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BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

Curyung Tribal Council Office
Dillingham, Alaska
November 2, 2022
8:35 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nanci Morris Lyon, Chair
Dan Dunaway
Richard Wilson
Lary Hill
Norman Anderson

Regional Council Coordinator, Leigh Honig

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Dillingham, Alaska - 11/2/2022)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. If everybody could grab a seat we'll go ahead and get our meeting underway. I just want to take a moment to welcome everybody, it is so, so good to see faces again instead of hearing voices that are talking over top of each other as we try to do introductions and figure out how to do it in an orderly manner. Today it will be different, we will get to see everybody and we can -- we can point and nod and laugh together. So I'm really, really happy this is taking place in person and I hope all of you agree to the same.

Richard, would you mind giving us an invocation to get us started today.

MR. WILSON: I wouldn't mind at all. If you guys would please join me.

(Invocation)

IN UNISON: Amen.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. We're going to call this November 2nd and 3rd Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting to order. And with that I'll turn the mic over to Leigh to establish our quorum.

MS. HONIG: All right. Thank you, Madame Chair.

So to begin with Nanci Morris Lyon.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Here.

MS. HONIG: Billy Trefon.

(No comments)

MS. HONIG: He may call in later.

Dan Dunaway.

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1 MR. DUNAWAY: Here.

2

3 MS. HONIG: Lary Hill.

4

5 MR. HILL: Here.

6

7 MS. HONIG: Wonderful. Norman
8 Anderson.

9

10 MR. ANDERSON: I'm here.

11

12 MS. HONIG: And Richard Wilson.

13

14 MR. WILSON: Here.

15

16 MS. HONIG: All right. We have five
17 out of six member seated Council so we've met our
18 quorum.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
21 you, Leigh. And again I'm just wanting to welcome
22 everybody here. Thank you all for coming. Just
23 enjoying seeing faces again rather than just hearing
24 voices through a black box. And looking forward to
25 having a real meaningful and much more substantive
26 meeting this time.

27

28 And, Leigh, I want to welcome you
29 onboard as our Council Coordinator. I thank you for
30 pulling this together for us. And we all look forward
31 to working with you here in the future.

32

33 With that let's do introductions. I'm
34 going to -- I'll go ahead and start with the audience.
35 Troy, I'll start with you and we'll just go row by row
36 back if you don't mind.

37

38 MR. HAMON: Madame Chair, members of
39 the Council, I'm Troy Hamon. I'm the Natural Resource
40 Manager and one of the Park pilots for Katmai and the
41 associated Park lands managed out of King Salmon.

42

43 MR. LANDSIEDEL: Madame Chair and the
44 Board, this is John Landsiedel, the new Area Wildlife
45 Biologist for Alaska Department of Fish and Game here
46 in Dillingham.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you
49 very much for coming. It's nice to meet you. I heard
50

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1 we had one of you over here and I was waiting to meet
2 you.

3
4 So thank you.

5
6 MS. HOSETH: Good morning, Madame
7 Chair, members of the Board. Gayla Hoseth, I'm the
8 Second Chief of the Curyung Tribal Council and also the
9 Director of Natural Resources for Bristol Bay Native
10 Association.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Good to see
15 you.

16
17 MS. HOSETH: You too.

18
19 MR. LARSON: Good morning, Madame Chair
20 and Council members, Lary on the phone. This is Cody
21 Larson and I operate the Partners Program at BBNA.

22
23 MS. DEBENHAM: Good morning. My name
24 is Rosalie Debenham. I work for the Bureau of Indian
25 Affairs, I'm their Biologist. I'm here filling in for
26 Pat Petrivelli who recently retired.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, my.

29
30 MS. DEBENHAM: I know we're going to
31 miss her. Anyway it's nice to meet you all and see
32 everybody's faces.

33
34 Thanks.

35
36 MR. WILSON: Welcome, Rosalie.

37
38 MS. DEBENHAM: Thank you.

39
40 MR. WILSON: We wish you well.

41
42 MS. DEBENHAM: Thank you.

43
44 MR. WILCOX: Good morning, Madame
45 Chair, members of the Council. My name is Chance
46 Wilcox. I am the Subsistence Resource Specialist with
47 the Division of Subsistence focused on southwest Alaska
48 so the Aleutians, Bristol Bay and the Peninsula.

49
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1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: You go all
2 the way down there?

3
4 MR. WILCOX: Yeah.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

7
8 MR. WILCOX: Yeah.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
11 Welcome.

12
13 MR. PATTERSON: Good morning, Madame
14 Chair, members of the Council. My name's Dillon
15 Patterson, I work with the National Park Service
16 Regional Office Subsistence Program in Anchorage.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Welcome.

19
20 MS. GREDIAGIN: Hi. My name is Lisa
21 Grediagin, I'm the Wildlife Division Supervisor with
22 the Office of Subsistence Management. And great to
23 finally be here again in person.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
26 Thank you, Lisa.

27
28 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Madame
29 Chair, members of the Council. My name is Katya
30 Wessels and I'm Council Coordination Division
31 Supervisor with the Office of Subsistence Management.
32 It is wonderful to see you here this morning and work
33 with you again in person.

34
35 MR. WOODRUFF: Good morning, Madame
36 Chair, members of the Board. I'm Bryce Woodruff, I'm
37 the new Mammal Biologist at Alaska Peninsula and
38 Becharof.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yay.

41
42 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm excited to be here.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MS. LICHWA: Good morning, Madame Chair
47 and members of the Board. I'm Evelyn Lichwa, the
48 Assistant Biologist in Dillingham and King Salmon with
49 Fish and Game.

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Welcome.

2

3 MS. RUPP: Good morning, Madame Chair
4 and Council members, nice to see you. Liza Rupp, Lake
5 Clark National Park and Preserve. I'm the Cultural
6 Resources Team Lead and the Subsistence Coordinator.
7 So yes, it's lovely to see everyone again.

8

9 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Good morning, Madame
10 Chair, members. Hi, Lary on the phone. I'm Susanne
11 Fleek-Green, Superintendent, Lake Clark National Park
12 and Preserve Nice to see you all. Nice to see you,
13 Norm.

14

15 MS. ALEXANDER: Good morning, Madame
16 Chair, members of the Council. Susan Alexander, Refuge
17 Manager, Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National
18 Wildlife Refuges. Good to be back.

19

20 MR. SMITH: Good morning. Phil Smith,
21 I'm the Supervisory Biologist for Alaska Peninsula,
22 Becharof Refuge in King Salmon.

23

24 MR. ADERMAN: Good morning, everyone.
25 I'm Andy Aderman, Wildlife Biologist with the Togiak
26 National Wildlife Refuge here in Dillingham.

27

28 Good morning.

29

30 MS. BOARIO: Madame Chair, members of
31 the Board, very happy to be with you here this morning.
32 My name is Sara Boario, I'm the Regional Director for
33 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service here in Alaska.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Welcome.

36

37 MS. BOARIO: Thank you.

38

39 MR. STONE: Good morning, Madame Chair
40 and members of the Council. My name is Jarred Stone,
41 I'm a Fisheries Biologist with the Office of
42 Subsistence Management.

43

44 MR. STURM: Good morning, Madame Chair,
45 members of the Council. Mark Sturm, Superintendent at
46 Katmai National Park and Preserve, Aniakchak National
47 Monument Preserve and the Alagnak Wild River.

48

49 MS. KENNER: Hi, everyone. I'm Pippa

50

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1 Kenner and I'm with the Office of Subsistence
2 Management in Anchorage and I'm an Anthropologist.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MS. CARTY: Good morning, Madame Chair,
7 members of the Council. Courtenay Carty, Tribal
8 Administrator, Curyung Tribal Council. So happy to
9 host the Council.

10

11 Thank you. I'll be in and out.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, thank
14 you. I would -- was just going to do that and add a
15 special thank you to the Tribal Council for opening
16 their building to us for this meeting. This is just a
17 wonderful facility and I love how close proximity it is
18 to the school. So I'm really hopeful that we'll
19 continue to get some of our younger folks over here and
20 participating as we have in the past. So we'll welcome
21 them when that happens and thank you again very much
22 for opening this space up to us. It was very kind of
23 you, Courtenay.

24

25 Okay. With that let's -- I'm going to
26 -- so what I'm going to do instead of having you guys
27 go around the table right now and introduce yourselves
28 is when we get to our reports would you guys introduce
29 yourselves just where you come from very briefly and
30 then we can -- it kind of blends together in my mind
31 better than going through it now and once again later.

32

33 Has everybody had a chance to take a
34 look at the agenda?

35

36 MR. WILSON: Nothing's changed.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I would
39 entertain a motion if somebody would care to make one.

40

41 MR. ANDERSON: Madame Chair, before we
42 do that can we under 14A -- under 14 can we add 14A,
43 executive session.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Under 14 --
46 after closing comments?

47

48 MR. ANDERSON: Well, somewhere in
49 there.

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Let's do it
2 before closing comments.

3
4 MR. ANDERSON: All right. Fine.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We'll make
7 it.....

8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: What's the topic?

10
11 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Executive
14 session.

15
16 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
19 Anything else.

20
21 MR. ANDERSON: I move to approve.

22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Discussion.
26 Gayla.

27
28 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 And just I see on your agenda we have the positioning
30 proposal on there again and I have a planeload of
31 people coming from Manokotak. So due to weather just
32 if we could have that adjusted a little bit for them to
33 provide testimony.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I will be
36 very flexible for that.

37
38 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you
41 for letting me know.

42
43 MS. HOSETH: Thank you.

44
45 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

48
49 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you. First I
50

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1 see a long time former member just walked in, elder,
2 leader. Let's acknowledge Joe Chythlook joining us.

3

4 And then I'm kind of looking to Leigh.
5 I've never heard of an executive session in this. So,
6 I mean, I don't know, should we discuss that a little
7 bit, I'm not sure.

8

9 MR. ANDERSON: It's a formality.....

10

11 REPORTER: Microphone, please.

12

13 MR. ANDERSON: I'm sorry. It's just a
14 formality for anytime for a Council, Board, Assembly,
15 whatever, to be able to discuss things that they wish
16 to have to discuss amongst themselves. And what
17 happens in executive session like Vegas, it stays in
18 executive session.

19

20 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thanks, Norman.

21

22 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah.

23

24 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Are we aware
27 of any protocol that would not allow us to have an
28 executive session?

29

30 MS. HONIG: I may defer to my
31 supervisor. I am unaware of that as well.

32

33 Katya, do you have any advice on an
34 executive session at the end of the meeting?

35

36 MS. WESSELS: Before I reply to this
37 question I actually will need to check the protocol
38 first. There are certain situations when the Council
39 can call for executive session, but I -- we have not
40 had one in a while so I don't recall the details.
41 Sorry about that.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I would
44 propose then that we go ahead and put it on our agenda
45 with the understanding that it may need to be switched
46 or changed or removed.

47

48 Norm, is that acceptable to you?

49

50

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1 MR. ANDERSON: (No audible
2 response).....

3

4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norm, I'm
5 going to propose that we go ahead and have it added to
6 our agenda with the understanding it may need to be
7 changed or modified somehow due to codified
8 regulations.

9

10 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah, I'm the junior
11 member here so I don't know if we follow protocol,
12 Robert's Rules, et cetera. And if we do then it's
13 allowable.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
16 Yeah, we do follow Robert's Rules. So.....

17

18 MR. ANDERSON: Then it's acceptable.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

21

22 MR. DUNAWAY: Question.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great. The
25 question's been called.

26

27 MS. ALEXANDER: (Indiscernible - away
28 from microphone).....

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

31

32 MS. ALEXANDER: Susan Alexander, Refuge
33 Manager, Alaska Peninsula and Becharof. Thank you. I
34 just wanted to request that our agency report be added
35 to the agenda under the Fish and Wildlife section.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I wasn't
38 even aware it wasn't there. So yes, we will be happy
39 to make sure that it gets put in there.

40

41 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you. I just
42 remembered obviously, almost missed it, but.....

43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I see
45 it's not there. So yeah. No, we absolutely want to
46 hear from you.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

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1 MS. ALEXANDER: Great. Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. If
4 that's an acceptable addition to everybody. Call for
5 the question. All in favor please signify by saying
6 aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary, is
11 that okay with you?

12

13 MR. HILL: Aye.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
16 you. Motion passes.

17

18 Okay. I'm going to go ahead and turn
19 the mic over to you, Leigh, if you want to go over how
20 our testimony will go or do you want to wait until
21 after we get deeper into the.....

22

23 MS. HONIG: I'll go ahead and announce
24 it now.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

27

28 MS. HONIG: All right. Thank you.
29 Again welcome, everybody. This is Leigh Honig for the
30 record, Council Coordinator. And welcome to the fall
31 meeting of the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council
32 meeting. For those attending our meeting in person
33 please make sure that you sign in at the front table.
34 There is a sign in sheet for each day of the meeting
35 and we appreciate it if you would sign in each day that
36 you are here, it greatly helps with the spelling of
37 names.

38

39 So this is a regulatory meeting and the
40 Council will be discussing and deliberating fish
41 proposals and closures. There will be an opportunity
42 for public comment during that proposal period. And
43 you can see the steps of the proposal presentation
44 procedure on page 36 of your meeting booklet.

45

46 If you would like to address the
47 Council during the meeting for folks in the room please
48 fill out a -- it's a white testifier form that you'll
49 find at the front table next to the sign in sheet. And

50

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1 if you could hand it to me. This helps keep track of
2 anyone who'd like to speak regarding a specific agenda
3 item. One of the main purposes of our meeting is to
4 encourage and promote local participation in the
5 decision-making process affecting subsistence harvest
6 on Federal public lands. And we want to make sure we
7 keep track of those who'd like to address the Council.

8

9

10 For those of you who are calling in on
11 the phone and would like to speak, please start by
12 saying Madame Chair and wait to be recognized by the
13 Chair before speaking. For all participants on the
14 phone please remember to mute your phones when you are
15 not speaking. If you do not have a mute button on your
16 phone you can press star, six and that will mute your
17 phone. If you'd like to speak unmute your phone by
18 again pressing star, six. If we find that a line is
19 not muted and creating a distraction, the operator will
20 mute that line.

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If you're unable to stay with us throughout the meeting and hang on until the public comment opportunity is open for the particular proposal you'd like to address you may consider submitting a written comment instead. And you can do that by emailing your comment to subsistence@fws.gov. You need to indicate your name, affiliation and what proposal or closure your comment addresses. Written comments will be accepted until the start of the presentation of each proposal or closure review analysis. Those will be sent to myself and Staff and we will share those with the Council. In the interest of time we would ask that you either provide an oral comment or read your statement or email your written statement, but not both.

I'd also like to remind folks that there will be a time for tribal and public comments on non-agenda items. The Chair will announce this each morning and that will be an opportunity for those present as well as those participating on the phone to speak on non-agenda items. We would ask that you hold any comments on proposals or agenda items until such time as they come up before the Council so the Council will hear all pertinent information at the time they are working on that item.

All right.

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1 Thank you very much for letting me
2 share that information.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, thank
5 you, Leigh. And I assume that you'll let me know
6 whenever we do have any?

7

8 MS. HONIG: Correct, Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
11 you. Okay. With that let's move on to the meeting
12 minutes. Has everybody had time to take a look at
13 those and would anybody like to put them on the table.

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: Move to adopt.

16

17 MR. WILSON: Second.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
20 Richard. Discussion.

21

22 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
25 Dan.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: I didn't read them in
28 excruciating detail, but I looked at them pretty close
29 and I think they cover well what we had done last
30 meeting.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

37

38 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, do we want
39 to put a date to that, February 8th, 2022 that we're
40 talking.

41

42 Thanks.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes.

45 Correct.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. ADERMAN: Madame Chair.

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1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Andy.

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MR. ADERMAN: Yeah, I just had one small one. It might have been an auto correct. Yeah, on page 11 of the meeting minutes, close to the middle paragraph there starting with the Council discussed the trapping. It's -- I think it's the fifth sentence, but it would be the third line from the bottom, it talks about various species and one of them is bear. I think it was intended to be beaver.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We never even caught that one. Good one, Andy.

Okay. Anything else.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Hearing and seeing no other corrections, all in favor of approving the minutes as corrected please signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MR. WILSON: Used to trap bear.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary, you good with that?

MR. HILL: Aye.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you. Okay. Now let's go ahead and move on to reports and as I said before I'll go ahead and have you guys introduce yourselves and then go ahead and give your report.

Richard, would you mind if I started with you?

MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, not at all. Richard Wilson, Naknek. It's been a very busy year seems like. So many things going on in different parts of our cultures and world and world issues and things, it's kind of like spinning here. Everything's going. And so but much appreciate being able to be here in person, seeing Norm over there face to face. Good to see you, Norm, and others here.

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1 Yeah, just a very active year. You
2 know, we made it through another one and we appreciate
3 the -- you know, the abundance of fish and game coming
4 back. I'm sure we've all seen, you know, our ptarmigan
5 are starting to recover pretty well and I hear most
6 people had good take on moose. And see an occasional
7 caribou now and then, had one out in my yard the other
8 day which is -- was kind of fun to see. Actually had
9 to call up the State Troopers, say hey, I got a tag,
10 can I get that guy. They go no, closed right there.
11 Oh, shoot. But yeah, it's just -- it's just good to
12 see, there's just -- I'm anxious to hear on some of the
13 reports, you know, they were all looking, you know, to
14 the -- so many different things going on, like, you
15 know, is there a bycatch, you know, in the -- out in
16 the Bering Sea and things. I'm just anxious to discuss
17 some of the things here further down. And I guess as I
18 think of things later I will mention them.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
23 Richard.

24

25 Dan.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
28 Dan Dunaway, Dillingham. Let's see, yeah, it's been a
29 busy year. It's great to be able to be back in person.
30 A few things that I'm excited about. Number 1 is our
31 -- we have two Wildlife Biologists here in Dillingham,
32 John just mentioned he may have to take off here. So,
33 but anyway it's a real relief to have State biologists
34 in town.

35

36 As far as subsistence activities,
37 salmon was -- for reds was phenomenal over in the
38 Dillingham area. King salmon, not so good and a big
39 concern. And moose season apparently was pretty good
40 and this is the second year in a row I ended up having
41 to miss it. Last year I missed it for family emergency
42 and this year weather and illness knocked me out, but I
43 have the impression people did well, I sure saw a lot
44 of pictures on FaceBook, but I haven't talked to a lot
45 of people. Some people have been getting smelt lately
46 and that's about all I have for now.

47

48 Thank you.

49

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1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norm.

2

3 MR. ANDERSON: I'd like to first thank

4 Curyung for allowing us to meet on their traditional

5 lands, allowing me to speak. This year subsistence

6 wise I didn't get to do anything, I had some medical

7 issues and that carried on from early spring until -- I

8 just got back from Anchorage for the stamp of approval

9 to be able to get things done. So I'm looking forward

10 to that. I got a tier two permit for the lower

11 peninsula and as soon as the weather clears I'm going.

12 I might just go to the action behind Richard's house

13 and hunt.....

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MR. ANDERSON:I'm not really too

18 sure. But again I appreciate the introduction from

19 all. Everybody's so young, what's going on. It's like

20 a sophomore dance here. Well, most of them anyway.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. ANDERSON: I saw you look at me

25 there, Nanci. That's all I have. Thank you very much.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,

28 Norm.

29

30 Lary, would you care to share.

31

32 MR. HILL: Well, you know, I'm sorry I

33 couldn't make it, the health and other (indiscernible -

34 distortion) fish in the lake -- lake area.

35 (Indiscernible - distortion) not only (indiscernible -

36 distortion) face to face stuff going on and

37 (indiscernible - distortion).

38

39 That's all I have. Thank you.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank

42 you, Lary. We really miss not being able to see you

43 here too and appreciate you going ahead and doing it

44 the telephonic way. We know it's not nearly as much

45 fun as it is seeing people, but we'll look forward to

46 hopefully seeing you when we meet again in this spring.

47

48 And then yeah, I've just -- I've had

49 pretty much the same report to share as everybody else

50

0017

1 has. I mean, I felt really humbled and honored to fish
2 that sockeye run realizing that probably I'll never be
3 privileged enough to see another run that size and that
4 depth and that width and all of that again. It was
5 pretty spectacular and to be a part of that was pretty
6 cool.

7

8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted).

10

11 Everybody who's on the phone could you
12 please mute your lines if you're not speaking. We're
13 getting some feedback in here.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 But we had -- we had our challenges
18 too. There was an awful lot of water this fall and
19 that created challenges. Luckily my family and many of
20 the other families that I associate with in my area
21 from King Salmon we were very lucky in our moose hunts
22 and the freezers are pretty full with fish and moose
23 for all of us. Loving seeing the ptarmigan and spruce
24 grouse seem to be plenty numerous in the areas that I
25 haunt and I'm very grateful for that. So it was a very
26 fulfilling season. And like Richard said I -- we still
27 have our worries, we have to stay on our toes I feel
28 and make sure that we do our best to protect the
29 species we have. And I feel like we're not doing a
30 good job of that with our king salmon. And that we
31 really do need to dig in and start making some really
32 hard decisions there before our kings tend to go the
33 way that many of the other runs have gone. And I --
34 just breaks my heart to see it happening and I'd love
35 to see if we couldn't do something about it in the very
36 near future.

37

38 I'd also like to take an opportunity to
39 invite our Regional Supervisor up to say a few words as
40 well. It's very nice for her to come here and join us
41 and it's great to meet you. So I appreciate you
42 coming.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MS. BOARIO: Hello. Obviously I am not
47 in this job for my technological skills.

48

49 REPORTER: Ma'am, would you identify

50

0018

1 yourself, please.

2

3

4 MS. BOARIO: Yes. Sara Boario,
5 Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
6 Service in Alaska. And thank you for the opportunity
7 to introduce myself a little more to the Board. I'm
8 very happy to be here and have the opportunity to sit
9 in and listen to the session the next couple of days.

9

10 I've been in the position of Regional
11 Director for about seven months now, but I am not new
12 to the Fish and Wildlife Service nor am I new to
13 Alaska. I've been with the Service for eight years and
14 prior to that I was with the U.S. Forest Service also
15 in Alaska for about nine years. And I was very lucky
16 to be raised and welcomed across Alaska, 48 of my 49
17 years in this State, raised in the communities of
18 Yakutat and Wrangle in southeast and not far from here,
19 Sand Point, out in the Aleutians. And went to high
20 school in Fairbanks and spent time in a lot of other
21 places and never thought I'd actually call Anchorage
22 home, but I've been there amazingly enough for about 17
23 years now.

24

25 In these first seven months in the job
26 it's obviously getting around the State as things are
27 opening up again and getting to connect with people has
28 been really fulfilling. And I've heard just in the
29 first couple of months being on the Board just how
30 frustrating and challenging it's been to be part of the
31 Federal Subsistence Board process and the RAC process
32 doing everything remotely. And so I'm really happy
33 that you're able to gather here today and I can be a
34 part of it. Definitely makes our work and connections
35 far easier and meaningful. And yeah, so I'm happy to
36 be here with you today.

37

38 Thank you very much.

39

40 (In Native)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
43 Didn't mean to put you on the spot like that.....

44

45 MS. BOARIO: No, no.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:but I
48 appreciate you coming and it's nice to know we've got
49 somebody here with lots of Alaskan experience. That's
50

0019

1 refreshing.

2

3

MS. BOARIO: Yeah. Thank you.

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
I'm going to go ahead and turn it back over to Leigh.

7

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9

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We want to sincerely thank you and share our utmost appreciation for the time you have served on the Council and your continuation of serving on this Council.

27

28

29

And, Madame Chair, if you'd like to say anything more, please.

30

31

32

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43

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, thank you very much, Leigh. Yeah. I would just like to express my thanks. I'm so sorry that both Billy and Lary are not here today to thank them in person, but, Lary, I just want you to know how much your participation has meant to this Council and to me personally. The experience that you bring and the visions that you have are extremely valuable in the decisions that I have made and the direction my thoughts have gone for this Council and I just really hope you continue to participate and Billy as well. And we miss you and I look forward to seeing you in person.

44

45

46

Thank you very much for what you have given.

47

48

49

50

I also wanted to let the Board know that we're going to -- we had taken a look at the Board of Fish proposals and -- for discussion here and you'll

0020

1 -- you see that there's a spot for them on the agenda.
2 And when we went through them, Leigh had gone through
3 them and who -- Jarred, did you say had gone through
4 them with you, and they didn't find any specific
5 subsistence proposals for us to take a look at. But
6 I'm just going to invite because it's our year this
7 year at Board of Fish and I know so many of you are
8 also involved with the regional Boards of Fish that if
9 you have anything that you would like us to take a look
10 at when that comes up on the agenda, I'm going to ask
11 that you and this -- I would ask that you keep it to
12 subsistence proposals or proposals that will effect
13 subsistence that you think we should take a look at.
14 We're not going to jump down a rabbit hole and go off
15 into other areas, but if you do know of a proposal that
16 you would like us to support or reject and have us
17 consider that then I'm going to invite you to go ahead
18 and bring them forward, otherwise we will not be taking
19 a look at any specific proposals. Okay?

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
24 Great. Thank you. And then currently we have no
25 public or tribal comment cards turned in?

26

27 MS. HONIG: No.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. But I
30 do invite everybody to turn those in as they wish and
31 we will be happy to hear them. And, Joe, you are
32 welcome to speak anytime you like. I really appreciate
33 you being here.

34

35 Thank you for coming.

36

37 Okay. Let's go on. I'll turn it over
38 to you, Leigh, for the 805(c) report.

39

40 MS. HONIG: Did you check on the phone.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
43 That is a great reminder. I didn't even ask if we had
44 anybody else on the phone aside from Lary. Do we have
45 anybody else on the phone?

46

47 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This is Jill
48 Klein with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm the
49 Regional Subsistence Coordinator.

50

0021

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great.
2 Thank you, Jill.

3
4 MR. GUSSE: Good morning. This is
5 Walker Gusse with the Bureau of Land Management out of
6 Anchorage.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Welcome,
9 Walker.

10
11 MS. LaVINE: Good morning, everyone.
12 This is Robbin LaVine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator
13 with OSM. And I am missing you all and I promise I
14 will get out there soon. It's good to hear your
15 voices. And so pleased to hear that you're all -- that
16 most of you there in person.

17
18 Thanks.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Robbin, so
21 good to hearing from you.

22
23 MS. VANDERVOORT: Good morning. This
24 is Amy Vandervoort, Alaska Fish and Game over in King
25 Salmon. I'm the new Area Biologist over here.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great.
28 Thanks for calling in.

29
30 MR. DUNAWAY: What was her name?

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, would
33 you repeat your name, please.

34
35 MS. VANDERVOORT: Amy Vandervoort.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Bailey.

38
39 MR. DUNAWAY: Amy Vandervoort.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
42 Bailey.

43
44 MR. DUNAWAY: Amy.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Amy. Thank
47 you.

48
49 MS. BOND: Hi, this is Desi Bond.....
50

0022

1 MR. GERKEN: Madame Chair.....

2

3 MS. BOND:Environmental
4 Coordinator for the Curyung Tribal Council.

5

6 Good morning.

7

8 REPORTER: One more time, please.

9

10 MS. BOND: Good morning, Desi Bond,
11 Environmental Coordinator for the Curyung Tribal
12 Council.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thanks,
15 Desi. Thanks for letting me in this morning too.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MS. BOND: You're welcome.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: There was a
22 gentleman who was trying to introduce himself.

23

24 MR. GERKEN: Good morning, Madame
25 Chair. This is Jon Gerken, I'm a Fisheries Biologist
26 in Anchorage and the Federal In-Season Manager for
27 fisheries in the Bristol Bay and Chignik area.

28

29 Good morning.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
32 John. Good morning.

33

34 MR. WALSH: Good morning, this is Pat
35 Walsh.....

36

37 MR. TOY: Good morning, Madame
38 Chair.....

39

40 MR. WALSH: Well, I'll finish. This is
41 Pat Walsh with the Togiak Refuge attending by phone
42 today.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thanks, Pat.

45

46 MR. TOY: Good morning. This is Geoff
47 Toy. I'm an attorney with Trustees for Alaska in
48 Anchorage just listening in.

49

50

0023

1 Thank you very much.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Welcome,
4 Geoff.

5

6 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning, this is.....

7

8 MR. ROBERTS: Good morning, this
9 is.....

10

11 MS. HOLMAN:Kendra Holman.....

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Remember
14 those (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....

15

16 MR. ROBERTS: Go ahead, Kendra.

17

18 MS. HOLMAN: This is Kendra Holman,
19 Wildlife Biologist with the Office of Subsistence
20 Management.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Welcome,
23 Kendra.

24

25 MR. ROBERTS: Good morning, this is
26 Jason Roberts, Anthropologist with OSM.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Welcome,
29 Jason.

30

31 MS. PATTON: Good morning, everyone.
32 This is Eva Patton with the National Park Service
33 Subsistence Program in Anchorage. Wonderful you're all
34 meeting in person there, great to hear your voices.

35

36 Good morning.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Good
39 morning. Thank you, Eva.

40

41 MR. AYERS: Hello, everyone. This is
42 Scott Ayers. I'm the Fisheries Division Supervisor at
43 the Office of Subsistence Management. It's great to
44 hear you all.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: You as well,
47 Scott. Sorry you're not here.

48

49 Okay. Wow. I remember those days,

50

0024

1 this is more like it.

2

3 MR. BURCH: This is Mark Burch with the
4 Department of Fish and Game from the Palmer office.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, thank
9 you. Can you say your name again, please.

10

11 MR. DUNAWAY: I think it's Mark Burch.

12

13 MR. BURCH: Mark Burch.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, okay,
16 Mark. Thanks. Anyone else.

17

18 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Good morning, this
19 is (indiscernible - distortion) with the (indiscernible
20 - distortion) Tribal Council, Tribal Administrator.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Welcome.
23 Okay. Does anybody on the phone have any comments that
24 they would like to make as well, we'd be happy to
25 recognize you now.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
30 you, everybody for participating.

31

32 Katya, you have the floor.

33

34 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 So I did a little bit of research and consulted with a
36 few people in the program regarding the request to have
37 an executive or closed session. And as your Council
38 knows that your Council was chartered under the Federal
39 Advisory Committee Act so we supposed to follow the
40 rules established by the Federal Advisory Committee
41 Act. And there's a special process in requesting a
42 closed executive session as that needs to be done by
43 DFO and approved ahead of time. So because the main
44 purpose of the Council is to provide a forum for public
45 participation and get public opinion. So basically the
46 bottom answer is it would not be possible to have an
47 executive session right -- stated right now at the
48 meeting because there's a process that we would have to
49 do in advance of the meeting in order for you to be
50

0025

1 able to have an executive session.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. ANDERSON: Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norm, if you
8 have any, I'll give you the floor.

9

10 MR. ANDERSON: Yes. Without access to
11 approval of agenda or adding to the agenda, we don't
12 know that. And so for future references probably have
13 the Council members peruse to see if there's anything
14 they would like on the agenda. I know this isn't your
15 responsibility, but -- and then I appreciated that with
16 Robert's Rules of Order for the request.

17

18 MS. WESSELS: Yeah. The agenda, you
19 know, is developed by the Council Coordinator in
20 cooperation with the Council Chair in advance of the
21 meeting. And if the Council members would like to
22 participate in the development of the agenda we can
23 sure do that, we can send you the draft agendas way in
24 advance. If you want to add something to the agenda
25 ahead of the time then you would be able to do so. And
26 if it's okay with Madame Chair, you know, that the
27 Council members also have input into the development of
28 the agenda.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Absolutely.
31 I would welcome it. Would you like to make sure that
32 we get one added for our spring meeting?

33

34 MR. ANDERSON: I think a cursory call
35 would be obliged by Council members to see if there's
36 any additions or deletions or not deletions, but
37 additions to the agenda, that we could approve at the
38 beginning of the meetings.

39

40 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I also believe if
41 the Council wants a closed session you probably need
42 to, you know, announce what it -- you know, the general
43 topic of discussion and not maybe just say it's going
44 to be an executive session.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
47 just a general discussion. But, Norm, I would welcome
48 that. And if -- Leigh, if you could -- you know, we'll
49 just start doing that, checking in with all Council

50

0026

1 members to see if there's any additions or changes once
2 we have a general agenda put together so we can make
3 those considerations.

4

5 MS. HONIG: Yes, definitely, Madame
6 Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

9

10 MS. HONIG: And we'll do that.

11

12 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

13

14 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, maybe I'm just
19 outspoken, but I've never felt hindered from telling
20 Nanci or our Coordinator if there was something on my
21 mind. I think bycatch was one I was pushing for last
22 winter. So yeah, and, Norm, you know, you're a little
23 new, but don't hesitate if there's something really on
24 your mind my sense is we're always welcome to bring
25 them up. So.....

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Okay.
30 Thank you for that information. We'll be better
31 prepared next time.

32

33 Okay. Back to the 805(c) report.

34

35 MS. HONIG: Wonderful. Thank you,
36 Madame Chair. For the record my name is Lee Honig. So
37 I'm going to present you with a brief summary of the
38 Federal Subsistence Board 2022 805(c) report to the
39 Council. The materials for this agenda item can be
40 found on page 13 of your meeting materials booklet.
41 And this is not an action item.

42

43 Section 805(c) of the Alaska National
44 Interest Lands Conservation Act provides that the Board
45 generally defers to the recommendations of the Council
46 regarding take unless one, the recommendation is not
47 supported by substantial evidence; two, the
48 recommendation violates recognized principles of fish
49 and wildlife management; or three, adopting the
50

0027

1 recommendation would be detrimental to the satisfaction
2 of subsistence needs. When a Council's recommendation
3 is not adopted the Board is required to provide the
4 reasons and facts for their decision to the Council and
5 these are provided in the annual 805(c) report.

6
7 And as you can see from the 805(c)
8 cover letter this year the Board acted on 59 proposals
9 and 16 closure reviews for the 2022 to 2024 wildlife
10 regulatory cycle. The Board agreed with the
11 recommendation of the Regional Advisory Councils in
12 whole or with modification on 50 of the 59 proposals.
13 And the Board accepted the recommendations of the
14 Regional Advisory Councils on 15 of the 16 wildlife
15 closure reviews, voting to maintain status quo on 14 of
16 them.

17
18 Specifically regarding your region the
19 Board actions aligned with the Council's
20 recommendations on seven out of the eight proposals.
21 The one proposal that the Board's action differed from
22 the Council's recommendation was on Wildlife Proposal
23 22-02 which requested to remove the language from the
24 designated hunting regulations prohibiting the use of a
25 designated hunter permit by a member of a community
26 operating under a community harvest system. The
27 Bristol Bay Council supported the proposal with the
28 Eastern Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
29 which modified the proposal to clarify that
30 participants in a community harvest system cannot
31 designate another Federally-qualified subsistence user
32 to take wildlife on their behalf. The Board adopted
33 the proposal, but without this modification. And the
34 justification for the Board's action is located in the
35 805(c) enclosure on page 16.

36
37 Thank you, Madame Chair and members of
38 the Council for listening and I'm ready to answer any
39 questions if there are any.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Questions.

42
43 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
46 Richard.

47
48 MR. WILSON: Not a question, just a
49 comment. I -- you know, as we see, you know, how
50

0028

1 important, you know, this system really is and how, you
2 know, the Council, you know, going before the main
3 Board, you know, really does play a big role in
4 decision-making. So that's why we always strive for
5 information from our agencies and how, you know, this
6 all works great together.

7

8 Thanks.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, I
11 totally support that as well, without information it's
12 hard to make good decisions. It is nice to sit on a
13 Council that your voice is heard on.

14

15 Okay. Let's move on to the fiscal year
16 2021 annual report replies summary.

17

18 MS. HONIG: Thank you again, Madame
19 Chair. Leigh Honig for the record. So I'm going to
20 you with a summary of the Federal Subsistence Board
21 FY21 annual report reply to the Council. And you'll
22 find the Board's response and enclosure on page 18 of
23 your meeting booklets. Once again this is not an
24 action item.

25

26 The Board appreciates your effort to
27 communicate through your annual report to the Board
28 issues outside of the regulatory process that affects
29 subsistence users in your region. The Council
30 identified topics of concern for the Board to be aware
31 of. And those points of concern were topic one was the
32 need for information and representation from Federal
33 agencies at the Council meetings. And the Board
34 replied that the Board understood the importance of
35 filling vacancies and provided the Council on staffing
36 updates within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and
37 National Park Service.

38

39 Topic number 2 that the Council gave to
40 the Board was chinook salmon decline. And the Board
41 acknowledged the need for more comprehensive research
42 on chinook salmon declines in western Alaska. The
43 Board discussed poor returns were likely due to size at
44 age declines. Declines in size were potentially a
45 result of changing environmental conditions, increased
46 competition at sea with abundant hatchery salmon and
47 climate change. The Board wanted to update the Council
48 on a multi national level research project that will
49 assess extreme climate variability and it's effect on
50

0029

1 salmon survival. The project includes more than 60
2 researchers from the United States, Canada, Japan,
3 Russia and South Korea. The National Oceanic and
4 Atmospheric Administration also endorsed a bill,
5 HR6651, that will be -- that will create a special task
6 force to investigate the salmon decline. And \$98
7 million may be available to NOAA and Fish and Wildlife
8 Service to perform this research.

9
10 Topic number 3 was the Chignik area
11 fishery. Fish and Wildlife started conducting
12 assessment and monitoring in 2022 under the Fisheries
13 Resource Monitoring Program proposal. The FRMP
14 proposal was submitted by the Alaska Department of Fish
15 and Game, Fish and Wildlife Service and the Chignik
16 Intertribal Coalition. The proposal had three
17 objectives including in-season Federal subsistence
18 harvest data, enumerate all chinook salmon that passed
19 through the weir and extend the season for weir
20 counting of chinook, sockeye and coho salmon from
21 August 1 to the latest date possible to obtain accurate
22 escapement and collection of samples. The Board also
23 provided biological and sustainable escapement goals
24 for the 2022 season.

25
26 Topic number 4 that the Council wrote
27 to the Board was on bear predation. And the Board
28 acknowledged that the Council's concerns over growing
29 brown bear population and suggested the Council could
30 submit proposals during the spring 2023 to extent
31 Federal seasons and harvest limits as well as
32 submitting proposals to the Board of Game. And as your
33 Council Coordinator I will gladly assist the Council in
34 the development and submission of proposals to Federal
35 and State governing bodies.

36
37 Topic five was shorebird die off. And
38 the Board did provide the Council with the most recent
39 report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and that
40 report is on page 28 of your meeting booklets.

41
42 Topic number 6 was the consolidation of
43 teleconference and Microsoft Teams video conferencing.
44 The Board supports access to participation in meetings.
45 While it is possible for OSM to provide audio and video
46 meetings into one, there are challenges when combining
47 in person with video conferencing. The Board and OSM
48 are hopeful that in person meetings will continue into
49 the future.

50

0030

1 Topic number 7 was a thank you to
2 Office of Subsistence Management Staff and need to fill
3 Council Coordinator's position. And the Board provided
4 the Council with staffing updates and which included
5 the hiring of five new Subsistence Council
6 Coordinators, myself being one of them, and I'm happy
7 to be here.

8

9 Okay. Topic number 8 was a need to
10 fill all vacant seats on the Council. And the Board
11 shared with the Council the same concerns over
12 vacancies on the Council and wanted to inform the
13 Council of various ways OSM provides outreach to
14 communities to solicit applications. This includes a
15 variety of media outlets, mailing of applications to
16 individual agencies and organizations and OSM Staff
17 made announcements at the fall and winter meeting of
18 2021 to 2022. And as your new Council Coordinator part
19 of my duties will be to work directly with communities
20 to solicit applications.

21

22 The last topic was ANILCA versus agency
23 specific regulations. And the Board replied that since
24 2020 when the Council was presented the response from
25 the Board the Federal Subsistence Management Program
26 experienced a large turnover on the Federal Subsistence
27 Board, the InterAgency Staff Committee, as well as a
28 new Administration. As new Staff and Board members
29 become familiar with issues it will continue to rely on
30 Title VIII of ANILCA to direct Board authority and
31 action. The Board also referred to sections of 811 of
32 ANILCA that addressed access for subsistence purposes.
33 And the Board cited sections that verified that surface
34 transportation traditionally employed for subsistence
35 purposes is not in conflict with any agency specific
36 regulations, but further stated that conflicts may
37 exist when Board members struggle to balance the dual
38 charge of providing opportunity for continuation of the
39 subsistence way of life and sound resource management
40 principles.

41

42 The Board thanks the Council for well
43 representing the Bristol Bay region users concerns
44 through your annual report.

45

46 Thank you, Madame Chair.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
49 And I would open it up to questions if you guys have
50

0031

1 any or comments, this is our opportunity to as we
2 peruse through our meeting to come up with subjects for
3 our next meeting as well.

4

5 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

8

9 MR. DUNAWAY: I don't know if this is
10 the place to bring it up, but since I wrote a note here
11 and it's something we might work on in the future, is
12 there some suggestions regarding bear predation and
13 all. And one thing I've learned, you know, we've got
14 really liberal hunting seasons here in 17. I've know
15 some guys that have hunted extra bears and they're
16 allowed to sell them, but there's a real problem in and
17 I don't know if it's Federal rules or State rules,
18 that's why I bring it up here, might be that you --
19 they might be able to sell a bear hide to say a
20 taxidermist, but he cannot turn around and sell it
21 again or she. But and I don't know if there's some
22 Federal rules that could loosen up that would encourage
23 that and I don't know where the right time to talk
24 about it or whether we should talk about it as a
25 subsistence, but that was something in a topic I -- I
26 forgot where I was and that came up. And with these
27 bumper crops of salmon we've got bumper crops of cubs
28 coming.

29

30 So I just wanted to try to get that out
31 there and if there's a better place to bring it up --
32 I'm sure there is a better place to bring it up.

33

34 Thanks.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I would
37 almost think that with the 2023 regs coming up that's
38 where, you know, you might want to use the Board or you
39 individually could work with Leigh and the Biologist on
40 crafting some wording for a proposal or a proposal
41 change.

