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BRISTOL BAY SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

Dolly's Hall
Naknek, Alaska
March 8, 2023
8:35 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Nanci Morris Lyon, Chair
- Norman Anderson
- John Christensen
- Dan Dunaway
- Lary Hill
- Robert Hill
- Richard Wilson
- William Trefon

Regional Council Coordinator, Leigh Honig

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Naknek, Alaska - 3/8/2023)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank you, everybody, thank you for making it to the meeting. I just want to welcome everybody to Bristol Bay and to the wonderful town of Naknek. I hope some of you guys brought this fantastic weather, it should make sure everybody can get home in time too. So we're grateful to see that as well.

We always like to start our meeting with an invocation and Richard has graciously agreed to do that for us.

(Invocation)

IN UNISON: Amen.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you very much, Richard. And let the record reflect that at 8:37 we're calling the meeting of the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council to order. And turning our phones off because I forgot to and that will be the first thing that happened. Again I thank you all for coming and if you would give me one second here I would like to welcome John and Rob to our Council.

We're incredibly grateful to have representation from your areas, we've been waiting for a very long time. We know it can be an inconvenience at times, but we really look forward to working with you and we encourage you to ask questions and feel free to, you know, talk to us on the side if you don't want to do it, you know, in public or whatever.

But we're really happy to have you here and hope that we can make you feel comfortable and hope that you -- your time on the Board you feel is well spent.

So thank you for that.

And with that, Leigh, you want to do a roll call, please.

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1 MS. HONIG: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 So Leigh Honig for the record. And we'll just quickly
3 go through the roll call.

4
5 Nanci Morris Lyon.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Here.

8
9 MS. HONIG: William Trefon.

10
11 MR. TREFON: Here.

12
13 MS. HONIG: Dan Dunaway.

14
15 MR. DUNAWAY: Here.

16
17 MS. HONIG: Lary Hill.

18
19 (Not present)

20
21 MS. HONIG: He was going to call in.
22 We'll come back.

23
24 Norman Anderson.

25
26 MR. ANDERSON: I'm here.

27
28 MS. HONIG: Richard Wilson.

29
30 MR. WILSON: Here.

31
32 MS. HONIG: John Christensen.

33
34 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Here.

35
36 MS. HONIG: And Robert Hill.

37
38 MR. HILL: Here.

39
40 MS. HONIG: Madame Chair, we do have a
41 quorum. Thank you.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
44 you very much. And just as a reminder for everybody
45 and as information for our new members, we do have --
46 these meetings are recorded and so whenever possible
47 try to remember to state your name for the record as --
48 so that he has an easier time on his recordings when he
49 does our transcripts for us for our meeting notes. So
50

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1 just try to remember. Do that the same way with our
2 audience members, we'll ask you to use these mics up
3 front here. And again just for the record state your
4 name and your affiliation if appropriate and that'll
5 make life a lot easier for Nathan and we appreciate his
6 efforts.

7

8 And do you have any announcements you
9 want to share.

10

11 MS. HONIG: Thank you. Yes, just a few
12 brief ones. So those that are attending the meeting in
13 person we do have a sign up sheet on that side table.
14 If you wouldn't mind signing in and doing that each day
15 that would be great.

16

17 And then if you would like to submit a
18 comment and you would like to speak in front of the
19 Council there's also a -- it's a white sheet, half
20 sheet of paper, if you'd like to fill that out and you
21 can hand it to me or to any other Staff -- OSM Staff
22 member and we'll make sure that that gets submitted.

23

24 And then I would also like to remind
25 that there will be time for tribal and public comments
26 on nonagenda items and the Chair will announce this
27 each morning and that will be an opportunity for those
28 present as well as those participating on the phone to
29 speak on nonagenda items.

30

31 Let's see here. And then for all
32 participants that are on the phone please remember to
33 mute your phones when you're not speaking and if you
34 don't have a mute button on your phone you can press
35 star, six and that will mute your phone and also unmute
36 it if you would like to speak.

37

38 And then, Madame Chair, I just have a
39 quick ethics -- well, I'll try to make it brief, an
40 ethics statement to read at the beginning of the
41 meeting. So Council members represent the people of
42 their regions to the Board, the Secretaries, agency
43 Staff and the general public. As Secretarial
44 appointees Council members also represent the Federal
45 Subsistence Management Program to the people of their
46 regions. Therefore Council members are expected to
47 treat fellow Council member, agency and organization
48 Staff and members of the public with respect, both at
49 public meeting and at other times.

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1 So a matter of unexcused absences, so
2 members who travel to a Council meeting and remain in
3 the community, but do not attend the Council meeting
4 for any reason other than their own illness will not be
5 excused and may be required to reimburse the Federal
6 government for travel or per diem.

7
8 The Department's policy regarding the
9 ethics responsibility of Advisory Committee members
10 states that no Council or Subcommittee member will be
11 -- will participate in any specific party matter
12 including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim,
13 agreement or related litigation with the Department in
14 which the member has a direct financial interest.
15 Prior to any discussion of a particular issue regarding
16 which member has a conflict of interest as described
17 above the member will make a conflict of interest
18 statement on the record and recuse him or herself.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
23 you very much. I appreciate that. Then what has been
24 our -- well, actually first let me just say that I
25 think just looking at the agenda that there's a decent
26 chance that we may be done today. So if anybody knows
27 of anyone who would like to come in and give any
28 testimony or call in and give any testimony I would
29 have you encourage them to try to do so today, to find
30 time. I like to be fairly flexible and if somebody has
31 something to tell us and information to share with us,
32 I encourage them to do that. So if anybody knows of
33 anyone that might be wanting to do that, please let
34 them know, either text them or call them on one of our
35 breaks and make sure that they know that they should
36 probably do it today instead of waiting until tomorrow
37 in case we're not convened again tomorrow.

