sat
33 there enjoying it, it's good.
34

35 Thank you everybody.
36

37 And unless there's something else, I'm
38 inclined to take a motion to adjourn.
39

40 MR. TREFON: I so move. Billy.
41

42 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Billy. I ask
43 for unanimous consent.
44

45 MR. WILSON: Second it.....
46

47 (Laughter)
48

49 MR. WILSON:unanimously.
50

1 (Laughter)

2
3 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Hearing no
4 objections I guess we'll hang up. Is that good or do
5 you need anything more, Donald.
6

7 MR. MIKE: No, that's it, meeting's
8 adjourned. And I want to thank all the Council members
9 for your patience and involvement in this process.
10

11 Thank you.
12

13 REPORTER: Thank you. Thank you, Dan.
14

15 ACTING CHAIR DUNAWAY: Adjourned.
16

17 (Off record)
18

19 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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