42

43 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, and then I was
44 thinking too with the number of Federal agency folks
45 here we might be able to home in on where that obstacle
46 is, if it's like a side issue or something else. And
47 again whether it's even a subsistence thing we could --
48 we could talk about or that's it better to be with
49 another forum.

50

0032

1 Thank you.

2

3

4 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thanks. Lisa
5 Grediagin for the record. And I would be happy to
6 continue this conversation with Dan and any other
7 Council member that's interested, you know, more off
8 the record versus going down a rabbit hole right now,
9 but in general if you look at page 18 and 19 of the
10 Federal subsistence regulation booklets, you have some
11 information on sales and handicrafts of wildlife. And
12 basically right now you can sell handicrafts made from
13 non-edible byproducts of legally harvested wildlife
14 except (indiscernible) bear. So anyway this -- there's
15 a whole section about bears and what you can sell and
16 it's primarily handicrafts. But I know there was a
17 lot, a lot of work put into the customary trade, that
18 was before my time, on how to do the handicrafts of
19 wildlife, but beyond that I'm not sure about all the
20 barriers of being able to sell the hide. Like I know
21 Board of Game or State regulations there's units where
22 if there's a two bear harvest limit then you can sell a
23 second bear and things like that. And I think it is a
24 little different under Federal regs, but that's
25 certainly something between now and the next meeting in
26 the winter which is the call for wildlife proposals, we
27 can dig into and get you some more specific information
28 on that.

28

29

MR. DUNAWAY: Okay.

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MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So I would
propose, Dan, maybe that you get together with Lisa and
craft something up and we can take a look at it when we
meet again and decide if we want to throw our Board
support behind it. If not you can do it individually.
Sound good?

(No comments)

MS. HOSETH: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Gayla, did
you have something you'd like to share.

MS. HOSETH: I do thank you, Madame
Chair, members of the Board. Thank you. This is -- I
have to pop in and out of meetings so I'm multi tasking
here today.

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1 But this has been an issue that we've
2 been dealing with for a long time and I'm glad that we
3 finally have an answer -- somewhat of an answer I guess
4 addressing this issue.

5
6 You know, part of the responsibilities
7 of the Federal Subsistence Board is for us to have a
8 subsistence access and for ANILCA to be followed. I
9 know that there's a turnover in agency Staff, there's a
10 turnover constantly with the regional administrators,
11 represented with all the Federal agencies sitting at
12 the table. And to me that's something that should be
13 educated first when they're sitting at the table at the
14 Federal Subsistence Board that ANILCA should prevail
15 when decisions are being made on proposals that are
16 affecting us in rural Alaska. We're constantly
17 educating people of how we live, how we live our
18 subsistence way of life, how life is out here and we've
19 been around this block many times that the Federal
20 Subsistence Board regulations are basically regulations
21 from the Lower 48 up here in Alaska and we try to
22 change them one by one. And when we go to the Federal
23 Subsistence Board meeting this coming 2023 there's
24 going to be new people sitting at that table and it's
25 the Federal Subsistence Board and the Secretary's
26 responsibility to make sure that they know these rules
27 and when we're making these decisions. And when we
28 talk about it later on the agenda of the positioning
29 issue that's a really good example of ANILCA not being
30 followed. And us holding it to the fire to make sure
31 that ANILCA is followed and then we get unanimous
32 consent in support of proposals when we ask those
33 questions.

34
35 So I think that there needs to be
36 further discussion or clarification, not just a
37 turnover in Staff. This is a hard thing for us to keep
38 doing continuously and hopefully that each proposal
39 that we do bring forward we know that when we go to the
40 Federal Subsistence Board that ANILCA will prevail over
41 the Federal regulations of the people sitting around
42 the table. So I just wanted to put that on the record.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. Thank
47 you, Gayla. And I'm -- I have been in this fight with
48 you for a very long time. And I agree and I guess I
49 would like to see that as a subject for our concerns
50

1 for next time in that we would possibly request that
2 everyone is reminded of that at the beginning of the
3 meeting and the beginning of deliberations as well as
4 that training even if it's brief training, be given to
5 those new Board members who are joining the Board so we
6 don't have to wait another two years to get an answer
7 or three years to get an answer on something as simple
8 as do we follow ANILCA or do we follow agency rules.
9 Everybody who sits at that table should know from the
10 very beginning that ANILCA takes priority. And I don't
11 think that's an unreasonable request or a question to
12 be asking for them. For them being the Board members
13 that sit at that table specifically from the agencies
14 because that's where we continuously butt heads.

15
16 So I don't know how the rest of the
17 Board feels about that, but I'd love to see that on the
18 subject matter. And I thank you for bringing that.

19
20 MS. HOSETH: Thank you.

21
22 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
25 Richard.

26
27 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
28 Yeah, I -- I'm in agreement with that. I was just --
29 you know, the more they -- the more they know about the
30 system prior to getting there and making decisions the
31 better. Isn't that -- and I want to thank you for all
32 the work that you put in on the -- on the responses too
33 for this report.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank
38 you very much, Leigh. And this response was also
39 circled by me to make a comment on. And you did a very
40 thorough job with it, Gayla, and I appreciate how
41 articulate you were with that and I'm not going to, you
42 know, draw it out any longer. But I would like for
43 that to be brought up. Is there -- are there any other
44 subjects too that these responses brought up in your
45 minds that you would like to see added for further
46 followed up on at the next meeting.

47
48 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

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1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes,
2 Richard.

3
4 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
5 Yes, some of the response on our chinook, you know, we
6 can just never say enough really about, you know, what
7 -- what's all involved and in the report there really
8 wasn't a whole lot spelled out about the bycatch part
9 of it, you know. You just -- we all need to know that
10 there's -- there is a big problem out there in the
11 bycatch, not just in our own inner waters, but in those
12 outer waters and we need to stay on top of that and
13 become a bigger voice. And I'm hoping that's being
14 heard.

15
16 Thanks.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, I would
19 echo that as well. I think that our voice as a
20 Subsistence Board does need to be heard on that matter.
21 And I would even go so far as to say that, you know, we
22 -- I would like to see us consider fashioning a letter
23 to send to the Councils that are responsible for
24 deciding bycatch on these issues and that might be
25 something that, you know, you and I could work on
26 together with Leigh to fashion a letter if the Board so
27 wishes and would support that.

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan, go
32 ahead.

33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: All right. Just kind of
35 a general question maybe, Leigh. I see we have a bunch
36 of -- a bycatch report in our book. Are we going to
37 get a presentation with that as well? So I think you
38 told me, but.....

39
40 MS. HONIG: Yes, Dr. Diana Stram will
41 be on the phone to give that presentation. And that
42 will be yeah, under new -- or sorry, under agency
43 reports.

44
45 MR. DUNAWAY: So maybe as we get that
46 information kind of help gel possible action we want to
47 take. So I'm really excited to hear that we've got a
48 pretty in depth report coming.

49
50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. That
4 sounds like a plan. Okay. Any other questions or
5 comments on the.....

6

7 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Katya, go
10 ahead.

11

12 MS. WESSELS: Yeah. Thank you, Madame
13 Chair. I just wanted to let the Council know in case
14 you're not familiar that the four Yukon Councils this
15 year they wrote two letters regarding the bycatch, one
16 to the Federal Subsistence Board and the other one to
17 the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. So I --
18 if you would like copies of those letters we can
19 provide it for you and this might also help you with
20 drafting a letter that you would like too.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank
23 you. I was aware that those were out there, but I did
24 not -- I would like a copy. I think we would all like
25 a copy and as we move forward with these thoughts and
26 listening to our presentations perhaps that'll help us
27 make some decisions.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 Any other thoughts or comments or phone
32 calls.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary, did
37 you have anything that you'd like to comment on or did
38 anything pop into your mind that you would like to have
39 answers about for our next meeting.

40

41 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, Katya.

42

43 MR. HILL: I've been getting a lot of
44 that (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....

45

46 MS. WESSELS: I also would like to see
47 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....

48

49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Hang on one

50

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1 second, please, Lary.

2

3 REPORTER: One at a time, please.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: You're
6 talking over -- go ahead, Lary, I'm sorry.

7

8 MS. WESSELS: Sorry.

9

10 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, this is Lary
11 Hill. I don't get a lot of that testimony because of
12 the limits of our phone system. But there was a
13 program on bycatch about a month ago, tell you how much
14 is actually wasted and not actually recorded. So I
15 watched it (indiscernible - distortion), but that's it.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
18 Great. Yes. We're getting a presentation later, Lary,
19 on more of the bycatch issues and we're speaking as a
20 Council about taking further action with letters to
21 authorities and we're going to revisit this again here
22 later in our meeting.

23

24 MR. HILL: Okay. I won't make any.....

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

27

28 MR. HILL:(indiscernible -
29 distortion) it's difficult(indiscernible - distortion).

30

31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, I
32 remember that. Thank you for hanging in there.

33

34 Katya, you have the floor.

35

36 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. I just want
37 to remind the Council that if you are planning on
38 writing a letter you will need to have a motion in
39 regards to that letter.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
42 Okay. Do you want to go over the annual expenses first
43 too, Leigh?

44

45 MS. HONIG: Yes. Thank you, Madame
46 Chair. So Leigh Honig for the record. At the winter
47 2022 meeting it was requested by the Council to have
48 OSM Staff provide a summary of the Bristol Bay Regional
49 Advisory Council expenses. And on average the

50

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1 Council's expenses have been around 155,000. Regional
2 Advisory Councils do not have set budgets and
3 prepandemic costs. In the last two years the Council
4 has not met in person, but held meetings virtually so
5 the expenses for the last two fiscal years did not add
6 up to the average cost. So in FY22, 2022, the expenses
7 for the Council were \$115,454.41 of payment to Federal
8 Staff that supports the activity of the Council and
9 then \$18,214.20 for administrative costs such as
10 display ads, printing and mailing of meeting materials,
11 transcripts and website maintenance. And in FY2022
12 there were no travel related costs as both meetings
13 were held virtually. So the total cost for the FY2022
14 were \$133,668.61.

15

16 And then -- so as we begin to
17 transition back to in person meetings these numbers
18 will change and if the Council would like to continue
19 hearing this information I can provide another update
20 at the next fall meeting on the FY 2023 expenses.

21

22 Thank you, Madame Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
25 you. Do we have any questions for her on expenditures?

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
30 you for that. Let's move on to the Council
31 correspondence update.

32

33 MS. HONIG: Thank you again, Madame
34 Chair. So at the winter, 2022 meeting the Council
35 requested that a letter be written expressing the
36 Council's concerns on HR4716 that sought to prohibit
37 the use of body gripping traps within the National
38 Wildlife Refuge System. And the Council requested that
39 the Board forward this letter to the Secretary of the
40 Interior, the Alaska Congressional Delegation, the
41 Alaska Governor and the Bristol Bay region
42 representative in the Legislature.

43

44 HR4716, the Refuge from Cruel Trapping
45 Act, was introduced in the House of Representatives by
46 Representative Nadler of New York and has not yet been
47 taken up by Committee. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife
48 Service provided technical assistance to the bill's
49 sponsor, Representative Nadler of New York, that
50

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1 included an exemption of Alaska's Refuge from the bill.

2

3

4 Additionally Representative Nadler
5 proposed an amendment to the Recovering America's
6 Wildlife Action, RAWA, is the acronym, that prohibits
7 the use of body gripping traps within the National
8 Wildlife Refuge System with the exception of Native
9 American tribes, Refuges in Alaska and Federal agencies
10 to manage invasive species or to protect endangered
11 species. This amendment was not considered by the
12 committee. The RAWA passed the House in June of 2022
13 and the bill now goes on to the Senate for
14 consideration.

15

16 And I do have additional information if
17 the Council would like to know more about the RAWA.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, please
20 go ahead.

21

22 MS. HONIG: Okay. So the RAWA is
23 currently awaiting consideration in the Senate and this
24 would provide over 1.3 billion in dedicated funding for
25 the conservation or restoration of wildlife and plant
26 species of greatest conservation need, the wildlife
27 conservation strategies of States, territories and
28 tribes and wildlife conservation education and
29 recreation projects. RAWA would also provide funding
30 totaling 187.5 million for fiscal years FY23 to '26 to
31 the Service to carry-out activities under the
32 Endangered Species Act including the implementation of
33 a recovery grants program, section VII consultation
34 activities and other conservation action. The House
35 did approve several other amendments which were to
36 encourage the use of innovative technology in wildlife
37 management and conservation under title I and allows
38 funds to be used for conservation, infrastructure
39 projects that protect and conserve habitat for species
40 of greatest concern, allows funds to be used for
41 conservation and restoration for Native pollinator
42 species, allows nonprofit organizations to be eligible
43 to receive competitive grant funds through the wildlife
44 and restoration subaccounts. It would impose a 1.85
45 percent administrative spending cap on portions of
46 title III and requires a .5 percent of the funds from
47 title III of the bill to be provided to the Department
48 of the Interior's Office of Inspector General to
49 oversee this program and expands conservation
50

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1 activities eligible for funding under the Endangered
2 Species Recovery and Habitat Conservation Legacy Fund
3 of title III to include efforts to manage, control and
4 prevent invasive species in (indiscernible).

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

9 Questions.

10

11 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,

14 Dan.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: Not so much a question,
17 but a statement. You know, I think that's one of the
18 dumbest ideas ever, it's just -- prohibition of body
19 grip traps anywhere in the country unless you have real
20 specific concerns. And I hope in Alaska we don't just
21 limit or accept tribal members because body grip traps
22 in Alaska are a major tool. And they are nationwide.
23 And they were actually invented to be more humane than
24 the footholds. So I just -- I just got to spout off a
25 little bit. You know, there's places where it's
26 probably totally appropriate to prohibit them on a case
27 by case, but as a general thing I -- it's just alarming
28 that this kind of stuff's going on.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

35

36 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
37 Thank you, Dan. Yeah, you know, it -- just the thought
38 as I was listening through that, you know, there's so
39 much that goes on out there, but we've just proven that
40 when a species is endangered, like we were having our
41 ptarmigan, you know, quantities were down, and so we
42 just got the word out that hey, let's not utilize that
43 resource for a while so it'll come back. And we do
44 that with all the others. So there's -- a lot of times
45 there's some simpler solutions to some of those things
46 than on these complicated ones.

47

48 Thanks.

49

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1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes,
2 especially going through the congressional maze.

3
4 Any other comments or questions.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Let's
9 move on. Let's -- do we have an update on when our
10 Manokotak crew might be able to join us.

11
12 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: They're still
13 (indiscernible - away from microphone) trying to get
14 here.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. We're
17 still on hold for him. So, Pippa, then I'm going to
18 put you on hold probably too as long as the Council
19 will agree to that, to wait for our Manokotak brethren
20 to be able to make it in. I'm sure this is the main
21 focus of their journey, is it not?

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Does
26 that meet with everybody's okay?

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
31 we'll go ahead and defer that one. Let's instead
32 switch to our new business and go on to fisheries
33 proposals, closures and reviews.

34
35 Jarred and Pippa.

36
37 Yeah, thank you. That's going to be
38 page 36 for those of you that have a book.

39
40 MR. STONE: All right. Good morning,
41 Madame Chair and members of the Council. For the
42 record my name is Jarred Stone, I'm a Fish Biologist
43 with the Office of Subsistence Management. And I
44 thought first before jumping into these closure reviews
45 I'd just give you a real short primer on what these
46 closure reviews are about. And let you know sort of
47 some of the history on these closure reviews so we have
48 an informed decision to make today.

49
50

1 So during the fall of even numbered
2 years the Regional Advisory Councils review analyses of
3 fisheries regulatory proposals and also now the closure
4 reviews. The Federal Subsistence Board will take
5 action on these closures and fisheries proposals during
6 their January, 2023 regulatory meeting. There are a
7 total of 14 fisheries proposals and 19 fisheries
8 closure reviews this round for the entire State. Of
9 those, two closure reviews are up for your
10 consideration today and because the Kodiak Aleutians
11 and the Bristol Bay communities both have customary and
12 traditional use determinations for salmon in the two
13 closure areas under consideration both Councils will
14 provide their recommendations for the Board. Briefly
15 I'll -- I will note that the Kodiak Aleutians Regional
16 Advisory Council chose to rescind both of these
17 closures under consideration today to provide the
18 Federal subsistence priority in times of conservation
19 so that rural Alaskans have the opportunity when
20 resources are limited. So they were in support of
21 title VIII of ANILCA.

22
23 As the fishery closure reviews are
24 still a new and somewhat unknown topic for the Councils
25 we want to remind you that this is the Federal
26 Subsistence Board's policy that Federal public lands
27 and waters should be reopened as soon as practicable
28 once the conditions that originally justified the
29 closure have changed to such an extent that the closure
30 is no longer necessary. The purpose of a closure
31 review is to determine if the closure is still
32 warranted and to ensure that the closure does not
33 remain in place any longer than necessary.

34
35 So with that little primer I'll now
36 jump into the closure reviews and start with Staff
37 analysis of Fisheries Closure Review 21-13. And that
38 begins on page 37 of your Council books. I believe
39 that's tab eight.

40
41 FCR 21-13 is again a routine review of
42 a Federal closure to salmon fishing at Russell Creek
43 and Nurse Lagoon by Federally-qualified subsistence
44 users in the Alaska Peninsula area. Again just for
45 clarification this closure is on subsistence salmon
46 harvested by Federally-qualified subsistence users.

47
48 Russell Creek consists of Federal
49 public waters within and adjacent to the exterior
50

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1 boundaries of the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife
2 Refuge. Nurse Lagoon was at one time considered
3 Federal public waters. The Secretaries of Interior and
4 Agriculture later determined that some marine waters
5 including Nurse Lagoon were added to Federal
6 subsistence regulations erroneously and should be
7 removed. Currently Nurse Lagoon regulations still
8 persist in this Federal subsistence regulation and
9 should be removed.

10

11 So with that said moving forward with
12 the rest of the analyses, we will make mention of
13 Russell Creek because it does have Federal jurisdiction
14 whereas Nurse Lagoon does not.

15

16 Russell Creek has been surveyed and
17 found to contain chum, coho, pink, sockeye salmon and
18 steelhead. Annual indexing of salmon escapement is
19 conducted through aerial surveys and recent data shows
20 variable returns of chum and pink salmon since 2013,
21 15,000 to 125,000 chum salmon and up to 140,000 pink
22 salmon. Again this is an indexing, so not exact
23 counts. There was also a count of 600 coho salmon
24 observed during the 2014 season and 100 sockeye salmon
25 observed during the 2020 season.

26

27 So Russell Creek is closed to
28 subsistence fishing under both Federal and State
29 regulations, however it is open to sport fishing. The
30 general Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands remote zone
31 sport fishing salmon regulations allow five salmon per
32 day, 10 in possession, excluding chinook. There is no
33 harvest estimate reported for Russell Creek, but the
34 estimate harvest for the combined Cold Bay area
35 freshwater between 2009 and 2020 have ranged from 1,249
36 salmon to 5,048 salmon.

37

38 There is currently non-subsistence uses
39 permitted in this area such as sport caught fish
40 harvested by rod and reel making the current situation
41 out of compliance with title VIII of ANILCA which
42 mandates a priority for Federal subsistence.
43 Rescinding the closure would provide Federal
44 opportunity to harvest salmon in the Russell Creek
45 drainage thereby providing priority consumptive use to
46 Federally-qualified subsistence users. If the closure
47 is rescinded Federal subsistence regulations for the
48 Alaska Peninsula area would apply which likely would be
49 too liberal and lead to overharvest and conservation
50

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1 concerns.

2

3

4 Salmon under -- salmon taken under the
5 permit could be harvested by seine, gillnet, rod and
6 reel or gear specified on the permit. Salmon could
7 also be taken under Federal regulations by snagging,
8 that includes hand line or rod and reel. And also
9 using a spear, bow and arrow or capture by hand. The
10 salmon harvest limit per household for the Alaska
11 Peninsula area is 250 fish. So to conserve fish
12 populations the Federal In-Season Manager could use
13 authority delegated by the Board to set the provisions
14 for the fishery such as limiting the gear types and/or
15 setting conservative harvest limits.

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The OSM preliminary conclusion is to rescind the closure on Russell Creek and to remove the erroneous language regarding Nurse Lagoon considering that there is no Federal jurisdiction in these waters. The Russell Creek drainage is currently closed to the harvest of salmon by Federally-qualified subsistence users, but again remains open to other uses. Federal subsistence opportunity should be provided to comply with the rural preference mandated by ANILCA. The Federal In-Season Manager has been delegated authority to open or close Federal subsistence fishing periods or areas provided under codified regulations and to specify methods and means, to specify the permit requirements and to set harvest and possession limits for Federal subsistence fisheries. The In-Season Manager can use this authority to manage the fishery in the short term, however we recommend that a proposal outlining the desired parameters of this fishery someday be submitted, perhaps during the next fishery cycle, so that this can be put into regulation.

If this closure is retained reference to Nurse Lagoon should be removed because it is not under Federal jurisdiction and additionally the word drainage should be added after Russell Creek to clarify that the closure applies to the entire drainage.

Thank you, Madame Chair and members of the Council. That concludes my presentation and I'll take any questions that you might have.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I'll open it up for questions.

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1 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
4 Dan.

5

6 MR. DUNAWAY: More a comment. I
7 didn't even realize we were qualified to use down
8 there. So I was wondering why are we even looking at
9 these, but you helped us out with that and explained it
10 so thanks for the explanation.

11

12 MR. STONE: Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
15 Jarred.

16

17 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. Thank
18 you. Council member, Mr. Dunaway, you're right it's
19 unique in that there are two communities, Port Heiden
20 and Port Moller that have customary and traditional use
21 determinations for salmon in this area with Nurse
22 Lagoon and Russell Creek.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

25

26 MR. ANDERSON: I have a comment.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norm, go
29 ahead.

30

31 MR. ANDERSON: Yes, your report says
32 it's basically for our edification, you don't want any
33 action on that?

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, we do
36 need to take action, we're going through our list. So
37 we'll hear if we've got any tribal -- tribes or ANCSA
38 corporation comments and the whole nine yards and then
39 we'll take a vote.

40

41 MR. ANDERSON: Us being the Bristol Bay
42 Council wouldn't that fall under the Aleutian Islands?

43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So we're --
45 we and the Kodiak Council both monitor or overlook
46 these areas so we have to vote on this as well as them.
47 And hopefully both of our votes will match up otherwise
48 we have to have another discussion. So yes, this is
49 under our purview as the Bristol Bay Council.

50

0046

1 Okay. Then onto Board consultation,
2 did we have any.

3

4 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. Board
5 consultation, I'm not aware of.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

8

9 MR. STONE: Yeah.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Usually when
12 we do these proposals, you know, they're put out there
13 in the public and if there's been anybody that
14 commented on it then you bring those comments to us.

15

16 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair,
17 for the clarification. Yes, there were no public
18 comments submitted for this proposal.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary, go
25 ahead.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
30 Agency comments.

31

32 MR. STONE: Madame Chair.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
35 Jarred.

36

37 MR. STONE: Just a reminder, I would --
38 so under the Board recommendations that you mentioned,
39 there should be two, ANCSA corporations and tribal
40 consultations and you can call on those.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, that's
45 what I was calling for. Were there any comments.

46

47 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 For the tribal consultations that would be Orville Lind
49 that we'd call on. And that is I believe how it works.

50

0047

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Correct.
4 Okay. I didn't hear Orville online. I somebody online
5 for Orville or somebody taking his spot to report on
6 any consultations?

7

8 MS. LaVINE: Madame Chair, this is
9 Robbin LaVine.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I'm sorry,
12 say again. We can barely hear you.

13

14 MS. LaVINE: Madame Chair, this is
15 Robbin LaVine. Can you hear me?

16

17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I can you
18 loud and clear now, Robbin.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MS. LaVINE: Excellent. Tribal
23 consultations were held, there were no comment son this
24 closure review.

25

26 Thank you, Madame Chair.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
29 you. Now it seems like we're kind of in the groove
30 here.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Agency
35 comments. Do we have any comments from ADF&G or
36 Federal agencies or Native entities.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
41 Seeing none. Advisory Group comments, did we have any
42 from other Regional Councils or Fish and Game Advisory
43 Committees or SRC Committees from down there, did we
44 have anything from anybody that was -- that would be
45 Aniakchak, wouldn't it, that probably would have
46 covered it?

47

48 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
49 away from microphone).....

50

0048

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
2 you. No public written comments.

3
4 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
5 There were no public written comments for this proposal
6 or closure review.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
11 you. Then I'll move on to public testimony. Is there
12 any public testimony from anybody.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
17 Seeing none and would anybody care to put this on the
18 table so we can discuss it.

19
20 Dan.

21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: Move to adopt.

23
24 MR. WILSON: Second.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. We
27 have a motion and a second. Discussion.

28
29 Dan.

30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, if I -- I believe I
32 heard right and Jarred said that the Kodiak Aleutians
33 Council has voted to support this so I'm inclined to go
34 with them, it's their people more than us. You did say
35 Port Heiden and somebody else, is -- on our.....

36
37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Moller.

38
39 MR. DUNAWAY: Moller. I'm forgetting
40 the term right now, qualified users. That's a small,
41 small system, but it sounds like things are a little
42 out of whack. I'm hoping if this is rescinded that
43 between State and Federal, sport and subsistence
44 regulations can get adjusted to prevent overharvest and
45 yet get into compliance. So I'm inclined to support
46 it.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

0049

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Jarred.

2

3 MR. STONE: Real quick -- real quickly.

4 Thank you, Madame Chair. I would just remind the

5 Council that the types of actions you can take on the

6 closure reviews are a little bit different than the

7 proposals in that you can choose to rescind, maintain

8 status quo, defer or take no action.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

13

14 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan, go

17 ahead.

18

19 MR. DUNAWAY: Sorry. Just I want to

20 clarify that I support the recommendation of OSM then,

21 rescinding it.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Is that good

26 with the second.

27

28 MR. WILSON: That's good with the

29 second.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

32 Any other comments.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I too am --

37 this is almost a have to rescind because there's no way

38 that there should be sport fishing allowed when

39 subsistence cannot occur. So I'm definitely in favor

40 of this.

41

42 If we're ready for the question I'll

43 call the question.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: All in favor

48 please signify by saying aye and this is to rescind the

49 current closure.

50

0050

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary.

4

5 MR. HILL: Aye.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

8 Okay. That motion passes.

9

10 Do you want to -- looks like you're up
11 for 23-13 as well.

12

13 MR. STONE: Yep. Thank you. Again for
14 the record Jarred Stone, Fish Biologist with the Office
15 of Subsistence Management. And the closure review for
16 FCR 23-13 begins on page 59 of your Council books or
17 under tab eight.

18

19 Again FCR 23-13 is a routine review of
20 Federal closures to salmon fishing in Trout Creek and
21 within 500 yards outside its mouth in the Alaska
22 Peninsula area. Again just for clarification this is a
23 closure that applies to Federally-qualified subsistence
24 users on subsistence salmon harvest.

25

26 Federal public waters comprise the
27 Trout Creek watershed which is within the -- and
28 adjacent to the exterior boundaries of Izembek and
29 Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuges. The marine
30 waters of Cold Bay were at one time considered Federal
31 public waters. The Secretaries of Interior and
32 Agriculture later determined that some marine waters
33 including Cold Bay were added to Federal subsistence
34 regulations erroneously and should be removed.

35

36 So mention of Cold Bay again persists
37 in this Federal subsistence regulations and should be
38 removed.

39

40 So with that said moving forward with
41 the rest of the analyses, we'll only make mention of
42 Trout Creek because it does have Federal jurisdiction.

43

44 Anadromous species present in the Trout
45 Creek drainage are chum, coho, pink and sockeye salmon
46 as well as dolly varden. None of these fish
47 populations are regularly monitored so there's very
48 little abundance information available. Aerial surveys
49 of Trout Creek have been conducted opportunistically

50

0051

1 since 1979. The maximum number of salmon observed
2 during these surveys was 1,000 sockeye, 1,736 coho,
3 2,300 pink and 1,200 chum salmon. No subsistence
4 harvest has occurred in the Trout Creek drainage
5 including within 500 yards of its mouth as this area is
6 closed to State and Federal subsistence harvest. Trout
7 Creek however is open to the harvest under State sport
8 regulations, but harvest is combined and reported with
9 all of the Alaska Peninsula area harvest and therefore
10 exact numbers are unavailable.

11

12 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
13 rescind the closure for reasons stated for the last
14 closure during FCR 21-13. This closure is similar to
15 the last closure where sport fishing harvest is allowed
16 however this same area remains closed for harvesting
17 salmon under Federal regulations. This of course is
18 out of compliance which currently does not give rural
19 preference mandated by ANILCA. And as I mentioned
20 earlier this -- earlier with the previous closure
21 review the Federal In-Season Manager has been delegated
22 authority to open or close Federal subsistence fishing
23 periods or areas provided under codified regulations
24 and to specify the methods and means, to specify permit
25 requirements and to set harvest and possession limits
26 for Federal subsistence fisheries.

27

28 The In-Season Manager can use this
29 authority to manage the fishery in the short term.
30 Again as I mentioned before it would be ideal for
31 someone to submit a proposal that would outline the
32 desired parameters for this fishery so that it can be
33 put into regulation.

34

35 If this closure is retained regulatory
36 language referring to the marine waters should be
37 removed because Cold Bay is not considered Federal
38 public waters and the word drainage should be included
39 after Trout Creek to clarify that this closure applies
40 to the entire Trout Creek drainage.

41

42 Thank you, Madame Chair and members of
43 the Council. That concludes my presentation and just
44 briefly I'll state that the Kodiak Aleutians Regional
45 Advisory Council chose to rescind this closure.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank

50

0052

1 you, Jarred. Any questions.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
6 Robbin, any tribes or ANCSA corporations.

7

8 MS. LaVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
9 Tribal consultations were held August 23rd and 25th for
10 the fish regulatory cycle and there were no comments on
11 this closure review.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
16 Agency comments.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: None to
21 report. Okay. And Advisory Group comments.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Again none
26 to report. Okay. No written public comments.

27

28 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 There were no written public comments for this closure
30 review.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
33 And is there any public testimony that anybody would
34 like to share.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Seeing none.
39 I'd entertain a motion on this one.

40

41 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

44

45 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll move to support the
46 OSM recommendation to rescind that -- again to be in
47 compliance. And I kind of jump in here because I used
48 to hunt this country. I didn't fish much, but I feel I
49 know the country a little bit. But yeah, I support the
50

0053

1 Kodiak in their actions on this.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

6 Richard.

7

8 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, I'll second
9 his -- to adopt 20 -- FCR 23-13.

10

11 Thanks.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Perfect.

14 Thank you. Okay. Any other discussion.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MR. WILSON: Question.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: The
21 question's been called. All in favor of supporting 23-
22 13.....

23

24 MR. WILSON: Rescinding.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Right.
27 Closure review and rescinding thereof according to
28 Kodiak Aleutians choice as well, please signify by
29 saying aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: What say ye,
34 Lary.

35

36 MR. HILL: Okay. I'll say aye, but
37 this -- I'm going to sign off. It's useless for me
38 to.....

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh.

41

42 MR. HILL:listen because I'm
43 getting less than half of what's being said. I'll sign
44 off now.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Lary,
49 thank you, thank you so much for participating thus

50

0054

1 far, we certainly appreciate it.

2

3 And I think we'll go ahead and take a
4 break because I knew -- I can feel it around the table.
5 So yeah, let's -- we'll give a five, 10 minute break
6 here.

7

8 Thanks.

9

10 (Off record)

11

12 (On record)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Let's get
15 started again. Okay. We're still waiting on our
16 friends from Manokotak to be able to join us. So in
17 the meantime I think we'll go ahead and continue on
18 through our agenda items and we'll backtrack then once
19 they're here.

20

21 With that we are on crossover proposals
22 and closures. The 2024 Fisheries Resource Monitoring
23 Program overview and that's Jarred and Pippa.

24

25 MR. STONE: All right. Good
26 morning, Madame Chair and Council members. Again for
27 the record my name is Jarred Stone. And I'm a
28 Fisheries Biologist with the Office of Subsistence
29 Management. Today I'm joined here with my colleague,
30 Pippa Kenner, who is a Cultural Anthropologist with OSM
31 and will be giving you an overview of the Fisheries
32 Resource Monitoring Program and then we'll begin to
33 finalize the 2024 priority information needs for the
34 southwest region. This is an action item for you today
35 and please note that the Kodiak Aleutians Council has
36 already met on the priority information needs for the
37 southwest region and they have finalized those priority
38 information needs and I can briefly go over those when
39 we get to that point, but Leigh has just passed out the
40 newest and updated version of the priority information
41 needs since that meeting. And there was one I believe
42 addition to the PINs.

43

44 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring
45 Program, at first I'll just quickly give a brief update
46 for the 2022 cycle. The 2022 Fisheries Resource
47 Monitoring Plan was finalized during the spring of
48 2022. The following five projects for the southwest
49 region were funded. That includes the Buskin River

50

0055

1 Sockeye Salmon Stock Assessment Monitoring. That's an
2 ADF&G project run by the Sport Fish Division. Chignik
3 River Subsistence Harvest Surveys and Escapement
4 Indexing. That is through the ADF&G, U.S. Fish and
5 Wildlife Service and the Chignik Intertribal Coalition.
6 Next is the False Pass and Nelson Lagoon Subsistence
7 Harvest Monitoring and Traditional Ecological Knowledge
8 Investigation. That is run by the Alaska Department of
9 Fish and Game. Next is the Subsistence Harvest and
10 Uses of Salmon and Other Wild Resources in Manokotak.
11 That is an ADF&G project as well. And last is the
12 Reliable Estimates of Subsistence Harvest and Uses in
13 Ouzinkie and Port Lions down in Kodiak. That's a State
14 project as well.

15

16 So the Office of Subsistence Management
17 will announce the 2024 notice of funding opportunity
18 for the Monitoring Program later this coming winter.
19 We'll be seeking proposals for projects that gather
20 information to manage and conserve subsistence fishery
21 resources on Federal public waters here in Alaska. The
22 Monitoring Program is also directed at supporting
23 meaningful involvement in fisheries management by
24 Alaska Native and rural organizations and promoting
25 collaboration among Federal, State, Alaska Native and
26 local organizations.

27

28 The first step in this process is for
29 the Regional Advisory Councils to identify the priority
30 information needs which again is an action item for
31 today. These information needs are research needs for
32 each region. These priority information needs provide
33 the framework for soliciting, evaluating and selecting
34 projects for funding through the Monitoring Program.
35 The development of priority information needs is an
36 important process for the Council. Your decisions
37 determine the types and subjects of project proposals
38 that are sought for your region. Research topics and
39 issues that fall outside of the scope of the funding
40 will not be considered and that includes habitat
41 protection, mitigation, restoration and enhancement,
42 hatchery propagation, restoration enhancement and
43 supplementation and contaminant assessments, evaluation
44 and monitoring of contaminants. These activities are
45 most appropriately addressed by the responsible land
46 management or regulatory agency. In addition projects
47 for which the primary objective is education or
48 outreach such as science camps, technician training or
49 intern programs are not eligible for funding under the
50

0056

1 Monitoring Program. However they would be eligible for
2 funding under our Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
3 Program which I'll discuss later today.

4

5 Volunteers composed of members of this
6 Council and Kodiak Aleutians Council met back on March
7 30th and September 14th to discuss drafting priority
8 information needs for the southwest region. Volunteers
9 in attendance included members of this Council, Council
10 Chair Nanci Morris Lyon, as well as Council member, Dan
11 Dunaway and members of the Kodiak Aleutians Council,
12 Della Trumble, Rebecca Skinner, Patrick Holmes. OSM
13 Staff who attended included myself, Justin Koller, my
14 colleague, Pippa Kenner and Jason Roberts. And so
15 today we'll discuss the results of those meetings and
16 then ask the Council to finalize and adopt the priority
17 information needs for the 2024 in the Bristol Bay
18 region.

19

20 So similar to last time the volunteers
21 discussed priority information needs in three
22 categories. These are the southwest region-wide, those
23 specific to the Bristol Bay region and those specific
24 to the Kodiak Aleutians region. The results of today's
25 discussions will be combined with the results of the
26 Kodiak Aleutians Council's finalized list of priority
27 information needs. And so my idea for us today is to
28 work through these one by one and you can make any
29 final edits as you see fit or make any additions or
30 remove priority information needs as you see fit. I'd
31 recommend that after we have reviewed all of the
32 priority information needs we ask the Council to put
33 forward a motion to approve the list at which point
34 this list will be finalized and that will be the list
35 that will be published in our notice of funding
36 opportunity for proposals sometime this winter.

37

38 That concludes my presentation. I can
39 answer any questions before we work through these one
40 by one if you like.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
43 you, I'll check for questions. But just as a reminder
44 for everybody. So these priority information needs Dan
45 and I worked on with Jarred throughout the summer and
46 do -- if it -- the reminder I always needed when I was
47 first on the Board was to remember that these are only
48 requests and it doesn't mean that even if we did
49 prioritize them one through 10 that number 1 would get
50

0057

1 funded and somebody would be willing to do the study
2 for us. This is just our ability to put out there what
3 we would like to have studied and what the funds we
4 would like to see them used for and then somebody has
5 to move forward with a proposal to actually make that
6 study happen. So that's just a reminder. And this is
7 the list we came up with and if there are questions
8 then we can go ahead and ask them and Jarred's going to
9 go through these one by one.

10

11 Does somebody have questions about
12 this?

13

14 MR. WILSON: Page number.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: They're
17 going to start on page -- what page am I on, 79. Which
18 number would you or what page would you like us to
19 start on, Jarred, for -- which one are you going to
20 start with.

21

22 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
23 That was a handout that we had submitted and it
24 was.....

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

27

28 MR. STONE: Yeah, this is the most
29 recent version with the additions from the Kodiak
30 Aleutians.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Blue title
33 on top?

34

35 MR. STONE: Yep, that's the one. Yeah.
36 So I think what we'll do, I'll just read through these
37 first starting with the Bristol Bay region. And if you
38 like I can also quickly just go through the Kodiak
39 Aleutians, those priority information needs have been
40 acted on and they're finalized. It would be merely for
41 your knowledge. But let's start with.....

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh.

44

45 MR. STONE: Go ahead.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, let me
48 just also remind the Council. So we -- the reason that
49 Kodiak Aleutians are included in this is our funding is
50

0058

1 combined. So because of that that's why their requests
2 for information needs are also on our sheet of
3 requests.

4

5 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
6 That's exactly right and perfect clarification. And
7 so, yeah, that's why you'll see today that there's both
8 Bristol Bay and I've got those in parenthesis for
9 certain priority information needs and then Kodiak
10 Aleutians. And then there are some that are actually
11 shared. We have some priority information needs that
12 were found to be similar between both regions and so we
13 combined those to be effective in both regions. And
14 you'll see those highlighted as both Kodiak Aleutians
15 and Bristol Bay. And actually on the very last
16 priority information need there's a multi region PIN
17 and that actually will be -- it's considered its own
18 region in and of itself. And so that will be
19 considered for the entire State.

20

21

22 So starting with the very first one and
23 again this list is not prioritized in any order. And
24 so there's no weight given to any priority information
25 need that you see here. So beginning with the first
26 one for Bristol Bay, reliable estimates of chinook
27 salmon escapement and evaluation of quality of
28 escapement in the Alagnak River, Big Creek, Meshik
29 River, Naknek River and Togiak River including egg
30 deposition, sex and size composition of spawners and
31 spawning habitat quality and utilization for
32 determining the reproductive potential of spawning
33 stocks.

34

35 Before I move on I would just ask the
36 Council if there's any changes, additions, removals
37 that you see fit for this?

38

39 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

42

43 MR. WILSON: I'm just looking for some
44 language here that would -- that would help us to
45 indicate what the harvest levels of these species,
46 especially like -- I'm just looking at the Old Ranch
47 River there and the Big Creek and Naknek River which
48 I'm familiar with. So I'm just wondering if that's in
49 this language, if it -- if those studies also include
50

0059

1 that. If not, I would like to add it.

2

3

Thanks.

4

5

MR. STONE: Madame Chair.

6

7

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes.

8

Jarred.

9

10

MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

11

Through the Chair. That's a great addition and our

12

program funds two different styles of projects. One is

13

what we call stock, status and trend projects, those

14

are typically, you know, weirs, sonars, fish wheels,

15

things of that nature. And then we also fund projects

16

that include harvest monitoring and traditional

17

ecological knowledge. And I think that that addition

18

to that priority information need would be a great

19

addition. I think it would also add -- it would

20

encourage the investigators to not only look at stock,

21

status, trend types of metrics for assessing fisheries,

22

but also include harvest monitoring and to have a

23

better understanding for harvest in these areas. I

24

think what we could do is.....

25

26

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Put

27

something in there about user group I would say, you

28

know, harvest by user group.

29

30

MR. STONE: Yeah. Further down it says

31

including egg deposition, sex and size composition of

32

spawners and spawning habitat quantity and utilization.

33

Maybe include after that, and include harvest

34

monitoring of these important stocks or something along

35

this (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....

36

37

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, by

38

user groups or something. So that -- yeah, because

39

that's part of the issue is who is it, is it Sport

40

Fish, is it Comm Fish, is it -- yeah.

41

42

MR. WILSON: Predator, the whole nine

43

yards.

44

45

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: All of it,

46

yeah.

47

48

MR. STONE: Okay. I think I've got

49

that.

50

0060

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any other
2 questions or comments.

3
4 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
7 Richard.

8
9 MR. WILSON: I just think, you know,
10 it's a great addition because in order to get an
11 overall view of what's really happening with the stock
12 you have to include, you know, that type of usage also.
13 So.....

14
15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Very good
16 point. Anyone else.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Go
21 ahead, Jarred.