38
39 Then we like to do a welcome and
40 introductions and I think I'll go ahead and start with
41 our audience first and we'll start with those on the
42 phone. If you could let us know who you are and your
43 affiliation if there is one or your interest, we would
44 appreciate it.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MR. LARSON: Good morning, Madame Chair
49 and everyone. This is Cody Larson with the Bristol Bay
50

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1 Native Association. I'm sorry I'm not there in person,
2 but apparently the hotels filled up rather quickly and
3 I was behind the ball in booking. I'm actually oddly
4 enough on weather hold hearing that there's nice
5 weather there and nice weather here, I'm scratching my
6 head. But hopefully I'll see you in person before
7 lunchtime.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thanks,
10 Cody.

11
12 MS. LaVINE: Good morning, Madame
13 Chair. This is Robbin LaVine, Subsistence Policy
14 Coordinator with OSM. And I too am really sorry I'm
15 not there. Madame Chair, when you said there was
16 beautiful weather in Naknek, I know what that looks
17 like and I hope you all enjoy it. Nice to hear your
18 voices.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thanks,
23 Robbin. We'll miss you too.

24
25 MR. STONE: Good morning, Madame Chair,
26 this is Jarred Stone, Fisheries Biologist with the
27 Office of Subsistence Management.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thanks,
30 Jarred.

31
32 MS. RUPP: Good morning, Madame Chair.
33 This is Liza Rupp with Lake Clark, Subsistence
34 Coordinator and Cultural Resources Team Leader. I'm
35 sorry I am unable to be there in person.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Good to hear
38 your voice, Liza.

39
40 MS. KLEIN: Good morning. This is Jill
41 Klein. I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator for
42 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service based in Anchorage.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Welcome,
45 Jill.

46
47 MS. KLEIN: Good morning.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Is there
50

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1 anybody else online.

2

3 MS. BOND: Good morning. This is Desi
4 Bond, I'm the Environmental Coordinator for the Curyung
5 Tribal Council in Dillingham.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, welcome.
8 Thank you for calling in.

9

10 Okay. It sounds like that's our online
11 crowd and welcome all of you. And what we'll have the
12 folks in the audience do if you don't mind just go from
13 row to row and come on up and announce who you are in
14 your -- in the microphone real quick. You can just
15 introduce yourselves and who you're with and that way
16 it'll make it easy on Nathan.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MS. JONES: Good morning. This is
21 Bronwyn Jones with the Division.....

22

23 MR. LARY HILL: This is Lary, just
24 checking in.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, good.
27 I'm sorry. Thank you.

28

29 Thank you, Lary. We're looking forward
30 to having you in our meeting, we wish you were here in
31 person, but I hope everything's well with you and we'll
32 look forward to working with you as we can.

33

34 MR. LARY HILL: Okay. Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We're just
37 doing introductions right now. So we're finding out
38 who's in our audience.

39

40 MS. JONES: This is Bronwyn Jones with
41 the Division of Subsistence. I'm a Subsistence
42 Resource Specialist in Bristol Bay.

43

44 MR. WILCOX: Madame Chair, I'm Chance
45 Wilcox also with the Division of Subsistence at ADF&G.
46 I mainly work in Bristol Bay as well.

47

48 MS. VANDEVOORT: Good morning. I am
49 Amy Vandervoort, the Area Biologist for Alaska

50

0008

1 Department of Fish and Game based out of King Salmon.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Nice to meet
4 you, Amy.

5

6 MS. ALEXANDER: Good morning, Madame
7 Chair, members of the Council. Susan Alexander, Refuge
8 Manager, Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National
9 Wildlife Refuges.

10

11 MR. SMITH: Good morning. Bill Smith,
12 I'm a Supervisory Biologist for Fish and Wildlife here
13 at Alaska Peninsula and Becharof in King Salmon.

14

15 MR. ADERMAN: Good morning. Andy
16 Aderman, Wildlife Biologist with the Kodiak National
17 Wildlife Refuge.

18

19 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Good morning,
20 everyone. I'm Susanne Fleek-Green, Superintendent of
21 Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

22

23 MR. MOOS: Good morning. My name is
24 Kenton Moos, the Refuge Manager for Togiak National
25 Wildlife Refuge.

26

27 MR. CHEN: Aloha.....

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MR. CHEN:Madame Chair and
32 Council members. My name is Glenn Chen, I'm the
33 Subsistence Branch Chief for the Bureau of Indian
34 Affairs. Always a pleasure to attend your meetings.

35

36 MR. HAMON: Madam Chair, members of the
37 Council, Troy Hamon with the National Park Service in
38 King Salmon. I'm the Natural Resource Manager and
39 Pilot at Katmai.

40

41 MR. PATTERSON: Good morning, Madame
42 Chair, members of the Council. My name is Dillon
43 Patterson with the National Park Service, Alaska
44 Regional Office Subsistence Program.