22
23 MR. STONE: So I'm just looking down
24 this list now and I'm being reminded so one, two,
25 three, four, five, six, the seventh one down, the
26 Kodiak Aleutians/Bristol Bay, that sort of hints at
27 maybe what Council member Wilson is addressing.
28 Evaluate effects on subsistence users in southwest
29 Alaska region resulting from changes in fish
30 populations. No, the more I'm looking at this no, no,
31 it's not. It's not. I think -- my apologies. I think
32 what Council member Wilson was addressing was harvest
33 monitoring and under that priority information need it
34 doesn't really get it.

35
36 With that said I can move to the next
37 one if you like.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, please.

40
41 MR. STONE: Okay. That is the third
42 one down and that is the annual estimates of sockeye
43 salmon escapement in the Lake Clark watershed.

44
45 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
48 Dan.

49
50

0061

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I'm supportive of
2 this idea too. In fact I was hoping later on to hear a
3 discussion. I think I saw surprising low numbers
4 counted in Lake Clark considering this tidal wave of
5 fish we had in the rest of the Bay. So I think it's
6 important to continue it if at all possible.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I agree with
11 you. I think this is one of the longest running
12 monitoring programs we've had and it would be just
13 devastating to have it knocked out of commission.

14

15 MR. STONE: Okay. We can move to the
16 next, that is the fourth one down on your list and that
17 is the evaluation of chinook and sockeye salmon
18 populations in the Chignik River area to understand the
19 decline in salmon stocks and associated subsistence
20 harvest opportunities such as reliable estimates of
21 escapement, quality of escapement and environmental
22 impacts.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
25 Questions or comments, anybody.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
30 Dan.

31

32 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I think we've
33 shared deep concern with our neighbors for the Chignik
34 area, some of that just stunning failures. I still
35 from my time living in Sand Point and the Chignik was
36 the top fishery in the State, that you wanted to have a
37 permit and go fishing there and then to see it totally
38 bottom out is just incomprehensible. So and we've had
39 members on our Council, we don't right now, I would
40 hope we can get some, we want to support them and I
41 think it's nice to be able to share. We're not
42 competing with Kodiak on this one, we're sharing a
43 concern.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
48 Jarred, go ahead.

49

50

1 MR. STONE: All right. Moving right
2 down the list. So the one, two, three, four, five,
3 sixth one down is a shared priority information need
4 and that looks at using scale analyses of fresh and
5 saltwater growth patterns over multiple years and to
6 examine how recent changes in ocean affect growth and
7 survival of chinook and sockeye salmon within the range
8 and habitats of the Kodiak Aleutian drainages of
9 particular concern including the following drainages.
10 The Buskin, Karluk, Ayakulik and the McLees drainages
11 and/or for the Bristol Bay/Alaska Peninsula drainages
12 including Chignik, Nushagak, Big Creek, Alagnak, Meshik
13 and Togiak drainages. And the Chignik drainage is of
14 particular concern.

15
16 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

19
20 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I take special
21 interest in this one. I've had extensive discussions
22 with Pat Holmes on the Kodiak RAC and I think a little
23 bit it was inspired by his ideas that Fish and Game has
24 these catalogs of old scales sitting there begging for
25 use if we could figure out how to use them properly.
26 And they're -- I understand that Sport Fish Division is
27 exploring this with some stocks over in their area and
28 if it works maybe we could, you know, expand use of
29 this to Bristol Bay to get at some of these nagging
30 problems about especially kings. And I've heard Pat
31 tell me many, many times, but still can't repeat it as
32 well as he can just say it, but to me it has some
33 promise and is worth supporting and exploring. In fact
34 I still haven't done it, but I wanted to run over and
35 find out if Fish and Game has kept their catalog of
36 scales here and they had file cabinets full of scales
37 and I hope they haven't thrown them out. Anyway so I'm
38 hoping -- it seems like an avenue worth pursuing and so
39 I'm really eager to see this move ahead at -- either
40 glacier speed or light speed, whatever funding can
41 happen.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Jarred.

46
47 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 Just quickly, they haven't thrown those scales out. I
49 understand that they have an archive of all those
50

0063

1 scales and their idea is to press them this winter and
2 begin looking at them through the -- through a
3 microscope and start assessing for age. And so it's
4 underway, it's happening and I agree, I think for the
5 Bristol Bay region if something like that were to
6 happen I think it would be beneficial. So.....

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

9

10 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Yeah, I
11 think, you know, anytime you can get, you know, just
12 information from all different resources is where it --
13 you know, the best bang for our buck. You know, it's
14 very important I think in today's world to try and
15 coordinate with all these different methods and so that
16 we can get the information we need and so we know where
17 our -- you know, it's easier to determine where our
18 problem lies it seems like. So I'll be for it.

19

20 Thanks.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Very well
23 said. I totally agree. And I've been reading some
24 more on some of the new things that they're finding
25 that they are able to do with diets as well with these
26 scale samples and it's just unbelievable. I have a
27 history in science and biology and I'm just wowed at
28 what they're starting to come up with and it's very
29 encouraging and I'd love to see us continue down this
30 path as well.

31

32 Okay. Go ahead, Jarred.

33

34 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 The next one is at the bottom of -- well, your list
36 looks a little different than mine so one, two, three,
37 four, five, six, the seventh one down. Right. So that
38 looks at the evaluating the effects on subsistence
39 users in the southwest Alaska region resulting from
40 changes in fish populations including biological
41 considerations of run timing, run quality, sex ratios
42 and egg age, composition and incorporating local
43 observations and knowledge. Research should include a
44 multi disciplinary approach and include elements of
45 traditional ecological knowledge as well as stock
46 status and trends.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
49 Questions or comments.

50

0064

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Go
4 ahead.

5

6 MR. STONE: Okay. Thank you, Madame
7 Chair. The last one for us to consider today is that
8 multi region PIN. And I believe this was submitted by
9 Council member Rebecca Skinner from the Kodiak
10 Aleutians region. And that was to look at gaining a
11 better understanding of ecosystem factors negatively
12 impacting subsistence salmon runs and harvest practices
13 in Alaska including ocean conditions, freshwater
14 conditions and changing climate conditions.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
17 Richard.

18

19 MR. WILSON: I was just wondering if
20 this ecosystem factors, is this -- are we -- were they
21 kind of looking at maybe the trawlers or something out
22 there in this ecosystem path to help determine these
23 things or is that where some of this is coming from?

24

25 Thanks.

26

27 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. To
28 answer that question no, I think what they're looking
29 at is different metrics, you know, of sea surface
30 temperatures, acidity, algal blooms, different kind of
31 bottom up drivers that maybe impact the productivity of
32 these salmon runs. We -- there's a line that has to be
33 drawn sort of with what we can fund and unfortunately
34 assessing trawler bycatch is out of the scope of the
35 type of work that we can do for funding those types of
36 projects.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
39 Richard.

40

41 MR. WILSON: You said it, I didn't.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MR. WILSON: I was just asking for the
46 knowledge of the bottom.....

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah.

49

50

0065

1 MR. WILSON:you know, that's part
2 of the ecosystem. And it's the important part in our
3 recovery and sustainability of all of our fisheries.
4 So the ecosystem of the bottom is very important.

5
6 Thanks.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Jarred.

9
10 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. Yeah, I
11 100 percent agree with you, Council member, Mr. Wilson.
12 And, you know a lot of the Department of Commerce
13 agencies, NOAA, you know, team up with ADF&G to conduct
14 a lot of the research out on the big blue. And so
15 under the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program I wish
16 I could wave my magical wand and makes those types of
17 projects happen, but that's unfortunately not what
18 we're -- what we can -- the types of projects that we
19 can fund.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you
22 for that. Go ahead, Richard.

23
24 MR. WILSON: I don't know, I would hate
25 to throw my hat on that one in someways. You know, the
26 people that do utilize the resource from scraping the
27 bottom have, you know, the -- they have the information
28 that they could probably give, you know, from what's
29 sitting on the bottom. And it's a resource that you
30 might be able to use.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Could be
33 dangerous water, but you're very right.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: Jarred, I'm trying to
42 recollect what we talked about in some of those other
43 sessions that -- do I remember right that there's --
44 some of this kind of stuff is kind of ongoing or
45 proposed and these like the blob and some of these
46 other really big gulf wide concerns are being looked at
47 and if we can contribute to that it might bring back
48 information to -- pertinent to subsistence is kind of
49 whatwe're lookingat withthisone; isthat correct,or.....
50

0066

1 MR. STONE: Thank you. Through the
2 Chair. Yes. Yeah, I believe you're correct. And one
3 of the criteria for investigators to be eligible for
4 funding is that there's a -- there has to be a Federal
5 nexus. And so it's somewhat challenging for an
6 investigator to, you know, look at those large scale
7 ecosystem types of projects and then they have to bring
8 it back into perspective of how does this -- how is
9 this applied to Federal subsistence management and then
10 where does that management take place, it has to be on
11 Federal public waters. And so a little bit of the
12 impetus is put on the investigator to -- you know, to
13 make that connection. And it's a big connection to
14 make, but it's a priority information need that the
15 Kodiak Aleutians had put forward hoping that an
16 investigator would consider this priority information
17 need and look at the ecosystem drivers that maybe are
18 affecting the productivity of salmon.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
21 Dan.

22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay. Well, I'm
24 inclined to support it some partly because we're kind
25 of floundering around in some of these and we'll get on
26 it more maybe with bycatch, but floundering around at
27 what is -- what levers might be there or what can we
28 do. And if we're closing all the fisheries, but it's
29 something else that's really the issue and especially
30 gulf-wide, it's seen some major failures of various
31 species including cod and stuff, but we kind of got to
32 figure some of that out because it would be a shame to
33 be spending all our time or effort on managing
34 something that is utterly ineffective, you know,
35 putting speed limits on our streets here to solve a
36 problem in Anchorage kind of thing. And so, you know,
37 yeah, if they can make the nexus, but subsistence-wise
38 from the southeast to Unalaska with some of these
39 salmon failures, just stunning.

40
41 So I'm inclined to support it. It
42 hopefully doesn't drain money from some of the other
43 ones, we'll have to prioritize them eventually.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MR. ANDERSON: Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
50

0067

1 Norm.

2

3

4 MR. ANDERSON: Yes. Thank you for your
5 information. What Richard was talking, I'm going to
6 dovetail into that on the ecology of the nearshore and
7 offshore Federal waters. In another life I led the
8 charge against offshore oil drilling in the Bristol Bay
9 region, sale 92, and I met with Department of the
10 Interior folks, I met with Department of Defense and of
11 all people the Deadliest Catch guys met with many of
12 them and they related how tender the bottom is out
13 there. And there's -- we're seeing that now with
14 closure of king crab fisheries and things. But I don't
15 want to get into too big of a discussion on this, but
16 I've traveled that area in the lower peninsula
17 extensively and I've seen what area M fishermen do off
18 of Port Heiden. And, I mean, it impacts the
19 subsistence users there significantly. So that's just
20 kind of a highlight with what's going on.

20

21

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50

Excuse me, I have a -- something going
on in my throat so I'll just limit it to that.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
Norm. Jarred.

MR. STONE: All right. Thank you,
Madame Chair. So that -- we've gone through all of the
Bristol Bay and some of the shared PINs and also the
multi region PIN and I've made note of the addition
that we wanted to make on the first one. Council
member Mr. Wilson's addition of the harvest monitoring
by user groups. Aside from that I didn't hear any
other additions that were made for the priority
information needs for the Bristol Bay region. If you
would like I can give you a summary of the Kodiak
Aleutians' PINs. Up to you. I will note that they
only added one priority information need and that was
for the enumeration of salmon smolt out migration in
the Buskin River system.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. What
are the wishes of the Council. Did you want to hear
them or can you just read them?

0068

1 MR. WILSON: Are there -- is it on
2 here?

3
4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I think
5 we're good.

6
7 MR. STONE: Awesome. So with that I
8 would ask the Council then to put forward a motion to
9 accept this list as finalized list and go from there.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Again
14 what are the wishes of the Council.

15
16 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

19
20 MR. WILSON: I so move.

21
22 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. We
25 have a motion and a second. Any further discussion on
26 this list of PINs that we've gone over and discussed
27 and the change that we made.

28
29 MR. ANDERSON: Madame Chair.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norm.

32
33 MR. ANDERSON: I notice that the
34 majority of these are State waters and we being a
35 Federal subsistence entity this stuff is discussed on
36 the Statewide or State Regional Advisory Councils as
37 well?

38
39 MS. KENNER: Thanks for the question.
40 For the record this is Pippa Kenner with OSM. Hi,
41 Norm.

42
43 MR. ANDERSON: Hi.

44
45 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair. Was
46 your question about the Fish and Game Advisory
47 Committees, whether they discussed the.....

48
49 MR. ANDERSON: Yes.

50

0069

1 MS. KENNER:priority information
2 needs? Well, they can discuss them and they probably
3 discussed these issues, however the priority
4 information needs for our Fisheries Resource Monitoring
5 Grant Program, those PIN -- those priority come from
6 this Council. It's this Council's duty and
7 responsibility to provide the program with the priority
8 information needs so people know what kind of
9 applications to submit to the program.

10

11 MR. ANDERSON: Right. Thank you,
12 Pippa.

13

14 MS. KENNER: You're welcome.

15

16 MR. ANDERSON: I don't want to overstep
17 my contributions here so going back over my letter
18 accepting this position it -- we have a fiduciary
19 responsibility to the tribes and Federal subsistence
20 users. And so dealing with State issues I think is
21 outside of what I would consider my bailiwick here. So
22 I just have that for my own thoughts and want to get
23 clarity on that.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MS. KENNER: Thanks again. Through the
28 Chair. Norm, this is Pippa Kenner with OSM. So I
29 think Jarred did a pretty good job of talking about
30 what we call this Federal nexus, the research has to
31 touch on Federal subsistence fisheries and we're
32 talking about Federal fisheries that are under the
33 Federal Subsistence Board's jurisdiction which
34 generally does not marine -- does not include marine
35 waters. However a lot of what happens in a fishery
36 doesn't involve -- doesn't happen in Federal public
37 waters, but it affects fish running through them and
38 therefore a Federal nexus can be made for a project
39 that might not happen in Federal managed waters,
40 Federal managed freshwaters. So we can fund research
41 that occurs on State managed waters, but we have to
42 show that it effects those Federal fisheries.....

43

44 MR. ANDERSON: I understand.

45

46 MS. KENNER:on Federal waters.
47 Okay. Thanks.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any

50

0070

1 other comments, questions, discussion.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I'll
6 call for the question then. All those in favor of
7 accepting this priority information needs list as
8 changed on the first item please signify by saying aye.

9

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That'll
13 pass. And thank you very much, Jarred.

14

15 Okay. Then the call for Partners for
16 Fisheries Monitoring, is that what you want to do next?

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I'll
21 turn it over to you again, Jarred.

22

23 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair and
24 members of the Council. Again my name is Jarred Stone,
25 I'm a Fish Biologist with the Office of Subsistence
26 Management. So today I will give a brief update on our
27 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. As earlier
28 you had heard from Cody Larson, Cody Larson is one of
29 our long standing Partners' Biologist and with Bristol
30 Bay Native Association. I think he's got a
31 presentation that he'll be giving some updates on
32 during the agency reports.

33

34 So you can find this update on page 83
35 in your books. And so the Office of Subsistence
36 Management has posted a notice of funding opportunity
37 for the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program which
38 seeks proposals through a competitive grant for Alaska
39 Native and rural nonprofit organizations. The intent
40 of the program is to strengthen Alaska Native and rural
41 involvement in Federal subsistence management by
42 providing salary funds to organizations so that they
43 can hire a professional biologist, social scientist or
44 an educator. The grant also provides funds for science
45 and culture camps and paid student internships. More
46 information on this funding opportunity can be found on
47 our website or by visiting www.grants.gov where you can
48 search for the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
49 Program and you can also contact Karen Hyer directly

50

0071

1 via email or phone if you have any additional
2 questions. And Karen's contact is found at the bottom
3 of page 83.

4

5 And that concludes my presentation on
6 the Partners Program. Do you have any questions?

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
9 Questions, members.

10

11 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

14

15 MR. WILSON: I guess I'm just curious
16 where a lot of this funding comes from that -- and the
17 partnerships in our past. I just might be enlightened
18 just a little bit.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MR. STONE: Through the Chair. All the
23 funding -- so the Partners Program has been going on I
24 want to say close to 20 years and all that funding does
25 primarily come through the Department of Interior and
26 it's a different pot of money than the Fisheries
27 Resource Monitoring Program. Those priority
28 information needs that we worked through that list,
29 that's a different pot of money for fisheries research
30 in Alaska. The Partners Program really is about
31 providing salary money for rural organizations and
32 tribal organizations to hire that biologist or hire
33 that social scientist or educator. And we've seen it
34 work really well, we're building up capacity in those
35 organizations. And, you know, oftentimes those
36 organizations as soon as they hire that biologist or
37 social scientist they're able to now apply for the FRMP
38 monies, that different pot of money that I was talking
39 about to, you know, begin programs that address
40 research questions. And so it's been a pretty
41 successful endeavor and here locally on the local level
42 Bristol Bay Native Association has done a great job and
43 we've sure enjoyed partnering with them and seeing all
44 their successes.

45

46 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

49

50

0072

1 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair. Thank
2 you, that was very helpful. Good reminder.

3
4 Thanks.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Uh-huh.

7
8 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

11
12 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I just got more of
13 a plug to encourage if there's other tribal village
14 agencies listening here, it seems like in the last few
15 years in the Bristol Bay area there's been a little
16 less participation. And when this first started I was
17 a Biologist with Fish and Game and we had a number of
18 projects, I think Pippa and I were working pretty close
19 together a lot back then and it was pretty exciting to
20 bring in young folks and local folks in these weir
21 projects and some subsistence surveys and stuff. And I
22 sure like to see it keep going because especially now I
23 hear that all these agencies are struggling to hire
24 people that have a background and training. And this
25 could be a way to work in the young folks to like you
26 say, capacity building and spreading knowledge and so
27 on. So please, folks, I know I've talked to Courtenay
28 off and on on this and I think at one point she was
29 pretty vigorous in getting some projects. So don't
30 stop, don't give up. And so these priority -- and this
31 is partly answering these priority needs, look at those
32 and there are a lot of people out there to help develop
33 a project that's likely to meet qualifications. So I
34 hope to see more.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
39 Dan. Anything else.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Let's
44 see. You want to go over identifying issues and see
45 what you can collect, Leigh.

46
47 MS. HONIG: That sounds wonderful.
48 Thank you, Madame Chair. For the record Leigh Honig,
49 Council Coordinator. So it's time for the Council to
50

0073

1 decide what issues to include in its annual report.
2 For your information guidelines for annual reports can
3 be found on page 84 of your meeting books and this will
4 be an action item.

5
6 ANILCA established the annual report as
7 a way to inform the Federal Subsistence Board of
8 regional subsistence uses and needs and to provide
9 recommendations for regional fish and wildlife
10 management strategies, policies, standards, guidelines
11 and proposed regulations. Section 805(a)(3)(d) of
12 ANILCA stipulates that your annual report should
13 contain one, an identification of current and
14 anticipated subsistence uses of fish and wildlife
15 populations within the region; two, an evaluation of
16 current and anticipated subsistence needs for fish and
17 wildlife populations within the region; three, a
18 recommended strategy for the management of fish and
19 wildlife populations within the region to accommodate
20 such subsistence uses and needs; and finally four,
21 recommendations concerning policies, standards,
22 guidelines and regulations to implement the strategy.
23 I would like to emphasize that your annual report
24 ensures the Board has the most up to date awareness of
25 issues, concerns and current events that impact your
26 subsistence way of life. With your report and
27 recommendations the Board can make informed decisions
28 on regulatory and policy actions.

29
30 So this is the time for the Council
31 members to share items or information that you would
32 like to see raised to the Board's attention in your
33 fiscal year 2022 annual report and have a discussion on
34 what you would like OSM to include under the topics.
35 I'll make note of the items at this time and after the
36 meeting is over I will draft the topics of your annual
37 report based on the information provided in your
38 discussion, then the Council will be able to review the
39 draft report at the winter, 2023 meeting and provide
40 any additional edits or any other information.

41
42 If you cannot think of any topics to
43 include in the report right now and remember them later
44 through the duration of this meeting, you can share
45 them at a later time with permission of your Chair.

46
47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. Thank
50

0074

1 you, Leigh. So we had the one that I put on there
2 earlier about requesting that appointees to the
3 Council, the bigger Council, would be informed of
4 ANILCA's rights over the agency rights. Anybody else
5 have anything else.

6
7 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

10
11 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, just -- I
12 guess I'm -- it may come a little later after we hear
13 some of the reports, you know, there's probably
14 questions going to pop up or some questions may be
15 answered, you know. So at this point I think myself
16 I'd like to hold until -- if we can open up that page
17 again towards the end would be great.

18
19 Thanks.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Absolutely.
22 I find that very helpful as well because things
23 formulate in our minds as we go along and sometimes
24 that's easier.

25
26 Dan, did you have anything at the top
27 of your head.

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: You took the words out of
30 my mouth, you know.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Norm.

33
34 MR. ANDERSON: No, Madame Chair.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Then
37 I would just propose that, you know, and typically I
38 found that if we revisit this question again before we
39 end our meeting it tends to be helpful as well because
40 then -- by then we've got some ideas of things that
41 we'd like to bring forward.

42
43 So -- okay. We'll move on from that
44 one. Keep it in mind as we move along.

45
46 Fall Council application and
47 nomination.

48
49 MS. HONIG: Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

0075

1 So I would like to thank all Council members for your
2 volunteer service on the Council and on behalf of the
3 Federally-qualified subsistence users in your region.
4 Your knowledge and experience is of great value to the
5 Federal Subsistence Management Program and to the
6 Board. And the program constantly continues to work on
7 having robust Councils with full membership. And at
8 the request of the Board we are going to engage the
9 help of the Native Liaisons of Federal agencies in
10 helping us to solicit more applications during this
11 appointment cycle. And we are also requesting you
12 Council members to help because you are our connection
13 to the communities and the region that you represent.

14
15 The 2023 Council application period
16 opened on September 13th and we are encouraging you to
17 help us to spread the word about it in your region and
18 recruit new applicants. You know the people in your
19 region and you can also share the firsthand experience
20 of what it means to serve on the Council, what is
21 involved and how much time it takes. You may also
22 nominate the candidates if someone is interested in
23 applying, but is having a hard time filling out an
24 application. These application packets are available
25 on our website at www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions. I
26 also have a number of application packets here at the
27 meeting that I'll give to each Council member to take
28 back to their communities and hand them out to
29 interested people or organizations and tribes.
30 Additionally we will be mailing out about a thousand
31 copies of the application packets to various addressees
32 across the State. And if someone needs a copy to be
33 faxed to them we can do that as well. We're hoping to
34 have a good number of qualifying applicants applying
35 this year so we are able to fill all vacant seats and
36 have alternates available for the situations when
37 Council members resign, move out of the region or pass
38 away.

39
40 I would really appreciate your help
41 with recruitment this year and the application period
42 is open until February 21st of 2023. I also encourage
43 all of the incumbents on the Council to reapply and to
44 do it before you depart from this meeting and I will
45 hand out those incumbent applications. All incumbents
46 whose seats expire on December 2nd of 2023 will need to
47 reapply during this cycle and I will get those
48 applications to you.

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1 All right. Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

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4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. Thank
5 you. Yeah, hopefully we can recruit some more of these
6 empty seats. I don't -- I don't know. Actually I
7 guess I turn to you, Troy, just because I would really
8 like to see some representation from down south and you
9 run the Aniakchak SRC. Do you have any suggestions for
10 us on how we might involve somebody from those regions
11 to sit here?

11

12

13 MR. HAMON: Madame Chair, members of
14 the Council, Troy Hamon with the National Park Service
15 in King Salmon. So I don't have any immediate
16 brilliant ideas, but it has been a topic of
17 conversation and we brought it up with the SRC. You'll
18 hear more about the details of the SRC appointments
19 from Dillon Patterson because he's the one that's been
20 helping us to organize a path forward. But like this
21 Council the SRC is somewhat short on filled seats or at
22 least we have more empty chairs than we'd like. And so
23 we did bring it up, but I don't know if we have at this
24 point found anybody who's ready to throw their name in
25 the hat, but we hope to generate a little bit more
26 activity. It was really nice in the past when we had a
27 couple members from down there and that's been a few
28 years now. But I don't have -- I don't recall anybody
29 that was gung ho enough that I'd feel comfortable
30 giving you their name at the moment, but we can work on
31 that.

31

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33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
34 you. I really miss their presence at this table in
35 this area.

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Richard.

MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
Yeah, I -- Leigh, I'd like to know is there -- I know
there's applicants, I know at least one that that
application is in and is there several that's pending
right now that we have or I'm kind of curious, that
would be the first question?

Thanks.

MS. HONIG: Through the Chair. You
know, I am not up to date on how many applications have
been received as of now. I'm not sure if anybody else

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1 from OSM knows that, but I can look into that and let
2 you know on our break here.

3

4

5 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Through the
6 Chair, yeah. It's rather difficult in a way, you know,
7 we get out there and we -- you know, we talk to people
8 about what we do, you know, and what it involves. But
9 it seems like it's got to come from a different in my
10 view it would be helpful if it came from like an OSM
11 letter to say a monthly meeting at the tribal entity or
12 at the Borough entity or some of the monthly meetings
13 that everybody in these communities seem to have. And
14 we as individuals get out there and we try to throw the
15 word out, you know, hey, why don't you join us. Well,
16 what's that all about because we see very few in our
17 audiences, you know, what -- you know, what this is all
18 about, and you can only explain so much. And it seems
19 like it would be helpful if OSM was to, you know, even
20 a draft letter that our Chairperson and Council could
21 read on a monthly basis or something to help our
22 community members know what this is all about.

22

23

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Katya.

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As for your question regarding the
pending applications, there's three pending
applications right now for Bristol Bay region which of
course is not enough to fill all of your vacant seats.
We are hoping to hear back from the Secretary of the
Interior on the appointments in December so then we'll
know, you know, what happened with the three pending
applications. The packet is with the DOI and the
Secretary's office right now, but now we're looking for

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1 new applications for the new application cycle 2022
2 basically application cycle because as we move forward
3 we need to have more applications and the more
4 applications we have the better. So we are looking for
5 any kind of ideas from the Council or anyone in the
6 audience or anyone on the phone on how we can expand
7 our outreach.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

14

15 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair. Thank
16 you. Yeah, I know in the past here on this Council
17 we've asked why does it take so long to get seated. It
18 just takes, you know, from what is it, like
19 February.....

20

21 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah.

22

23 MR. WILSON:on through December,
24 almost a full year to be seated. And it.....

25

26 MS. WESSELS Fifteen months to be
27 exact.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MR. WHITE: I know you're.....

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: You forget
34 you applied.

35

36 MR. WILSON: Yeah.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. And
39 that's a - and I guess I would even ask my Council
40 members as well, you know, to me too the other big
41 holes we have on the Council are Togiak since we lost
42 Pete and upriver as well, you know, it would be great
43 to have somebody from Ekwok, Newstoy, Koliganek, one of
44 those villages up therethat we've had in the past. I --
45 and I'm notsure how to crack that nut when we don't --
46 when it -- you know, it's easier for us because our
47 immediate neighbors are there for us to talk to about
48 it, but to get into the villages to get inclusion there
49 is difficult.

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1 Go ahead.

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10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, and
11 maybe keeping it in front of them, that's.....

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Go ahead.

MR. WILSON: I would just add again, you know, if we can just, you know, send a letter in to, you know, the tribal councils or any of the local entities that hold their monthly meetings and it would be a way to at least enlighten people that might not otherwise know.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, and maybe keeping it in front of them, that's.....

MR. WILSON: Yeah.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. Maybe we could develop something like that then, Katya, and give it a go.

MS. WESSELS: Yes, we definitely can do that.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you. Thank you.

MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, you touched on the part. I know we missed the Chignik, Port Heiden, crew down there. There's a time we had several people on, Boris and Allen -- Alvin. But same thing over Togiak way. Manokotak, we got -- I've was going to speak up, we've got some Manokotak folks here. I know I think Cody and Gayla in the past have said that they try to carry this word through the BBNA. But yeah, for some reason -- well, partly the -- some of these villages people are getting spread really thin, but yeah, it would really be nice if we're talking about moose in Togiak that we have somebody from Togiak speaking up, somebody from Manokotak and they're right in the middle of the Refuge too and things affect them maybe more than some of us Dillingham residents. So I do try. I guess we've got to keep on trying then.

Thanks.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

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1 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, one more
2 time. Just travel, it's -- you know, I know Billy
3 Trefon up there in Nondalton and even Lary have
4 indicated this before is, man, I got to run through
5 Anchorage and, you know, it takes an extra day, you
6 know, to get in, you know, sometimes two days prior to
7 the meeting before you get here. And it's -- and it's --
8 you know, takes quite a bit out of one's schedule.
9 You know, so if we could kind of maybe work on that
10 part of it, some more travel accommodations that would
11 shorten up that you might get more people coming in.

12
13 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, we definitely can
14 work on that, you know, things like maybe charter to
15 pick up Council members that are in the communities
16 that don't have direct scheduled flights to come to
17 Dillingham. That is not a problem really, you know, it
18 just -- whoever applies on the Council, they need to be
19 committed to come to two meetings a year. There's just
20 two meetings a year for two days and that's one of the
21 first things that any applicant is asked, they ask are
22 you willing to come to two in person meetings during
23 the year. And we try to accommodate your schedules,
24 you guys deciding on the dates when you're going to
25 have your meetings, it's not like we are really -- we
26 provide you a period of time within which you can have
27 a meeting, but we try not to dictate the days. So we
28 try to be as accommodating as possible because of
29 course we want everyone to be at these meetings.

30
31 But we can work on making more
32 convenient travel arrangements for sure.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Good
35 Big suggestion?

36
37 MR. WILSON: I know it's a big issue.
38 So.....

39
40 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, if you go from
41 Dillingham, two days to get.....

42
43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. Yeah,
44 and there's no need for that. That's.....

45
46 MR. DUNAWAY:to.....

47
48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:nice
49 that we can.....
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1 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:
4accommodate that then.

5

6 MR. ANDERSON: With -- Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norm.

9

10 MR. ANDERSON: With that -- your
11 thoughts in mind travel is -- it's difficult. Right
12 now it's blowing snow in Port Heiden. I don't know
13 what's happening up around Iliamna Lake area, but the
14 only reason I'm monitoring is I'm trying to get down
15 there myself. I've been on upwards of 20 boards and
16 councils since the '70s and recruitment is something
17 that was always kind of difficult to be able to -- and
18 I think Dan hit on it well with through BBNA since
19 we're dealing with a user group of people from the
20 villages. I think we could put some sort of invitation
21 for the subregions to nominate someone to someregion --
22 some system like that and that's worked in the past.

23

24 That's my thoughts. Thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
27 you, Norm. Appreciate that.

28

29 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, we definitely can
30 be working with BBNA and we reached out to them in the
31 past. I know that people in small communities is
32 pressing, I know that people wear a lot of, you know,
33 hats, the most active people in the communities. But
34 we are more than happy to work with tribes and with
35 BBNA on, you know, reaching out.

36

37 MR. ANDERSON: If I can.....

38

39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
40 Norm.

41

42 MR. ANDERSON:build on that.
43 You're right because those people in the villages are
44 active, I mean, they've got -- they wear every hat
45 possible in the village, representing every entity.
46 And so they would say -- I've talked to them in the
47 past on other things and he said if it involves travel
48 I can't do it because I have a Council meeting, I have
49 Assembly meeting, I have kids, you know, I have things
50

0082

1 that I have to do. And so those are very busy, And I
2 said well, now everybody in the world has got one of
3 these, you know, and we have numbers that you can call
4 in, you know, just to, you know, let us know what's
5 going on. So things could happen, I mean, it just
6 takes recruitment.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I'm -- you know,
11 like there's several Councils across Alaska also that
12 are interested of involving more younger people into
13 the Council work because of course, you know, we want
14 to have our elders on the Council and their knowledge,
15 but we also need to think about, you know, how we're
16 going to move forward and pass this knowledge and
17 ability to be, you know, participate in the Council
18 meeting to the younger people. So if we can involve
19 any younger people into the work of the Council that
20 would be great, you know. I mean, like when you're 18
21 you can apply to serve on the Council so, you know, if
22 there any younger people that are coming and that would
23 be nice if they can apply and, you know, the Council
24 can help them to get along and figure out how this
25 thing works.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, well, I
28 just -- I would say that all of us just need to
29 continue to keep it in mind as we talk to people and
30 see folks from -- maybe that aren't our next door
31 neighbors all the time, although the next door
32 neighbors will do as well. But let's just all keep it
33 in mind and kind of spread the word. And if you're
34 headed down to Port Heiden try and twist a couple arms
35 when you go down there.

36

37 Go ahead, Norm.

38

39 MR. ANDERSON: You're paying my way?

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. ANDERSON: What you -- your just
44 hit -- something hit me. I think right now BBNC is
45 recruiting for people from 18 to 25 in leadership. And
46 I think if we could get on the agenda for that as a
47 Federal subsistence or State subsistence Board, might
48 be a good idea just to let them know. So.....

49

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1 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

2

3 MR. ANDERSON: You're welcome.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So before I
6 get found out I actually sit on that Board and I didn't
7 even think of that. But, you know, that would be a
8 great idea, they're looking for cohorts right now for
9 their next recruitment. And I didn't really think of
10 it applying to that, but I don't -- it could. And so I
11 would encourage you -- I can get you the contact
12 information after the meeting when I get back to my
13 office.

14

15 MS. WESSELS: Great. Thank you very
16 much.

17

18 MR. ANDERSON: Sorry.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Awesome.
21 Okay. Let's move on to Lisa, are you going to give us
22 the joint meeting on the North American caribou
23 workshop.

24

25 MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you, Madame Chair
26 and Council members. My name is Lisa Grediagin and I'm
27 the Wildlife Division Supervisor in the Office of
28 Subsistence Management. I'm presenting an announcement
29 about a caribou and Arctic ungulate conference next
30 year that will hopefully be of interest to Council
31 members. I'll also be seeking your input on a couple
32 matters related to the conference. An informational
33 flyer about the conference can be found in your meeting
34 books on page 86.

35

36 A joint meeting of the North American
37 Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate Conference will be
38 held in Anchorage from May 8th through 12th, 2023. The
39 meeting will bring together an international group of
40 managers, researchers and indigenous and local
41 knowledge holders who want to share their knowledge of
42 caribou, muskoxen, dall sheep, moose and reindeer. The
43 theme for the meeting is crossing boundaries. Arctic
44 ungulates regularly cross landscape boundaries
45 connecting ecological processes between different
46 systems. This necessitates collaboration across
47 geographical boundaries and also calls for crossing
48 boundaries between western science and local and
49 indigenous knowledge. The conference will include
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1 plenary sessions on co-management, the status of
2 caribou globally, integrating western science and
3 indigenous knowledge and the affects of climate change
4 on caribou. Field trips, workshop, research talk
5 symposiums and a poster session will also be part of
6 the conference. The conference web address is included
7 on the flyer in your meeting books and I encourage you
8 to visit that website for more detailed information.

9
10 Before I move on are there any
11 questions?

12
13 (No comments)

14
15
16 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right. Next I'd
17 like to ask for your input as a Council. One of the
18 events that will take place during the conference is a
19 facilitated discussion on a Alaska State and Federal
20 ungulate management. This session is intended to be a
21 neutral forum for Council members such as yourselves,
22 State Fish and Game Advisory Committee members, Federal
23 and State agency Staff and other interested parties to
24 discuss ungulate management in Alaska specifically
25 regarding harvest regulations. My question for the
26 Council is what topics and issues would you like to be
27 discussed during this session. It could be anything of
28 concern related to harvest regulations and ungulate
29 management.

30
31 Madame Chair, I will now turn the
32 discussion over to you on this topic and your
33 suggestions will be very important in setting the
34 discussion agenda.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
37 you. So I think this is a great opportunity for one of
38 us to participate in. Does anybody have any questions,
39 comments or thoughts on the matter.

40
41 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

44
45 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thanks. You
46 know, all these gatherings like this, information is so
47 important like we said here, you know, to go into a
48 session like that and discussing all those parameters,
49 you know, and we struggle here sometimes having our
50

0085

1 biologists and the study groups that have information
2 for us. You know, in those kind of settings it would
3 be the same way. I'd be -- my suggestion is make sure
4 you have, you know, people with the information there
5 to help you make decisions otherwise you're just -- you
6 know, it's -- sometimes it gets floundered around.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
9 That's great advice. Also I believe we're looking for
10 somebody that would like this appointment.

11

12 MS. GREDIAGIN: Oh, yeah, that's my
13 next -- that's my second part to this presentation.
14 And so I'd also just like to say that if any Council
15 member in the next couple months comes up with an idea
16 or a thought or even if there's something that comes up
17 during this meeting that you're like oh, that should be
18 discussed at that management symposium, please feel
19 free to contact me or Leigh with that information and
20 we'll certainly take that into consideration when we're
21 developing the agenda for that symposium.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Sure and I
24 guess maybe too you could send out a list of things
25 that you have already because I -- the things that are
26 jumping to mind -- my mind are ones that I would hope
27 would already be included such as, you know, the
28 effects of climate change, the effects of overgrazing,
29 all the basic biological things that would be important
30 to know besides just health of the herds and maybe how
31 disease is spread. And because we've dealt with the
32 foot rot out here and we've dealt with the lung worm
33 out there and we've had some of those things going on,
34 but my point being if we know those things are included
35 then we certainly wouldn't feel like we needed them on
36 a list. Does that make sense?

37

38 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thank you. And
39 so how -- I mean, the conference is, you know, a three
40 day conference or well, I guess three days of, you
41 know, the conference and then two days on either side
42 for like workshops, field trips, things like that. So
43 the whole conference agenda, I mean, there's -- like I
44 mentioned, you know, there's plenary sessions on the
45 status of caribou globally and co-management and then
46 there'll be a call for abstracts that's actually open
47 right now for people to submit talks that they want to
48 do about various research. And so I'm asking
49 specifically for input on this management symposium

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0086

1 that's intended to just be a neutral forum for all --
2 you know, Regional Advisory Council members, State and
3 Federal agency managers across Alaska to get together
4 in a room and just talk about issues that are of
5 interest, you know, Statewide or at least to, you know,
6 the majority of the people there regarding ungulate
7 management. And, you know, the focus is kind of
8 intended to be on harvest regulations since OSM is
9 organizing it, but really it can be anything.

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And so we're -- the way the session is being organized is we're soliciting input from each Regional Advisory Council and since you guys are the last one that -- to meet I know some of the things that have come up in the other Councils have been things like predator control, harvest reporting, you know, that's something that OSM's really interested in is how to improve harvest reporting. I'm trying to think of other ones, but, you know, my intention is once we get all the transcripts from the Council meetings, you know, we'll go back through them, compile that list of feedback that we got from all the Councils and then we certainly can send it out to all the Council members again and say hey, this is the list we came up with that you guys provided us and any additions or modifications that you'll be interested in. Because we are really interested in hearing from the Councils on what is of interest to you all to discuss rather than OSM or, you know, some Federal or State agency person just dictating this is what we want you to discuss. And so it's kind of a back and forth and, you know, this is also -- you know, the conference isn't until May and so we could also kind of bring it back at the winter meeting and just say hey, this is the list generated from the fall meetings, is there any additions or modifications, clarifications on these topics.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, that would be good. I mean, I -- that would be a good idea to revisit that at that point.

MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay.

MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead, Dan.

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1 MR. DUNAWAY: I think you touched on
2 them, predator issues is one and again for looking
3 globally what's done other places and whether it's
4 effective or not. Also a part that would probably be
5 very interesting, we're hurting for caribou around here
6 and, you know, trying to figure out what caused it all
7 and if it's multiple things. It would be fascinating
8 to hear like circumpolar what's going on, give us a
9 perspective of how we fit in overall, is it the typical
10 boom and bust of caribou just locally or is there
11 something going on across -- you know, again
12 circumpolar. Other than that yeah, and maybe if
13 there's -- and almost be looking for information on
14 what they do other places and could apply here or stuff
15 they've tried that flat doesn't work, it's a waste of
16 time, that kind of thing. And the disease, we've also
17 kind of -- brucellosis has kind of cropped up a little
18 bit, but we're -- I haven't heard reports from Fish and
19 Game or the Feds yet on what they've managed to do, you
20 know, since our last meeting. So it sounds like it's
21 getting very interesting.

22
23 Thanks.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

26
27 MR. WILSON: Sounds like you just
28 signed up.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 MR. ANDERSON: Madame Chair.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norm.

35
36 MR. ANDERSON: I co-chaired the
37 Circumpolar Conference on climate change many years
38 ago. And one of the things we discussed was
39 disappearance of caribou, reindeer and you name it.
40 And some of the people that we talked with there I keep
41 in touch with. So -- in Russia and I'd like to just
42 touch base with them again and see what -- what's going
43 on. And I'm wondering if any of the agencies have --
44 are aware of or have used the DB's regional visions
45 projects that was done a few years ago. Again this was
46 something that was discussed there. And it's funded by
47 I believe BBNA.

48
49 So if no one else is interested I'd be
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0088

1 interested in participating in this as an alternate and
2 nominate Dan for the primary and I move nominations
3 cease.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MR. ANDERSON: That's how you rope
8 people in.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I like the
11 way you get things done, Norm.

12

13 MR. ANDERSON: I got a lot of
14 experience.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. Yeah.
17 So -- yeah.

18

19 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay. Thank you,
20 Madame Chair. I'll just continue my spiel, you guys
21 are kind of jumping ahead of me here, but the.....

22

23 MR. STURM: Madame Chair, if I could
24 offer.....

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
27 Mark.