45

46 MS. JENSEN: Good morning (in Native)
47 My name's Bo Jensen, I'm the Special Projects Manager
48 with Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife
49 Refuge.

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Welcome.
2 Nice to meet you too.

3
4 MS. TANSKY: Good morning. My name's
5 Elona Tansky and I'm an intern at Alaska Peninsula and
6 Becharof National Wildlife Refuge.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Nice to meet
9 you too. Lots of new faces.

10
11 MR. CHEN: Could you say your name
12 again?

13
14 MS. TANSKY: Yeah. Elona.

15
16 MR. CHEN: Elona. Thank you.

17
18 MS. TANSKY: Do you need to spell it or
19 anything?

20
21 MR. CHEN: I'll mess it up anyway.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MR. YEE: Good morning. My name is Ken
26 Yee and I'm a volunteer at, see if I can get this
27 right, the Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife
28 Refuge. Nice to meet everybody.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well,
31 congratulations, Susan. You filled a lot of spots,
32 that's nice to have.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

37
38 MR. VICKERS: Good morning, Madame
39 Chair, members of the Council, everyone else here. My
40 name is Brent Vickers. I am the Division Supervisor of
41 Anthropology at the Office of Subsistence Management.
42 Today I'll be representing the leadership team for OSM.
43 So glad to finally be here in person and see everyone
44 face to face. Looking forward to a fun day or two.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MS. KENNER: Hi, I'm Pippa Kenner and
49 I'm an Anthropologist with Office of Subsistence
50

0010

1 Management in Anchorage.

2

3 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning, Madame
4 Chair, members of the Council. My name is Kendra
5 Holman and I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the Office of
6 Subsistence Management.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great.
9 Thank you, everybody, and again welcome to the meeting.
10 It's nice to have you. I didn't hear any dings on the
11 phone so I don't think we had anybody else dial in, but
12 in case we did and I missed it please go ahead and
13 announce yourself and welcome to the meeting.

14

15 MR. BURCH: Madame Chair, this is Mark
16 Burch from the Department of Fish and Game from the
17 Palmer office as well.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
22 Mark. Appreciate you joining us.

23

24 Okay. With that let's go ahead and
25 take a look at the agenda and if anybody would care to
26 place it on the table I would appreciate it. And I do
27 believe we're going to have one suggested change just
28 as a heads up.

29

30 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair, I'll move
31 to adopt the agenda.

32

33 MR. WILSON: Second.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
36 you, Dan and Richard. And with your permission, guys,
37 I'll have Leigh let us know about the addition that she
38 would like to suggest for the agenda.

39

40 MS. HONIG: Thank you. There's just
41 one agenda addition under the agency reports. So under
42 Item G we will have another report from NOAA and it'll
43 be the NOAA Fisheries on ice associated seals presented
44 by Mike Cameron. And that is the only change to the
45 agenda.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I can support those

50

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1 changes and it's always good to hear more. So I'm
2 support.

3

4

Thanks.

5

6

MR. WILSON: Yes, the second.

7

8

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great. Any
9 other discussion.

10

11

(No comments)

12

13

MR. TREFON: Question.

14

15

MR. ANDERSON: I have a -- I have a
16 question. Has this meeting been posted locally?

17

18

MS. HONIG: Yes, we have sent out
19 meeting flyers and I have.....

20

21

MR. ANDERSON: I can't hear you.

22

23

MS. HONIG: Yes, we've sent out meeting
24 flyers and I have made contact or I've sent emails to
25 my contacts in the Bristol Bay area notifying that this
26 meeting is happening.

27

28

MR. ANDERSON: I visited three bulletin
29 boards and I saw no announcement and I talked to people
30 and they had no idea this was going on. And I see a
31 lot of State and Federal people here by awareness so --
32 and I know that there's concerns in the area. So I
33 think it's vital that we have more outreach.

34

35

MS. HONIG: Yes. Thank you for
36 pointing that.

37

38

MR. ANDERSON: I have concerns.....

39

40

MS. HONIG: Uh-huh.

41

42

MR. ANDERSON:yes.

43

44

MS. HONIG: That is a -- I'm finding
45 that.....

46

47

MR. ANDERSON: That's not just a
48 statement, a direction.

49

50

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1 MS. HONIG: Duly noted. And yes, as
2 I'm becoming more familiar with this job I'm realizing
3 that the outreach is not as effective as I would like
4 it to be. So we're still trying to figure out good
5 ways to spread the word and hopefully by.....

6
7 MR. ANDERSON: All these people seem to
8 be aware. So.....

9
10 MS. HONIG: The State -- yes, for sure.
11 Thank you, Mr. Anderson.

12
13 MR. ANDERSON: Norm.

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 MR. ANDERSON: Madame Chair, you stated
18 that you wanted to take or have the opportunity for
19 locals to speak. If we could take a break prior to
20 that to do some outreach I know that there are people
21 who are concerned about things. Without them knowing
22 about any agendas or anything posted it would be nice
23 to have them participate otherwise it just gets swept
24 out of the room further.

25
26 And to all of you welcome to my
27 village. It says here Dillingham, is just where I live
28 now, but I was born and raised right over there. I
29 lived here for over 50 years. So everything I say is
30 right.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Good morning, Madame
35 Chair, and thank you for having us on your lands here,
36 Norm. And yes, I've known for a while that everything
37 you say is right.