28

29 MR. STURM: Thank you. I just am
30 considering kind of the.....

31

32 REPORTER: Could you identify yourself,
33 please.

34

35 MR. STURM: Excuse me, yes. My name is
36 Mark Sturm with the National Park Service, Katmai
37 National Park and Preserve. There is a -- there is a
38 topic that's before the Council that is perhaps
39 relevant to this gathering that's being discussed. Our
40 friends at -- up and around Kokhanok have asked the
41 Council to consider the status of caribou around -- the
42 resident caribou around their community essentially
43 which is currently considered part of the Mulchatna
44 Herd. And we have a project that we're trying to
45 assess the demographics of that population, the size of
46 that population, the reproductive success, the bull to
47 cow ratios, the calf to cow ratios, those kind of
48 things, just so that we can understand what that
49 actually is. The question's an interesting one, can
50

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1 those resident animals, can that be considered a
2 separate population, can it be managed through the
3 subsistence process and provide subsistence resources
4 to the community that's nearby. And really the
5 question at its core is what is the viability of that
6 population and can it sustain a level of utilization.
7 And we're trying to wrap our head around the basics of
8 that, but it's a real interesting management question,
9 it's something that has been brought up here before the
10 Council in the past and it might be a relevant topic
11 worth some smart minds talking about in detail.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I
14 remember that conversation.

15

16 Richard.....

17

18 MR. WILSON: Uh-huh.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:that's
21 your hometown.

22

23 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I'm anxious to hear
24 more a little later on in the report. I mean, that's
25 kind of one of my wishes here is to hear some more
26 information about that resident herd. So I'd -- yeah.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
29 you, Mark. Thanks for adding that. And, Lisa, I think
30 -- I mean, I'll offer that as -- if you didn't write it
31 down, is I think that there are some resident herds
32 like that that are breakaways from where they're
33 considered, you know, part of larger herds and I'm -- I
34 remember when we had our discussion before that we had
35 the debate whether it really was part of the Mulchatna
36 Herd or was it its own entity and are they seeing that
37 in other places as well. I'm sure that's not the only
38 one that is around.

39

40 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

43

44 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I've heard people
45 speak of that near -- behind Ekwook which is a little
46 less clear cut than Kokhanok. And then at one time
47 Port Heiden had kind of like a little home herd. So
48 whether that's just a random thing that comes and goes
49 or it's really consistent. So hopefully develop the
50

0090

1 methodology for Kokhanok first. So.....

2

3 Thanks.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. No, I
6 think that would be really interesting because if --
7 and perhaps some of the questions that Mark are
8 searching for now could be answered through this
9 gathering as well, just be -- just to know whether it
10 can sustain harvest and if it's a, you know, self
11 growing herd or how is it, if others have had that
12 happen and what was happening. Anyway. Yeah, not to
13 get sidetracked we'll give it back to you.

14

15 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right. Thank you,
16 Madame Chair. And just I guess to go on a little bit
17 of a relevant tangent, I would just encourage anyone
18 that's listening if they do have a research project
19 like that that they would be interested in presenting
20 at the conference to go on that website. Like I
21 mentioned the call for abstracts is open right now so
22 it's, you know, a pretty easy thing to just submit your
23 information on the website to apply to actually present
24 a project or research at the conference. So just I'll
25 plug that.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And what is
28 the website?

29

30 MS. GREDIAGIN: Pardon.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: What is the
33 website?

34

35 MS. GREDIAGIN: Oh, it's on the flyer.
36 Okay. Yeah, so the website is www.nacw-auc-2023.org.
37 And so again it's www.nacw as in North American Caribou
38 Workshop hyphen auc as in Arctic Ungulate Conference
39 hyphen 2023. org. And this is the first time I think
40 in like 18 or so years that it's been in Alaska. The
41 past couple years its been in Canada or for the Arctic
42 Ungulate Workshop, you know, in Sweden or Finland,
43 places like that. So it's kind of a unique opportunity
44 that it's going to be in Alaska this year.

45

46 So -- okay. All right. Continuing on.
47 A critical component of this conference is making sure
48 that local knowledge holders are able to attend and
49 participate. Office of Subsistence Management is able
50

0091

1 to provide financial support to send one member of each
2 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to attend the
3 conference. We are asking that as a Council you
4 nominate a member to attend and participate. Again the
5 conference will be held May 8th through 12th, next year
6 in Anchorage and OSM will cover all expenses such as
7 travel and conference registration. One expectation of
8 the nominated Council member is that they will be an
9 active participant in the State and Federal ungulate
10 management symposium for which you just provided input.

11

12 So now I'll turn the discussion back
13 over to the Chair and the Council to ask that you
14 nominate a member of your Council to attend whom you
15 feel will represent local knowledge and the concerns of
16 your region related to ungulates. And again you
17 already jumped ahead of me, yeah, nominating someone
18 and then also providing an alternate. And so I just
19 encourage you to maybe formalize that in a motion.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, sir,
24 Richard.

25

26 MR. WILSON: I move to demand.....
27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. WILSON: No. No. Suggest Dan.....

30

31 MR. ANDERSON: He's supposed to wait
32 until he goes to.....

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MR. WILSON:Dan here would be
37 a.....

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. WILSON: I just think he'd be a
42 good fit, you know, to represent us here because of his
43 background information on biology and stuff.

44

45 Thanks.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Would you
48 care to add an alternative, Richard.

49

50

0092

1 MR. WILSON: Yes. And Norm has agreed
2 to be an alternate, you know, for that. So I think
3 that would be a great fit.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I
6 think that's great. I'm calling for the question.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: All those in
11 favor please signify by saying aye.

12
13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14
15 MR. DUNAWAY: Aye, I guess. I would be
16 happy if somebody else feels more qualified or
17 something comes up between now and then I'd happily
18 defer. It sounds like Norm may even have potential
19 contacts that he's known, but I'm willing to try to
20 represent as well, but if something changes I'm very
21 flexible.

22
23 Thank you. I'm flattered. Thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thanks for
26 your volunteerism, both of you.

27
28 Okay. Dillon, you have Regional
29 Advisory Council appoints for Aniakchak's Subsistence
30 Resource Commission I hear.

31
32 MR. PATTERSON: Good morning, Madame
33 Chair and members of the Council. Yes, I do have a
34 call for RAC appointments, Bristol Bay RAC
35 appointments.

36
37 REPORTER: Could you identify yourself.

38
39 MR. PATTERSON: Oh, I apologize. Yes,
40 this is Dillon Patterson with the National Park
41 Service, Regional Office, Subsistence Program for the
42 record.

43
44 So if you'll turn to page 87 there is a
45 single page call for appointments and I'll read this
46 into the record and then briefly overview where we
47 stand on current RAC appointments. So the Aniakchak
48 National Monument Subsistence Resource Commission
49 provides local subsistence users an opportunity to
50

0093

1 inform the management of subsistence resources in
2 Aniakchak and the surrounding area, primarily unit 9E.
3 Also since the established of the Federal Subsistence
4 Program in 1990 the nine member Commission has made
5 recommendations on fish and wildlife proposals directly
6 to RACs and the Federal Subsistence Board. The Bristol
7 Bay SRC appoints or I apologize, the Bristol Bay RAC
8 appoints three members to the SRC. These members
9 provide an important link between the SRC and the
10 Federal Subsistence Management Program. In addition to
11 the RAC appointments three members are appointed to the
12 SRC by the governor of Alaska and the remaining three
13 are appointed by the Secretary of Interior.

14

15 According to ANILCA, section 808(a),
16 members of the RAC or local Advisory Councils such as
17 the Chignik AC or the Lower Bristol Bay AC are -- who
18 are also -- who also engage in subsistence in the
19 Monument are eligible for this appointment. To be
20 eligible to engage in subsistence within the Monument
21 rural residents must make their primary home in one of
22 the Monument's resident zone communities, live within
23 the Monument or hold a subsistence permit issued
24 pursuant to 36 CFR 13.440.

25

26 Currently there are two vacancies for
27 Bristol Bay RAC appointments on the Aniakchak SRC. In
28 the flyer in your meeting packet, Mark Kosbruk is still
29 listed and his appointment has expired. However since
30 we submitted this to OSM to include in your packet,
31 we've learned that Mark Kosbruk's position on the Lower
32 Bristol Bay AC has also expired so he's currently
33 ineligible to continue serving. So there are currently
34 two Bristol Bay RAC vacancies on the Aniakchak SRC. At
35 this meeting today the Council has the opportunity to
36 take action on this appointment to the SRC.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. What
41 are the wishes of the Board.

42

43 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

46

47 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm really disappointed
48 that Mark's ineligible because he'd be a good one to be
49 on there. I've been in a number of Board of Fish

50

0094

1 meetings with him and have a lot of respect for he and
2 his wife, smart people.

3

4 What do we do if we don't have names.
5 I'm kind of baffled what to do.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: When are
8 they meeting again?

9

10 MR. PATTERSON: Today at 5:00.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Aw.

13

14 MR. HAMON: The AC?

15

16 MR. PATTERSON: Lower Bristol Bay
17 Advisory Council. Next SRC meeting is March -- oh,
18 it's just escaping me. It's in March at some point.
19 We can get you.....

20

21 MR. HAMON: Just prior.....

22

23 MR. PATTERSON:the exact date.

24

25 MR. HAMON:just prior to the RAC
26 meeting.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Bristol Bay
29 Rac.

30

31 MR. HAMON: It's either late March or
32 early or late February, early March.

33

34 MR. PATTERSON: I want to say March 2nd
35 and 3rd, but I don't want to -- don't quote me on that.
36 We can certainly get you the exact dates though.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I
39 guess we just need some more recruitment from down
40 there.

41

42 MR. WILSON: Flyers are out.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: All of the
45 above. Yeah, that is a bummer. Okay. So I guess
46 we'll wait and see if we can come up with some names
47 and appointments and.....

48

49 MR. PATTERSON: Okay.

50

0095

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:
2hopefully next meeting we'll be able to fill those
3 spots.

4
5 MR. PATTERSON: Okay. Excellent.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

8
9 MR. PATTERSON: Thank you.

10
11 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
14 Dan.

15
16 MR. DUNAWAY: A suggestion. Cody or
17 Troy if you can have -- call the AC and tell them
18 appoint somebody or get somebody on that we can
19 appointment them would be great. So it's like well,
20 what if we wait long enough this evening. Anyway.....

21
22 Thanks.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Let's
25 move on to the harvest of wildlife for sport purposes
26 in National Preserves.

27
28 Susanne.

29
30 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Good morning again.
31 For the record Susanne Fleek-Green with the National
32 Park Service, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. I
33 am mostly here today to speak on behalf of the Park
34 Service Regional Office on a -- what we thought would
35 already be a proposed rule, but it has not been
36 published in the Federal Register yet. So I cannot go
37 into specific detail, but hopefully it will be printed
38 in the Federal Register this month. And to underscore
39 this is a proposed wildlife rule that only affects
40 sport hunting in National Preserves. So does not
41 affect subsistence practices, only sport hunting
42 practices.

43
44 So what I can do today without an
45 actual published Federal rule is give you the
46 background and let you know what is coming up. As many
47 of you may recall in 2015 the National Park Service
48 finalized a rule limiting sport hunting practices in
49 preserves on a number of practices including the
50

1 hunting of black bears with artificial light at den
2 sites, hunting black and brown bears over bait, hunting
3 and trapping wolves and coyotes including pups during
4 denning season and shooting caribou while swimming. In
5 July, 2020 under the direction of the Department of the
6 Interior, the National Park Service rescinded that 2015
7 rule that banned these activities. We received
8 significant public comments from Alaskans and from the
9 public nationally and when the new Administration came
10 in we were directed by Secretary Deb Holland to relook
11 at the rescision of the 2015 rule. So I know this is
12 very circular. So we are back at looking at revising
13 the 2015 rule after consulting with tribes as well as
14 we have had conversations with the State of Alaska
15 regarding the original '15 rule, but also then the
16 rescision of that in the former Administration.

17

18 So and in the background of all of this
19 we also are in litigation over the 2020 reversal.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Who are you
22 in litigation with?

23

24 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: It is a number of
25 both national and Alaska based conservation groups.

26

27 So what we are looking at now as I
28 mentioned is to publish in the Federal Register a new
29 proposed rule that would revise the current standard --
30 the current set of harvest practice limitations. Until
31 that rule is published again I cannot -- it has not --
32 that decision has not been fully authorized so I can't
33 go into that, but we are looking at making sure that
34 hunting practices are consistent with the legal and
35 policy framework applicable to the sport and non-
36 subsistence harvest in National Preserves. And also to
37 address public safety concerns associated with baiting
38 bears. And I do have a list of potential harvest
39 practices that are being reviewed for sport hunters.

40

41 I guess what I can say from just a Lake
42 Clark Preserve perspective is that when the 2015 rule
43 was finalized we did get comments from subsistence
44 users and local residents at that time and then we also
45 got comments when the rule was rescinded in 2020. This
46 really does not affect at least the Lake Clark Preserve
47 so much, we do not -- bear baiting and these other
48 practices are not traditionally used so for the most
49 part the comments that we have gotten from subsistence

50

0097

1 users have expressed concerns about the loosening of
2 allowable harvest practices, making the area more
3 attractive to sport hunting which of course would then
4 be competition for subsistence hunters in the area as
5 well as some public safety concerns about bait stations
6 in particular being close to Native allotments, being
7 close to corporation lands and other commonly used
8 fishing, hunting, berry picking areas that might be
9 attractants to bears coming into the area. So that is
10 something that we are looking at and have been -- tried
11 to be responsive to.

12

13 And I don't know for Katmai in Preserve
14 lands if bear baiting really has been used. Tory might
15 have some more information on that. But at least
16 within the Lake Clark Preserve this has not been an
17 issue and there was not comment supporting the 2020
18 decision at the time. I believe on the phone also is
19 Eva Patton who is our Regional Subsistence Program
20 Manager if you have any questions. Again the rule
21 should be published this month, when it is published it
22 will be out for 60 days of public comment and we have
23 done some conversations already with our tribal
24 partners and we will be doing formal tribal
25 consultation as well.

26

27 And I am happy to answer any questions.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Also this is
30 marked as an action item, but it is not an action item
31 I've been told.

32

33 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Correct.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So comments
36 or questions that anybody might have.

37

38 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes,
41 Richard.

42

43 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
44 Interesting. You know, I think we've discussed some of
45 this in the past or quite a bit of it. And a lot of
46 the -- a lot of the input must have come from
47 nationwide and not in our -- on our lands here in
48 Alaska it seems like. Because it seemed like we were
49 pretty clear on a lot of the -- when we were discussing
50

0098

1 these issues, we were -- as a Council we were pretty
2 clear on what we felt. And so it's just -- yeah, it
3 raised my eyebrow.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. I
6 hear you. Anybody else.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
11 you.

12

13 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: All right. Thank
14 you, Madame Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: You can
17 probably bring this to us at our spring meeting.

18

19 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: I probably will.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: And I do, you know,
24 we certainly as an agency appreciate that this is a bit
25 of whiplash for members of the public that the rule has
26 changed probably three times now in the course of seven
27 years. And that's why we are trying to do a lot more
28 footwork early on, again talking to interested parties,
29 talking to the State because at the heart this is --
30 the State has a different perspective on this than many
31 of our local users around the Preserve at least for
32 Lake Clark.

33

34 Thank you very much.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
37 Okay. Leigh, you have J.

38

39 MS. HONIG: Thank you, Madame Chair.
40 Leigh Honig for the record. And I'm going to present
41 you with information on how you can get reimbursed if
42 you had any telephonic or internet expenses associated
43 with your participation in the Council meetings over
44 the last two and a half years. The material for this
45 agenda is in your supplemental materials as tab three.

46

47 So this issue was brought to the
48 Board's attention by the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Council
49 during their winter, 2022 meeting. OSM reviewed the

50

0099

1 policies regarding reimbursement and I would like to
2 provide you with information on the types of expenses
3 that may be reimbursed and the documentation necessary
4 to receive reimbursement.

5
6 For the time period when the Council
7 meetings were held via teleconference you can be
8 reimbursed for internet and phone charges that are in
9 excess of their normal bill. Council members who have
10 internet or cellular plans that charge a flat monthly
11 fee that they pay regardless of Council meetings cannot
12 be reimbursed for their normal charges. In order for
13 Council members to receive reimbursement for excess
14 charges they need to submit a copy of their bill that
15 covers the time period during which the virtual Council
16 meetings took place and indicate the excess charges for
17 attending the virtual meeting. Council members can
18 submit this information to myself or mail their bills
19 to the Office of Subsistence Management at 1011 East
20 Tudor Road, Mail Stop 121 in Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

21
22 This concludes my presentation and I'll
23 -- I'm ready to answer any questions.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
26 you, Leigh. Anybody have any questions on the format
27 that's been.....

28
29 MR. WILSON: It's only on overage?

30
31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Correct.

32
33 MR. WILSON: Had to ask if I had a
34 case.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Well,
39 if you discover -- I can almost tell you probably not
40 because you're billed by the same people I get billed
41 from.

42
43 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, Dan.

46
47 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm just curious if
48 anybody knows if this is one of the things that's a
49 concern from Billy up there in Nondalton, we can ask
50

0100

1 him I guess, but he's been concerned about costs.
2 Yeah, there was times that -- I don't think I have any
3 expense, but I had my computer and internet all tied up
4 and the landline, my house all tied up. It was a good
5 thing my wife had a cell phone to be able to function.
6 So but I don't expect to be seeking any reimbursement
7 and I'll -- can sort it our. So.....

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, Leigh,
12 could we make sure that Billy knows. I mean, I would
13 just separate it out from the packet and make sure that
14 he's aware.

15

16 MS. HONIG: Yes, Madame Chair. I will
17 definitely follow-up with him after this meeting.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
20 Okay. And with that I think we're going to -- we'll --
21 I'll give you guys -- we'll take our lunch break now
22 and you guys can think some more about the proposals
23 from the Board of Fish during that time and we can
24 revisit that. Perhaps we'll have our Manokotak flight
25 in at that time and we can do some backtracking. If
26 not we'll move forward with agency reports and see
27 where the day takes us.

28

29 And knowing we've got to travel and get
30 people places let's -- we'll take an hour and a half
31 lunch break I think. And does that seem sufficient for
32 everybody?

33

34 MR. DUNAWAY: Should be.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Usually that
37 tends to work.

38

39 MR. DUNAWAY: Sure.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
42 we'll take an hour and a half lunch break and be back
43 here around 1:30.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 (Off record)

48

49 (On record)

50

0101

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I'm
2 going to go ahead and call us back into order here,
3 took us a little longer than expected. And I'll give
4 you a couple minutes, Pippa, to.....

5

6 And for those of you in the audience
7 we're going to back up here to deferred WP 22-40, wolf
8 and wolverine, units 9B, 9C, 17B, 17C, allowing the use
9 of snowmachines for positioning animals. And we're
10 going to back up to that one. So to get everybody
11 lined up.

12

13 And I'm going to check online real
14 quick. Was Kenneth Nukluk, are -- were you able to
15 join us?

16

17 MR. NUKLUK: Yes, uh-huh. I'm here in
18 the (in Native) for Martha's spaghetti.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, I hope
23 you don't turn Italian on us. Thank you for joining us
24 and we're just getting prepared here to start on our
25 deliberation and I appreciate you joining us.

26

27 MS. KENNER: Ready when you are.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Please go
30 ahead. I'll give you the floor, Pippa.

31

32 MS. KENNER: Hello, Madame Chair and
33 members of the Council. My name is Pippa Kenner and
34 I'm an anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence
35 Management in Anchorage. The analysis for Wildlife
36 Proposal WP 22-40 is in your supplemental materials at
37 tab one. And there's some on the back table also.

38

39 So at this Council's request the
40 Federal Subsistence Board deferred this proposal at its
41 April, 2022 meeting in order to allow the Council time
42 to formulate language defining positioning of wolves
43 and wolverines because the Council noted the
44 discrepancy between traditional harvest methods and
45 that described in the OSM modification and you can see
46 that modification on page 2 of the analysis.

47

48 So on September 29th, 2022, just a
49 month ago or so, a working group consisting of two
50

0102

1 members of the Bristol Bay Council and OSM Staff met in
2 a public teleconference to discuss this proposal
3 further and then report back to the Bristol Bay Council
4 during this meeting. So I'm going to step back and ask
5 the question how did we get here. So the issue
6 addressed by this proposal using a snowmachine to
7 position animals for harvest, has been in the ether
8 floating around for many years. This is not new. The
9 analysis in your supplemental materials contains this
10 background for you to explore, but I'm going to start
11 at 2020. And the Council submitted two proposals to
12 the Federal Subsistence Board, one regarding the
13 harvest of caribou and the other regarding the harvest
14 of wolves and wolverine. And at its meeting in 2020
15 the Board modified Wildlife Proposal 20-27 concerning
16 caribou by inserting regulatory language adopted by the
17 Board of Game in 2018 regarding the harvest of caribou
18 in unit 17 and that could be found -- that regulation
19 can be found on page 82 of the Federal Handy-Dandy.
20 And the regulation states in unit 17 a snowmachine may
21 be used to assist in the taking of a caribou and
22 caribou may be shot from a stationary snowmachine.

23

24 Assist in the taking of caribou means a
25 snowmachine may be used to approach within 300 yards of
26 a caribou at speeds under 15 miles per hour in a manner
27 that does not involve repeated approaches or that
28 causes a caribou to run. A snow machine may not be
29 used to contact an animal or to pursue a fleeing
30 caribou.

31

32 So that's done, we're done with
33 caribou. It's in the regulations, it was worked on by
34 this Council.

35

36 Thank you very much.

37

38 But regarding the other proposal having
39 to do with wolves and wolverines the Board suggested
40 further consideration of the proposal by a Bristol Bay
41 Council Working Group to one, expand the analysis to
42 all Federal lands in units 9B, 9C, 17B and 17C; two,
43 identify specific language that may reduce complexity
44 between State and Federal regulations; and three,
45 anticipate and address and regulatory conflicts between
46 the proposed regulatory language and agency specific
47 regulations which are described in the analysis.

48

49 OSM renamed the proposal WP 22-40 which

50

0103

1 is the proposal we're talking about now. The analysis
2 for it again is at tab one of your supplemental
3 materials. This Council recommended the Board adopt
4 Proposal 22-40 with modification by inserting the
5 regulatory language adopted by the Board of Game in
6 2018 regarding the harvest of caribou in unit 17 that
7 we just discussed. So that regulation would have been
8 for wolf and wolverine and it would have included the
9 language snowmachine may be used to approach within 300
10 yards at speeds under 15 miles per hour just like we
11 did with the caribou. But at the request of the
12 Bristol Bay Council Chair the Board deferred Proposal
13 22-40 regarding the harvest of wolves and wolverines.
14 This was because in part it might be contrary to
15 traditional methods used in the area and a similar
16 proposal, Proposal 23, was submitted to the Board of
17 Game by the Nushagak Advisory Council.

18
19 So now we're up to this year and this
20 is new information that I'm going to give you now. In
21 January, 2022 the Alaska Board of Game generated a
22 proposal, Proposal 271, to establish a definition for
23 position as it applies to using a snowmachine to take
24 game and scheduled it for consideration at its March,
25 2022 meeting. And the Board of Game described its
26 intentions, this is for wolf and wolverine, the same
27 proposal we're dealing with now, they said the intent
28 is to provide clear direction to hunters regarding use
29 of snowmachine while hunting and to help the Alaska
30 Wildlife Troopers distinguish between allowable
31 positioning as compared to prohibited driving, herding
32 or molesting game with the use of a motorized vehicle.
33 And in March, 2022 the Alaska Board of Game adopted an
34 amended Proposal 271 and the new proposal is in both
35 hunting and trapping regulations Statewide. This is in
36 your State regulations, it's in your hunting
37 regulations on page 18 and it's on page 14 in your
38 State trapping regulations.

39
40 What's in this what we call the Handy-
41 Dandy is a little bit different than what's in codified
42 regulations so I'm going to read it to you. The Board
43 of Game adopted this proposal -- this new regulation,
44 motorized land vehicle. A motorized land vehicle may
45 be used as follows. A snowmachine may be used to
46 approach and pursue wolves and wolverine and approach
47 and pursuit under this subparagraph is not harassment
48 under these regulations, but may not come into contact
49 with a live animal.

50

1 So now we're up to the Bristol Bay
2 Council Working Group meeting that we attend -- that we
3 had last month in September. The suggestion to the
4 Council from that Working Group was to mirror the new
5 State regulation. And so what would that -- that would
6 look like for us would be something like this language.
7 In units 9B and 9C, in units 17B and 17C, on Federal
8 managed lands, a snowmachine may be used to approach
9 and pursue wolves and wolverine, but may not come in
10 contact with a live animal. And approach and pursuit
11 under this paragraph is not driving, herding or
12 molesting.

13
14 So still not allowed to run down an
15 animal and you should not be shooting from a moving
16 snowmachine. But that pursuit of a wolf or a wolverine
17 would be legal. So we're getting the definition of
18 what legal positioning means.

19
20 So now I'll describe some of your
21 options at this point. This is an action item on your
22 agenda. One is to support your original proposal and
23 your original proposal had that language of
24 positioning. It said in units 9B and 9C and again in
25 units 17B and 17C, on Federal public lands, a
26 snowmachine may be used to position a wolf or wolverine
27 for harvest provided that the animal is not shot from a
28 moving snowmachine.

29
30 You can support the proposal with some
31 other modification or you can support the proposal with
32 modification using language adopted by the Board of
33 Game and suggested by your Bristol Bay Working Group.
34 And again that says a snowmachine may be used to
35 approach and pursue wolves and wolverine, but may not
36 come in contact with a live animal. And approach and
37 pursuit under this paragraph is not driving, herding or
38 molesting.

39
40 So I told the Working Group I'd come up
41 with a justification by looking through all the
42 previous materials and seeing what came out of it and
43 what people's testimony was. And this is what I came
44 up with. The Board of Game went through this process
45 when deliberating on a similar proposal. People were
46 asked by the Board of Game member, Orville Huntington,
47 to comment, but only one or two came forward. The
48 Board of Game invited Nushagak Advisory Committee
49 members to lunch where the issue was discussed, but not
50

0105

1 recorded. So any details of methods used to harvest
2 wolves and wolverines that were discussed are not
3 available to us today except by the people who were
4 there. The Board -- who might have been some of you.
5 The Board of Game determined that simple language was
6 the best and adopted a regulation allowing hunters on
7 snowmachines to position a wolf or wolverine as long as
8 the snowmachine does not touch the animal.

9

10 People do not always know how much of
11 what they are doing is legal or illegal. On this issue
12 people are shy and finding a documented discussion is
13 difficult. People are scared of being arrested and
14 this comes through in many of the transcripts of
15 meetings including of this Council. But conservation
16 is not an issue. There are no harvest limits for
17 wolves and wolverine in both State and Federal trapping
18 regulations. An increase in harvest is not anticipated
19 because the methods and means under which people
20 harvest will not change. Positioning a wolf or
21 wolverine for harvest is the traditional and efficient
22 method used by trappers and hunters and shooting an
23 animal is an alternative to an animal dying in a leg
24 trap. While people are on the landscape for whatever
25 reason and they come across an animal they might shoot
26 it. Right now at this meeting we are not looking for a
27 Statewide approach, we are seeking approval for a
28 regulation on all Federal public lands in units 9B and
29 C and 17B and C as requested by the Federal Subsistence
30 Board when it defined its deferral. The approach is to
31 make explicit that positioning an animal for harvest is
32 legal as long as the wolf or wolverine is not taken
33 from a moving snowmachine and the snowmachine does not
34 make contact with the animal.

35

36 We are not encouraging people to
37 partake or discouraging, we are simply clarifying that
38 this method is legal. This language may not be
39 perfect, few regulations are and instead cover broad
40 concepts that are interpreted on a case by case basis.
41 But the language is more permissive than current
42 regulation and does offer guidance regarding what is
43 permissible or legal in this regulatory area. Some say
44 these new regulations add a layer of bureaucracy that
45 only serve to complicate the issue. But many have also
46 disagreed including the Board of Game and some law
47 enforcement that have appeared at your Council meeting.
48 Our task is not to define what is illegal, but to
49 define what is legal. And positioning wolf and
50

0106

1 wolverine for harvest should be legal. It allows us to
2 distinguish between what is harassing, hazing, driving,
3 herding, from what is legal pursuing and taking.

4

5 So that's the end of my suggested
6 justification for the Working Group's recommendation to
7 the Council, it's also the end of my presentation. I
8 think we have Robbin LaVine online who has been working
9 with you on this issue for several years before she was
10 promoted to our Policy Coordinator. We also have Lisa
11 Grediagin here, our Wildlife Biologist Supervisor and
12 we're all available to answer any questions that you
13 might have.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
18 Pippa.

19

20 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

23

24 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. I was trying to
25 follow along here. Is this some of this that you just
26 gave us verbally, is it in print somewhere in here
27 because I'm not finding it.

28

29 MS. KENNER: No, it's not. This
30 is.....

31

32 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh.

33

34 MS. KENNER:just purely an oral
35 presentation.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Sounds really
38 interesting, but it's complex wording. Is -- could we
39 get it on paper to look at here or.....

40

41 MS. KENNER: All of my talking points
42 that I just gave?

43

44 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, your proposed
45 wording for the regulation and your -- I really liked a
46 lot of what I'm hearing, but as I'm trying to make sure
47 I'm following it and then when I looked in here is the
48 old regulation that we don't like at all so I was kind
49 of half expecting that the proposed regulation would
50

0107

1 be, you know, somewhere I could.....

2

3 MS. KENNER: I was going to say --
4 through the Chair, this is Pippa Kenner. I was going
5 to say, Dan, that I couldn't do it right now, but then
6 Lisa suggested that we try projecting it, but I'm not
7 quite sure how to do that.

8

9 Do I -- you want me to put it on your
10 jump drive?

11

12 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Uh-huh.

13

14 MS. KENNER: I'd love to.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Also, Dan,
17 she -- the suggested change was to use the language
18 that the Board of Game had already adopted, not as
19 written right here in front of you.

20

21 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Her points
24 are just the justification for the main Board when we
25 go to present there should we pass this here today.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's so we
30 don't need the justification immediately. Just so
31 you.....

32

33 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, okay. Just kind of
34 I want to see this in writing.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: You.....

37

38 MR. DUNAWAY: But it sounded good and
39 it sounds like it's got the intent we wanted.

40

41 Thanks.

42

43 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair, this is
44 Pippa Kenner. So, Dan, I really appreciate the fact
45 that you were listening and following along and yes, a
46 visual might be helpful to you. However the bulk of my
47 presentation was just the last page which was talking
48 about the Working Group suggested the Council consider
49 adopting language used by the Board of Game for this
50

0108

1 same issue and then I provided what might be a
2 justification recalling information through all your
3 Council meetings.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 (Pause)

8

9 MS. KENNER: Through the Chair, this is
10 Pippa. Dan, is there a particular part that you
11 were.....

12

13 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, that's.....

14

15 MS. KENNER:how about the new
16 language?

17

18 MS. GREDIAGIN:that's what --
19 yeah, that's what he was.....

20

21 MS. KENNER: Thank you very much.

22

23 (Pause - equipment)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I think what
26 we're going to do, I would hope that we're going to
27 have some testimony along with this so what I would
28 like to do is we'll move through our order here and
29 next ask or request for report on Board consultation.
30 And who was representing Orville on that today, Robbin?

31

32 MS. WESSELS: Robbin LaVine.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
35 Robbin, if you have any Board consultation with tribes
36 or ANCSA corporations on this proposal can you let us
37 know.

38

39 MS. LaVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
40 Through the Chair. I was not prepared to provide a
41 history of tribal comments on this particular proposal,
42 it's out of cycle. So I was prepared for the fisheries
43 proposals and closure reviews. But I do believe that
44 within the analysis itself there is reference to tribal
45 consultations that did occur when this was first put
46 through the wildlife regulatory cycle.

47

48 Thank you, Madame Chair.

49

50

0109

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
2 you.

3
4 MS. HONIG: Lisa had her hand up.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, I'm
7 sorry. Go ahead, Lisa.

8
9 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thanks. Lisa
10 Grediagin for the record. And so since this is a
11 deferred proposal it's already gone through the whole
12 process, I mean, you guys went through this whole
13 process at your last meeting. And so -- I mean, I
14 don't recall what the tribal consultations were from
15 your last meeting, but that was presented to you last
16 fall and there certainly have not been any additional
17 tribal consultations since this proposal was presented
18 at your last fall meeting. And so it's a little
19 awkward with deferred proposals because we've already
20 gone through this whole process and so, I mean, I know
21 there's additional public comments on this, but I know
22 for the Southeast meeting which also had some deferred
23 wildlife proposals, they tried to streamline the
24 process a little bit instead of going step by step
25 through every single agency, just kind of opening it up
26 and asking if there's any additional comments. And
27 it's already on the record from your fall meeting.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, great
30 point. That was -- that was where the stumbling block
31 was. So as a deferred proposal, that's exactly what
32 I'd like to do is we will go ahead and leapfrog forward
33 and request any other public testimony that we might
34 have available to us today. And if you're online, if
35 you could just state your name so that we can identify
36 you we'll be happy to take your testimony as well.

37
38 Yes, if you're here in the audience
39 please fill out a card. If you're online please just
40 state your name and we will recognize you.

41
42 Okay. Is there anybody in the audience
43 that would like to address us?

44
45 MS. HOSETH: Madame Chair.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Gayla.

48
49 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Madame Chair,
50

0110

1 members of the Council. With the information that was
2 provided to you from Pippa was really -- it lines up
3 with what we have been working on all of these years
4 except there is one unit that is not in there and it's
5 17A. And so I would want -- Cody pointed that out that
6 17A was missing from this -- from the language, but I
7 would think that we would want it to include all of
8 unit 17.

9

10 And thank you for all the hard work on
11 this issue. I don't think that's it's -- we're done
12 with it quite yet and we'll continue to work on it, but
13 I think that we include unit 17 and then also to make
14 it really crystal clear, what we were kind of working
15 on in the backroom earlier was as long as we're also
16 able to shoot from a stationary snowmachine. So.....

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
21 And a point of order I guess maybe, Katya, I would ask,
22 do you -- if we add 17A is that going to open up the
23 proposal in a manner or, Lisa, is that for you, in a
24 manner that we're going to have to start from the
25 beginning, are we better off addressing that in a new
26 proposal, what are -- what's that look like?

27

28 MS. GREDIAGIN: No, not at all. I
29 think when the Council initially submitted the proposal
30 you were focused on the BLM lands and then we -- you
31 know, the Board asked to expand it to all Federal lands
32 in unit 17 so the OSM modification that's actually in
33 the Board version that was presented in April included
34 17A as part of the modification.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, that's
37 what I wanted to know.

38

39 Thank you. Okay. Wonderful.

40

41 Any other public testimony online or in
42 the audience.

42

43 MR. STURM: Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Mark.

46

47 MR. STURM: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 Mark Sturm, Katmai National Park and Preserve. Just an
49 observation that I thought I might share about the way
50

0111

1 that the proposed statute is written. It prescribes
2 all Federal managed lands if I'm interpreting it
3 correctly and there are some Federal managed lands
4 where this activity is not allowed within the requisite
5 units. And it may be worthwhile to have a conversation
6 with the Working Group around how to appropriately have
7 that language, you know, more applicable and more
8 accurate. For example in Old Katmai and such, in areas
9 where this type of activity is not allowed.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Pippa.

12

13 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
14 This is Pippa Kenner. Do you mean where no subsistence
15 -- the parts of Old Katmai.....

16

17 MR. STRUM: That's correct.

18

19 MS. KENNER: Got it. Very good point.

20 Thank you.

21

22 MR. STRUM: Thank you.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lisa, looks
25 like you could add to the conversation.

26

27 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I mean, I
28 understand his point, but like things like that where
29 there's just absolutely no, you know, subsistence
30 hunting of any kind, I mean, it's not like when we go
31 through our hunting regulations, you know, for every
32 single species when we're defining hunt areas and
33 harvest limits and seasons, it's just the whole area,
34 it's not like we're saying unit specific like you can't
35 hunt in Katmai or Denali, you know, the hard Park. So,
36 I mean, I would hope that's kind of obvious, that goes
37 without saying because that's kind of the assumption
38 throughout the entire Federal regulation booklet. But,
39 I mean, again I guess if there is some concern for
40 confusion over this specific area and this specific
41 regulation, I mean, that's a consideration, but that's
42 kind of a given throughout the whole booklet, kind of
43 like everything applies only on Federal public lands.
44 You know, we've had some people, you know, in Kodiak
45 say, but what about State lands, it doesn't specify
46 that in the hunt area. It's like well, that's just
47 kind of the assumption, you know, for the whole
48 program. So.....

49

Thanks.

50

0112

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
2 Thanks. Yeah, I think that that was the way I was
3 looking at it too, but I'll let you guys deliberate
4 that in the meantime.

5
6 Moses, would you care to come give
7 public testimony, please. We thank you for coming.

8
9 MR. TOYUKAK: Good afternoon, Madame
10 Chair and -- oh, I'm sorry. Good afternoon. My name
11 is Moses Toyukak from Manokotak. And the WP 22-40 is
12 what I'm in agreement with because we don't -- hunting,
13 you know, you need to stop and shoot. And then I'm in
14 favor of what was written down or presented just a few
15 minutes ago. And as a hunter for many, many years, all
16 my life, subsistence way of life is how we live in our
17 community. And even with a snow-go we stop and shoot
18 to get our food for the family. And that's our way of
19 life. We don't waste anything, meat and furs, we don't
20 waste them.

21
22 So thank you.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
25 Any questions.

26
27 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Moses.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank
30 you. Do we have any other public testimony pertaining
31 to this proposal.

32
33 MR. WALSH: Madame Chair.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes.

36
37 MR. WALSH: This is Pat Walsh with
38 Kodiak Refuge. And I'm listening in on a phone so this
39 was very difficult to follow. So forgive me if I
40 missed something that (indiscernible - distortion), but
41 if I heard correctly the Working Group didn't include
42 the Federal Land Managers. So is that correct and if
43 that was the case could somebody explain why?

44
45 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Pippa, go
48 ahead.

49
50

0113

1 MS. KENNER: Yeah, thank you, Madame
2 Chair. Well, it was a -- it was a publicly advertised
3 meeting and anybody could attend.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any
6 other questions, testimony.

7
8 MR. ANDERSON: I have a question.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norm.

11
12 MR. ANDERSON: Pippa, have there been
13 boots on the ground as there were in the villages for
14 the user groups for this action that you're requesting?

15
16 MS. KENNER: Thank you. I'm going to
17 ask my colleagues if they have more of an answer to
18 answer and I do not -- I am not aware -- this is Pippa
19 Kenner with OSM by the way. Through the Chair. I am
20 not aware of any targeted action in all the affected
21 villages about this proposal being up for review and
22 these methods being up for review. However this has
23 been going on for quite a few years and I think a lot
24 of people are aware of it. But that's the only answer
25 I have for you right now.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MR. ANDERSON: I thank you.

30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

34
35 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Norman, the history
36 of some of this was Kenneth Nukluk pushed some of this
37 from Manokotak and then Todd Frtizy, a trapper here in
38 town, you know, Todd, he was comparing notes with some
39 of his friends in unit 18 and farther up and wondering
40 why in the world their -- they can do this stuff
41 clearly legally and it wasn't clearly legal down here.
42 So they pushed it quite a bit. I -- probably more
43 through the Fish and Game Advisory Committees, but I
44 think this got discussed extensively around Bristol Bay
45 region and I'm kind of looking at BBNA people that I
46 kind of think may have talked more, I'm not sure. But
47 there was my sense a pretty strong grassroots support
48 for this.

49
50

0114

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any
4 other comments, questions, testimony.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
9 Hearing none and seeing none, I would entertain a
10 motion.

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll move to adopt this
13 latest language as we see on the screen here, but to
14 include 17A. I think this is getting pretty close to
15 what some of the original proposals wanted and would be
16 pretty -- actually some of the wording is better than
17 the State's, but it would also relieve some of the
18 anxiety of am I on State land, am I on Federal land and
19 so on. So I'll speak more later after the motion.

20

21 Thanks.

22

23 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, I guess I'll
24 second that motion, but I think we need to talk a
25 little bit about the language part of it before we
26 finalize.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great.
29 That's what our discussions for. Who'd like to start
30 the discussion.

31

32 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard, go
35 ahead.

36

37 MR. WILSON: It was just brought.....

38

39 MR. NUKLUK: Hello, this is Kenneth
40 Nukluk.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Kenneth,
43 please go ahead.

44

45 MR. NUKLUK: Yeah. I'd like to
46 testify. I do not have the - yeah, after I get
47 recognized.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, you are

50

0115

1 recognized, Kenneth. You have the floor.

2

3

4 MR. NUKLUK: Okay. Thank you. I do
5 not have the proposal in front of me, but if there's no
6 speed limit to that positioning the wolf and the
7 wolverine, I would be in favor of that. And also it
8 would be following the Alaska National Interest Lands
9 Conservation Act of 1980, I think section 10. Either
10 section 10 or section 11. I'm pretty sure it's section
11 10 though. So when these laws are put into place they
12 should be followed and they are made by Congress. Like
13 Moses Toyukak said, we hunt Alaska, living in a village
14 or a -- be it a hub like Dillingham, Bethel.

14

15

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And then the wolves always take off any predator, any predator or any prey, anything that we eat whenever they hear a snowmachine, a light or what we use, they always take off within a mile or a mile and a half, they know exactly what's going to happen to them if it's, you know, thought to put them on the table or make money out of them. If what I'm testifying about is a 10th grade student living in this body of mine, living in my shoes, what my dad always used to mention when I was a kid that we'd have to work with the western law, at least try to do it in harmony in make -- making laws. If the western law came in and tried to change my way of life, it cannot be changed, it's always been ingrained in each Native that was raised in rural Alaska, it's always been my testimony and also trying to protect the fellow hunters. And I hope that's long enough.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Kenneth. That's absolutely perfect and we appreciate you taking the time to call in and sharing with us and we appreciate all the hard work and long time and hours and days and years spent on this as well. Hopefully we'll get something going here today.

Thank you again.

Richard, I'll give you the floor.

MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you. It was brought to our attention earlier with our National Park Service there, Katmai, that there are portions of this Federal lands that are under different

0116

1 umbrella and for this language to be satisfying to them
2 I was wondering if on that first take there on the
3 units on Federally -- Federal qualifying managed lands,
4 if you could just put a word in there that would help
5 them to see that it's the qualifying lands and not just
6 all Federal managed lands, if that would work. I
7 didn't know.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Looks like
10 Pippa might have a suggestion for us.