38
39 I have an agenda question. Billy
40 Trefon has agreed to serve as the RAC representative to
41 the Lake Clark SRC and so I don't know if that can be
42 added as an action item for the agenda today to
43 officially make that appointment.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I would love
46 for that to be added if Dan and Richard are so
47 inclined.

48
49 MR. WILSON: I'm in agreement. I
50

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1 agree.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: I agree. Work him even
4 harder.

5

6 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Great. Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Leigh, where
9 would you suggest we put that in.

10

11 MS. HONIG: I would suggest we put that
12 under new business and that can be the new Item J.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Perfect.
15 And then I would like to follow-up too on what Norman
16 said. So I feel like for us out here, there's a couple
17 places that you can get word out easier. I know that
18 as people who don't live in our area you're not
19 familiar with how we gather our information, but I
20 would suggest the radio station would be a good place
21 and also we have the Bristol Bay Exchange out here and
22 that's our online kind of method of keeping in touch
23 with each other and letting people know what's going
24 on. And I think those would be two highly effective
25 methods. Anybody else too who lives here, Richard,
26 Dan.

27

28 And then I would also say that, Norm,
29 that's exactly what my intent was too at the break
30 because I had a couple people that have not shown up
31 that I didn't make sure they knew about the meeting and
32 I'm going to -- I plan on contacting them too. But we
33 will have a break this morning and I hope that
34 everybody -- if you have a minute would take a minute
35 to make sure that people who you know wanted to have a
36 say about something have an opportunity to either call
37 in or otherwise.

38

39 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

42

43 MR. LARY HILL: Nanci, this is Lary.
44 Did you ever finish adopting the agenda?

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We're still
47 in the process, Lary.

48

49 MR. LARY HILL: Okay.

50

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1 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. Thank you, Madame
2 Chair. Yeah, it's a -- I can't -- I -- yes, I'm aware
3 of a meeting, I'm pretty sure it might have been on
4 KDLG. KDLG isn't reaching near as many people, I think
5 they're losing listenership. So possibly I think when
6 Nanci mentioned Bristol Bay Exchange, that's a Facebook
7 page, isn't it, there's also for Dillingham the
8 Dillingham Trading Post. And probably some of us could
9 post up signs on some of the bulletin boards. It's my
10 own experience is it's become harder to get the word
11 out lately first. I think so many people are online
12 and not listening to radio or some of the other normal
13 outlets. So I've had some other meetings that you just
14 can't -- everybody goes nobody told me and I was like
15 -- so anyway we'll try to help you out.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

22
23 MR. TREFON: Yeah. I was just
24 wondering are we having this discussion right now or is
25 this some discussion adding to that, some issues about
26 that, contacting people, get the notice out. Also
27 especially like I suggest that we get our local SRC
28 Chairman to our meeting and also get notices out to our
29 tribal council members and our village/city mayors.
30 Let them be aware, maybe they have concerns that they
31 would like to bring up. I mean, even if they come on
32 as teleconference and be -- more word out because like
33 he was saying over there, I mean, there really is not a
34 lot of messages out other than what we receive on email
35 and internet and there's nothing that I see that is
36 publicly posted in my community.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes. No,
41 and I find this a fine avenue for it because it was
42 brought up, I think it's a valid point. And I think,
43 you know, we as locals have to do our part to giving
44 options or letting people know how it is we hear about
45 things too.

46
47 MR. TREFON: Yes. Yes.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. So

50

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1 that's why if anybody else has -- and, John, do you
2 have anything in your area that would be effective in
3 making sure people knew how to get online that you guys
4 use.

5

6 MR. CHRISTENSEN: We have our Port
7 Heiden group, but we follow a lot of the Facebook
8 groups up here like Bristol Bay Exchange, Dillingham
9 Trading Post and we listen to the radio down there too.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

12

13 MR. WILSON: Is there any discussion
14 item or.....

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, I want
17 to just get it out right now.

18

19 MR. ROBERT HILL: I would say just, you
20 know, contacting the Kokhanok Village Council would be
21 a good way to let the people know up there other than
22 the Facebook stuff.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
25 And I'm assuming that that gives you some good avenues
26 to follow down.

27

28 MS. HONIG: Yes.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Good.
31 Okay. And with that let's get back to the question on
32 the table. Any other discussion, additions.

33

34 MR. ANDERSON: On the agenda, on
35 the.....

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes.

38

39 MR. ANDERSON: You have to excuse me, I
40 have a head cold and I can't hear anything. So you can
41 talk about me all you want, but.....

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: But you'll
46 still be right.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50

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1 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah. Oh, yeah. I wish
2 to add the Pike Ridge access to the agenda.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Will that be
5 in the Park Service's report, our Park Service person,
6 Troy, stepped out. Okay. Can -- yeah. It might
7 already be in part of the Park Service report.

8

9 MR. ANDERSON: Huh.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: It might
12 already be part of the Park Service report.

13

14 MR. ANDERSON: Okay.

15

16 MR. PATTERSON: Madame Chair, for the
17 record this is Dillon Patterson with National Park
18 Service Regional Office. Troy Hamon just stepped out
19 and I'm not sure if Leslie Spora is on the phone, but
20 if not I don't think we have anyone from Katmai
21 currently in the room, but I know Troy will be right
22 back in and my assumption is that he would be happy to
23 talk about the Pike Ridge trail if he's not already
24 planning to do so.

25

26 MR. DUNAWAY: He will be.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
29 I didn't ask him specifically, but I had.....

30

31 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah. Thank you.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:talked
34 to him before. So.....

35

36 MR. ANDERSON: I'll ask specifically.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Perfect.
39 That's.....

40

41 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:
44perfect. Thank you, Norm. Okay.

45

46 Anything else.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

0017

1 MR. ANDERSON: Question.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. The
4 question's been called. All in favor of accepting the
5 agenda as proposed please signify by saying aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 (No opposing votes)

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
12 you. Motion passes.

13

14 And with that I will turn over the
15 microphone -- what is -- yeah, election is next. So
16 I'll go ahead and turn it over to you, Leigh, for that.

17

18 MS. HONIG: Thank you, Madame Chair.
19 So for the record my name is Leigh Honig and I'm the
20 Council Coordinator for the Bristol Bay Subsistence
21 Regional Advisory Council and the designated Federal
22 officer. So in accordance to the Council charter
23 Council members elect a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary
24 for a one year term. The term usually starts at the
25 beginning of the calendar. So I would like to open the
26 floor for nominations of the Council's Chair and these
27 nominations need not be seconded.

28

29 So are there any nominations for Chair?

30

31 MR. TREFON: I nominate Nanci for
32 Chair.

33

34 MS. HONIG: All right. So I will just
35 go around the room and call on Lary and if you could
36 just signify by saying aye or nay for Chair or for
37 Nanci Morris Lyon as the Chair.

38

39 MS. HONIG: Dan.

40

41 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes.

42

43 MS. HONIG: Okay. Richard.

44

45 MR. LARY HILL: Yes, Nanci as Chair.

46

47 MR. WILSON: Yes.

48

49 MR. LARY HILL: This is Lary.

50

0018

1 MS. HONIG: Okay. Thank you, Lary. I
2 heard that as a yes for Nanci.

3
4 Billy.

5
6 MR. TREFON: Yes.

7
8 MS. HONIG: Okay. Nanci, can you vote
9 for yourself?

10
11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:
12 (Indiscernible - background noise).....

13
14 MS. HONIG: Norman.

15
16 MR. ANDERSON: What?

17
18 MS. HONIG: Voting, yes or no for Nanci
19 as Chair.

20
21 MR. ANDERSON: Oh, excuse me. Well,
22 I've never been on the Board before, you vote for
23 positions on -- that's usually done in executive
24 session, but we weren't allowed to have an executive
25 session. So yeah, I'll vote yes.

26
27 MS. HONIG: John.

28
29 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yes.

30
31 MS. HONIG: And Robert.

32
33 MR. ROBERT HILL: I vote yes as well.

34
35 MS. HONIG: Wonderful.
36 Congratulations, Nanci, on being Chair. Thank you.
37 And so I will turn the gavel back over to you to do the
38 other election of officers.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
43 you.

44
45 With that do I have any nominations for
46 a Vice Chair.

47
48 MR. WILSON: I nominate Dan Dunaway.

49
50

0019

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. We
2 have a nomination for Dan.

3
4 MR. LARY HILL: Move to.....

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
7 you, Lary. Anybody else have a nomination other than
8 Dan.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MR. WILSON: You do a good job.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. All
15 in favor please signify by saying aye for Dan.

16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18
19 (No opposing votes)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
22 you, Dan, my second in command.

23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you for your
25 confidence. I'll try to live up to it.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Then we need
28 to fill the seat of Secretary again, currently held by
29 Richard. Any nominations for Secretary.

30
31 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll nominate Richard.

32
33 MR. WILSON: If anybody else wants to
34 step up to this position you're more than welcome to.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 MR. ANDERSON: I move nominations
39 cease.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. All
42 in favor of Richard as the -- our new Secretary please
43 signify by saying aye.

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 (No opposing votes)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
50

0020

1 Richard, and thank you for serving. Both you and Dan
2 are appreciated.

3
4 MR. ANDERSON: That's called
5 railroaded.

6
7 (Laughter)

8
9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: They better
10 dare not ever not show up.

11
12 MR. DUNAWAY: I think Richard's done
13 well when he's been called upon. So he's done a great
14 job.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes. You're
19 welcome. Okay. Review and approve previous meeting
20 minutes. Hopefully everybody's had a chance to go over
21 them from our Dillingham session last November. If
22 anybody would care to put them on the table we can
23 discuss them and/or approve them.

24
25 MR. DUNAWAY: Move to adopt.

26
27 MR. WILSON: I will second that for
28 November 2nd, 2022 meeting minutes.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Perfect.
31 Thank you.

32
33 Any discussion, changes or corrections.

34
35 MR. ANDERSON: Madame Chair.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norman.

38
39 MR. ANDERSON: I read the minutes a
40 couple times and saw that as I alluded to a moment ago
41 my request for executive session and follow-up comments
42 on that were excluded and other comments made by
43 members of the Council were not, yet there were
44 paragraphs on State and Federal agencies. I think it's
45 important that accurate minutes be kept for reflection
46 purposes. If we need to go back to things at a later
47 date our comments will be recorded. I think it's very
48 important we have accurate minutes.