11

12 Pippa, I'll give you the floor.

13

14 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
15 Through the Chair, this is Pippa Kenner with OSM.
16 Well, you know, I think there are certain parts of the
17 State where Parks Service lands are closed to all
18 subsistence, one is Glacier Bay, Denali and other one
19 is part of Katmai. So when it's closed you can't hunt
20 with Federal regulations and therefore this isn't
21 legal. So these closed aren't applicable -- oh, thank
22 you.

23

24 MS. GREDIAGIN: Oh, I just -- yeah,
25 sorry. Some of this is -- I don't really think even
26 saying on Federal managed lands is necessary. You
27 could probably just delete that because this regulation
28 is in Federal subsistence regulations so of course it
29 only applied on Federal managed lands. I mean, I
30 didn't know it what you had.....

31

32 MS. KENNER: Open, open Federal public
33 lands, yeah.

34

35 MS. GREDIAGIN: Right. Which again is
36 kind of a given. So I don't know, Pippa, if you had a
37 reason you had that in there specifically.

38

39 MS. KENNER: Thanks.

40

41 MS. GREDIAGIN: Sorry to put you on the
42 spot.

43

44 MS. KENNER: Thanks, this is Pippa --
45 no, that -- this Pippa Kenner with OSM and actually
46 Robbin is probably the one who knows the answer. But
47 it was in the modified language that the Board approved
48 and this Council approved before it was deferred. And
49 I think it was there to make the point this is on all
50

0117

1 Federal managed lands that are open, not just BLM
2 lands. And therefore for presentation it's helpful,
3 but in the regulations it probably would not be
4 included because it is redundant.

5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

9

10 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, I think just
11 the word open Federally managed lands would probably
12 work just fine. And keeping Federal managed lands in
13 there and saying open Federal, you know, the people
14 that are reading these regulations are guys that are
15 going to go -- you know, eligible for hunting on these
16 lands and it's got to spell it out for them, I mean,
17 that's why we're here with some of this other language.
18 So if you -- you know, Mark's not going to say hey,
19 guys, this land over here is un -- you can't touch it,
20 you can't be over here. Well, it doesn't say that in
21 the regs, it says all Federal managed lands. So let's
22 put open Federal managed lands in there, to me that
23 would be satisfying.

24

25 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

28

29 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I agree. If it can
30 be confused it will be.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. DUNAWAY: Even the stuff that
35 shouldn't be crystal clear I've met people who don't
36 want to understand it and just tied things in knots,
37 but yeah, I see there's kind of -- Pippa was
38 maintaining the history of the language. I like
39 Richard's suggestion quite a bit here.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any
42 further discussion.

43

44 MR. ANDERSON: Just one last thing.
45 I'm just kind of thinking back being new here as to
46 what propagated this. I mean, I've hunted with a lot
47 of people, snowmachines, three-wheelers, four-wheeler,
48 jetboat, skiff, and I don't know any of them and some
49 of these are pretty wild characters, I won't mention
50

0118

1 any names, but shooting at an animal 300 yards away
2 from a moving snowmachine and expect to hit it. That's
3 just my comment, I'm just kind of further complicating
4 the issue here.

5

6 So thank you very much.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, thank
9 you, Norman. I'm -- this was -- this happened years
10 ago when it came into question whether the practice was
11 acceptable or not through some hunters on this side of
12 the road. And we wanted to make sure that it was clear
13 from now on that it was acceptable and then of
14 course.....

15

16 MR. ANDERSON: Back.....

17

18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:it came
19 down to the definition.

20

21 MR. ANDERSON:back then you
22 should have just said no.....

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. ANDERSON:leave it alone.

29

30 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

33

34 MR. DUNAWAY: So I wonder if at this
35 point we've talked about a few changes, I wonder if we
36 need to amend the proposal before we try to move
37 forward or call. And I'd take it as a friendly
38 amendment to this adjustment you suggested. And if --
39 we do that in the Nushagak AC, I don't know if that's
40 kosher in the Federal RAC, but just tightening up the
41 language a little bit would be fine with me..

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, I think
44 that would be a wise move to make. Let's amend the
45 changes, both of them, and have them accepted.

46

47 MR. WILSON: I'm in agreement.

48

49 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Let's -- I'll just

50

0119

1 kind of restate then that we'll have this read in units
2 9C, 9B, Unit 17A, B, C, on open Federal lands a
3 snowmachine may be used to approach and pursue wolves
4 and wolverine, but may not come in contact with a live
5 animal. An approach and pursuit under this paragraph
6 is not driving, herding or molesting under legalese.
7 And that's proposing that as the amended language.

8

9 MR. WILSON: I will second that
10 language.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any
13 further discussion.

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: So we'd be voting on the
16 amendment, right.....

17

18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Correct.

19

20 MR. DUNAWAY:and then.....

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Amendment
23 first.

24

25 MR. DUNAWAY: Question.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: The
28 question's been called. All in favor of the amendment
29 to amend the language to include unit 17A and to add
30 the word open in front of Federal managed lands please
31 signify by saying aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
36 Motion carries. Now anymore discussion on the motion.

37

38 MR. DUNAWAY: Just a little comment.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

41

42 MR. DUNAWAY: I really like this part.
43 I want to compliment number 1, Pippa's hard work on
44 this and Robbin's and everybody else's, but I kind of
45 like this language saying approach and pursuit clearly
46 is not driving, herding or molesting because that's
47 been a real hang-up point in the past. And so thank
48 you for that inspired writing. So I'll leave it to
49 other people.

50

0120

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

4

5 MR. WILSON: Simpler the better.

6 Pretty simple.

7

8 Thanks.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. With
11 that I'll go ahead and call for the question. All
12 those in favor of the motion as amended please signify
13 by saying aye.

14

15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
18 Motion carries. Wow. I feel like celebrating on this
19 one.

20

21 Thank you, guys. Well, now -- yeah,
22 now we got to get it through the Federal Board.

23

24 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So hopefully
27 that's -- hopefully they'll remember about ANILCA on
28 that step.

29

30 MR. ANDERSON: High five everybody.

31

32 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. And
35 then we're back -- I'm sorry. Then we're back to our
36 agenda item 11K. Does anybody have any proposals that
37 they'd like us to consider at the moment. We'll keep
38 this -- we'll continue to keep it open, but since it is
39 an agenda item and not wanting to skip over them, I
40 will offer it up now if anybody came up with any Board
41 of Fish proposals that they'd like us to think about.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
46 That's perfect then. Let's go ahead and start on
47 agency reports. I'll leave that option open still.

48

49 MS. HONIG: Diana might be ready.

50

0121

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Do what?

2

3 MS. HONIG: She might be ready to go.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: You want to
6 check?

7

8 MS. HONIG: Uh-huh.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Stand
11 by. We're going to check and see first if we've got
12 our first report here with -- she is. Okay. The North
13 Pacific Fisheries Marine Council report ready for Dr.
14 Diana Stram. And I will let Leigh get us hooked up for
15 that.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MS. HONIG: Hi, it's Leigh Honig for
20 the record. Diana, if you give me a moment I'll put
21 your PowerPoint presentation on the screen for the
22 Council members.

23

24 DR. STRAM: Hi. Thank you, Leigh.
25 Hopefully you can hear me. This is Diana. Can you
26 guys hear me okay?

27

28 MS. HONIG: Yes, thank you, Dr. Diana.
29 We have got it loaded on the screen here.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 DR. STRAM: Okay. Thank you, Leigh.
34 Good afternoon, members of the Council. My name is
35 Diana Stram, I'm a Senior Scientist with the North
36 Pacific Fishery Management Council. I'm going to walk
37 through an overview of some slides of an update on
38 salmon bycatch. There's a longer presentation that was
39 in your books, but I'm just going to do a shorter
40 version of it and but I'm happy to answer additional
41 questions afterwards. So I'll just ask Leigh to
42 advance the slide so I can go to the next slide now.

43

44 So we took this up as a longer agenda
45 item at our Council meeting in June in Sitka, Alaska.
46 There was a number of items that were -- received
47 reports on. The longer presentation that I believe is
48 in your books and is available to you contains updates
49 on all six items, I'll just be talking on a subset of
50

0122

1 these. But we did receive a broad agenda item on
2 salmon stock status and research updates primarily
3 focused on western Alaska chinook and chum and
4 providing an overview of both salmon research and
5 different mandates that the agency, NOAA, has responded
6 to as well as coordination with ADF&G on their research
7 and their research plans. And we've been also
8 coordinating consistently with ADF&G and AFSC which is
9 the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, the research
10 branch of NOAA.

11

12 Annually we receive updates from the
13 agency then on salmon genetic reports. This is from
14 both the Bering Sea and the Gulf. I'm going to focus
15 on the Bering Sea, I'll provide you some of those
16 updates a little bit further into the presentation in
17 terms of the chum salmon bycatch genetics from the last
18 two years as well as the chinook genetics from 2020.
19 We also heard an overview from them on their ongoing
20 work plans and work with strychnine with emphasis on
21 the Council endorsed policy at the end of our meeting.
22 We had most recent a Bering Sea chinook adult
23 equivalency and impact rate report in terms of the
24 impact of chinook bycatch on active river systems
25 through western Alaska. I have those as supplemental
26 slides at the end of this, I wasn't sure about your
27 timing constraints. I'm happy to go through them or
28 answer questions, but that information is also
29 available to you as well as our feedback on how to
30 assess chum salmon bycatch impacts.

31

32 We also receive reports on an annual
33 basis from the pollack industry on their efforts to
34 reduce salmon bycatch within their (indiscernible -
35 distortion) agreements which I'll talk about in a
36 little bit and an update from SeaShare which is a
37 hunger relief organization which receives both donated
38 and bycatch salmon, halibut, rockfish, other groundfish
39 species as well and distribute those to hunger relief
40 organizations across Alaska and has made a big effort
41 in Alaska as well as the lower 48.

42

43 Next slide, please. Oh, I just would
44 pause for a minute to say we took this up in June.
45 Normally this is a report that the Council hears
46 annually in April. We've heard a lot of feedback and
47 we understand that the June filing wasn't very
48 convenient to a lot of people. We did that
49 deliberately because we were responding to trying to
50

0123

1 get the genetics information back from the 2021 fishery
2 where as we'll talk about there was a rather high level
3 of chum salmon bycatch (indiscernible - distortion).
4 So that was an attempt to try to align the timing of
5 the genetics with the presentation to the Council, but
6 we do understand that that -- that there was a lot of
7 angst about that. So we're working towards moving that
8 report back to April which would put it in Anchorage.

9

10 Next slide. So now I'm going to walk
11 through a brief history of some actions related to
12 chinook and chum salmon bycatch management in the
13 Bering Sea.

14

15 Next slide. This slide shows you the
16 trend from 1990 through 2021. In red is the chinook
17 salmon bycatch in the pollack fishery, in blue is chum
18 salmon bycatch. I would note that the way that we
19 categorize these in terms of bycatch for Federal
20 management, chinook is separate and then all the other
21 species are aggregated into a category called non-
22 chinook. Because that tends to be 99.9 percent chum we
23 really don't catch any of the other salmon species in
24 bycatch in the Bering Sea in the open ocean, so that
25 category we tend to refer to as just chum. It would
26 encompass any other bycatch of other salmon species
27 were they to show up, but we don't really catch any
28 personal numbers of sockeye and coho and so we tend to
29 just call it chum and we do look every year and it's
30 always over -- in the high 90 percent of chum.

31

32 So just to show you this graph then
33 over time from 1990 and I'll walk through different
34 stanzas of it as it relates to our management, but I
35 just wanted to point out that as of mid October the
36 pollack fishery has taken a little over 6,300 chinook
37 salmon as bycatch and for chum salmon about 242,000.

38

39 Next slide. So this slide just talks
40 about the same trend obviously of the bycatch, but the
41 way that we -- the Council has approached salmon
42 bycatch management, we have been managing it in the
43 Bering Sea since the early '90s, we in the '90s through
44 the early 2000s this was done primarily with time area
45 closures. So very, very large scale closures in the
46 Bering Sea that had a limit associated with them and
47 when that limit was reached the pollack fishery was
48 closed out of those closures for fishing for a period
49 of time, sometimes to the end of the year, sometimes

50

0124

1 for a specific month as it related to chum. And for a
2 while those closures seemed to be helping, but they
3 were based on historical averages of both fish and as
4 we've learned over time that's not a great way to
5 continue to manage.

6
7 Next slide. So what happened is that
8 in the early 2000s we were getting indications that the
9 salmon savings areas themselves were exacerbating the
10 bycatch so that the fishing for pollack inside the
11 salmon savings area was associated with less salmon
12 bycatch than fishing for pollack outside. So when the
13 limit was triggered and the fleet was pushed out of
14 those areas they were experiencing increased bites of
15 bycatch as a result of it. So the Council began to
16 develop different management measures to look at how to
17 either redo those areas or figure out different ways to
18 do it. So as an interim measure we developed an
19 amendment that allowed the fleet to provide their own
20 three to seven day closures and they were exempt from
21 the salmon savings area closures while we looked at
22 different bycatch mitigation measures. At that time
23 then the fleet ran into over 700,000 chum in 2005 so we
24 then -- all the management measures then tended to be
25 focused on how to reduce chum salmon bycatch.

26
27 Next slide. So while we were working
28 on those chum salmon bycatch measures including caps
29 and various other measures for chum, it -- we are kind
30 of a slow process in terms of regulatory management
31 measures so while we were developing different
32 management measures to address chum, the fleet ran into
33 over 120,000 chinook salmon as bycatch. So that
34 shifted the entire priority of the management measures.
35 Chinook is always the priority and the Council shifted
36 all management measures from chum to looking
37 specifically at chinook to try to make sure that this
38 situation could never develop again. So we spent over
39 a year and a half developing different cap levels and
40 the -- at that time had a Council Committee that was
41 working on developing on cap levels and multiple
42 workshops with our Science and Statistical Committee in
43 order to come up with what eventually became analyzed
44 as the current management parameter, Amendment 91.

45
46 Next slide, please. So we developed
47 what's called Amendment 91 which I will -- I have the
48 slide in a few to talk about what that means. And at
49 that time then we also provided a sense of outreach to
50

0125

1 western Alaska communities. We came out and
2 participated for multiple years in all of the RAC
3 meetings in addition to bringing Staff out to explain
4 what the actual action was, we brought Council members
5 themselves as well to speak with the Council, the RACs
6 as well as local communities. That action was taken in
7 2009 and was implemented in 2011 and that actually put
8 a hard cap which is a hard limit on the pollack fishery
9 for the first time which meant that instead of being
10 moved out of an area, the pollack fishery would shut
11 down if they reached that limit within a season or for
12 the end of the year.

13

14 Next slide, please. So that was
15 implemented in 2011. And there's a number of things
16 that went into place in conjunction with implementing
17 Amendment 91. We then did systematic genetic sampling
18 so while before we had lots of sampling for salmon as
19 bycatch, now it's a full salmon census and so every
20 salmon that's brought onboard is counted and if it's on
21 a shoreside catcher vessel that's delivering shoreside
22 they -- that salmon is counted by the observer onshore
23 when they deliver their catch. However there are
24 cameras onboard at all points of entry to ensure
25 compliance for catcher/processors and mother ships,
26 that that salmon is counted by the observers that are
27 onboard and we have 100 observer coverage. So every
28 salmon is censused, both chinook and chum.

29

30 We also instituted a systematic genetic
31 sampling. So previously we had opportunistic genetic
32 sampling so when there was a (indiscernible -
33 distortion) in place the observer would take a sample
34 and we'd try to -- we'd have geneticists analyze it.
35 Now for every 10th chinook that's brought onboard and
36 every chum that's brought onboard, those fish are
37 sampled for genetics. And so we have this systematic
38 sampling and that's why we're able to -- the agency's
39 able to provide the Council with annual reports on the
40 genetic stock composition of the salmon from the
41 pollack fishery in the Bering Sea. We still have
42 somewhat opportunistic sampling in the Gulf of Alaska
43 so that's not quite as equivalent, but we do provide
44 those, those reports are still provided annually.

45

46 So finally 111 and the Council
47 reassessed looking at chum measures, understanding that
48 chum has still not been addressed at that time and so
49 the Council began to develop similar cap measures as
50

50

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1 well as time and area closures for chum salmon as
2 management measures to address the possibility of
3 increased chum bycatch. At that time then in 2012 the
4 Council tabled any action at that time on chum salmon
5 bycatch or area closures because all the information we
6 had was that the -- any of those measures would
7 undermine the current priority on chinook salmon in
8 terms of the new measure they were taking there.

9
10 Next slide, please. At that time then
11 due to increased concerns with western Alaska chinook
12 salmon over a number of years and some indication that
13 while Amendment 91 clearly was working overall for
14 bycatch reduction, there was some indications that not
15 all vessels were -- had a significant incentive to
16 avoid bycatch at all times. So we went put into place
17 an additional provision under that management program
18 in response to both vessel level incentives under the
19 incentive plan agreement as well as a lower cap in
20 years of low chinook abundance in response to low
21 western Alaska chinook return.

22
23 Next slide. So this slide just
24 provides you the overall picture of how chinook salmon
25 bycatch is managed in the Bering Sea. And we have two
26 different cap levels in Amendment 91 and 110. We have
27 a three river index which is a -- an annual sum of the
28 post season's in river chinook salmon in the Kuskokwim,
29 the Unalakleet and the upper Yukon. That information
30 is provided to the Council on an annual basis in
31 October. If the sum of those three rivers is less than
32 250,000 fish then the Bering Sea pollack fishery goes
33 under a low cap level so their cap is reduced, both the
34 performance standard which they are designed to stay
35 below as well as the overall cap is reduced in those
36 years. So in the past we have had -- this coming year
37 in 2022 we're under a low cap level, in 2021 we were
38 and in 2023 we will also be under a low cap level.

39
40 There are also additional provisions
41 under this management program within the incentive plan
42 agreements by each of the pollack fishery sectors.
43 There's four different sectors, they work under three
44 different plan agreements. And they have had closures,
45 the three to seven days closures that they put into
46 place when they run into hotspots of salmon bycatch in
47 the Bering Sea and there are provisions and fines for
48 violating any of those closures. There are also
49 incentives in place, penalties and fines, for vessel
50

0127

1 behavior as well as fishing later into September and
2 October when the fleet tends to run into more chinook
3 bycatch. Provisions for salmon escape panels which
4 I'll show in my next slide and then again the
5 contribution to SeaShare, the donation to the food bank
6 for the salmon that's unavoidably caught as bycatch
7 that is donated to food banks.

8

9 Next slide, please. So salmon
10 excluders, these are now required on all the pollack --
11 all pollack fishing operations. There's provisions
12 when they aren't being using, but they're very rare due
13 to net failure or things like that, but in general all
14 the fleet is now required to use these. These are
15 escape panels where the pollack fishery has worked with
16 scientists to design these and what they provide is an
17 opportunity for salmon to escape the pause net before
18 they get drawn back into the caught end. Given the
19 fact that the hole in the net creates a V in the
20 current so it creates a lesser current and the chinook
21 are -- and chum to a lesser degree are able to take
22 advantage of that and move into the slower current and
23 move out of the pause net while the pollack themselves
24 get drawn back into the caught end. They've been
25 developing these for years, they've become more and
26 more successful. They tend to be more successful for
27 chinook than they are for chum, but the escape rate is
28 anywhere between 20 and 30 percent. So they've become
29 very successful for chinook and they are being used by
30 the whole fleet.

31

32 Next slide, please. This next slide
33 just shows you just as a snapshot the next two slides
34 are just talking about the (indiscernible - distortion)
35 area catch pattern. So the graph that you see there is
36 the catch of pollack in terms of the A season and the B
37 season. Pollack is caught in the winter season which
38 begins on January 20th and concludes in about mid
39 April, technically it can go until June, but they're
40 almost always done by early April. And what you see in
41 those three panels to the right then are the last three
42 years, 2019, 2020 and 2021, just showing the
43 concentration. Those bars that you see are just the
44 concentration of pollack catch so where they're
45 catching that. So in general the shoreside fleet is
46 operating very close to Unimak Island in that area.
47 The whole fleet is restricted by the ice edge in all of
48 these years and then the offshore fleet tends to come a
49 little bit closer to the Pribilofs in the winter
50

0128

1 season, in the A season.

2

3 Next slide, please. And then this
4 slide just shows you the exact same figure, but for the
5 B season. So the summer season that begins in June and
6 concludes -- it can conclude as late as early November.
7 They tend to be -- I think this year they were nearly
8 all done by the end of September. But again that goes
9 up the shelf edge all the way very close to the Russian
10 border, the 200 nautical mile easy. The shoreside
11 fleet again tends to be more concentrated closer to
12 shore, but the catcher/processors and mother ships are
13 operating all the way up that ice edge past St.
14 Lawrence Island and towards Russia.

15

16 Next slide, please. And now just a
17 brief overview of genetics. Again this is the reports
18 that we receive every year. We use them in our impact
19 analyses and we also receive a snapshot of them to the
20 Council on an annual basis.

21

22 Next slide. This slide shows you the
23 trends and the genetic breakouts. To the left is for
24 chinook salmon, to the right is for chum. And what I'm
25 just showing in the pie chart, again the trend that you
26 see is the overall bycatch numbers by year from 2003
27 through 2021. For the chinook graph you'll see a green
28 and a red line, those are the cap levels that are in
29 place in those years. So the green is the performance
30 standard, the red is the overall limit and where you
31 see it drop down those are the years where it was under
32 a lower cap level. And again I would note 2022 was
33 also under a lower cap level.

34

35 The pie chart just shows you a snapshot
36 of one year's genetic data. They have been fairly
37 consistent on an annual basis so what you see for
38 chinook is that the coastal west Alaska and Yukon
39 components which is about as finely as we can breakout
40 the coastal west Alaska chinook stats, you can break
41 out the upper Yukon separately from coastal west
42 Alaska, but we can't break them out by individual river
43 systems. But that comprises about 40 percent on
44 average of the bycatch in any one year. And but then
45 when you look at chum salmon then that same grouping
46 which is shown in red is only about 16 percent because
47 the majority of chum bycatch that's encountered by the
48 fleet tends to come from Asia and they're presumed to
49 be hatchery leaning fish and that tends to be closer to
50

0129

1 60 percent of the bycatch in any of those years.

2

3

4 Next slide. This slide just shows you
5 from the report that we received in June, again we get
6 them on an annual basis, these are all the years that
7 we've gotten systematic genetic sampling. So beginning
8 in 2011 with the bright red bar that you see going
9 through 2020 which is the latest genetic report that we
10 received, showing you the breakout. These are the only
11 genetic breakouts that they're able to provide this
12 information on. So it's at a very aggregate course
13 level, again coastal west Alaska which includes
14 everything, all of the river systems in western Alaska
15 with the exception of the middle Yukon and the upper
16 Yukon. The north Alaska Peninsula is broken out
17 separately, northwest Gulf of Alaska comprises all of
18 those river systems with the exception of the coastal
19 southeast Alaska river systems and then we have the
20 river systems to British Columbia and then the entire
21 west coast of the U.S.

21

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Next slide, please. So this is just to
show you a closeup of the river system that we're
primarily concerned with in terms of coastal west
Alaska and it shows you in terms of bycatch numbers.
So given the number of fish that are bycaught in a year
how many of those would have returned to aggregate
coastal west Alaska. And so what you see in 2020 is
that of all the fish that were caught in bycatch about
16,000 of them would have been returning to all of the --
in aggregate all the systems in coastal west Alaska.
So we can't tell you which river, but just that they
are all genetically associated with returning to a
river in western Alaska. And then if you look in the
upper Yukon of course it's much, much smaller and I
believe closer to about 500 to 800 fish in 2020.

Next slide, please. Similar
information then for chum, a slightly different way of
showing the graph, the lower graph is the bycatch
numbers and their genetic contribution, the upper is
the stock proportion. And what you see in yellow is
western Alaska. So again that's the proportion in
western Alaska. The proportion of the bycatch in
western Alaskan and the Yukon has been lower on average
over the last couple years. The important take from
here is that even with that very, very large bycatch of
over 500,000 fish last summer in 2021, the proportion
that would have returned to western Alaska is closer to

0130

1 50,000 across all of those river systems. And so the --
2 and then similarly for the upper and middle Yukon is
3 less than I think 2,000 fish. So we're still working
4 with a geneticist to try to process these data
5 particularly for chum in terms of time and space to
6 better look at how we could develop measures for stock
7 specific avoidance.

8
9 Next slide. Okay. And then just
10 moving on to the Council action in June and looking
11 forward to what we have coming up in December.

12
13 Next slide. So the Council had a very
14 lengthy agenda item on this in June and heard a lot of
15 public testimony and a lot of different reports. The
16 Council does acknowledge the western Alaska salmon
17 crisis and the impact it's having on culture and food
18 security throughout western Alaska. The greatest
19 indication scientifically is that climate's the primary
20 driver of poor salmon returns, but despite that the
21 Council is still committed to trying to improve their
22 bycatch management program to minimize bycatch
23 regardless of pollack and salmon abundance.

24
25 So a couple of different things, I'll
26 go through three different slides in terms of the
27 actions that were taken by the Council and what they
28 mean. The Council requested that the pollack industry
29 come back and implement additional chum salmon bycatch
30 avoidance measures immediately. They were provided
31 with some information from the pollack industry on what
32 their plans were for the summer of 2022 fishing
33 operations. They will be provided with reports from
34 the pollack industry in December on the results of
35 their new measures and how that helped with their
36 increased bycatch avoidance of chums over the -- over
37 the B season of 2022 differently from the year before
38 in 2021.

39
40 The Council also requested a discussion
41 paper and this is the task that we're working on
42 currently and this is updating the information that we
43 have in 2012 when the Council was looking at a chum
44 salmon bycatch cap and time and area closures, but
45 we'll be providing a number of items in that discussion
46 paper. That paper will be produced by November 11th
47 and it will review the current way that chum salmon
48 bycatch is managed in the Bering Sea pollack fishery,
49 the measures that were considered in 2012 in terms of
50

0131

1 the relative cap levels and time area closures and the
2 rationale for why that analysis did not move forward,
3 looking at a tradeoff in the Bering Sea pollack fishery
4 of other prohibited species catch that they are also
5 working to avoid such as herring as well as chum and
6 chinook salmon. And also a summary of some conditions
7 that have changed since we last looked at chum
8 specifically in 2012 and so we've compiled information
9 on hatchery releases, not just Asian hatchery releases,
10 but hatchery releases across the Bering -- across the
11 Pacific Rim and how those have fluctuated in recent
12 years as well as an update on western Alaska chum
13 stock.

14
15 Next slide, please. The Council also
16 is aware of the state of Alaska's Bycatch Task Force
17 and so it intends to review the recommendations of that
18 task force, those recommendations as I understand it
19 should be coming out by the end of this month I believe
20 on the 29th. The Council has also -- has initiated a
21 Salmon Bycatch Committee. That committee was just
22 tasked on the 28th of October and we're trying to
23 formulate a meeting by the end of November so that we
24 can provide -- so the Committee can review the chum
25 discussion paper as well as if there are Task Force
26 recommendations that are available to the Committee and
27 provide the Council with their recommendations prior to
28 the December -- at the December Council action.

29
30 So we're in the middle of trying to set
31 up that Committee meeting right now so we should have a
32 Federal Register notice by the end of this week and a
33 Committee meeting set up for the last week in November.
34 That will obviously be a public meeting and it will be
35 noticed on our website and it will be virtual. So
36 folks can call in and provide public comment at that
37 time. And the Council will take all of these issues up
38 at its December Council meeting, the review of the
39 discussion paper, the Task Force recommendations if
40 they're available as well as Committee recommendations
41 coming out of that meeting.

42
43 Next slide, please. And then finally
44 the Council indicated its prioritization on Bering Sea
45 salmon research, looking to support both NOAA and ADF&G
46 in developing models for -- predicative models in terms
47 of the location of and stock specific identification
48 in the Bering Sea of salmon stocks, western Alaska
49 salmon to help with tailoring some management measures
50

0132

1 and also indicated their support for -- it's already
2 ongoing work, but trying to streamline the amount of
3 time it takes for the geneticist to receive the bycatch
4 information, the otoliths and scales from the salmon
5 and process those genetic samples so that they can
6 provide their findings only one year behind rather than
7 two years behind and they're hard working on that.

8

9 Next slide, please. Okay. So finally
10 just a timeline in terms of -- again and obviously we
11 called for nominations for the Salmon Bycatch
12 Committee. That Committee has now been appointed as of
13 Monday and we have sent notifications to the 10 members
14 plus the two Council Co-Chairs and we're working to
15 have this first meeting again the end of November. The
16 purpose of the meeting will be introductory, go over
17 the terms of reference of the Committee and to review
18 the chum discussion paper. If the Task Force
19 recommendations are available by that time the
20 Committee may also discuss those, if not we'll have to
21 do those in a follow-up meeting after that time as well
22 as the -- there is also in addition to the overall Task
23 Force on Bycatch for the State, there is a western
24 Alaska Subcommittee that had their own recommendations
25 as well.

26

27 So at the December Council meeting that
28 is in Anchorage and is also hybrid so you can listen
29 online and comment online, the Council will be
30 reviewing the chum discussion paper and the Committee
31 recommendations and making any recommended management
32 approaches going forward from that. Again there will
33 likely have to be a follow-up meeting with the
34 Committee after the December meeting, understanding the
35 timing of the Task Force recommendations that are being
36 brought forward.

37

38 The only other thing I have to indicate
39 and then I'm happy to answer any questions or go
40 through additional slides, on a separate -- separate
41 note that is important to note to you that the Council
42 has designated a specific tribal seat for the Advisory
43 Panel. The nominations will be available through
44 February 3rd. That information's available in a
45 spotlight on our website. The seat does not have to go
46 to an Alaska Native, but it must be supported by Alaska
47 Native tribes out of that information. So all that
48 information is available on our website. I can also
49 send it separately to your Coordinator to make sure
50

0133

1 that that information is distributed to you. But
2 that'll be open through February 3rd, it will be a
3 permanent seat on our Advisory Panel on a three year
4 rotational basis. And that was something that was just
5 decided at our October meeting.

6
7 With that, Mr. Chair, I'll pause for
8 questions or I'm happy to go through additional
9 information or answer any questions I can to help you.

10
11 Thanks.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
14 Thank you. I'll open it up for questions from my
15 Council.

16
17 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

20
21 MR. DUNAWAY: I have a couple. And
22 this is just kind of -- might be old stuff, but I used
23 to hear about 100 percent observer coverage and I just
24 could -- I'm just asking for a refresher on this. Do
25 we have 100 percent observer coverage and what does
26 that mean these days, I'm -- I've lost track? Okay.

27
28 DR. STRAM: Sure. Thank you for the
29 question. Yes, we do have 100 percent observer
30 coverage, technically on catcher/processors we've got
31 200 percent observer coverage because there are two
32 observers onboard. All of the catches are observed, in
33 particular (indiscernible - distortion) there was a --
34 there was less than 100 percent observer coverage on
35 some aspects of the shoreside fleet prior to 2011, but
36 as a provision of implementing the Amendment 91 and the
37 hard cap on the pollack fishery, every sector of the
38 pollack fishery whether they were below that observer
39 coverage prior, are now up to 100 percent observer
40 coverage. And again every salmon in censused, that's a
41 huge move in terms of how we address counting salmon
42 that is brought onboard as bycatch. So it is now a
43 salmon census so every single salmon that is brought
44 onboard is counted, there's no sub sampling, not how
45 many of the other catches are extrapolated, this is an
46 actual census for all salmon species.

47
48 I hope that answers your question.
49 Thanks.

50

0134

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, that does because
2 there was a time where -- yeah, it was a little
3 different interpretation. So sounds like every caught
4 in that comes up gets looked at.

5
6 And another one to focus just on kind
7 of more midwater and trawling here and just out of
8 curiosity is there any data collected on the flatfish,
9 mackerel or yellowfin sole type, other fisheries, is
10 there any significant salmon in there, is it collected
11 or just what goes on with those other fisheries?

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 DR. STRAM: Yeah, thanks for the
16 question, that's a great question. So the census
17 itself is only on the pollack fleet, but those other
18 fleets that you mentioned are also under 100 percent
19 observer coverage, they're rationalized. So the
20 Amendment 80 fleet which is what catches most of the
21 flatfish, they do catch some salmon, there is not a
22 limit on the salmon in that fishery or specific salmon
23 bycatch measures in that fishery. The focus has been
24 on the pollack fishery because they catch the majority,
25 but I would say and I can send the website as well,
26 this is National Marine Fisheries service report on
27 groundfish bycatch of salmon and then separately the
28 pollack fishery bycatch of salmon so that you can see
29 that in any given year in general it's roughly just off
30 the top of my head around 3,000 salmon that that fleet
31 catches, anywhere from three to six. And so in years
32 where the pollack fishery is lower in their salmon
33 bycatch obviously the proportions of that fishery is
34 higher, but in general the numbers that they catch are
35 somewhat consistent across the board in terms of that
36 number of chinook salmon.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
39 you.

40
41 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

44
45 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
46 The question is has the water temperatures done any
47 collating with the bycatch, is there studies also on
48 water temperatures and how's that collate with some of
49 the bycatch that's happening, is there any differences?
50

0135

1 DR. STRAM: Yeah, thank you for the
2 question, that's a great question. We did look into
3 that previously when we were developing Amendment 91,
4 we also had an NPRB proposal where we put thermistors,
5 temperature measuring on the nets of pollack -- of some
6 vessels, some nets in the pollack fleet. So we did
7 look at temperature, we looked at a bunch of
8 environmental correlation for bycatch, but the answer
9 at least at the time and I can't say now because we
10 haven't repeated that and I haven't seen information
11 more recently than that, but when we did look at it
12 before the number of variables that we were looking at,
13 temperature was one of them, day and nighttime fishing
14 were one of them, depth was another. The answer is
15 that all of those matter a little bit, but none of them
16 are the real smoking gun or we would have developed
17 measures that were more specific to those areas. So I
18 would imagine that if we were to look at that again now
19 and that's probably something that we should be doing,
20 we'd probably find similar information in terms of
21 water temperature. I think as it relates to say how
22 the bycatch water temperature probably is a bigger
23 factor in terms of the aggregation or disaggregation of
24 flatfish stocks in relation to that, we haven't really
25 looked at that in terms of the pollack fishery
26 recently, but it's certainly something that we should
27 be keeping an eye on to see if that's an exacerbating
28 factor.

29
30 Thanks. And I hope that answered your
31 question. I'm sorry we haven't looked at it more
32 recently.

33
34 MR. WILSON: Okay.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
37 you.

38
39 MR. ANDERSON: Too much to absorb.

40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I tried to read
42 this last night.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, very
45 much a lot to absorb. Any other questions.

46
47 MR. ANDERSON: Not of that.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

50

0136

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

4

5 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm trying to remember
6 where in here is there a chance we could get some
7 notifications on some of these if there's any progress
8 or recommendations come out of some of these meetings?

9

10 DR. STRAM: Sure. That was hard to
11 hear. I think what you're asking for is notifications
12 of the recommendations from some of these meetings. I'
13 happy to work through your Coordinator and make sure
14 that I can get to you any reports and recommendations
15 that come out of it. Again we're hoping to meet, we
16 haven't decided that, it'll either be the 28th or the
17 30th, and I'll be sure to communicate with all the RAC
18 Coordinators in terms of when we're meeting in -- from
19 the Committee standpoint as well as information that's
20 coming before the Council in December. This will be a
21 fairly significant agenda item in December as the
22 Council reviews the information from the bycatch catch
23 source, from the Committee, from the discussion paper
24 and deliberates on where to go in terms of potential
25 management measures for chum salmon.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. Okay.
28 Thank you. I think that that would be a reasonable
29 vehicle through our coordinators to get us that
30 information and they can disburse from there.

31

32 Any other questions, requests,
33 comments.

34

35 MR. DUNAWAY: That was really
36 interesting.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Uh-huh.
39 Very. We're extremely happy that you took the time and
40 energy and effort to join us here this afternoon, Dr.
41 Stram, and really appreciate your time. I'm sure that
42 you'll be hearing from us additionally in the future
43 and we appreciate your efforts to keep in touch with
44 us. That'll be very much appreciated as well.

45

46 DR. STRAM: Thank you very much. We're
47 always (indiscernible - distortion) and I think we're
48 going to try to -- I can't speak for the Council, but I
49 know that the effort for the winter meeting was to try

50

0137

1 to be able to participate in person as time and
2 resources allow. So I'll certainly be in touch about
3 that.

4

5 Thank you for your time.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Wonderful.

8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. ANDERSON: That was really good.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, it was.

13

14 MR. ANDERSON: Still really hard to
15 hear.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes. Okay.
18 Let's move on -- actually let's backtrack to our tribal
19 governments, Native organizations. Do we -- we don't
20 have any tribal government reports, but I would guess
21 that maybe we have BBNA.

22

23 Oh, good. Courtenay, wonderful. You
24 have the floor.

25

26 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Madame Chair,
27 members of the Council. For the record Courtenay
28 Carty, Tribal Administrator of the Curyung Tribe here
29 in Dillingham. I think I just want to briefly start my
30 report by telling people a little bit about our tribe
31 and our community. I've had a lot of questions
32 yesterday and this morning about how to pronounce our
33 name. So the C is a C-H and the R is the -- I don't
34 know if the word's guttural, but the (indiscernible)
35 sound. So Curyung is our traditional placing here in
36 Dillingham, it is the place on earth where the Wood
37 River, freshwater from the Wood River flows into the
38 freshwater of the Nushagak and the estuary forms. And
39 so the water here becomes muddy or murky like tea.
40 Caayu being the Yup'ik word for tea, steeped tea. And
41 so the water here is murky like tea and that's how
42 you'd know where to find Curyung or now Dillingham.

43

44 So thank you. We are the largest
45 Federally-recognized tribe of the 31 tribes here in
46 Bristol Bay. Our current population is 3,159
47 individuals who live internationally, a lot here in
48 Dillingham, I think about 43 percent and the rest
49 throughout Anchorage, Mat-Su Valley and a lot in the
50

0138

1 Pacific northwest. And interestingly enough Oklahoma
2 and some of the eastern states even.

3 So the things that I wanted to speak
4 with about today, I'm sure I could talk all day about
5 all the different programs our tribe operates, but of
6 course I'll keep it to the Federal nexus and
7 subsistence. I didn't do a very good job white carding
8 this morning, but I figured I could catch a couple of
9 these things during my report. During the conversation
10 on RAC recruitment I had come up to the table when we
11 were on break and mentioned to some of you so I just
12 thought I'd put it on the record that I think it would
13 be important as we're experiencing out migration in our
14 region where so many people are moving into urban
15 Alaska, we also see migration within region. We see a
16 lot of our neighbors from the smaller villages moving
17 into Dillingham here for economic opportunities. I've
18 sure you probably see a similar thing on the east side.

19
20

21 With that said I think it would be
22 prudent to look at trying to tap some of the
23 subregional dynamic in the RAC, trying to reach some of
24 the Togiak folks or those Peninsula folks who might
25 have moved into the hub communities. They still have
26 roots in their subregions, they grew up traditionally
27 harvesting there and would be very, very knowledgeable
28 about hunting practices, fishing practices, in those
29 communities as well as now their new home community.
30 So that might be something to think about through RAC
31 recruitment.

32

33 We at the Tribal Council do talk about
34 RAC recruitment at our meetings during the open cycle
35 and try to either identify folks in our community or
36 within our tribal membership to try to tap them for
37 either encouraging them to apply, sometimes the Council
38 will nominate folks or support someone who wants to
39 self nominate.

40

41 Let's see, priority information needs.
42 I feel like that used to be my baby when I was a RAC
43 baby, young in my career. Spent a lot of time at BBNA
44 in developing that, working in the Partners position
45 that Cody's in and Gayla is now in. If Gayla comes
46 back to the room I'll ask her to join if she's
47 available and add anything in as our Second Chief.

48

49 So the one thing I didn't see and I

50

0139

1 know I've kind of through covid and some career
2 changes, taken a break from the RAC for a while, but I
3 didn't see anything about sharing networks in the
4 priority information needs. We used to have that in
5 there. Sharing is still very much a very necessary
6 component of subsistence, subsistence being our
7 traditional ways of harvesting and sharing. I think as
8 we see reduction availability of other species our
9 sharing reliance on each other for the species that are
10 available not only within families, within communities,
11 but within the region and the greater context of the
12 State becomes more and more apparent. And really
13 necessary to uphold that component of what subsistence
14 actually is, it's not just harvesting, it's how we
15 share the foods that we harvest.

16

17 So I don't know if that's something
18 that needs to be built back in to the priority
19 information needs at some point in time, but we see
20 that here in Dillingham. Our tribe just got done and
21 Desi Bond is our Environmental Coordinator on the line
22 today, really was instrumental in coordinating a
23 subsistence food drive from Dillingham to Chevak or
24 Curyung to Chevak. They just sent up a thousand pounds
25 of subsistence food from our community to their
26 community in the last week. The drive was open for a
27 few weeks and the shipment was just made.

28

29 And we had the honor of having
30 Congresswoman Mary Peltola here, I guess she was
31 candidate Mary Peltola the day that she was here. Same
32 with Senator Murkowski, but at Peltola's potluck she
33 had mentioned the vast resource richness here in
34 Bristol Bay and how quick our people are to share our
35 resources and mentioned that in her own family the only
36 smoked fish they have, the only dry fish they have is
37 Bristol Bay reds primarily donated from a family here
38 in Dillingham.

39

40 And so as other regions are having less
41 and less subsistence opportunity and we have our
42 opportunities perhaps being more provided for than
43 others, I feel like the sharing network that we have
44 already established and may be establishing in these
45 times of shortage, need to really be protected. And we
46 need to find a way to make sure that our regulations
47 continue to allow for families to harvest enough to not
48 only meet their own needs, but the needs within their
49 sharing network.

50

1 The second thing I wanted to talk about
2 with the priority information needs and perhaps even
3 tying into issues for your annual report would be chum
4 salmon. Traditionally Bristol Bay has not been a
5 region reliant on chum salmon like the YK Delta or even
6 the interior villages, but we do cherish those chums
7 that we get. And over the last couple years as our
8 kings are declining our chums are also declining.
9 That's something discussed regularly at our Council
10 table, not just during our regular monthly meetings,
11 but as we have consultation with different government
12 agencies. We've had the EPA out here April, June and
13 October for tribal consultation and at every single one
14 of those consultation opportunities we discussed our
15 decline in chum availability. My own household for
16 example, I harvested no chum this year, I harvested no
17 chum last year. Last year it was kind of shocking for
18 me to not even have one chum and this year I didn't get
19 another chum. One of our highest harvesting households
20 here in Dillingham only received 11 chum.

21
22 And so as our kings are declining --
23 I'm sure this would be a very big point of contention,
24 but chum can be a substitute. It's still a very oily
25 fish, I know personally in my can packs I prefer to
26 smoke a chum on my tray here and mix that in with my
27 sockeye so it's not so dry especially if you don't have
28 enough king to maintain that balance. And so as our
29 chinook are declining like we -- I think we barely met
30 escapement this year, didn't meet it last year, our
31 reliance on chum is increasing at the same time that
32 those species are decreasing. And so one thing we
33 tried to make sure regulators understand although we
34 live in this well marketed Bristol Bay sockeye capital,
35 greatest run ever season, there are real declines that
36 are happening and that our families experience. And so
37 we wanted to make sure to put that on the record today.

38
39 The last thing I wanted to talk with
40 you about was actually the first thing I was going to
41 talk with you about was just to provide the RAC an
42 update on our Nushagak Peninsula caribou hunt and how
43 our tribe has decided to handle the hunt this year.
44 Last year we received two caribou permits for the
45 community of Dillingham and we decided to have one
46 designated hunter pick those caribou up or, you know,
47 go to the Peninsula and harvest them and turn them into
48 our senior center. And so that meat was shared with
49 the elders through the senior lunch program.

0141

1 This year we got eight caribou permits
2 and we're really faced with a challenge in how do we
3 allocate eight permits for a community of 2,300 people.
4 And so our Council did a lot of inner discussions, we
5 met with the Refuge Manager, J.J. Larson is our First
6 Chief, he's not able to be here today, but he and I sat
7 down with Mr. Kenton Moos and had a discussion and we
8 decided to come up on for lack of better language, a
9 tier two type system. We advertised for more than 10
10 days for interested hunters who wished to hunt one of
11 the eight permits with the intention of returning the
12 meat to the tribe for elder donation. Again
13 maintaining our relationship with the senior center to
14 try to get food into as many homes as possible, but
15 this year also trying to have an elders meat
16 distribution list where folks from the community, you
17 don't have to be a tribal member, just an elder within
18 the community of Dillingham, could put their name on
19 the list as well as I guess perhaps individual hunters
20 could in theory share with their own elders, but the
21 intent was for the meat to come back to the Council for
22 us to share that with the senior center and then
23 throughout the elders in the community. We have issued
24 two caribou permits so far.

25

26 And I guess that would conclude my
27 report for you today, Madame Chair. I'd be happy to
28 answer any questions.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank
33 you, Courtenay. Appreciate that very much. Questions
34 from Council members.

35

36 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

39

40 MR. DUNAWAY: Courtenay, thanks for
41 bringing up the chum because I'd meant to mention that.
42 I've had the same experience and they're not -- I'm not
43 the biggest fan of them, but sometimes early season,
44 big chum really goes good on a barbecue. And so I'm
45 glad -- yeah, that is still an important fish.

46

47 And then I was going to say that
48 caribou solution was really pretty unique. I hope it
49 works out. It's really interesting, I was wondering
50

0142

1 how those would be distributed. So I was curious where
2 we were that too. So I know of one being caught I
3 think. So.....

4

5 MS. CARTY: I'll defer to Mr. Aderman
6 for the harvest reporting, but I appreciate that
7 comment and thank you. You know, from our Council's
8 perspective it was very much a way to in these modern
9 times under these modern mechanisms of the different
10 management systems that we have to return to a
11 traditional harvest method. In times of shortage we
12 feed our elders and it was important for our Council to
13 continue that tradition and hopefully we start
14 something new here if -- you know, in our conversations
15 with the Refuge if the population remains where it's
16 supposed to be, we're looking somewhere about perhaps
17 eight to maybe 20 permits a year. And so this might be
18 a model if it works right, that we will live with for a
19 while, we'll just have to see how it plays out.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
22 Courtenay. I found that unique too and good thinking
23 outside the box.

24

25 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any other
28 questions or comments.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
33 Seeing none. I would also ask though, I agree with
34 you, I was trying to think of wording for a PIN, this
35 wording too and that's the -- I like the sharing
36 network, I think that's a good phrase to use. Where'd
37 Jarred go?

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MS. CARTY: And we used to have a PIN
42 on that, Madame Chair, in the past so we could probably
43 dig that old language up.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. And
46 because I know the last few we had in there didn't
47 get.....

48

49 MS. CARTY: Uh-huh.

50

0143

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:taken
2 up by anybody for studies. But I would -- I would
3 propose that we consider putting that on our list for
4 future subjects. That's a good way to put it. Okay.

5

6 Thank you again. Go ahead.

7

8 MR. STONE: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
9 think it's a timely discussion. I -- you could
10 entertain bringing the motion back and we could add
11 that to the list, that wouldn't be a problem. Up to
12 you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I will ask
15 my Council what their wishes are.

16

17 MR. DUNAWAY: We were pretty supportive
18 of the Chignik network information and as I get on a
19 few more Facebook groups, it's pretty amazing, berries
20 and muktuk and there's places that how do they get
21 muktuk in the interior. There's a heck of a sharing
22 goes on. I wouldn't mind leaving the door open for
23 those opportunities and if some need comes up, some
24 study proposal came up, it would be like -- I'd like to
25 be able to entertain it, okay.

26

27 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

30

31 MR. WILSON: I agree. I'll second
32 that.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. And
35 could I -- I would -- I guess what I had envisioned
36 with -- again with the blessings of the Council, would
37 be just a general network sharing. I have seen also
38 and have thought very long and hard especially when the
39 Chigniks first went sour, let's put it that way, and I
40 know that there were many of my friends and neighbors
41 and myself included that sent fish their way to make
42 sure that those families were covered. And I've
43 wondered about that and documenting it. So it's
44 actually been going on for, you know, a long time. I
45 mean, even longer than that. I'm not using my words
46 right here, but it's the -- encompassing the importance
47 of it I guess is the point that I would like to make.
48 But if we could just have a PIN that would be added to
49 that that would include kind of an all encompassing
50

0144

1 also regional study of sharing networks, maybe just as
2 general as that. Would that work for everybody?

3

4 MR. ANDERSON: We could try.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Perhaps then
7 we'd have somebody that actually would want to take it
8 up and study it and we could have maybe -- and we could
9 maybe focus it on regional sharing networks with
10 communities in need and just even, you know, leave it
11 at that because that's what we're seeing, I mean,
12 that's what I'm seeing more and more of because we
13 weren't hurting at all up here when the Chigniks were,
14 then the Yukon went down and we -- things -- and we
15 could be next, we don't know, but I think that it --
16 you know, just something very general on those lines.
17 Would that work for you?

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
22 you. Thank you for my diversion.

23

24 I'm going to go ahead and give us just
25 a quick five minute break and do we have any other
26 tribal governments here that are wanting to present.

27

28 MR. DUNAWAY: Cody from.....

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, that's
31 BBNA, so that's tribe -- yeah, that'll be Native
32 organizations. So then just to give Cody a heads-up
33 you'll -- I'll do BBNA next or whomever else is -- if
34 that's works for you so you can prepare yourself over
35 break too. Okay.

36

37 Thanks.

38

39 (Off record)

40

41 (On record)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I'll call us
44 back to order and start with BBNA's report. Cody, go
45 ahead. I'll give you the floor.

46

47 MR. LARSON: Thank you, Madame Chair,
48 it's good to be here. Council members, glad to see you
49 all in person and well. So I'll give you a little bit

50

0145

1 of what my program, the Partners Program at BBNA's been
2 doing since the last update. And I'll start with some
3 of the work that Courtenay and Dan touched on is this
4 last spring I was working with a group of researchers
5 collectively, the known -- like referred to as the
6 Polaris Project, it's been ongoing for a few years.
7 And we were able to work with the Curyung Tribal
8 Council, Desi assisted us with some things, and Chance
9 here with the Division of Subsistence, some folks with
10 the UAF, University of Alaska Fairbanks and Penn State
11 University were looking at food security, subsistence
12 harvests in this community of Dillingham and also some
13 migration, human migration as Courtenay had mentioned
14 as well, trying to identify in flow and out flow of
15 folks to Dillingham and how that relates to food
16 security subsistence activities. So that project is
17 funded through NSF, I think a variety of funds, but I
18 think largely by National Science Foundation. And I'll
19 get into the FRMP funded stuff in a minute.

20

21 So we did 155 surveys starting in mid
22 February through May-ish, early May I finished up just
23 a few stragglers. About 20 percent of the households
24 in Dillingham. And each -- it was a long survey. It
25 was around average about 50 to 55 minutes, that's on
26 average so some were like 10 minutes and some were like
27 two hours. And I think largely I can say that the main
28 fisheries concerns are the king and chum harvest in and
29 around Dillingham, some folks travel around for those,
30 but that echos a lot of the sentiment and observations
31 from both the members here and the comments we've heard
32 so far so no surprises within that.

33

34 And I can entertain any questions on
35 that project if the Council has any.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I have one
38 crazy one. How in the world did Penn State get
39 involved in this?

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. LARSON: We're still trying to
44 figure that out.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Fair enough.

47

48

49 MR. LARSON: And another project is an

50

0146

1 FRMP funded project working with the Manokotak Tribal
2 Council and the Nunamiut School and we're looking at
3 subsistence harvest there and doing some interviews
4 focused on how ecosystems shift is impacting salmon --
5 you know, salmon in the Ugashik River I think as a
6 response to the 2019 there was a localized die off
7 event in the Ugashik. And so doing some interviews
8 within that and working with the school classroom to
9 develop some traditional recipe type books. So that's
10 in full swing. We're -- sorry, we're working our way
11 up into that, we'll be doing some surveys in early 2023
12 and hopefully doing a scoping meeting here in December
13 or January.

14

15 Does anyone have any questions on the
16 Manokotak FRMP funded project?

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MR. LARSON: Great. A little more
21 about the Partners Program is we've been working with --
22 it's a Board of Fish cycle and so we're working with
23 all of our ACs and attending those and we've been
24 recruiting for folks in the region who would like to
25 attend the Board of Fish meetings, both the Bristol Bay
26 finfish one coming up at the end of this month, early
27 December, as well as the Chignik/Aleutian Peninsula
28 meeting coming up again this spring. And so we're also
29 soliciting through you if you have anybody who know --
30 who you think has stake in any of the proposals whether
31 through the commercial or subsistence or sport users
32 and so we're doing the education component for the
33 Board of Fish.

34

35 This last February we worked with
36 Chignik stakeholders in an out of cycle Board of Fish
37 meeting to address some conservation concerns on the
38 migratory habitat of the salmon passing in -- passing
39 through some of the Sand Point/Shumagin Island waters.
40 And so we worked with Chignik stakeholders who actually
41 came up with a solution through the Chignik InterTribal
42 Coalition and an agreement with the area Seiners
43 Association to increase the duration of windowed
44 closures by that same fleet to allow for and
45 associating that with escapement into the Chignik River
46 system. And so that was an outcome of the meeting that
47 was a little bit experimental and was followed through
48 this summer.

49

50

0147

1 And what we -- what -- we are working
2 on some additional proposals that'll be reviewed at
3 this spring meeting. So the Peninsula and Chignik
4 Board of Fish meeting will have quite a few
5 conversations as to be expected.

6
7 Another I guess update since the last
8 meeting was this summer we had additional interns, some
9 college students that are interested in fisheries and
10 we placed in with some great researchers with the
11 University of Washington, both at the Aleknagik Field
12 Station as well as the Chignik Lake Field Station. A
13 young gentlemen from Bethel came -- returned this year
14 as was interested in seeing the Peninsula. So I said
15 they've got mosquitos too, off you go. As well as
16 working with the Sport Fish Division on the Naknek
17 River doing some krill surveys and things with Lee and
18 Time there.

19
20 So yeah, that's a bit about what we've
21 been doing. As far as recruiting for filling the four
22 seats that are vacant here, we do that whether it's
23 open or not. It's an ongoing thing and so if we find
24 someone's who's interested in regulatory process or
25 what you guys are doing and we definitely shove a
26 nomination packet in their hands and I say help -- you
27 know, tell me when you want me to fill this out for
28 you. So that's an ongoing thing and all we can do is
29 keep drumming up interest.

30
31 With that I'll take any questions on
32 the current Partners' activities.

33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

37
38 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm just curious if you
39 know, that's -- I'm real curious about that agreement
40 that agreement that Chignik and Area M worked out.
41 Have you heard if there's any success with that or --
42 it sounds pretty interesting?

43
44 MR. LARSON: I don't know if you can
45 really directly relate whether that was successful, but
46 it was a bit of a compromise that I hadn't seen before
47 in that a tribal organization and a fishery
48 organization came to some sort of mutual agreement that
49 then the Board of Fish recognized and sort of said
50

0148

1 promulgate this not through regulation, but through
2 management practice. And it happened there was a
3 shortage early on in the early run of the -- there's
4 two runs down there and the early run was short and so
5 there was increased duration of a windowed closure for
6 that gear type in the neighboring area or the area to
7 the west there that you -- member Dunaway is familiar
8 with.

9

10 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm just glad they could
11 come to any sort of agreement, I mean, that's been
12 tough. So there's an opportunity for progress there,
13 that's a -- probably hear more about it in the Board's
14 meeting, but I was unaware of it.

15

16 So thanks.

17

18 MR. LARSON: Uh-huh.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

21

22 MR. LARSON: And we've got more to BBNA
23 that just me. So.....

24

25 MS. HOSETH: Hi, Madame Chair and
26 members of the Council. Thanks again. I'm juggling a
27 bunch of things, but I'm happy to be here in person
28 with you here today. And I noticed that on the agenda
29 with our upcoming proposals that we have for the Board
30 of Fish there wasn't anything that we've seen for the
31 Bristol Bay finfish meeting coming up, however there
32 are some proposals for the Aleutians and Chignik,
33 proposals in regards to the intercept fisheries for
34 chinook and chum salmon. And we don't have all of
35 those numbers or those proposals here with us, we don't
36 have our proposal books with us, but there are some
37 issues of concern. And I know that Bristol Bay in
38 itself will be commenting on those proposals as well as
39 AYK and TCC are working as a combined effort across the
40 State specifically to chums and with our chums not
41 meeting escapement here on this side of the Bristol Bay
42 with our rivers and then also our chinook numbers are
43 also low. I think that would be something for us or
44 for the RAC to consider or look at, talking about that
45 meeting that's coming up is in March of 2023 so there's
46 some time to weigh in on some of those proposals. And
47 I know that Alaska Federation of Natives also took up a
48 resolution specifically focusing on subsistence and the
49 concerns for chinook and chum.

50

0149

1 So that's just -- it's a big concern
2 across the State.

3
4 REPORTER: Please identify yourself.

5
6 MS. HOSETH: Gayla Hoseth. Thank you.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
9 you, Gayla. Questions or comments from Council
10 members.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I guess it
15 comes to mind to me I'm still juggling around in my
16 mind I would like to see us either put it on our list
17 of concerns to be addressed or having a letter written
18 to entities meaning the North Pacific Management
19 Council, the -- or we could even go with Governor and
20 Legislators about our concerns with bycatch and
21 intercept fisheries and the harm that it is doing to
22 what we have here for fisheries. I'm not sure what
23 vein would be most effective in taking it, but I was
24 very heartened to see that AFN had -- did indeed come
25 up with language for a resolution and feel like many
26 voices are heard better than single voices no matter
27 how many voices are behind them. But I would just -- I
28 guess I'm laying it out there for consideration for us
29 and doesn't have to necessarily be on the spot, I'll
30 probably bring it up again before the meeting is
31 closed.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 MS. HOSETH: Thank you.

36
37 MR. LARSON: And, Madame Chair, Cody
38 Larson here. I just -- I don't know if anybody else is
39 going to give an update on an FRMP project that had a
40 priority information need, that was the escapement of
41 Chignik chinook salmon that was awarded to Department
42 of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and
43 the Chignik Intertribal Coalition. BBNA's working with
44 CIC on some capacity of making that project operate.
45 It didn't happen this year so it's been pushed off
46 until next summer, but that FRMP funded project is
47 still ongoing as well. And I just -- I don't know if
48 anybody else was going to update you on that, but those
49 are the two that we're tracking.

50

0150

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's
2 awesome. No, I -- I'm glad you brought that up. I
3 wasn't even sure who to ask about for that one. So
4 that's good. Okay. At least we -- we're still
5 tracking on it.

6
7 Any questions.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
12 you. Do we have any other Native organizations that
13 wish to present online or in person.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
18 Hearing none, Andy, please join us.

19
20 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair,
21 Council members. My name is Andy Aderman, I'm a
22 Wildlife Biologist with the Togiak National Wildlife
23 Refuge. I'm going to give the Togiak Refuge report
24 which is in your Council books starting on page 125.

25
26 The first thing that I wanted to bring
27 attention to is the aerial salmon survey. You might
28 recognize or not recognize the name of a contact that's
29 listed there, Truett Cawlfieid. He's our new Fisheries
30 Biologist. He came in May and there's a little bit of
31 a bio on him on the very last entry for the report.
32 But he was involved with doing some aerial surveys on
33 the Salmon River which is a little bit out of the
34 Bristol Bay region. It's the river that Platinum Mine
35 is situated upon. And the intent of these surveys are
36 to establish a baseline for run timing and run size for
37 fish and all five species of salmon do occur in this
38 system. Along with that there's going to be a weir
39 that's constructed and that's going to be used the
40 collection for the aerial surveys. So there'll be two
41 things kind of going on simultaneous with that.

42
43 The next one I wanted to touch bases on
44 is Mulchatna Caribou. The Alaska Department of Fish
45 and Game has the primary monitoring responsibility and
46 we assist them in that whether it's calving or
47 photocensus or composition, we're involved with that.
48 The photocensus for this year that happened in June
49 estimated the Mulchatna Herd at 12,112 caribou which is
50

0151

1 down from 12,850 the year before. So again still well
2 below the population objective of 30 to 80,000 caribou.

3
4 Consistent with that Refuge Manager
5 Moos under the delegated authority that he has from the
6 Federal Subsistence Board closed the caribou hunt down
7 and closed Federal public lands to caribou hunting
8 which is consistent with what Fish and Game did as well
9 in the rest -- and that's for the entire Mulchatna
10 range. So not just 17 and 9, but 18 and 19A and B and --
11 yeah.

12
13 And then sort of the last thing dealing
14 with Mulchatna Caribou is we've been planning to get
15 some collars on caribou that are out on the west coast,
16 that would be the very southwestern part of 17A and
17 then going into unit 18, so Cape Peirce, Cape Newenham,
18 right on up to the Arolik River which is just south of
19 Quinhagak. We got -- I should say we, the Fish and
20 Game was able to get 12 collared -- collars out on
21 caribou, all on females in early April. I should
22 mention that the Bureau of Land Management provided
23 money for nine of those collars which these are
24 satellite collars so they tend to cost a bit more. But
25 so we checked them for calves, most of the nine had
26 calves there in late May.

27
28 We attempted a photocensus in later
29 June, we located all of our collars, one of them had
30 just died, I'm not sure from what, but in those groups
31 that had collars and we found some other groups nearby,
32 we came up with a minimum of 470 caribou. And I think
33 there's probably twice that number if we get around and
34 doing a really dedicated search, but certainly the
35 caribou out in that area have grown over the years.
36 I've been out there since 1994, didn't used to see
37 caribou out there and then a few started showing up and
38 a few more and we never really seen any big groups,
39 they're just -- it was pretty consistent to see caribou
40 there.

41
42 But anyways we did a composition survey
43 in early October this year and we came up with 44 bulls
44 per hundred cows and 46 calves per hundred cows which
45 is both really good ratios. That many calves, that --
46 if they continue that they're going to be growing. And
47 the bulls is probably an artifact of not any hunting
48 the last couple years with that. So that's I believe
49 all I have for Mulchatna Caribou.

50

0152

1 Moving on to the Nushagak Peninsula
2 Caribou, we did a photocensus in late June, found a
3 minimum of 359 which is 101 more than what we saw in
4 the minimum count last year. The total population
5 estimate came out at 442, but I think that's a little
6 inflated because our collars were in seven different
7 groups and that creates a little more uncertainty than
8 if you have all your collars in two or three groups.
9 But anyways we think we're right at about that 400
10 caribou level where -- is where we think we want to be.
11 The population objective is 200 to 600 with an optimal
12 of 400.

13

14 So yeah, we had a meeting with the
15 Caribou Planning Committee in late July before hunting
16 to discuss the status of the herd and what went on in
17 the previous hunt. And just update them and basically
18 out of that came the Refuge Manager's decision to open
19 the hunt on the Nushagak Peninsula and allow eight
20 permits to each of the six closest villages. And so
21 those are printed and delivered. For right now all I
22 know of is two caribou that have been harvested. I
23 think most people are waiting for rivers to freeze and
24 snow, yeah.

25

26 But and then we also did a composition
27 survey and that was in early October. We had 41 bulls
28 per hundred cows, with 63 plus calves per hundred cows.
29 So that thing's growing fast. So if it continues doing
30 that hopefully we won't have these real small
31 allotments of permits, you know, to individual villages
32 and anybody that wants to hunt, you know, can get one
33 or possibly two, you know, we don't want to see it get
34 beyond that 600, try to keep it at 200.

35

36 And then I'll move on to moose, they're
37 on page 126. Had really good calf production this
38 spring and I was out quite a bit in October in relation
39 to a moose survey and preparing for that moose survey,
40 but I saw four or five cows, these are collared cows,
41 that still had both twins with them. Which the
42 previous two years I -- they had lots of calves and I
43 had like one calf last year that made it out of 24.
44 Now, you know, I don't know what changed, but I was
45 happy to see cows with twins.

46

47 I don't have any estimate yet on the --
48 I did -- we did a moose survey in 17A and in the
49 Goodnews River drainage and hope to get an estimate
50

0153

1 from both, but we're in meeting season right now and I
2 haven't had the time to organize the data and analyze
3 it.

4

5 So with that -- oh, I was going to say
6 something too. I think in your books the next page
7 there's a picture there with a bunch of walruses. And
8 we estimated 7,500 walrus. I showed it to a guy that
9 works more with walrus probably than anybody and he
10 says that's pretty conservative, he thought there was
11 at least 10 or 12,000 there. So.....

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah. So anyways that's
16 my report. If I can answer some questions or if you
17 have questions I'll try to.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
20 Andy. Appreciate it as usual.

21

22 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard, go
25 ahead.

26

27 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair. Thanks,
28 Andy. So Mulchatna Herd's still going down. So
29 anything new that you can tell us why, is it --
30 anything new show up that we really know the reasoning
31 behind?

32

33 MR. ADERMAN: Through the Chair, Mr.
34 Wilson. Nothing I think real definitive. I know Fish
35 and Game gave a report I think on a capture exercise
36 that they did two years ago and found I want to say it
37 was about 30 percent of the caribou that they caught
38 and drew blood from had exposure to the brucella virus.
39 I'm not knowledgeable with it, but it usually affects
40 the real young, it causes caribou to abort their fetus
41 early, it creates swelling in joints which doesn't
42 necessarily kill an animal, but it probably slows them
43 down or makes them act different from a normal or a
44 non-brucellosis infected animal and maybe that -- they
45 have a little higher predation rate. And yeah, I wish
46 Fish and Game was here to have their -- they just did a
47 bunch more captures so they may not have the data on if
48 brucellosis is increasing, staying the same or
49 decreasing.

50

0154

1 One thing I would mention is those
2 caribou I talked about earlier on the west coast, they
3 were not used in the -- in that population estimate.
4 So I asked John Landsiedel about that, if they had
5 because I was clear if they -- and he said no, they
6 didn't. So it may not be quite as bad as if, you know,
7 we saw, you know, about a minimum of 500 and again I
8 think there's more than that.

9
10 One of the things with that, I kind of
11 brushed over it, but we're really interested to see,
12 it's kind of like the Kokhanok Herd where the caribou
13 that we were talking about earlier that seemed to be a
14 resident, it's not so much a herd, but it -- there's a
15 bunch of scattered groups and so far out of those 12
16 they've stayed pretty much in the same area where they
17 were caught. I'd like to get a whole, full year's
18 worth of locations and see if they're truly resident or
19 do they wander off or show some sort of migratory
20 pattern. So.....

21
22 Yeah, sorry I don't have more, but I'm
23 sure the usual suspects, bears and wolves, bears seem
24 to be increasing They can and do take caribou same as
25 the wolves.

26
27 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
30 Richard.

31
32 MR. WILSON: Thanks, Andy. I just got
33 a lot of people asking, you know, what are herds
34 looking like because everybody's getting a little
35 antsy, you know, wanting to get a caribou and so
36 there's a lot of questions out there, what's happening.
37 And when I saw the numbers going down I thought oh, no.
38 I've got to go report that.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Andy, do you know
47 if they took any blood samples from those western
48 animals or do you -- does the Refuge do anything on the
49 Nushagak for brucellosis samples?

50

0155

1 MR. ADERMAN: I'd have to check with
2 Patrick Jones in Bethel. I want to say they did not,
3 but I might not -- I might not be right on that. And
4 they typically want like a minimum of 30 samples to
5 look for the prevalence of that. I always thought
6 that, you know, nine or 10 caribou, you know, you get
7 them and yeah, it's a low sample, but if.....

8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: (Indiscernible - away
10 from microphone) sample.

11
12 MR. ADERMAN:three or five of
13 them turn up positive that would be something to
14 further investigate.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Norm.

17
18 MR. ANDERSON: Andy, you mentioned one
19 of collared caribou were found dead. Was that up near
20 the Platinum Mine or location?

21
22 MR. ADERMAN: It was probably about
23 five miles north of Goodnews Bay, the waterbody,
24 Goodnews Bay, you know, five, six miles, seven miles
25 northwest of the Village of Goodnews Bay out on the
26 tundra, laying on its back kind of, it was kind of a
27 weird, we thought it was headless at first when we flew
28 over it and it was like -- I took some pictures of it,
29 but you could see the snout sticking straight up. But
30 it was -- it was just kind of a weird position to see
31 any animal.

32
33 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you.

34
35 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
38 Anybody else.

39
40 MR. DUNAWAY: (Indiscernible - away
41 from microphone) that part. That (indiscernible - away
42 from microphone) that part.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: He was
45 probably just napping. I'm just kidding.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
50

0156

1 you, Andy.

2

3 MR. ANDERSON: Andy, can I show you
4 something here.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Next
7 up Alaska Peninsula, Becharof. Bill, are you ready for
8 us and Susan.

9

10 MS. ALEXANDER: Hi, I'm just looking at
11 the forest of name placards over here. Thank you,
12 Madame Chair, members of the Council. Susan Alexander,
13 Refuge Manager for Alaska Peninsula and Becharof
14 National Wildlife Refuges. And I'm going to hit a
15 couple high spots, but mostly let Bill tell you about
16 what he and his folks have been up to. And I know
17 you've heard us -- it's like we can't stop saying it,
18 we got a Big Game Biologist. That is one of our
19 biggest pieces of news. And also that we are working
20 on filling our Avian Biologist position as well which
21 to me is kind of a basic level of coverage for 4
22 million acres and critical resources. So very happy
23 about that, very grateful that Bill has hung in here
24 with us when he had so little Staff.

25

26 So I have a couple of things I'll wrap
27 up with at the end, but I'm going to go ahead and turn
28 it over to him to fill you in on what he and the folks
29 that he has had working with him have been doing.

30

31 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon. Bill
32 Smith, Supervisory Biologist for Alaska Becharof in
33 King Salmon. As Susan said we got Bryce Woodruff on
34 now as our new Big Game Biologist. That position was
35 vacant since 2017. Kind of hard to fulfill our
36 promises to the community and working collaboratively
37 with Fish and Game on moose and bear and caribou
38 objectives when you have no Big Game Biologist on
39 Staff. But we've rectified that and Bryce will be
40 carrying forward all -- he comes with a fair amount of
41 Alaska experience, he's coming to us from Homer. He's
42 worked at Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge up in Tok, if
43 he can survive Tok he can survive King Salmon. So
44 we're eager to have him onboard, he'll be kind of
45 carrying the torch on a lot of our big game work here
46 and become a much more familiar face for the Council
47 here soon.

48

49 I'll give a brief update on a few

50

0157

1 wildlife projects of interest to the Council. Moose
2 composition and trend surveys, we did not conduct any
3 moose comp surveys last year. Covid kind of grounded
4 us again right about the time we were ready to get out
5 from under the covid restrictions the regional office
6 had to shut us right back down again. So we flew no
7 moose comp sadly last year. I do not know if Fish and
8 Game ended up flying any moose comp last year either,
9 but we unfortunately did not fly any. And I hope that
10 is the last time I present a covid survey incidence to
11 this Council.

12

13 We are underway with moose composition
14 surveys this year, we started a little bit early with
15 good snow cover a rare commodity sometimes in our part
16 of the woods. So we started a couple days early,
17 already we've got two of our trend areas already
18 counted. And the -- we'll probably continue to count
19 all of our trend areas through the November 10th window
20 and with ADF&G now having an Area Biologist in King
21 Salmon we're going to be having a meeting next week
22 with Amy to discuss their needs for the larger GMU 9
23 and how we can work collaboratively with them to get
24 more data on moose composition in that game management
25 unit including possibly moving towards population
26 estimates rather than just composition surveys. More
27 costly, more labor intensive, but if there's an
28 interagency kind of collaborative capacity to move
29 forward with that with funding and stuff like that,
30 we're going to be looking at a avenues for that to get
31 better moose data.

32

33 One thing to note on the moose, I'm not
34 trying to push an alarm button by any means, but we are
35 seeing a lot of half rack bulls early in moose comp
36 season. This is -- it's not unheard of, but this is
37 really early to be seeing half rack bulls. That's --
38 they've already shed one antler. We normally don't see
39 that until the end, we shut that moose survey off at
40 November 10th because that is about the time we can
41 predictably expect that most bulls would have lost
42 antlers and we can't identify cows from bulls anymore.
43 To see them in late October being half racks is a
44 little bit of an anomaly out there. And there was
45 quite a few of them.

46

47 MR. LARSON: Do you mean December 10th?

48

49 MR. SMITH: I'm sorry, December 10th.

50

0158

1 So we are -- yeah, we -- thank you, Cody. It is a
2 little bit early and again I'm not proposing there's
3 any kind of problem with our moose population, but
4 quick literary searches kind of indicate really quickly
5 you're looking at lack of nutrition, poor nutrition or
6 disease cycles in the population. So we're going to
7 keep an eye on it and the rest of the trend area as we
8 fly on the GMU 9 just to kind of get a sense of what's
9 going on there.

10

11 We have several habitat projects going
12 on. We have -- we spent a considerable amount of time
13 this last year doing long term trend plots on the
14 northern part of the Alaska Peninsula. This is the
15 kind of stuff where you can kind of wave your arms and
16 try to -- as try to figure out what's going on with
17 climate change, how it's affecting the habitat that
18 support the animals we care about or you can start kind
19 of trying to monitor and develop long term studies out
20 there. We established about 32 plots in total this
21 year on the Peninsula. This will start looking at
22 changes in shrub cover, collectively we call it
23 shrubification, these warming trends tend to increase
24 the amount of shrub cover on the Peninsula. We're
25 starting to see a fair amount of this. Drying of
26 wetland habitats is another factor we're starting to
27 see more and more of out there. So this type of
28 monitoring we'll start -- starting to gather this
29 information over long periods of time. It's the kind
30 of stuff that's not instantly tangible to people though
31 because these plots will not be remonitored until about
32 another decade from now. So it needs time to kind of
33 come back and assess a change that's meaningful. Five
34 to 10 years, five would be pretty early. On some on
35 the wetland plots we probably will revisit them in five
36 years, but the shrub plots that the caribou depend on,
37 it'll probably be affecting that population more, we'll
38 probably be monitoring those over the next 10.

39

40 Spring ptarmigan. We did perform a
41 density count. The last time we counted we -- our
42 original intent was to do ptarmigan odd years, every
43 other odd year, 2013, 2015 was the first time we ran
44 the ptarmigan density surveys on transects. Jamie
45 Welfelt, our avian technician, spent a lot of time
46 getting Biologists with the Katmai National Park
47 onboard with us too and the Park established several
48 new transects. We were hoping that the Park's higher
49 elevation transects might start picking up rock
50

0159

1 ptarmigan. We pick mostly willow ptarmigan up on the
2 lower elevation Refuge habitats. It ended up they
3 didn't so it got willow ptarmigan on just about every
4 trans -- all transects we surveyed this year. Weather
5 was a factor, but we were able to complete a combined
6 with Park and Refuge, 17 total willow ptarmigan
7 transects this spring, eight of which were repeat
8 transects that were on the Refuge. We're still
9 crunching the data right now, but it -- I think it's
10 supplemental, I think it's tab four in your
11 supplement.....

12

13 MS. ALEXANDER: And if anyone needs a
14 copy of that I would be glad to grab some.

15

16 MR. SMITH: We did provide a.....

17

18 MS. ALEXANDER: It's not in your book,
19 but it was on the table.

20

21 MR. SMITH:it was on the
22 supplement on the.....

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, we got
25 it.....

26

27 MR. SMITH: Okay.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:Pippa
30 went and got it.

31

32 MR. SMITH: We did provide a graph kind
33 of showing that ptarmigan population is definitely --
34 it hit probably the bottom end of that cycle we caught
35 with that 2013 monitoring and -- or excuse me, 2015
36 monitoring. We did not monitor until this year, but
37 we're definitely starting to see the rebound, ptarmigan
38 populations are cyclic on roughly 10 year decidual
39 cycles. And we're starting to see a dramatic increase
40 compared to the 2.5 ptarmigan per kilometer square we
41 saw in 2015 and now up to 21.4 ptarmigan per kilometer.
42 And it's also included in the table there, you know,
43 you always kind of wonder, a lot of these Refuge
44 populations are not hunted, they're too far away from
45 our subsistence communities and even our recreational
46 communities. The numbers are up on the ones we ran on
47 the King Salmon road area, we ran on Ralph's Road and
48 Eight Mile. And the numbers are up, but they're not --
49 because they are a more hunted population, they're not
50

0160

1 as up as high as you'd expect some of the other places
2 that don't receive much hunting pressure. But the
3 trend is positive and up. And we hope to keep counting
4 them every two years from here on out to record more of
5 this cyclic pattern for ptarmigan.

6
7 I've spent a lot of time in the last
8 couple years trying to think about where the Refuge can
9 be kind of the best use to our community and
10 subsistence users. Trying to merge a lot of thinking
11 in relation to discussions that come out of this group
12 and National Wildlife Refuge system missions and
13 mandates as well as this Refuge's purposes as
14 established by ANILCA. One of the things that kind of
15 comes down, it hits kind of all those things really
16 quick is chinook salmon. And we've kind of expanded
17 our watershed processes and lake temperature monitoring
18 to try to be working in more of the chinook drainages
19 on the Becharof and Peninsula Refuge lands. And this
20 year we kind of moved into about 17 new stream
21 monitoring sites that are mostly in chinook habitat and
22 chinook drainages. We've already had a good amount of
23 data coming in from some of the sockeye drainages and
24 the main sockeye systems, but we've been working a
25 little bit more to get a little bit more studies going
26 on in those areas. And we're trying to move it towards
27 more than just temperature, but it will take a little
28 bit of time to kind of build this up, we don't have a
29 Fisheries Biologist on Staff, but we are definitely
30 trying to fill that niche by working of the physical
31 environment and look at the relationship between how
32 rainfall events and groundwater recharge rates and
33 everything else affect this habitat, not just the
34 temperature profile and how it oscillates and changes
35 over time related to chinook spawning, life histories
36 in the freshwater environment.

37
38 We've also approached -- Jon Gerken was
39 on a little bit earlier, I don't know if he's still on
40 the phone, John and I have had discussions about
41 chinook in the Naknek drainage quite a bit. The Refuge
42 did run a weir for years, well, about four years, early
43 2000s in the Big Creek drainage off the Naknek. With
44 the chinook declines kind of happening around us and
45 wondering what these drivers are, ocean versus
46 freshwater, one of the obvious things we could do is
47 work in the freshwater environment. And we've kind of
48 had discussions with them about rerunning that weir
49 project again. And we had them out for about three
50

0161

1 days and we -- excuse me, two days, we did about three
2 stream transects to kind of get a cross-section area
3 and identify sites where we can reestablish that weir
4 again. And we are going to be putting in for funding
5 to run the weir for probably five years and the --
6 we're looking at all funding sources we can get on
7 this. The initial kind of emphasis is obviously going
8 to be on salmon return abundance in the Big Creek which
9 has about 25 to 30 percent of the returning Naknek
10 chinooks spawning in it. And if we can get more funds
11 we will definitely be pursuing smolt abundance, total
12 return of smolts as adults, estimated fry abundance,
13 other studies associated with that, with chinook in
14 that system. But for right now we're just definitely
15 trying to get the weir up and running again for five
16 years to get a better sense of what's going on with
17 Naknek chinooks.

18

19 And that's all I had.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
22 Great. Thank you. Susan, did you have something else
23 you wanted to add.

24

25 MS. ALEXANDER: I have a couple of
26 other items, but if the Council has questions for Bill
27 we could go ahead with that.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I
32 think that might be a good idea.

33

34 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard, go
37 ahead.

38

39 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair.
40 Thanks, Bill.

41

42 MR. SMITH: Yeah.

43

44 MR. WILSON: One thing came to mind
45 when you asked -- or you mentioned that the bull moose
46 are losing antlers early on. This is the wettest
47 season we've had in a long time. Do you think there's
48 any correlation with all the rain this season compared
49 to past years?

50

0162

1 MR. SMITH: It easily could be. I'm
2 far from a Big Game Biologist, I'm more of a habitat
3 person, but I've definitely kind of been talking with
4 Bryce about, you know, investigating that kind of
5 stuff. It -- like I said it's a little alarming when
6 you first start looking at the literature because it
7 immediately gravitates towards disease and stuff like
8 that. I've even thought it could be something as
9 simple as, you know, it's a light induced, the
10 testosterone shuts off when the light starts declining.
11 And we've had so much overcast conditions I've actually
12 wondered if our moose are -- just been tricked.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. SMITH: But yeah, we'll keep --
17 we're definitely going to keep an eye on it. It's --
18 in whitetailed deer it's a known kind of problem, if
19 they start shedding antlers early there's a nutritional
20 deficiency, there's something wrong. But again I'm not
21 -- it was just an interesting observation at this
22 point. I'll defer a panic button for now. So.....

23

24 MR. WILSON: And thanks for the report.
25 I -- you know, I know there's probably more to come
26 here, but really appreciate the -- you know, the
27 intensity is picking up and especially with our -- you
28 know, with our king population there in Naknek, you
29 know, and being able to fire up some weirs again and
30 get some data going is what we're striving for. And,
31 you know, I just -- I hope you find the funding. If
32 you -- you know, if you need help just put the word out
33 and we'll try to figure out how to get you some funding
34 to keep that going.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thanks,
37 Richard. Anybody else, questions, comments.

38

39 MR. DUNAWAY: I have one.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
42 Dan.

43

44 MR. DUNAWAY: Did you do any like king
45 assessment or surveys like in -- toward Igiugig and
46 Pilot Point and the King Salmon River down there or is
47 that a -- Fish and Game do that?

48

49 MR. SMITH: To my knowledge there are

50

0163

1 -- I asked the Sport Fish and the Comm Fish people
2 both, they have not done aerial inventories on chinook
3 on anything on the east side in several, several years
4 to my understanding. And it's one of the areas that
5 John and I have talked about, an area of possibly
6 getting the funding to implement that as well as a
7 complement to the weir operations.

8

9 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. No, sport activity
10 on the King Salmon River out of Igiugig which is the
11 source of some people's concern when I was working. I
12 never got over there myself. So anyway just curious.

13

14 Thanks.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. No,
17 there's still a pretty good contingent of sport
18 fishermen using that resource down there as well. And
19 it's been one of my concerns for a long time ever since
20 they quit the surveys and just sad, sad to see that
21 that resource has to go that way. But I appreciate the
22 efforts and hopefully we will see some resurgence in
23 interest in trying to figure out where out stocks are
24 at and where we need to go with them.

25

26 MR. SMITH: There was a -- I don't know
27 if ADF&G will report on it, but there was a krill
28 survey done this year on the Naknek for kings. So I
29 think it's going to report the obvious, but the unit of
30 effort is high and the catch rate is low. But that's
31 the only study I'm aware of kings on the east side.

32

33 MR. ANDERSON: One question.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norm, go
36 ahead.

37

38 MR. ANDERSON: To your knowledge are
39 there still burbot in the Naknek River?

40

41 MR. SMITH: I believe so. Yeah, I know
42 a few people I -- definitely so. I know a few people
43 who've caught them ice fishing.

44

45 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah, used to go up
46 there and fish for them when we were kids.

47

48 MR. SMITH: Huh.

49

50

0164

1 MR. ANDERSON: We didn't know what the
2 heck they were, we just cut the hook and we were --
3 they're ugly.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MR. DUNAWAY: They're good.

8
9 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah. Larry Tippin's
10 ice boat we'd get rainbow all the time and then the one
11 time I caught -- what the heck.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Susan, go
18 ahead.