49
50

0021

1 That's my comment.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. And I
6 would not disagree with that. What are the wishes of
7 the Council, I would wonder if perhaps we shouldn't
8 have our meeting minutes reviewed again and perhaps
9 brought forward at this fall's meeting for
10 reconsideration. I did not notice anything in there,
11 but that was not something I brought up so I would not
12 have noticed it. I appreciate you having gone through
13 them, Norm.

14

15 Can we -- anybody else hear your
16 thoughts as well.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

21

22 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I had forgotten
23 about Norm's comments as well. Yeah, there was -- that
24 created a bit of confusion. You know, in my experience
25 on the RAC, I think, Norm, you might be used to a more
26 higher level governing body and in my experience really
27 haven't had a need for executive session or some of the
28 financial review that you had asked for. But besides
29 that though it probably would be appropriate to put
30 them in the minutes. Overall as the Secretary for the
31 Nushagak Advisory Committee I am so grateful for Nathan
32 and I do believe his mom in -- well, you take -- you
33 keep the records, I don't know exactly who does the
34 minutes. But anyway I have to do it all with the
35 Advisory Committee and I've been bombed this winter.
36 So I'm grateful for the system that OSM provides us
37 here so we can all participate more fully. But if it
38 would be better to postpone an approval to include
39 Norman's concerns I'm willing to go with that.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

46

47 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 I think it was explained to us at the last meeting last
49 fall that -- I don't remember exact language, but it

50

0022

1 doesn't seem like this Council has -- it wasn't in --
2 it wasn't appropriate I guess for an executive session
3 in this format. I think is kind of the way it was
4 explained to us. And if -- I guess if we need further
5 clarification we can ask OSM Staff to maybe help us on
6 that a little bit. But I think we kind of erased as it
7 wasn't really something that we do here on the Council.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, and I
12 think you're correct, Richard, but I also think it
13 should be included in the minutes because it was
14 something that was discussed both by the Council
15 and.....

16

17 MR. WILSON: Sure.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:the
20 explanation given.

21

22 MR. WILSON: Okay.

23

24 MR. ANDERSON: Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norm.

27

28 MR. ANDERSON: My response to that is
29 that it could be on the agenda, it doesn't have to be
30 -- we don't have to call on it, but it would be a good
31 tool, an instrument, for us all to have access to if
32 there was something that just the Council needs to
33 discuss. So I think it's vital that we have that tool
34 available to us.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

41

42 MR. TREFON: Yeah, on executive
43 session, I didn't even know we have executive sessions
44 in these meetings here, I've never experienced one
45 because these are a public gathering, public meeting,
46 where everything should be open -- transparent and
47 open. I never thought we would have a Council
48 organization where we sit down and have independent
49 discussions after the meeting.

50

0023

1 Just my opinion.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, and
4 thank you, Billy. So just to bring you up to date what
5 had happened was Norman had asked one on record at the
6 last meeting and OSM had explained why we do not do
7 them, but it was left out of the minutes. So what
8 we're talking.....

9

10 MR. TREFON: Okay.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:yeah,
13 that's why we're debating whether these minutes should
14 be approved as presented right now.

15

16 MR. TREFON: Okay. Okay. Okay. I
17 agree with that. It should have least have a comment
18 saying there was a discussion of.....

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Correct.

21

22 MR. TREFON:executive
23 session.....

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah.

26

27 MR. TREFON:in the minutes. I
28 mean, there's not going to be a discussion of what the
29 discussion item was, just that it was brought up.....

30

31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah.

32

33 MR. TREFON:it was requested.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Would
36 everybody agree that perhaps we should table this and
37 bring -- and we'll it back on our fall agenda again
38 when they can be revisited and revised. Is that
39 agreeable with everybody.

40

41 MR. ANDERSON: Yes.

42

43 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, that works.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Then
46 can we make note of that, Leigh, and make sure we scrub
47 them a little bit closer.

48

49 MS. HONIG: Yeah.

50

0024

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
2 you. Appreciate that everybody.

3
4 Okay. Then we'll go ahead and move
5 forward with our Council member reports. And for those
6 -- our new members here we'll -- I won't pick on you
7 first, but basically we just ask everybody, we kind of
8 go around the table and ask everybody to give us a
9 brief update on what's happening in their area, any
10 things that they've noticed or things that they might
11 be facing on the horizon. So we'll get to you, but I
12 won't get to your first, you can listen to hear what
13 everybody else has to say first.

14
15 And, Lary, I'll go ahead and ask you to
16 start if you'd like, if you want us to give us a quick
17 update on what you've been having going on in your area
18 you can give us your report.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MR. LARY HILL: Okay. This is Lary
23 Hill. Not much happening, we've had a lot of snow,
24 good conditions for traveling with snowmachines or
25 otherwise. Been good conditions for a couple weeks for
26 traveling and people have been getting a lot of wood
27 and even having yard sales and making some extra money.

28
29 As far as critters go, I actually saw
30 -- well, I didn't see that. When I was in south I saw
31 tracks of a huge -- like a ptarmigan. I didn't
32 actually see the -- see the ptarmigan.

33
34 But other than a lot of snow and not
35 very good traveling conditions. Our main lake is
36 trying to freeze, but it's still not really safe for
37 traveling, I mean, great distances between like Kaltag
38 and Iliamna and boundary sites I guess (indiscernible -
39 distortion), but otherwise that's about it, not much
40 else happening.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Good.
43 Thank you, Lary, appreciate that.

44
45 Dan, do you want to share with us.

46
47 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair,
48 I hope I don't get too windy here, I had too much time
49 to think about it. But been really busy over our way.

50

0025

1 Probably the biggest thing for the Dillingham and
2 Nushagak River people is that the Board of Fish
3 declared a Nushagak king salmon a stock of concern.
4 And we've been meeting -- the Advisory Committee's been
5 meeting a bunch of times and we've had some
6 Subcommittee meetings as well trying to hammer out a
7 possible plan and that's going to be addressed here
8 shortly at the Board of Fish. It's one of the first
9 things out of the agenda in Anchorage on I believe the
10 10th of this month.

11

12 We've got a complicated plan that's --
13 that the AC's forwarded, it was developed from the --
14 it was a Working Group funded mainly by BBSRI which is
15 an offshoot of BBEDC, the community development
16 corporation. Now I'm hearing trickles of the
17 Department may come up with a considerably different
18 plan and I was wrestling with this morning, how much
19 I'm supposed to know, how much I'm not, but I would say
20 if you're concerned about it stay alert, I'm -- I
21 wasn't planning on going, but I may go.

22

23 But I think they have -- there's some
24 good ideas. Like one is they have an action plan that
25 would deal with the serious condition right now is a
26 single package, instead of tweaking a whole bunch of
27 rules within the regulations they have a single package
28 so that hopefully we get out of stock of concern, that
29 whole package would go away, you wouldn't have to worry
30 about these hidden regulations buried in other thins.
31 So that's a concept I really. But do stay alert to it.

32

33 We have to watch out, we may be seeing
34 a stock of concern for chums on the Nushagak if things
35 don't turn around and that's really going to confound
36 things. But I haven't caught a chum in my subsistence
37 in two or three years. I used to be worried about
38 catching too many chums.

39

40 So the Board of Fish, I'm not going to
41 run it through it, you can find online what they did in
42 November. There's been some slightly more conservative
43 rules adopted for sport fishing for kings is probably
44 the biggest ones and Nanci might remember more of this
45 than I do. A lot of it got deferred to this coming
46 meeting with this management plan. So stay alert to
47 that.

48

49 There's some Statewide regulations that

50

0026

1 are going to be addressed too that could be kind of
2 onerous for subsistence users where they want you to
3 report in five days what you harvest. Our Advisory
4 Committee is dead opposed to that, we've got people
5 scattered in fish camps and they're busy. The
6 Department would be swamped, they're busy then, they
7 don't need people calling in with oddball reports. So
8 there are some -- I can't give you the numbers right
9 now, 157, somewhere in there. But stay alert to that
10 with the Board of Fish.

11

12 But the king plans, again going back to
13 that, however they come about could have a big affect
14 on the commercial sockeye fishery as well and we have
15 some unusually big runs so it's quite a balancing act.

16

17

18 Wildlife stuff. It's my understanding
19 I'm -- Number 1 I am thrilled to welcome as a Biologist
20 for the State, we've got all the State Biologist seats
21 filled, it's great to be able to talk to them, I'm --
22 it's good to meet you, Amy. But I -- John and Evelyn
23 over in Dillingham turned out to be the kind of people
24 we need out there and they're out right now possibly
25 collaring moose and caribou, I don't know if they're
26 doing wolves too.

27

28 Moose season. This winter snow good
29 conditions have been good, but it hasn't frozen the
30 rivers so a lot of Dillingham folks haven't been able
31 to go over towards Togiak, 17A. and get moose. Last I
32 heard there was maybe 18 moose taken. I think mostly
33 Togiak and Twin Hills and that's good because they need
34 them. But I've been ready three or four times and then
35 a friend flies over from Togiak and says oh, the rivers
36 aren't -- can't cross them.

37

38 Ptarmigan seem to be a lot more
39 abundant, I've seen them along the roadside right in
40 Dillingham. And the other day I was driving by and
41 there was one kid with a .22, another kid was holding a
42 ptarmigan that was flapping his wings right near the
43 airport. I was like, guys, you're shooting right near
44 the airport, but I was kind of thrilled to see they're
45 catching birds.

46

47 And then I'm hoping to hear later about
48 possibly some collaring of caribou near Kokhanok or
49 something. I know -- I've talked to John over in
50

0027

1 Dillingham and he's saying they were planning on doing
2 it.

3
4 There's been a little bit of smelting
5 going on, but I haven't heard about much, might be a
6 lot more going on than I know.

7
8 I was supposed to be working with some
9 of the Federal folks about the problem with selling
10 bear hides and I haven't done it. I looked at the
11 minutes and went oops, forgot. Plus I've been really
12 busy as a -- with the Advisory Committee.

13
14 And then I sat in on that Federal
15 Subsistence Board vote on the wolf/wolverine proposal
16 of ours, 22-40. And the Board of -- Federal
17 Subsistence Board passed it, that's my understanding.
18 I'd be curious if somebody could update me on what
19 happens next. I've kind of lost track of it.

20
21 Then that's enough, go away. Thank
22 you.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
25 Dan. Richard.