19
20 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you, Madame
21 Chair. I'll just wrap up with a couple of visitor or --
22 I guess I'll say this covers Refuge visitors and
23 subsistence users, both of these items. And I think
24 the Council has heard from me on both of these items
25 before, but they are both picking up momentum I'm happy
26 to say. The first one is a partnership that we've been
27 engaged with that includes us and Katmai National Park
28 and Bristol Bay Borough and Bristol Bay Chamber of
29 Commerce looking at visitor infrastructure in King
30 Salmon. We've been working on this a long time, but
31 I'm happy to say that we had a series of three face to
32 face meetings in September, we -- the Refuge has been
33 providing a facilitator working with the group that has
34 really helped us all get on the same page and focus our
35 efforts. And I felt like those meetings were really
36 productive.

37
38 We have agreed that we're going to get
39 a professional and many thanks to the Park and to the
40 Katmai Conservancy who we may be able to get funding to
41 get someone to work with us to develop an
42 interpretative plan which was not a term I was familiar
43 with until I spoke with some folks in our Anchorage
44 office about this. It's basically okay, you want to
45 build a new visitors center, well, what's going to be
46 in it, what do you want someone to experience or
47 understand or even do differently as a result of coming
48 to this place, what story are you trying to tell and
49 why. And especially with four different organizations
50

0165

1 even though I feel like we work together really well,
2 we all have a little bit different version of the
3 answer to that question. We're talking about one
4 building.

5
6 So this is someone who would walk us
7 through that process and we all hope, I'm going to go
8 out on a very small limb and speak for the other
9 partners, but we all hope to make this a very community
10 oriented place, a very historically oriented place to
11 tell the stories of the culture, to tell the stories of
12 the indigenous people and we hope to be able to
13 strengthen relationships there to -- that they will
14 trust us to include the stories, that they will tell
15 those stories through this vehicle.

16
17 And we had a great meeting during those
18 three days of face to face meetings with Christina
19 Andrew at BBNA who will -- has agreed to kind of help
20 and advise along that line. So we're definitely
21 picking up speed and, you know, we're looking at
22 different funding sources. It's not just a potential
23 new visitors center, we're also looking at things like
24 one way or another a good community space that could be
25 used whether or not the building was open. Otherwise
26 as a visitors center to have a community meeting space
27 on the King Salmon end that would be accessible and
28 maybe a classroom space, maybe a viewing platform down
29 on the river, trails, looking at the whole suite of
30 things that we might want to include. So the visit --
31 new visitors center's kind of the centerpiece, but we'd
32 like it to look at more than that and hopefully achieve
33 more than that. And it's probably a good thing that
34 we're already looking at this because we've learned
35 from Alaska Airlines that they're remodeling the King
36 Salmon Airport and which is certainly needed, I mean,
37 all of us who fly out of King Salmon would -- I know,
38 we'd all love to have a bathroom and water after you go
39 through security. But it may mean that we lose our
40 space for the current visitors center or have our
41 square footage drastically reduced.

42
43 So the partners have all come together
44 and there was actually a meeting with Alaska Airlines,
45 I've just been out of town and so I don't know the very
46 latest, but we're actively talking to them and trying
47 to work things out, looking for alternative locations
48 and maybe they'll put this new -- build a visitors
49 center. I don't know. But at any rate there's an
50

0166

1 ongoing conversation. So there's that piece.

2

3

4 And then I feel like the other thing I
5 wanted to talk about in a way is kind of a balance with
6 that in that if we want to attract more visitors and
7 enhance the visitor experience we need to also
8 understand, you know, visitors can bring impacts as we
9 all know and so we need to be keeping a better eye on
10 that as well. And this is something I've wanted to do
11 for several years, this is why this is another one you
12 all have heard about before, to develop a visitor use
13 monitoring plan for the Refuge to basically have
14 spelled out -- have a protocol just like Bill and his
15 folks have for their biological surveys that we know
16 every year how much money we need to do it, that we can
17 do it with that and the resources we have, we're going
18 to hire the seasonal person and they're going to take
19 these actions, we're going to do this to analyze the
20 data that we're getting from the commercial operators
21 or we're -- you know, we need a plan because right now
22 what we have is the data that we get from the
23 commercial operators and thank goodness because that's
24 it. But we need to be doing more there to understand
25 not just who's out there and what are they doing, but
26 are conflicts starting to crop up and if so where and
27 what are they and to be able to see those things coming
28 as use continue to increase which I expect it will, it
29 has been, and head those things off, address problems
30 before they become big.

30

31

32 So where we are with that now which is
33 why I'm bringing it back up is that we have a temporary
34 employee who one of this person's primary tasks is to
35 get that effort going. We've had some money set aside
36 and again we want to get a subject matter expert to
37 kind of walk us through a process. Some of you may
38 know there's an organization of Federal land managing
39 agencies called the InterAgency Visitor Use Monitoring
40 Council which has done some excellent work, I mean, all
41 public lands are facing increases in use, some facing
42 drastic increases in use. So this was a response to
43 that to help all of us better manage that. And they've
44 set up a frame work that walks you through steps of
45 okay, what do you want to accomplish, go -- you know,
46 walk through this. And we already have a lot of things
47 in place like a general plan for the Refuge. This
48 would be a set down from our comprehensive conservation
49 plan as kind of our overarching umbrella. So it's
50 going to be fairly specific, just we know we have this

50

0167

1 much in the way of resources to work with to do this
2 monitoring, what questions do we need to ask, who do we
3 need to ask them of, what do we need to count, how do
4 we need to analyze it, let's get this going. So I
5 anticipate that by summer we will have an agreement in
6 place with someone who is very familiar with that
7 framework, can walk us through that and we'll have a
8 plan and then we'll be able to start doing it which is --
9 and some of you may have heard that I'm starting to
10 use the R word occasionally and I may not be here a
11 couple years from now and this is one of my number 1 --
12 this is probably my number 1 priority. Now that we had
13 (indiscernible - laughing) this is now the top of the
14 list to get this going because I think it's critical,
15 you know. I know enough to know that especially with
16 fishing some of our areas are getting -- you know, it's
17 over a period of 10 years like a factor of five, maybe
18 is a typical increase for some of these streams. So we
19 are getting a lot more use and I want to have some
20 baseline in place, have something in place for the next
21 manager to draw on to understand as that changes over
22 time.

23

24 So thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any
27 questions for Susan.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great.
32 Thank you for that information.

33

34 MS. ALEXANDER: You betcha. Next up
35 we'll have Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

36

37 Liza.

38

39 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: All right. I think
40 Leigh is pulling up our presentation here. For the
41 record Susanne Fleek-Green, Lake Clark National Park
42 and Preserve. And I have with me Liza Rupp who is our
43 Cultural Resources Program Manager and Subsistence
44 Program Manager. Dynamic Duo for you. So you have our
45 report at about page 131 in your book and we have a
46 slide deck. Just a few things that I wanted to
47 highlight for you and then I'll let Liza jump in with
48 other things from the report that may be of interest.

49

50

0168

1 First though I really do want to thank
2 the Council for hosting us for this meeting. It's a
3 great location. Courtenay, if you're back there, thank
4 you. I know that we all enjoy getting to meet the
5 Staff here. So it's not easy.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 Let's see, next slide. First off for
10 our natural resources programs we are doing the regular
11 suite of projects, some of that we have presented to
12 you on -- in the past, certainly mercury monitoring
13 continues to be one of interest to our subsistence
14 users so continue with our sampling program there.
15 Invasive plant monitoring, this is one that our SRC
16 continues to ask us to conduct. A lot of concerns
17 either between potential invasive plants or just
18 accelerated plant growth potentially with climate
19 change and what that means for subsistence access to
20 some of our lakes so we're continuing with that. Lake
21 temperature, we do this in partnership with our
22 inventory our monitoring program and this year in
23 particular after two covid years where it was hard to
24 get into airplanes and get around the Park and
25 Preserve, our INM team was able to do quite a bit of
26 sampling at I think about 11 different lakes in the
27 area. So that's great. And then lastly here one that
28 we just hinted at at the beginning of this meeting is
29 our Newhalen River counting station which thank you for
30 the plug, Dan, that it is a very long running and
31 important monitoring program for us and this year in
32 particular despite the big run in Bristol Bay in
33 general, those salmon did not make it back to Lake
34 Clark. We had the third largest run since we started
35 the counting station at under 200,000.

36
37 And if you go to the next slide you can
38 sort of see the trend line. We actually extended our
39 season at the station hoping that the fish were going
40 to come and they just -- they didn't. Thinking that
41 looking at past trend lines sort of those once we got
42 into August that we would have another blip of fish
43 coming through and again this year you can see from the
44 red line that that did not occur. Once it went down it
45 really went down and then flatlined. We don't know
46 why. There's a number of theories. I think when you
47 talk to our Fish Biologist probably the theory that has
48 the most probably collective agreement on is that the
49 water was cold and the water was high this year. It
50

0169

1 started raining in July and it did not stop raining.
2 So we believe that maybe that just made it more
3 difficult for the salmon to make it all the way up.
4 They did come to Iliamna, they just didn't make it up
5 the Newhalen to Lake Clark.

6
7 The good news is subsistence users got
8 the fish that they needed, but we are starting to do a
9 couple of research project proposals now to see if we
10 can dive a little bit deeper into maybe why we had such
11 a poor return this year. So stay tuned on that,
12 hopefully next year we can solve the mystery a little
13 bit for you.

14
15 And I also say, you know, what -- I'm
16 sure you have heard all around the Lakes what this has
17 meant is a public safety issue now in the fall because
18 there's a lot of bears that typically we see, you know,
19 dead fish on the lakeshore and the bears are pretty
20 happy with that. They're coming into town and causing
21 some safety issues because of that low fish count.

22
23 Next slide. A lot of what the Park
24 does of course is subsistence outreach and education
25 and partnerships in our resident zone communities. So
26 again it was great this summer after two years of not
27 being able to do a lot because of covid we were back
28 out in the communities and did day camps in a number of
29 communities. I got to go to a couple of them, it was
30 wonderful, really good turnout. And this is how we
31 continue to not only build partnerships with the
32 tribes, but help learn from elders who come and
33 participate and then transfer some of that knowledge to
34 the youth in these communities. We did also continue
35 with both our distance learning program mostly over the
36 winter, beaming into communities all around Alaska as
37 well as the lower 48. And then this year we started
38 mycology workshops. Again having elders come in and
39 talk about traditional mushroom gathering. So I can
40 tell you we held it in Iliamna and Nondalton and when
41 the word got out in Port Alsworth they were really
42 unhappy that we did not do one there. So we'll
43 probably bring it back to Port Alsworth next year. So
44 that was great.

45
46 Next slide. Cultural resource
47 projects. We did our Quk'taz'un cultural camps this
48 year. Again a few fits and starts for various reasons
49 one of them being covid, but our dedicated Staff and he
50

0170

1 Nondalton Tribal Council pulled it off. So that was
2 great to see. We added two more events this summer,
3 one was a science camp at lower Twin Lake. Again youth
4 and elders brought together with our archaeologists and
5 more of Liza's team and some of our law enforcement
6 officers as well. And the great thing about this is
7 that it got folks into a part of the Park that is
8 harder to reach and more expensive so it is great to
9 hear especially for some of the young people from
10 Nondalton about getting to a place where they've heard
11 about from their grandparents, but have not been able
12 to access. So that was good.

13

14 And then also we added the squirrel
15 camp which again fits and starts, but pulled it off.
16 And this is a project we've had both our SRC as well as
17 elders say that they are a little bit dismayed that
18 young people do not know the traditional squirrel
19 snaring techniques. And so we -- as well as sewing.
20 So we came up with this project, found funding, and
21 pulled it off and will be hopefully continuing that in
22 future years.

23

24 And that is my quick presentation. I
25 do want to highlight just a couple of things and I
26 don't know if Lary is still on the phone or not, but we
27 had our SRC meeting now two weeks -- three weeks ago
28 and a couple of issues continue to come up there. One
29 concern about additional beaver dams and what that
30 might do to water quality. So that's a project that
31 our natural resource team works on. There also is --
32 was a concern and frankly we just -- we missed it, but
33 it might be coming before you when we get into the
34 wildlife proposal cycle. And now the State moose
35 season is off by a week. They added a week to the
36 Federal season which caused some confusion in the area
37 and so we tried to work with residents to extend the
38 Federal season, but it was really -- it was not an
39 emergency so we were not able to get that done, but
40 it's something that our local residents have said that
41 they want to bring forward during the next cycle so
42 that those are in alignment again.

43

44 Another issue that we've been working
45 on that has raised concern and an indirect impact to
46 subsistence hunting is the increased aviation
47 overflights on popular moose hunting areas, especially
48 the Chulitna River drainage. So we've been working
49 with guides and lodges and the air taxi operations to
50

0171

1 try and get the word out to just fly higher during
2 moose hunting season so that we're not disturbing that
3 population and having impact on subsistence. So that's
4 one that we continue on.

5

6 And then I will turn it to Liza to see
7 if there's anything else in the report that maybe
8 should be highlighted for you and then happy to take
9 any questions.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. RUPP: Thank you, Madame Chair.
14 For the record Liza Rupp, Lake Clark National Park and
15 Preserve. And as Susanne mentioned the Cultural
16 Resources Program Team Lead and Subsistence
17 Coordinator. I will just add a couple things. One, we
18 have Chance and Dillon back there and we did
19 successfully have two community harvest surveys this
20 past year of Port Alsworth and Nondalton. And so
21 Chance and Dillon were instrumental in getting those
22 done. So that's great. I think I -- we may have
23 mentioned these before, but the last ones weren't -- I
24 think they were done in 2004 maybe or 2006. They were
25 way out of date. So it's great that we were able to
26 get that. And I'm not sure what Chance is going to
27 report on, but anyway, so that was many thanks to them.

28

29 And let me see, what else. We have one
30 other subsistence project that is wrapping up. It's in
31 partnership with Denali National Park so we've been --
32 Karen Evanoff, my -- who's our Cultural Anthropologist
33 and my co-worker, she has been working with her
34 counterpart at Denali and they've been working with
35 Nondalton and Nikolai. So talking about fish camp in
36 Nondalton and moose camp in Nikolai, sort of as the
37 equivalent and working with elders and youth on this
38 continued transference of knowledge. So I'm hoping
39 they're just about to finish up by the end of the year
40 and we should have a video of what they've been working
41 on and a booklet. So hopefully we can share that with
42 you in the future, maybe even in the spring meeting.

43

44 And I don't know what else. Yeah, just
45 the summary in the book has a lot of all of our
46 individual projects that we've all been working on.

47

48 So I think that's -- that's probably it
49 for me.

50

0172

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Good. Thank
2 you. I'll open it for questions. Any questions,
3 comments, Council members.

4
5 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: You talked about squirrel
10 camp and I think Billy posted some of those photos or
11 something and it's pretty interesting. You know,
12 growing up I heard -- got the impression that, you
13 know, squirrels were really -- in the spring was really
14 an important thing, squirrel skins. And then I'm also
15 on some Facebook historical things, you see a lot of
16 folks wearing squirrel parkas in the old days. But I
17 remember it's been a few years of flying around I got
18 the impression that maybe squirrels aren't as abundant
19 anymore or not. And you were working with elders or if
20 there's other folks here whose -- is it just I have a
21 different impression or is there -- do we have ground
22 squirrels, are they as abundant now as they seemed to
23 be. I mean, when I first started working this country
24 out of King Salmon they were all over town and they
25 were in Igiugig too.

26
27 Some -- anyway that's just something
28 that kind of -- when you mentioned squirrels I thought
29 I'd ask.

30
31 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: That's a good
32 question. We have not heard that concern that there's
33 a decline in the squirrel population. I think a lot of
34 it like you said some amazing sewing skills for
35 squirrel parkas and it is not done as much as it used
36 to be. We have some great video footage as well from
37 Nondalton and the whole -- the process. And we
38 actually had a meeting, it was precovid because we were
39 in person with some skin sewers at the Anchorage Museum
40 and brought some squirrel parkas out and talked about
41 that. So I think it's bringing awareness back to that
42 as a traditional use of the squirrels.

43
44 But I don't know about the population,
45 certainly something we could ask and it would be a
46 great thing to bring up with our SRC. We're going to
47 meet again in December because of the wildlife
48 proposals so we can bring that up to see what the local
49 knowledge tells us.

50

0173

1 MR. ANDERSON: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norm.

4

5 MR. ANDERSON: Dan, one of the climate
6 change meetings I was at years ago, one of the
7 scientists was talking about permafrost moving up and
8 was freezing squirrels (indiscernible) clams in their
9 parts. So it was a pretty healthy discussion on that.

10

11 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Did you have
14 anybody else from your organization that was going to
15 share today.

16

17 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: No.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

20

21 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Organization Katmai.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, I meant
24 -- yeah, Katmai's up next. I couldn't understand
25 whether your Fisheries Biologists were going to give us
26 anything. So we could put them on the spot anyway,
27 Chase, Dillon, you're new here, we can pick on you a
28 little bit. Not today.

29

30 Katmai. Go ahead.

31

32 MR. STURM: Madame Chair, thank you.
33 For the record Mark Sturm, Katmai National Park and
34 Preserve, Aniakchak National Monument, Alagnak Wild
35 River. I guess I'd like to start off with my
36 apologies. We -- it seems almost appropriate that
37 we're -- did didn't make the agenda for this meeting.
38 It's a symptom and not a -- it's a symptom of kind of
39 where we're at right now, we're going through a big
40 Staff turnover and some of our tasks have fallen
41 though the cracks. And so I'll commit to the Council
42 to work with Leigh to try to make sure that we are on
43 future agendas and have our materials a little bit more
44 prepared for this meeting coming -- going forward.

45

46 We did meet with the SRC, the Aniakchak
47 SRC recently and achieved quorum for the first time in
48 almost three years. So that's a big step in the right
49 direction. the members did talk about subsistence

50

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1 resources. They indicated in their comments that
2 caribou were holding steady, not necessarily at high
3 numbers, but steady and maybe slightly increasing
4 numbers.

5
6 There was some concern expressed about
7 moose populations. The perception from a couple of
8 members was that where the moose were slightly
9 declining and they're not seeing them as much as they
10 had recently.

11
12 The other topics that came up I guess
13 were that there were a lot of ducks that were available
14 for subsistence use and geese seemed to be fairly
15 healthy. And there was some concern raised about the
16 silvers, they came in late and they came in low down
17 Peninsula this year.

18
19 So those are the observations that they
20 shared with us during the meeting.

21
22 In addition there -- we did discuss the
23 future composition of the SRC. We are trying to work
24 with them to identify potential new members. It is a
25 priority for us as well, it has been discussed in this
26 meeting earlier today and we are trying to fill those
27 vacant chairs in various way. But in the things that I
28 will share with you today you'll see that we have a
29 number of different initiatives that we are reaching
30 out to our surrounding communities and hopefully we
31 will establish new ties and identify new individuals
32 that might be able to serve in these important roles.
33 So we are trying in various ways to increase our
34 outreach to surrounding affiliated communities to the
35 Park and Preserve and to the Monument and Preserve.

36
37 There is a slide show if -- I wonder
38 could you help me out perhaps.

39
40 MS. HONIG: Sure.

41
42 MR. STURM: It's actually a PDF there,
43 it's the 2022 November -- that's the one.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 So the -- is that the first page,
48 scroll up to the top. This -- that's the one. That's
49 the one.

50

0175

1 Thank you.

2

3

4 So this is just a -- an image that you
5 can actually Google online. We had an unveiling
6 ceremony for the Monument that you see in the image in
7 this slide. It's an image that celebrates the life of
8 Pelagia Melgenak who is the matriarch of a local
9 affiliated family to areas within the Park. This is a
10 commitment that the Park had made to these folks, the
11 heirs of Pelagia, over 25 years ago. And we are only
12 now fulfilling that obligation. It's something that
13 took way too long to do. I bring this to the Council
14 today because we shared the fact that we had
15 successfully awarded the production of the Monument
16 about four years ago and unfortunately the Monument has
17 been sitting, waiting for her unveiling for two years
18 in light of covid. So we were finally able to hold our
19 unveiling ceremony, it was a success for us, we're
20 proud of the product of Darlene Lind's work, she was
21 the artist that we worked with. We're hoping that the
22 Monument will form a centerpiece for expanded
23 interpretative content around indigenous and affiliated
24 peoples to the Park and Preserve that we're going to be
25 working on for a number of years going forward.

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Next page, please. This is just an
image of a proposed projects newsletter that we send to
tribes, Native corporations and descendant
organizations. The reason I included it here is
because of the image that's in the upper right-hand
corner. That is an image of a road that the National
Park Service built in 2014 that we should not have. We
did not have the proper compliance, we had not done
consultation and unfortunately, very unfortunately,
known archeological resources were impacted by the
construction of this road. And since then we have --
it's a very short road, I will say it's less than 200
feet long, but we have been trying to understand how
this could have happened, trying to put processes and
mechanisms in place to make sure that this kind of
thing cannot happen again. And also been in
consultation with affiliated tribes and tribal
organizations about what should we do about this mess
that we've created. The important thing to know is
that we are close to reaching agreement on moving
forward with a process that will allow us to hopefully
do what we can to make lemonade out of a lemon here and
try to respectfully I guess mitigate the impacts that
this road has had and perhaps turn it into an

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1 opportunity to interpret the cultural resources that
2 are prominent in the area of the Park where this
3 feature occurs.

4

5 So I just wanted -- this is another
6 topic that the Council has expressed interest in in
7 recent years. I wanted to bring it up again this time
8 around because we are anticipating to begin our
9 mitigation work for this road in 2023.

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Okay. The next page, please. This is a busy slide. I will just hit -- and I apologize to the folks in the back, but if you will there's the center image is a map and it has essentially the under -- the underlaid images of the Brooks Camp area of the Park with Brooks Lake to the west and Naknek Lake to the east and the Brooks River kind of connecting them. And then there's two blowouts which are then blown out even larger. I had three things I wanted to highlight on this image. One is that if you'll notice on the left-hand side you'll see orange blue rectangle shapes that are kind of empty in the middle, clear in the middle and then on the right-hand side you'll see orange and blue solid shapes on the right-hand side. Those -- we're essentially taking off existing infrastructure that are constructed on the north side of the Naknek River on the Naknek Lake shore and migrating them to the south side in an area that is much less sensitive from a cultural perspective and from a bear management perspective. Trying to remove our infrastructure from within the footprint of an archeological site on the north side of the Brooks River. And also trying to consolidate and make more efficient our operations in the Brooks Camp area.

The second bullet that you'll see there is a microgrid connection. Right now Brooks Camp is operated with two generating facilities, one on the north side of the river and another on the south side of the river. It's very inefficient, it is all diesel powered energy and we are trying to consolidate our energy production on one side of the river and deliver the power from that facility. We're also trying to install a battery bank that will allow those generators to run at peak efficiency, store that energy and then turn those generators off and run the camp from battery generated power -- battery provided power. And associated with that initiative as well there will be some upgrade in installation of solar where we have

0177

1 opportunity to do so at this site.

2

3

4 And then the last bullet there is a
5 visitor use management plan. We have a lot of visitors
6 that are coming to Katmai and in particular to Brooks
7 Camp and we are wanting and needing to start a visitor
8 use management plan for this area so that we can, you
9 know, make sure that we are both protecting the
10 resources that we're there to help manage and also
11 preserving a high quality visitor experience to those
12 that do come to the area and to do so in a responsible
13 way. So we're going to initiate that type of a
14 process, a visitor use management plan, starting in
15 2023.

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And so those are three important initiatives that I thought the Council might be interested in understanding because they certainly have an influence on how we conduct our management actions. Right now we deliver an awful lot of fuel across Naknek Lake to make Brooks Camp run. The microgrid upgrade will certainly reduce the amount of fuel that we need to move across the lake in any given year and the outcome of that management plan will hopefully provide the framework for a sustainable management of visitation in this part of the Park. But one of the outcomes of any action we take here is that it's likely to have consequences and affects on other parts of the Park where if we're managing our visitation differently in this part of the Park over time, it -- the visitation's likely going to be having to go someplace else.

And so we are going to be wanting to work with surrounding communities to find opportunities where visitation could come and have different types of experiences within the Park and Preserve.

Next page, please. Thank you. Another piece of infrastructure that is needed, that is associated with the high levels of visitation we're currently experiencing is a wastewater treatment plant. I just want the Council to know that we have done the compliance and have begun construction of a wastewater treatment plant that meets modern day standards near the Brooks Camp area. It is about two and a half miles removed from the site along the Valley of 10,000 Smokes Road, in an area that has been fully surveyed and that construction project was initiated this summer and will

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1 be completed next summer. This is a desperately needed
2 piece of infrastructure that will help us to at least
3 manage and support the existing levels of visitation we
4 experience.

5

6 The next slide, please. We have a
7 wilderness and backcountry management plan under
8 development. We had a scoping effort that was
9 conducted in the spring where we asked all kinds of
10 stakeholders including Park operators and tribes about
11 the -- we asked them what they thought we might
12 consider doing about some of the issues we've
13 identified in our backcountry and wilderness areas.
14 You'll notice the map that's on the left-hand side of
15 the image has a number of different colorations and
16 different features identified on it. Katmai's somewhat
17 unique, it's already been mentioned today actually
18 where we -- where there are lands within the current
19 boundary of the Park and Preserve that were Federally
20 withdrawn before Alaska became a State and therefore
21 are subject to Federal jurisdiction. But there's a
22 significant portion of Katmai National Park and
23 Preserve that also came within the current boundaries
24 after Statehood and therefore certainly there are
25 implications for what authorities apply in areas where
26 navigability has yet to be determined.

27

28 And so we are hoping during this
29 process to have a dialogue with the State of Alaska and
30 also work with the concerned public about how we can
31 manage those tributaries where the navigability
32 jurisdiction is not known and therefore the status of
33 Federal or State jurisdiction is uncertain, how we can --
34 how we can at least establish a management structure.
35 So those blue lines that you see on the map are areas
36 where we know we have issues that warrant discussion
37 and consideration and we will be trying to work through
38 a process during this planning process that will help
39 us develop management approaches at least during the
40 interim periods until we have navigability
41 determinations for those water features on the map.

42

43 There's a lot of other aspects to this
44 planning process that I won't go into today, but myself
45 and my Staff would be happy to talk to the Council
46 members or anyone else for that matter that would like
47 to know more about what we're trying to do here and how
48 they could perhaps help us think it through because
49 this is going to take a lot of thought.

50

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1 Next image. As has been mentioned we
2 are coordinating with a number of our friends at Fish
3 and Wildlife Service and Lake Clark on a number of
4 different monitoring kinds of efforts. And there's a
5 couple of them that Troy's going to come up here and
6 talk about in just a minute or two about the ptarmigan
7 and the caribou work among other resources that we've
8 been monitoring.

9
10 I guess I also wanted to mention --
11 could you go back one slide, please, with regard to our
12 friends near Kokhanok and Igiugig, they have submitted
13 a customary and traditional access request for
14 determination for the Preserve portion of Katmai. And
15 I guess this is another thing that for Kokhanok has
16 been long standing. They have had this request in
17 place for over 15 years to my knowledge. We have not --
18 we have started the work, we've looked into the
19 historical use of that area of the Preserve, but have
20 not finalized or made a determination. I guess I want
21 to go on the record to say that we are trying to
22 fulfill that obligation to at least answer the question
23 and provide them with clarity around what's possible.
24 And so we have initiated or I should say reinitiated
25 our process to make that determination, hopefully
26 within -- sometime within the next year.

27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: You mean Kokhanok?

29
30 MR. STURM: Kokhanok. I'm sorry,
31 that's what I did mean. I apologize.

32
33 Just another -- this has been mentioned
34 as well. It was a wet summer no doubt, but it started
35 off really dry if you remember, it was very dry.
36 Katmai had its largest wildfire ever earlier this
37 spring. There was a lot of lightning strikes,
38 lightning was very, very abundant early this -- early
39 in the summer. I guess I just wanted to highlight some
40 of the things that we're doing in the Park and Preserve
41 here to -- in response to it. We do have a couple of
42 different fire crews who have come to the Brooks Camp
43 area of the Park where we have infrastructure. We have
44 a lot of spruce beetle killed spruce that we are trying
45 to knock down, stack up and ultimately burn so that we
46 have some defensible space around our infrastructure in
47 the part of the Park and Preserve. This is a project
48 that's going to take several more years to complete,
49 we're two years in. But it's an important project so
50

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1 that we can continue to sustain the infrastructure
2 we've developed in that area.

3

4 And the next slide. This is another
5 topic. This is something that we hope to begin in
6 2023. A baseline ethnographic overview and assessment
7 of the Alutiiq Sugpiaq, Yup'ik and Dena'ina cultures
8 remains incomplete for Katmai. Therefore the Council
9 of Katmai Descendants and the Bristol Bay Native
10 Association and tribes have expressed a desire for an
11 ethnographic publication that educates and promotes
12 traditional and modern connections to ancestral lands.
13 We have funding that's in the pipeline, we will
14 hopefully be engaged in an ethnography study with
15 surrounding affiliated communities over the next four
16 or five years.

17

18 And I believe one more perhaps, just a
19 final slide of some Pelagia's descendants on our
20 unveiling. We're hopeful that this is just the first
21 of a number of similar type of events that we can host
22 and participate in with our surrounding communities in
23 the years to come.

24

25 And with that can I ask Troy perhaps to
26 come up and join me.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MR. HAMON: Madame Chairman, members of
31 the Council. Troy Hamon, Natural Resource Manager for
32 Katmai, Aniakchak and Alagnak. Mark was interested in
33 making sure that I had a chance to give you an update
34 on just sort of the work we've been doing so I'll go
35 ahead and do a quick verbal version of that, as he
36 indicated our written supplies are less than we would
37 prefer for you folks. But and part of that is Mark's
38 talked about the Staff organization so three years ago
39 including myself we had a Natural Resource permanent
40 Staff of six and there's two of us left. We've hired
41 one new person, but that's kind of the situation we're
42 in, we're working on refilling some of those. As part
43 of that I've been operating as a pilot in the Park for
44 a number of years now, I've lost track, and one of the
45 things that Mark and I in combination have come to the
46 conclusion that it would be better for me to be a pilot
47 with a collateral duty of helping Natural Resources
48 than the other way because that's the reality of it.
49 So that way you'll have a different person as a Natural
50

0181

1 Resource Manager, but I expect to be supporting the
2 Subsistence Program, I'll probably still be attending
3 subsistence meetings, but I won't be the Supervisor of
4 the Division likely by this time next year. So and we
5 talked to the SRC, I didn't want you to read their
6 report and not know -- hear about it from us. But I'll
7 continue to be working on these projects.

8
9 So we do a number of surveys and many
10 of these surveys are in cooperation with other
11 agencies, they're in cooperation with the Park's
12 Inventory and Monitoring Staff that are based in
13 Anchorage. And so you'll hear different pieces and you
14 heard from Bill about the ptarmigan surveys we've
15 working to try to extend their protocol into the Park
16 service lands both for their purposes and ours to have
17 a better understanding and that's gone pretty well.
18 We're still relatively new to that project and we may
19 be trying to follow-up because the pattern of springs
20 being relatively different than normal during the two
21 years we've done it. We may be trying to just do a
22 couple in the next couple years to get a handle on kind
23 of what the variance is before we get too many years
24 down the road. So we'll probably do a couple of
25 ptarmigan on a somewhat ongoing basis at the moment in
26 our lands.

27
28 We do two bear survey protocols on a
29 regular basis. One of those is oriented around coastal
30 meadows. We've kind of picked that up from Lake Clark
31 where they were doing that. One of those is from
32 spawning salmon streams and that's something that we've
33 carried on from a long history of those surveys being
34 done. There's a number of reasons why these ecological
35 aggregations when you count them it makes it
36 complicated from a population assessment standpoint.
37 So Leslie Scora who's not here, but who's been before
38 you and will continue to be part of our subsistence
39 team, has been working on a dissertation project to try
40 to organize those data into kind of the most
41 information we can have because we have them going back
42 to the '70s and there's really good long term value in
43 them, but knowing what they tell you is something
44 that's important. So we're continuing those and what I
45 can tell you from this year is not quite as many bears
46 as last year, but it was not a low bear year in Katmai.

47
48 In the Aniakchak we did not get salmon
49 streams surveyed, but the sage meadows were relatively
50

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1 low, we did not see many bears in Aniakchak. That's
2 been a lot more hit and miss down there.

3

4

5 One of the things that we are using to
6 try to bring these numbers into focus is a line
7 transect survey. And so we did Katmai Preserve with
8 the help of one Park airplane and one vander aircraft.
9 We did the entire Katmai Preserve in May on a line
10 transect survey and we don't have any of those data
11 because that's one of those things were there's a lot
12 of number crunching and it hasn't come back to us yet.
13 But that'll help us to put our other surveys into
14 context.

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Our other primary things that people would be interested in, we have had some of the same challenges you heard about from Bill as far as moose surveys. We did get a couple days where we were able to get a good survey on the Branch River trend area last year. And we did not see anything remarkedly high or low, it was fairly normal. We sent that into Fish and Game and I also don't know what Fish and Game got done. That project for us is also similarly like the bear survey, it's not oriented -- because they're trend area surveys they're not oriented around a population estimate. But there's a long history of using them so we've got people in our Inventory and Monitoring Division that have at least been working with us on trying to tease that out, but we've -- like Bill talked about we've been in conversations with Dave Crowley also about whether there's a different regional approach. So there could be some changes in that going forward.

I haven't been out on a moose survey yet this year, they're ahead of us there, although I did in the first week of October see a one side bull which I'd never seen before. So it was interesting to hear his comments about that.

The other -- we -- there's a number of other small things that are not necessarily subsistence related, we have bald eagle surveys that we fly on an annual basis and we have been monitoring activity of some of our coastal wolf dynamics by camera installation where they're triggered by activity. And those are -- that project is coming through with a -- I think now a joint effort with Lake Clark because the graduate student has moved up to Lake Clark. Anyway so

0183

1 that -- that's coming out as a master's thesis in the
2 next couple years.

3
4 Not a Natural Resource project, but one
5 thing I wanted to bring up, the Aniakchak SRC gives us
6 a good link to try and -- thinking about the membership
7 issues that we discussed earlier. It gives us a good
8 tie to visit with people from Port Heiden and the three
9 Chigniks. What we don't have is any real tie to
10 talking to some of those other nearby villages, Pilot
11 Point, Ugashik, Egegik and perhaps the Refuge would
12 have a better tie into those, I'm not sure. But
13 despite their historical tie to the Park Perryville is
14 not an Aniakchak SRC affiliate village. But what they
15 are because they are directly removed from the Village
16 of Katmai is they've been really closely working with
17 some of our Cultural Resource Staff, and we've had a
18 culture camp effort in Katmai the last couple years
19 that's brought those people up. And so one of the
20 things that I was realizing as we talked is we really
21 have a chance to work through our Cultural Resource
22 Staff to try to identify whether there's people in
23 Perryville that might be interested. And that's
24 something that wouldn't apply to the SRC, but I was
25 thinking that would be good. And that's been a really
26 great thing, that culture camp, I can't say too much
27 about it because I'm not the expert, but I've
28 appreciated those folks and our Staff working with the
29 village, it's been really positive.

30
31 That's what I brought on my list if you
32 have questions for me.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
35 Council members, questions.

36
37 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
40 Dan.

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Didn't hear anything
43 about Pike Ridge, are we making any progress there or
44 where does that stand?

45
46 MR. STURM: I'll take that one. That's
47 a good question. In 2017 Congress asked us if we were
48 -- if we had any legislative proposals and we did put
49 forward a possible thing that Congress could help us
50

0184

1 with to solve the Pike Ridge access issues that go on
2 in that area. Wherein they -- the Park expressed an
3 interest and a willingness to support the ability to
4 conduct subsistence types of activities in the western
5 expansion lands of Katmai National Park and Preserve.
6 Unfortunately the 117th Congress is about to wrap
7 things up, but today as a matter of fact the request
8 for that same call for legislative proposals came in
9 for the 118th Congress and I guess I will say we're
10 going to put it in again. We'll see what happens.

11

12 There is a short term possibility that
13 I guess to be honest I guess I've been dragging my feet
14 seeing what Congress might do and that is there is a
15 provision within ANILCA that allows I guess a land
16 management agency to do a boundary adjustment and it is
17 something within our purview, up to 23,000 acres, which
18 is fairly sizeable in most parts of the world, it's a
19 corner here, but it could solve at least a portion of
20 the concerns and issues that we have that is within our
21 administrative authority to move forward with if the
22 Park Service leadership, if my leadership would be
23 willing to go there. I would be willing to open up
24 that dialogue with the community and see if they wanted
25 to pursue that while we also pursued this legislative
26 fix. But I guess I was hoping that Congress might see
27 that this would be a good thing for this community and
28 this area.

29

30 So that's kind of the update. We do
31 have one option that we could move forward with.

32

33 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

36

37 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
38 First question or maybe suggestion. You got Bill and
39 Susanne, they were talking about expanding some
40 resource with the kings, you know, in the Big Creek
41 area and some of their Federal lands. Are you guys
42 hoping perhaps to get involved with them there for the
43 Branch River drainage since that's your jurisdiction in
44 the wilderness section to kind of help this lack of
45 king population, that would be my first question. Is
46 there any involvement there or any wishes to be
47 involved in that monitoring program?

48

49 MR. STRUM: I guess I -- what I can say

50

0185

1 is we do have Inventory and Monitoring Program in place
2 that has complementary data that is being collected. I
3 don't know that we have had the detailed conversations
4 with the Refuge about this particular topic and how we
5 could maybe expand what we have in place to complement
6 their research. We'd be willing to engage in that
7 dialogue and see if we could do that.

8

9 So I guess my answer we can look into
10 the possibility of what you're suggesting, Mr. Wilson.

11

12 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Yeah, it just
13 seems like we're -- you know, we're all trying to get
14 onboard here with, you know, the reasons why all the
15 decline. And I know the Branch River a lot of times
16 gets left out of our conversations, you know, even
17 though it's, you know, it's only 15 miles away from the
18 Naknek there and it's another one of the major streams
19 where kings are rearing up. So just appreciate any
20 input you can do there.

21

22 The other question was -- I don't know
23 if it's a good time to discuss it, but the Kokhanok
24 caribou population. And the -- I know we brought it
25 for you about possibly opening up that section, we know
26 it's -- I mean, there's -- it sounds like you're still
27 doing some data gathering. And I just -- I don't know
28 if now's the time to ask this or if you got Dillon and
29 others are going to maybe elaborate on some of that,
30 some of your findings with the villages or that.

31

32 MR. STRUM: Just very briefly and I'll
33 pass the baton to Troy. Through the Chair, Mr. Wilson.
34 Dillon is going to come up in just a moment and tell us
35 a little bit about what he's been up to in that part of
36 the world. But I think Troy's got something to share
37 about the caribou surveys.

38

39 MR. HAMON: Through the Chair. My
40 apologies, I did -- I went through everything on my
41 list except one thing and that's the caribou survey. I
42 didn't even realize I went past it. We have made an
43 effort to count the caribou in that area and it's
44 visual surveys from the air. There was no composition
45 data associated with it. But we done it the last two
46 winters and both years we get in the area of 300
47 animals is like the highest count. We figure the
48 highest count is probably the most accurate minimum
49 count. But it is a minimum count, we don't know what
50

1 the real number is. The State has been working on a
2 project to put some collars on, that usually will give
3 you a lot better ability to get a estimate of size. So
4 we're hoping that we can help them. They came to us in
5 the spring, but we didn't have time to help them
6 through the process to get a permit, it involved some
7 paperwork to get animals darted on Park Service lands
8 legally. So we're expecting to have a much better
9 number than what we can provide just from an
10 uncorrected aerial survey. But the numbers that we
11 were getting are kind of in line with some of the
12 counts that Andy was reporting. So I wouldn't be
13 surprised if they're somewhat similar.

14 It is fairly clear that they seem to
15 restrict themselves to what I kind of think of as
16 Kokhanok bench in the winter, that's where we see most
17 of them, some of them along Rain Creek. But they don't
18 go down the hill. And if we do go down toward Igiugig
19 we'll pick up some of Mulchatna Herd, but they don't go
20 up the hill. And sometimes they'll be gone and our 300
21 animals will still be up top. And sometimes we go down
22 the hill and there's a thousand Mulchatna animals just
23 down below. So it -- you can imagine, I only bring
24 that up because the management of it is going to be
25 important because the Mulchatna Herd has a problem even
26 if there's more of them locally.

27
28 So but as far as the counts we have
29 made an effort and we're in that 300 animal range at a
30 minimum. So.....

31
32 MR. WILSON: And I guess that you
33 probably know, I bring that up because we're -- we
34 discussed, you know, the Mulchatna Herd is -- you know,
35 is on decline and I think we've -- we all pretty much
36 know that that's a resident herd that's sitting there.
37 And it's in with you guys' jurisdiction to monitor or
38 to -- you know, for subsistence use. And it is part of
39 the Preserve, it's not part of the National Park. And
40 so I guess my question is I know that you've been --
41 you know, you guys have had some conversations with the
42 communities around there that are going to be impacted
43 by this and with the lack of moose population on that
44 upper end there in Kokhanok area which has kind of been
45 what we've been seeing, just wondering how close you
46 are to possibly getting an EO or something similar so
47 that those communities can utilize that herd. Because
48 that herd's -- ever since I've been in the area, early
49 '70s, trapping in Nonfonic and Kokhanok, that herd has
50

0187

1 always been there. And I'm sure you guys have heard
2 Dillon with the homework they've been doing, they've
3 heard a lot of similar stories. That herd has always
4 been there even when the Mulchatna Herd was at its
5 biggest population and the herd crossed Iliamna Lake
6 and went into Big Mountain area, went up the ridge
7 you're talking about and when they left that herd still
8 stayed. So it's a resident herd. And I just -- I
9 guess I would appreciate you guys taking a more
10 affirmative approach on trying to open up or at least
11 minimal with an EO just to get those people -- give
12 those people access to that herd because that herd is
13 doing very well. And it's not associated with the
14 Mulchatna Herd and it's within you guys' jurisdiction.

15

16

17 So that's my hopes and I'd like an
18 answer.

19

20 MR. STRUM: Through the Chair. Thank
21 you, Mr. Wilson. I guess I will say that when this
22 topic came to us as something that warranted
23 investigation, we looked for funding to begin to
24 understand the dynamics of the population. How we
25 found that funding within the first cycle that we were
26 able to and put the process in place to begin to
27 conduct these surveys. You know, it does take time and
28 money, we are going as quickly as we can. I guess I
29 would say that I would hope to continue to move
30 forward. As far as when we might have clarity around
31 what's possible, I guess it would say it is a multi
32 jurisdictional circumstance, it's not just Park Service
33 lands that are in question with this -- with the
34 distribution of the animals that we're talking about.
35 And so I guess understanding the dynamics of how that
36 might work would be something we need to spend some
37 time on as well. I know that's not -- I know you would
38 like to know that we're going to do something this year
39 or so, but I guess I would say we are going as quickly
40 as we can and we're trying not to be the cause for this
41 to be held up. Certainly as we have -- as I mentioned
42 before we are trying to fulfill a long standing
43 obligation regarding customary and traditional use and
44 I guess I would hope to continue in that same spirit
45 with this effort until it has resolution one way or the
46 other.

47

48

MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

49

50

0188

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
2 Richard.

3
4 MR. WILSON: Thanks, Mark. Yeah, I
5 just -- it's just a bummer that, you know, we've -- you
6 know, you have resident herds here on the -- you know,
7 on this side of the creek, you know, that aren't being
8 utilized. I know they're resident herds and they've
9 got programmed for (indiscernible), you know, resource
10 there. And we have a herd there that just got
11 sectioned out just recently because you're realizing
12 it's a resident herd and was part of the Mulchatna and
13 the Mulchatna's declining and here there's two
14 communities there that are really affected by it, two
15 major communities. And they can't use that resource
16 and the other resource they have which is the moose
17 seem to be declining up there. So it just seems like
18 it's a -- to me it's pretty -- you know, the red light
19 is turning like hey, hey, you know, let's get something
20 done here. So I'm just trying to put a fire in it.

21
22 So thanks.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
25 you, Richard.

26
27 MR. STURM: Madame Chair, could I ask
28 Dillon to come up and speak to us for a moment?

29
30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Certainly.
31 Dillon, you have the floor.

32
33 MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, Madame
34 Chair. For the record this is Dillon Patterson with
35 the National Park Service Regional Subsistence Program.
36 I do have a few updates on this topic of the resident
37 caribou population around Kokhanok. I spoke to Mr.
38 Wilson a while back, maybe six months ago or so, I
39 can't remember exactly when, and he provided a lot of
40 valuable input in terms of a project we are working on
41 developing with Igiugig and Kokhanok to document
42 traditional ecological knowledge of caribou out in the
43 Katmai Preserve and just north of the Katmai Preserve.
44 So right along that 9B, 9C border. And after working
45 with Mr. Wilson and the Kokhanok and Igiugig Village
46 Councils we secured funding to document traditional
47 ecological knowledge.

48
49 And I went out there this summer and we
50

0189

1 conducted traditional knowledge interviews with folks
2 who had been identified as TK holders, knowledgeable
3 experts on the caribou in the area. And we're still
4 working on analysis of those TK interviews, but I can
5 share some preliminary findings from those interviews
6 and things that, you know, we've seen a lot of
7 consensus for across those local experts that were
8 interviewed.

9

10 The first is the TK suggests that there
11 is a small resident population that predates the
12 expansion of the Mulchatna into the area and then
13 subsequent decline. So like Mr. Wilson's saying, the
14 data we collected, ethnographic data we collected
15 suggests that that population has been there when
16 Mulchatna was small, when it grew and now since it's
17 declined it's kind of always been there. And locals
18 report that the caribou in that area do not tend to
19 migrate out of that area. And as Bill was mentioning
20 earlier, I don't know it sounded like maybe there are a
21 couple collars out there, I'm not sure when Bill was
22 talking. I don't know. But anyway if there were it
23 would be really interesting to see, but sounds like at
24 least for now if there are that the collars also
25 suggest they don't migrate out of that area.

26

27 There's also -- we've also received
28 some information about the appearance and size of
29 caribou in that area, in particular that bulls appear
30 to be much larger than Mulchatna bulls. So they may be
31 -- you know, suggest maybe some genetic difference as
32 well.

33

34 There's of course a lot of local
35 interest in opening the hunts and I hear what your
36 concerns are about that. And there's again obviously a
37 lot of local interest in opening the hunt so I had been
38 thinking a lot about and looking at the current
39 regulations, what are in place and potential solutions
40 and I hope to work with Kokhanok and Igiugig more to
41 work toward some solution. Currently I just wanted to
42 kind of overview where we're at with the regulations.
43 So currently the Togiak Wildlife Refuge Manager has
44 delegated authority for Mulchatna Herd which includes
45 this area. So, you know, kind of semantics, but they
46 have delegated authority in that area. And however
47 this -- the Federal regs or the Federal hunt operates
48 under a State registration permit and the State hunt is
49 currently closed.

50

0190

1 So to the best of my knowledge, my
2 understanding is that in order for a Federal hunt to be
3 opened there would have to be some sort of Federal
4 permit in place. And so I don't know -- I don't know
5 where -- if you're looking for ideas, and again I'm
6 hoping to work more with Kokhanok and Igiugig to work
7 on solutions, think about solutions. But my thought
8 goes to the possibility of submitting some sort of --
9 or, you know, trying to get some sort of Federal permit
10 in place so that there would be an option to preference
11 rural residents in that area whereas now it's kind of
12 relying on the State permit.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

15

16 MR. WILSON: I guess just throw the
17 question up then. If our Togiak Wildlife Refuge
18 Manager is in charge of this herd and you're saying
19 that that herd is still part of the Mulchatna, then he
20 has the -- he has the ability already given to him to
21 look at this herd as a possible source; is that
22 correct?

23

24 MR. PATTERSON: Through the Chair. My
25 understanding is that because the Federal hunt in 9C
26 and B is managed through a State permit the Togiak
27 Refuge Manager -- I'm not sure. I would have to defer
28 too. But I don't think that without a Federal permit
29 in place there would be -- the Refuge Manager would
30 have the ability to open the hunt. I would have to
31 defer to someone who understands the regs maybe better
32 than I do.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lisa looks
35 like she might be able to clarify.....

36

37 MR. PATTERSON: Yeah.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:some
40 things here.

41

42 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Lisa Grediagin
43 for the record. And technically the Togiak Refuge
44 Manager has the authority to open a hunt in this area,
45 but as Dillon pointed out currently it's by State
46 registration permit. So that is kind of a technicality
47 that we'd have to work through because yeah, if the
48 State doesn't currently have the hunt and they're not
49 distributing permits, I'm not quite sure exactly how
50

0191

1 that would work. In my -- as Dillon pointed out it
2 would be the easiest thing to just submit a proposal or
3 special action or something to require a Federal
4 registration permit. So just be a new permit. But
5 it's also -- because right now that is considered part
6 of the Mulchatna Herd I would think it would be
7 clearest going forward, you know, if we're going to
8 start managing this as just a entirely separate herd,
9 that we would just have a completely separate
10 regulation, you know, a separate hunt area, season,
11 Federal permit, everything to kind of separate that out
12 from the Mulchatna Herd because right now, you know,
13 it's nice from a harvest reporting standpoint for the
14 Federal users and State to just use one permit. It's
15 much easier for the users to get that one permit and
16 then for the harvest reporting to keep track of harvest
17 it would just be using that one permit. So, you know,
18 in the immediate short term, you know, if you really
19 wanted to open the hunt as soon as possible, I mean,
20 technically yeah, the Togiak Manager has that
21 authority, but for the long term it would be best to
22 just establish a whole new hunt for -- since it's a --
23 you know, since we're thinking it's a herd completely
24 separate from the Mulchatna Herd.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard, I
27 would suggest you get your pencil out.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: It sounds to
32 me like this -- you know, we'd want to establish it as
33 its own entity and control it as such which totally
34 makes sense because those of us that live there know
35 damn good and well this herd's always there, it always
36 has been. And it should be treated as its own entity.
37 And we do have game proposals coming up and I think
38 actually -- and as a Board I say that -- I'm pointing
39 at you, but as a Board I think that we should look at
40 putting a proposal together to put a hunt and delegate
41 authority as we see fit for that.

42

43 Go ahead.

44

45 MR. WILSON: So, Madame Chair, you're
46 telling me that it has to go as a proposal before Andy
47 can -- the Manager there can act on this -- that part
48 of the herd?

49

50

0192

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That is
2 correct. That's what I'm hearing. And I'm thinking
3 also long term that that's going to make it the
4 cleanest way because otherwise we're going to have to
5 continue to identify it as part of the Mulchatna Herd.

6
7 Yes, Lisa.

8
9 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I would just
10 encourage you, you know, since the call for wildlife
11 proposals is -- will be at your next meeting, you know,
12 to just think about exactly what you want this hunt to
13 look like, you know, between now and your winter
14 meeting and then you could submit a proposal during
15 that next window whether it's as an individual or as a
16 Council. So just be thinking, you know, seasons,
17 harvest limit, defining the hunt area, things like
18 that. So.....

19
20 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, it's tempting to
25 push it and manage it under Mulchatna rules, but then
26 you do that a little bit and you say well, wait a
27 minute now it's not the Mulchatna Herd can kind of get
28 to be a bureaucratic snarl. But call Kenton and talk
29 it over with him, he's easy to talk to.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I just see a
32 lot of snaggles in it if we keep it with Mulchatna. I
33 guess what my vision would be would be to move it over
34 probably to Parks Service would make the most sense
35 because it's on Park Service land and identify it as
36 its own entity and put a proposal in on it.

37
38 Go ahead, Richard.

39
40 MR. WILSON: Thank you. I just -- you
41 know, of course my -- all my thinking is, you know,
42 that herd is healthy, it's there, it's ready for
43 harvest. I mean, there's no reason for it to be closed
44 besides it just got hooked up with the Mulchatna. And
45 we have a Manager that is capable of managing that herd
46 still while the Park is trying to gather information or
47 do their due diligence about getting the information
48 they need to put together a program, you know, to
49 manage that herd themselves. But until that happens is
50

0193

1 it wrong to ask that since, you know, Togiak Refuge
2 Manager has the ability to open and close sections of
3 the herd, is that possible?

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That I
6 cannot answer for you and I don't think it's wrong to
7 ask, no, but I don't know what the answers are and I'm
8 not sure we have them in this room at this minute.
9 Maybe we could ask Lisa to research that a bit further
10 and see if there's a meantime or an interim and we
11 could definitely plan in the spring to change the
12 dynamics.

13

14 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

15

16 Dan.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY: One other thing that
19 might be helpful because the State might want to have
20 their nose in a little bit too, at least they have
21 people in the offices finally in Bristol Bay, Amy's
22 new, I haven't met her, but then we've got John and
23 Evelyn over here. By the way Evelyn is also assistant
24 over in the King Salmon office. So she's already been
25 bouncing back and forth. But yeah, I think you should
26 ask. I'm not sure what answer you'll get either, but,
27 I mean, that's one way to get things started.

28

29 MR. WILSON: Thanks, Chair, people
30 here. I -- you know, yeah. And I'll leave it there,
31 you know, we'll -- you know, if you guys are willing,
32 you know, to have this conversation perhaps, you know,
33 at some other point here we can -- we can perhaps dab
34 into it.

35

36 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Lisa Grediagin
37 again for the record. And just -- I mean, if you're
38 concerned about kind of the immediacy of this, you
39 know, having the hunt as soon as possible, you know, if
40 you submit a proposal next spring at your meeting that
41 won't go into effect until 2024. And so if you're
42 interested in next season, you know, next fall, I mean,
43 you could certainly submit a parallel special action to
44 kind of go along with that proposal, but then could
45 potentially go into effect in 2023 versus waiting a
46 whole extra year. So but either way, I mean, I think
47 Nanci kind of put it well, where like trying to do it
48 within the current delegated authority there's just so
49 many snaggles that -- yeah, I mean, I'd really have to
50

0194

1 talk with a regulation specialist about parsing out,
2 you know, the technicalities and the limitations there.
3 So but yeah, certainly for next year submitting a
4 special action is probably your best course of action.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
7 Richard.

8

9 MR. WILSON: And I just hate to step on
10 you guys' feet there, Mark or Dillon, I -- you know,
11 I'm not trying to push it over and beyond you, it's
12 just looking at ways that, you know, to perhaps make
13 this happen is all. So it's dear to my heart.

14

15 So thanks.

16

17 MR. STRUM: Through the Chair. I --
18 Mr. Wilson, I appreciate your interest and concern on
19 this topic. I can express our willingness to engage in
20 these conversations. Obviously we are learning this
21 process ourselves. I will say that the Togiak Refuge
22 Manager has that delegated authority, but certainly
23 they will take into close consideration the perspective
24 and concerns of the Park and Preserve. And I guess I
25 can say that we have had preliminary discussions around
26 these exact topics, you know, how could this -- what
27 would this look like, how could it be, what are the
28 concerns. And there are indeed concerns, but
29 understanding the full, you know, breadth of what's
30 possible is something that we need to spend some time
31 trying to wrap our heads around. I will say that this
32 population that we are talking about, resident
33 population in this area, is not entirely found within
34 the Preserve's boundaries. It is a multi
35 jurisdictional situation. The only authorities that we
36 would have any Federal control over would be within
37 those National Park Service managed lands. Unless
38 there's BLM lands or something up there that I'm not
39 aware of. But we're willing to have that conversation
40 for sure.....

41

42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

43

44 MR. STRUM:and try.

45

46 MR. DUNAWAY: I just want to backup
47 Richard a little bit, I have a few contacts in Kokhanok
48 and he's only beginning to touch on the passion about
49 this.

50

0195

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: Maybe you've had some
4 direct experience with that.

5

6 MR. STRUM: One other thing -- through
7 the Chair.

8

9 MR. DUNAWAY: So anyway.....

10

11 MR. STRUM: I'm sorry, Mr. Dunaway.
12 Through the Chair. Just we do have a tentatively
13 scheduled and I guess I'm deciding here with Dillon
14 that we are going to firm up a visit to our friends in
15 Kokhanok on the 17th of November. This will be one of
16 the primary topics of discussion during that meeting,
17 we'll go up there and talk to them at length about it.

18

19 MR. PATTERSON: Madame Chair, can
20 I.....

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

23

24 MR. PATTERSON: Just one more point
25 about the location of caribou and where they might be
26 hunted to. In my conversations with folks in Kokhanok,
27 I believe a lot of times caribou are hunted just north
28 of the Preserve, around the Gibraltar Lake area. And
29 that -- you know, so it's outside the Preserve. So I'm
30 just thinking of where the hunt might be and that sort
31 of thing. It may be worth -- just for your
32 consideration.

33

34 Thanks.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Right.
37 Well, we could it -- we probably mirror with a Board of
38 Game proposal during their cycle next time too, but for
39 now.....

40

41 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

44

45 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh, so we work around
46 that on the Nushagak Peninsula hunt and I think they
47 could even do something like well, we know the herd's
48 inside the State boundary or Federal boundaries or
49 whatever and a really rigorous map showing us where the
50

1 private lands are down in the Nushagak and the State
2 lands and so I'm out there trying to read my paper in
3 the snow, but it could be done, it's not that big a
4 thing. And it might be worth talking to Kenton Moos
5 about how they manage that on the Nushagak to kind of
6 say here's what works over there. But yeah, State
7 proposal and I'm going to also throw in here maybe we
8 ought to -- this ought to be a agenda item on the
9 winter meeting. So.....

10

11 MR. PATTERSON: That would be great.

12

13 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
16 you.

17

18 MR. STRUM: Thank you, Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norm.

21

22 MR. ANDERSON: While we have you here,
23 at the last meeting there was a discussion on the Park
24 Service limiting use on the Pike Ridge Road; is that
25 true?

26

27 MR. STURM: Limiting use on the Pike
28 Ridge Road. No, it is a topic of concern for us the
29 way that it's currently structured in that that area of
30 the Park is eligible wilderness which means that it's
31 subject to Park Service policy which causes us to
32 technically not have things like an administrative road
33 where vehicles access. We have been trying over the
34 recent years to work with the community to identify a
35 possible solution to the conundrum, either we should
36 enforce our policy and our regulatory responsibilities
37 in that area of the Park or we should set it up so that
38 the existing level and types of use are consistent with
39 the designated purposes of that area of the Park.

40

41 And so we have and this is what Mr.
42 Dunaway was asking about, what's the status, we do have
43 one option that would be perhaps to convert up to 2,300
44 acres of the Pike Ridge Area from Park to Preserve
45 which would open that little bit of area within the
46 then Preserve to both subsistence use and sport hunting
47 and we at the sub -- at the same time what we would
48 have to do is what we in Park Service lingo call cherry
49 stem the road or the trail that goes and accesses that
50

1 little Preserve that would be created through that
2 action. So essentially we would carve off and offset a
3 little bit of that eligible wilderness so that the road
4 could then exist and we would then be able to manage
5 it. So we are essentially drying to drag our feet
6 until we have clarity around where this is going,
7 either Congress is going to fix our circumstance and do
8 it on a larger scale than what I'm talking about with a
9 2,300 acre option that we have within our statutory
10 authority in ANILCA or if not we'll recognize that
11 sometime in the near future and just decide to do what
12 we can. But I'd like to -- I guess we're trying to
13 take the time necessary to see what's possible.

14
15 MR. ANDERSON: This was a discussion we
16 had back in the '70s. And we met a couple of times on
17 this. And it was agreed upon that since the Park was
18 extended it was a stair stepping type scenario and it
19 looked to be intentional to encompass that road for
20 this specific purpose. The same thing happened on the
21 lower Peninsula where trappers' cabins were taken and
22 they weren't allowed to trap. Well, that's not my
23 concern. My concern is that -- I think my first trip
24 on that road was about 1957 and I've used it
25 considerable. I taught my kids to hunt up there and
26 cousins and other people. And also under the Alaska
27 Native Claims Settlement Act there are Native
28 allotments up there and people have access to them.
29 The lower road isn't always usable. I flew over it
30 this summer and it was like a lake, the whole road, I
31 mean. So people who hunt, berry pick and so forth,
32 they have traditional use of that trail. And yes, I
33 think maybe you should have some dialogue opened up and
34 do it sooner than later because we're running out of
35 elders over there who could make viable comments on
36 that. So if you could I would encourage you to do so.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

41
42 MR. WILSON: Norm, just a little info.
43 We've been at this for a while with -- and they've been
44 very open to ideas with the Village of Naknek and
45 Pottervik. And so we've gone when there's been several
46 proposals that we've generated as a community and then
47 already and this is -- the one he talks about is the
48 most viable so far. So we've been there.

0198

1 Thanks.

2

3

4 MR. STURM: Through the Chair. Thank
5 you, Mr. Anderson. We're going to continue to work on
6 this topic, it is not off the radar and we hope to
7 actually have resolution one day in the not too distant
8 future.

8

9 MR. ANDERSON: Well, if I have to I'll
10 move one.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We would
15 love that too, Norm.

16

17 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
20 Anything else, guys.

21

22 MR. STURM: Thank you for your time.

23

24 MR. PATTERSON: Madame Chair, just one
25 more thing real quick. We did not know the Aniakchak
26 SRC dates earlier and I looked them up and almost
27 forgot to tell you again. But the Aniakchak SRC dates
28 are set for March 1st and alternate date is March 8th.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
31 you. Okay. Guys, I'd still like to push through if
32 you're up for it.

33

34 MR. DUNAWAY: Does anybody need a break
35 though?

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Are you
38 saying you would like one.

39

40 MR. DUNAWAY: I might take one, but I
41 see some other people kind of shifting around and
42 they're really short.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We could
45 make the rest of the meeting really short.

46

47 Let's go with BLM, yeah. BLM, Bruce
48 Seppi. That's what the paper says. Bruce Seppi, are
49 you available to give us the BLM update to Subsistence
50

0199

1 Regional Advisory Council's fall, 2022 meetings.

2

3

4 MR. GUSSE: This is Walker Gusse with
5 the Bureau of Land Management Law Enforcement here in
6 Anchorage. I've been listening in. I think Bruce may
7 have stepped away for the evening. I do not have his
8 report to present. I apologize. I will let him know
9 he needs to get that over to you immediately.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
11 you very much. We'll come back to him in a minute
12 then.

13

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Let's go ahead and go forward with
Department of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence
report then, please.

MR. WILCOX: Madame Chair, members of
the Council, this is Chance Wilcox. I am a Subsistence
Resource Specialist for southeast Alaska with the
Division of Subsistence at Alaska or State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game. And I should have a brief
report because we have great partners who already
presented for me especially Cody Larson from BBNA
already touched on some of our project updates that
you'll see in your booklet on page 140.

First of all one of FRMP projects is
the subsistence harvest and uses of salmon in
Manokotak. This is an upcoming project, we haven't
currently been to Manokotak to start the process, but
it is a partnership with the school there especially to
touch on TEK about the effects -- perceived effects of
climate change on salmon populations within Manokotak.

All of these projects as well that you
see in front of you are going to be comprehensive
surveys. So we're covering everything. We're going to
be doing everything from salmon, non-salmon, large land
mammals, small mammals, shellfish, marine mammals as
well as vegetation as well. So everything is covered
but then we -- so we can update our comprehensive data
for each of these communities. But Manokotak we're
looking at doing a community approval meeting and
scoping in the upcoming or hopefully next month and
then doing surveys in either January or February. So
listen for more updates on that project.

0200

1 As well another FRMP project that we
2 have coming up which is a little farther south is False
3 Pass and Nelson Lagoon. That project is for a study
4 year of 2023 which means that we'll be going to do
5 surveys in 2024. So we still have some time there as
6 well, but we'll be headed down for community approval
7 meetings as well next year.

8
9 With our partnership with the National
10 Park Service we are also going to Kokhanok and Igiugig
11 with Dillon Patterson from NPS as well. So we will be
12 doing surveys in both of those communities in January I
13 believe we're slated to go, weather permitting. So
14 hopefully that will go according to plan.

15
16 And we this year, these last two
17 projects, number 4 and 5 on our list here are already
18 completed in terms of surveys and we're in the middle
19 of data analysis. So the National Park Service, Lake
20 Clark National Park and Preserve harvest surveys we did
21 in Port Alsworth and Nondalton. In Port Alsworth our
22 goal was to survey 100 percent of households which is
23 never going to happen. So -- well, hopefully it could
24 happen, but close, we got 71 percent which is -- it
25 exceeds our expectations, 70 percent is usually our go
26 to. So that was great and we'll be going down to Port
27 Alsworth in the spring or summer at some point in time
28 to do data review with the community which means we
29 want to present everything and make sure they think it
30 looks correct and that they don't see any discrepancies
31 before we continue with publishing.

32
33 In Nondalton we did surveys as well
34 around the same time. We also had a goal of 100
35 percent and in the end we reached 76 percent of
36 household did a survey with us as well. We'll be
37 headed down there as well to do community data review.
38 We just finished data analysis on an internal level,
39 took a look at it, everything looked fine and dandy and
40 we've been able to put together some data review
41 process for the community as well. So we want to make
42 sure that we hit that mark with the communities first
43 before we move forward with publishing any reports.

44
45 And then Polaris, Cody Larson also
46 touched on this one. We did 23 percent of households
47 did a survey, we were shooting for 20 percent so we
48 overshot which is great, we love that, move data.

49
50

0201

1 I can tell you how Penn State got
2 involved with that.....

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. WILCOX:and that is how they
7 reached -- they reached out to -- researchers at Penn
8 State were working with SeaGrant and their Coastal
9 Communities Resilience Specialist began working with us
10 to make that happen. So a lot of partnerships there.

11
12 But we will be hopefully doing data
13 review with the community of Dillingham this upcoming
14 winter as well. So I will make sure that all of you
15 who in Dillingham have the opportunity to attend that
16 community member to look at that data that we gathered
17 with those surveys as well.

18
19 So and then you'll see here we have a
20 proposed research project with Nuyakuk River
21 hydroelectric project. So this was a project that was
22 proposed to us with the Nushagak Cooperative when they
23 started the process of looking at the Nuyakuk River
24 hydroelectric project and funds were set aside for
25 ADF&G and BBNA to conduct comprehensive harvest surveys
26 in four communities that are closed to the proposed
27 project site. So that would be Koliganek, Newstoy,
28 Ekwok and Aleknagik. And that was put on hold due to
29 covid as was everything else. And we're looking at do
30 we -- revamping that project or reinitiating the former
31 licensing process so we're going to look at doing that
32 in 2023 and 2024.

33
34 That is the only proposed research
35 project we have right now for the Bristol Bay region.
36 I can also open it up to any questions, but I do have
37 one more thing that I heard of today that the entire
38 Department will be providing an action plan to the
39 Board of Fish for consideration in listing the Nushagak
40 chinook as a species of concern. So this is a brand
41 new thing that was put forward today. I don't have
42 anymore information beyond that because we need time, a
43 few weeks to draft the action plan and then it'll be
44 put forward for public review as a record copy
45 submitted at the meeting. So look forward to that as
46 well to be available.

47
48 Yeah. That is what the Division of
49 Subsistence has going on in the Bristol Bay Region.
50

0202

1 I'd be happy to open it up to any questions.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
4 you. Questions, Council members.

5

6 MR. DUNAWAY: Busy.

7

8 MR. WILCOX: Busy.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah.

11

12 MR. WILCOX: And that's just Bristol
13 Bay, yeah. But thank you, Madame Chair, thank you
14 members of the Council.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
17 you very much and welcome, welcome to the Staff.

18

19 MR. WILCOX: Thank you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
22 Office of Subsistence Management Staffing update.

23

24 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right. Thank you,
25 Madame Chair and members of the Council. Again for the
26 record my name is Lisa Grediagin. On behalf of OSM I
27 want to thank all the Council members for your
28 exceptional work on behalf of your communities and user
29 groups during these trying times. We value your
30 expertise and contribution of your knowledge and
31 experience to the regulatory process. We are holding
32 all 10 winter, 2022 Regional Advisory Council meetings
33 in person this fall and have been working over recent
34 months to arrange for travel, lodging and meeting
35 places for all Councils. OSM Staff are happy that we
36 can finally see you all face to face. We thank you
37 again for bearing with us over the past two and a half
38 years during the pandemic in teleconference meetings.
39 The Federal Subsistence Management Program recognizes
40 that in person Council meetings are preferable. The
41 Council meetings must follow Federal government
42 guidelines. We are hoping that covid-19 levels are low
43 enough in each of the communities where Council
44 meetings are planned at the time of the meeting so that
45 we will be able to meet Federal government
46 requirements. We are working with each of the Councils
47 on the specific requirements for their region to
48 conduct the in person meetings safely.

49

50

0203

1 OSM is pleased to welcome two newly
2 hired Subsistence Council Coordinators, Lisa
3 Hutchinson-Scarborough and Jessica Gill. Both have a
4 wealth of knowledge and experience in working with
5 rural users and communities as well as Alaska
6 subsistence users.

7

8 Eva Patton transferred to the National
9 Park Service.

10

11 Carry Crow returned to OSM as Budget
12 Analyst. Bernard Shavings joined us as an
13 Administrative Support Assistant and Michelle Andrews
14 joined as OSM's Executive Secretary.

15

16 The OSM team continues to work on
17 rebuilding our capacity.

18

19 Over the past two and a half years we
20 have been reminding Council members about the change in
21 requirements for IDs at airports. Beginning May 3rd,
22 2023, every air traveler will need to present a Real ID
23 compliant driver's license or other acceptable form of
24 identification such as a passport to fly within the
25 United States. This is applicable even when you fly on
26 small bush carriers. Please note that all Council
27 members will need to make sure that they have the
28 required Real ID for travel to the fall, 2023 Council
29 meetings.

30

31 As you were previously briefed in 2020
32 the State of Alaska filed a lawsuit against the Federal
33 Subsistence Board after it adopted emergency Special
34 Action WSA 19-14. This special action allowed the
35 Village of Kake to engage in a community harvest of up
36 to four bull moose and 10 male sitka black-tail deer in
37 response to covid related supply change disruptions
38 that created a public safety concern for the village.

39

40 Also included in the lawsuit was
41 temporary Special Action WSA 20-03 in which the Board
42 closed Federal public lands in Units 13A and 13B to
43 moose and caribou hunting by non-Federally-qualified
44 users for the 2020, 2022 regulatory cycle for reasons
45 of public safety and to continue subsistence uses.

46

47 As part of the lawsuit the State asked
48 the court to issue two preliminary injunctions, one to
49 prevent the unit 13 closure from taking effect and
50

50

1 another vacating the Kake hunt and prohibiting the
2 Board from allowing any additional emergency hunts
3 related to the impact of covid-19 which the court
4 denied. On December 3rd, 2021 the court then ruled in
5 favor of the Federal Subsistence Board on both matters.
6 The court found that one, it lacked jurisdiction over
7 the issues associated with the Kake hunt because the
8 State's claims are moot and two, the FSB's, Federal
9 Board's decision, to close units 13A and 13B to non-
10 subsistence users was both legally permissible and
11 supported by the information on record. The State
12 filed an appeal of the District Court's decision to the
13 Ninth Circuit. Briefing is currently underway.

14
15 With the poor salmon returns to the
16 Kuskokwim River in recent years the Federal Subsistence
17 Management Program has issued closures to non-
18 subsistence fishing and severely limited subsistence
19 participation in the fishery on the waters within the
20 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. In spite of this
21 the ADF&G announced openers in 2021 and 2022 allowing
22 all Alaskans to harvest salmon on Refuge waters.
23 ADF&G's actions undermined ANILCA title VIII priority
24 to rural residents and preempted the Federal
25 conservation based actions. In response to call for
26 action from an outraged subsistence community and at
27 the request of the Federal Subsistence Board the
28 Solicitor's Office drafted a complaint and began
29 seeking litigation against the State of Alaska. The
30 Department of Justice filed the complaint in May. On
31 June 23rd the U.S. District Court issued a preliminary
32 injunction after concluding that the U.S. is likely to
33 prevail on the merits of the case. The court also
34 found irreparable harm to the Federal government's
35 ability to enforce ANILCA's rural subsistence priority.
36 This injunction prevents ADF&G from unlawfully
37 interfering with the Federal government's
38 implementation of ANILCA's subsistence priority and
39 efforts at conservation on the Kuskokwim for the
40 duration of the lawsuit. This case is proceeding.

41
42 Thank you, Madame Chair, Council
43 members. That concludes OSM's report and I'd be happy
44 to answer any questions.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Busy bear
47 too. Okay. Any questions.

48
49 MR. DUNAWAY: Good info.
50

0205

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: It is good
2 info. Sometimes we don't all know what's going on
3 behind the scenes, do we.

4
5 Okay. Thank you, Lisa.

6
7 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right. Thank you.
8 And I'd also just like to extend my thanks on behalf of
9 OSM to the Tribal Council Office for hosting us here.
10 This is a great facility and the Staff have been
11 really, really accommodating and so hopefully this can
12 continue in the future.

13
14 So thank you.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
17 BLM, do we have our report yet?

18
19 MR. GUSSE: Hi, this is Walker again.
20 I've been trying to get in touch with Bruce and I can't
21 get through to him. I apologize.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, I am
24 sorry to hear that. Walker, if I could would you
25 please just pass along the message when you can get in
26 touch with him if he would pass along the information
27 to Leigh that you can distribute it to us to make sure
28 that we still get it seen, we don't want his efforts to
29 put it together to go unnoticed and unappreciated.

30
31 Go ahead.

32
33 MR. GUSSE: Yeah, absolutely. And I
34 apologize. I think he wasn't entirely sure it was
35 going to go on the rest of this even or finish this
36 evening. So I will relay that immediately.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes. Go
41 ahead, Leigh.

42
43 MS. HONIG: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
44 just wanted to point out that he did send a report and
45 it did make it into your meeting booklets on page 136.
46 So just for your information if you were (indiscernible
47 - simultaneous speech).....

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, and I
50

0206

1 had seen that last night or the other night when I went
2 through my book.

3

4 MS. HONIG: Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
7 Alrighty. Thank you. And now let's move on to future
8 meeting dates, confirming the winter 2023 meeting date
9 and location. And I will say that I will not be able
10 to make the current dates that we have on record which
11 is fine, I'm sure Dan will do just a fine and dandy
12 job.....

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:of
17 running the meeting or if people wish to change the
18 meeting, I know Dan's probably the one biting his lip
19 at this point. Page 142.

20

21 I could make it the week earlier, the
22 8th, 9th and 10th instead. And I do see those dates
23 are open, but I certainly don't want the meeting
24 changed just for me unless it's the wishes of the
25 entire Council. So I'll leave that up to you guys to
26 decide what you want to do and what your schedules look
27 like.

28

29 MR. WILSON: That actually works for
30 me, I mean.....

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: As an
33 alternate. Okay.

34

35 MR. WILSON: Yeah.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: How's it
38 look on your schedule, Dan.

39

40 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm not Robert Handle so
41 I don't have the next two year's schedule down.
42 So.....

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. DUNAWAY:if you've ever
47 watched him go through his tabs. I think the earlier
48 dates should work. I'm just trying to wonder if winter
49 moose season might still be open by then. I'm not
50

0207

1 going to worry about it. So I'll be happy to switch.
2 I don't know if I have anything interfering.

3
4 Thanks.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norm, do you
7 have a preference when we meet?

8
9 MR. ANDERSON: I don't care.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
12 Either way.

13
14 MR. ANDERSON: That's right.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, then
17 with the -- Katya, if it works into your schedule which
18 is -- according to everything I have it appears we are.
19 And the other change I would like.....

20
21 MS. WESSELS: What are the dates? I'm
22 sorry.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: The -- let's
25 do the 8th and 9th then.

26
27 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Yeah, that works.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: March 8th
30 and 9th. And that should be -- it shows that it's
31 going to be in Dillingham, it should be located in
32 Naknek.

33
34 MR. WILSON: Naknek, yeah.

35
36 MS. WESSELS: Naknek?

37
38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes. That
39 is where we typically hold our winter meeting.

40
41 Then looking at next fall does anybody
42 have a suggestion on dates for next fall? I'm usually
43 not available until after the 20th. So.....

44
45 MS. HONIG: Madame Chair, if I may.
46 There is a separate handout that I gave to you all that
47 had other RACs and their meeting dates on there. And
48 so I can go grab some more copies if it got buried in
49 your paperwork. But the Northwest Arctic just
50

0208

1 concluded their meeting and they selected October 16
2 and 17th as their fall meeting dates. Just an FYI.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
5 you.

6

7 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

10

11 MR. DUNAWAY: We generally like to have
12 it late partly to accommodate your schedule. I'm
13 looking what kind of weather we just had and I'm
14 wondering if we could beslightly less late, it might --
15 you never know, you could get snow on the 15th of
16 October too. So there's -- I wonder if that week of
17 October 24, 25 or 23 to 27, would that work or.....

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's what
20 I'm wondering too. I mean, it shows already that we've
21 got Southeast in there.....

22

23 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:can we
26 overlap them?

27

28 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We can
31 overlap them. Okay. I know at one point we couldn't,
32 but 24, 25, Norman?

33

34 MR. ANDERSON: Yes.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes?

37

38 MR. ANDERSON: Works.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Works.
41 Okay. Let's start with that and see where it takes us.

42

43 MR. DUNAWAY: In Dillingham.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And that's
46 usually in Dillingham, yes.

47

48 Okay. Closing comments, everybody.

49

50

0209

1 MS. HONIG: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, go
4 ahead, Leigh.

5

6 MS. HONIG: Madame Chair, would you
7 like to circle back around to the annual reports?

8

9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's
10 perfect. I would exactly like to do that. Thank you
11 for the reminder. Any other items for the annual
12 report that you guys would like to bring forward.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: What are the
17 items we already on there.

18

19 MS. HONIG: I was just going to ask if
20 you wanted me to do a quick refresher on that. So we
21 have a request that the Board get training on ANILCA
22 rights versus agency rights. And then you guys had
23 also spoke about potentially writing a letter about the
24 bycatch issue, I'm not sure if you still want to do
25 that after hearing the report from Dr. Diana Stram, but
26 that was the other topic that you had for consideration.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We can
29 overlap them. Okay.

30

31 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

34

35 MR. WILSON: I think the letter is
36 still appropriate. You know, could we -- do we
37 formulate that or do we -- would we want to ask Leigh
38 or somebody to make up some conversation, you know,
39 some language so we could say or nay it.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I would
42 propose that perhaps we maybe if we could get Gayla or
43 Courtenay to help out and provide the verbiage that's
44 been sent in from the resolution as well as the Yukon-
45 Kuskokwim region that maybe we could craft one with
46 those points and send it out for everybody's vision
47 before I sign it and send it on.

48

49 MR. ANDERSON: Go with that.

50

0210

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I think that
2 would be very appropriate.

3
4 Dan.

5
6 MR. DUNAWAY: So the tone of this
7 letter though would be expressing our ongoing concern
8 for bycatch and maybe encouragement for the detailed
9 studies that they doing, that kind of thing?

10
11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes. And I
12 would like to include intercept in it too, I think we
13 should look at both avenues at the same time.

14
15 MR. WILSON: For all species?

16
17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Absolutely.

18
19 MR. WILSON: Is halibut a concern only?

20
21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's
22 right. And I don't know, in the past we've also -- I
23 guess I would like to -- they're probably sick and
24 tired of hearing it by now, but predator control with
25 the abundance of salmon that we've had over the recent
26 years and the expectations that those limits --
27 excessive limits are not going to be continued well
28 into the future. We may still have hopefully some good
29 years ahead of us, but we're going to have issues with
30 predators because they're also on a boom cycle with the
31 salmon. And I would just like to make note that, you
32 know, we'll have to be ready to.....

33
34 MR. WILSON: Beware.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank
37 you. That's probably the easiest way to say it.

38
39 MR. WILSON: Beware.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

42
43 MR. DUNAWAY: You know, it's kind of a
44 shame that the State Wildlife folks weren't prepared to
45 present. I think there's a possibility there's going
46 to be some bear removal activity in the next year.
47 I've been waiting to hear more about it. I think
48 they're out trying to catch moose today, but yeah, I
49 wondered. I did not hear and have much bear problems
50

0211

1 around Dillingham this year. There's certainly bears
2 around. I don't know if it was as bad as some years.
3 But there's sure an abundance of them. I think there's
4 just so much fish close by that maybe they didn't cause
5 too much trouble. I'm looking at Gayla and Courtenay,
6 maybe they're what are you talking about.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I -- but I had two
11 bears through the yard which sometimes we had one
12 almost every day and I didn't have any fish in the
13 yard. So but yeah, there's a few around.

14

15 Thanks.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anything
18 else that.....

19

20 MR. ANDERSON: I have one thought.
21 We've been milling sometime on filling the vacant seats
22 and I'm wondering about how we could develop a font to
23 the -- our most adjacent SRCs asking their Chairman
24 possibly because they discuss the same things we do, we
25 share the same species, hell, we share the same
26 weather, you know, there could be something -- so if
27 Dan could develop a nice letter, you know, I'd even
28 appreciate it.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Leigh will.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

35

36 MR. ANDERSON: But seriously I think
37 that might not be a bad idea.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I think
40 that's not a bad idea at all, Norm, I think it's not a
41 bad idea.

42

43 MR. ANDERSON: You know, I mean, we
44 share the same borders and eat the same things.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Absolutely.

47

48 MR. ANDERSON: Good night.

49

50

0212

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I think
2 that's good too. Okay. So anything else that we need
3 to take care of?

4
5 Leigh.

6
7 MS. HONIG: Oh, now my mic's not
8 working, maybe it is time to go home.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: You can have
11 mine.

12
13 MS. HONIG: Okay. So this was an
14 action item so there needs to be a motion. I can go
15 over what we have so far.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, we've
18 never voted on it, but we can certainly do that though.

19
20 MS. HONIG: Maybe I might be a wrong on
21 that. Is it an action item? Still learning so thank
22 you for bearing.....

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's okay.

25
26 MS. HONIG:with me.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, that's
29 fine.

30
31 MS. WESSELS: Actually when you just
32 first discussing the annual report topics you don't
33 need to have a motion. You only will need to have a
34 motion when you approve your draft annual report during
35 the winter meeting. Right now just since it's on the
36 record we're going to create a draft for the Council's
37 review and then you're going to review and then after
38 you officially approve it that's when you have a
39 motion. But you also were talking about the letter so
40 you will need to have a motion to write a letter.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh. Good
43 point. Yeah, I'd forgotten that one.

44
45 Okay. Anybody care to put that motion
46 on the table so we -- now that we've got direction for
47 it?

48
49 MR. ANDERSON: I so move.

50

0213

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Love that.
2 Do we have a second.

3
4 MR. WILSON: I'll second Norm's motion
5 to write a letter.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great. And
8 I think we've discussed it to death so I'm going to
9 call for the question. All in favor of having Leigh go
10 ahead and write a bycatch letter and distribute it to
11 us before I sign it please signify by saying aye.

12
13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. That
16 motion carries. Thank you guys, everybody. You -- the
17 mics are dead.

18
19 Okay. Closing comments. Any closing
20 comments from anybody.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: My comment
25 is just thanks for bearing with us. I just didn't see
26 it was worth it to come back for another.....

27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:hour
31 and 45 minutes in the morning. So thank you again to
32 Curyung for giving us this opportunity and we certainly
33 appreciate everybody hanging in there with us and thank
34 you for showing up and god, it's good to see faces
35 again. I cannot tell you, I knew you people were out
36 there, I just knew it.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I think the quality
43 of discussion is just greatly improved and there's
44 little side conversations you can have and all that
45 kind of stuff. So plus they're all friends after a
46 while. So.....

47
48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Going
49 once, going twice, going to call her adjourned, boys.

50

0214

1

Thank you.

2

3

(Off record)

4

5

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered ___ through ___ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING taken electronically on the 2nd day of November 2022;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 6th day of December 2022.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/26