26
27 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Dan, for all
28 those king salmon updates. Boy, that's sure been a
29 challenge for us all and all these systems, you know,
30 are -- we're all -- we're all lacking, all hurting, and
31 it's just a -- it's an ongoing thing and boy, the more
32 information we can give them, you know, about our
33 fisheries here, it's -- what a busy winter for
34 fisheries, it's just all over the place. Everybody
35 knows it, everybody feels it, you know, in all aspects
36 of our life right down to the customary and traditional
37 use people way up north. I mean, there's so many
38 people hurting, you know, for just general subsistence
39 needs, you know.

40
41 And I -- as far as observations, very
42 true about the rivers not being froze. I mean, we got
43 a little bit of ice and then we got all that snow which
44 here is pretty amazing to keep it. But we had it and
45 so it was pretty dangerous conditions trying to cross
46 the rivers and creeks and stuff. And so not a lot of
47 people went out and actually got away from -- you know,
48 crossed the river system like the caribou that were
49 down south. Of course there wasn't a whole lot close-
50

0028

1 by for that open season. But I heard there was some
2 being taken, we didn't take the opportunity, there was
3 an opportunity there, but we didn't take it.

4

5

6 I had an aunt see a Arctic hare two
7 days ago in their yard and I go wow, I hadn't seen one
8 of those in a long time. So I was very pleased to hear
9 that Arctic hare and -- you know, that it was in their
10 stove, they're surviving somewhere, somehow, and just
11 hope they start populating where we can see them
12 better.

12

13

14 And yes, ptarmigan. Oh, my goodness,
15 we're just so happy to see them fly by the windows and,
16 you know, on the road system picking up their gavel and
17 things.

17

18

19 And thanks, everybody, for your
20 reports. I mean, you know, it's -- all the reporting
21 that we see, that we get to read, you know, and all the
22 updates and there's -- you know, there's still -- still
23 can be some added information like I -- you were going
24 to mention about Kokhanok and Egegik, that resident
25 herd we're calling it I guess up on Kukaktlik there,
26 you know, when we do our reports there's nobody --
27 there still isn't any new information in our reports on
28 that herd. And I got to believe that those people are
29 hurting, you know, there's not a whole lot of moose in
30 the -- in that area that they traditionally get. It's
31 mostly caribou.

31

32

33 And, you know, in the last meeting I,
34 you know, tried to put a fire under us to possibly get
35 something moving for this season, but it didn't happen.
36 And they're looking to get some data out there and I'm
37 sure we're going to hear, you know, get some updates
38 from the folks that are involved in that herd there so
39 I won't get ahead of that. But just that it is a big
40 concern and just really would like things to move
41 forward on that.

41

42

43 The water was so high this fall all
44 that fish that went up, we went into the creek systems
45 where we get our fall fish and, boy, it was hard to get
46 them because they'd already spawned out in the lakes
47 and stuff. So that was interesting all that fish and,
48 boy, just away they went.

48

49

MR. DUNAWAY: They just washed out

50

0029

1 again?

2

3 MR. WILSON: Yeah. They just -- so
4 they just did their thing and -- which was good. But
5 yeah, there'll be more I'm sure as we discuss.

6

7 Thanks.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, thank
10 you, Richard. I know I felt like I was drowning this
11 fall, there was water everywhere.

12

13 Billy.

14

15 MR. TREFON: Okay. I don't have a
16 whole lot to report on, but I do have a -- I have to
17 reflect on what Dan and Richard was saying there about
18 the snow. I mean, we got so much snow early in the
19 season, the streams, the swamps, didn't really freeze
20 up, I mean, they're still open underneath that snow.
21 And there's people that have driven across swamps where
22 they'd actually gotten through. So like they were
23 saying not a lot of people got out and traveled around.
24 I only know of two moose that were taken this year and
25 that's only because they had good snowmachines, I mean,
26 we have almost four feet of snow which we haven't had
27 in 15 years, maybe longer.

28

29 And salmon. And one thing about
30 Nondalton, we get our salmon quota every year, I mean,
31 we have never had a shortage of salmon.

32 And sport fishing, that never changes,
33 a lot of people still come up there.

34

35 Hunting. We still had the same issues
36 with Chulitna River and the sport fishing because we
37 compete with sport hunters in that time of the year.
38 And the Chulitna River and the Mulchatna area is world
39 renown for huge moose. I think the largest moose in
40 the record came out of Mulchatna. So we have so many
41 planes coming into Long Lake it's ridiculous. I mean,
42 they're -- Glenn Alted put up a notice a year or two
43 about friendly requesting that the pilots fly higher
44 over Chulitna because that's where we hunt, Nondalton
45 people hunt in Chulitna, that -- we called it our
46 breakfast -- dinner table. And when you have all these
47 planes constantly coming in at moose season, some of
48 them three, four at a time, flying at 500 feet, they're
49 looking for their game while they're coming in, they're
50

0030

1 trying to spot moose or before their one day before.
2 And they're not supposed to fly and look around over
3 corporate land, but they do.

4
5 And that's a problem we deal with every
6 year and we don't know how to mitigate that. I mean,
7 it's really a problem that would be on a State level,
8 State Fish and Game how to -- how to regulate that from
9 -- because it's mostly I would have to say -- I would
10 say almost 80, 90 percent of the people that coming in
11 there are outsiders because they're coming out of
12 Kenai, Homer. You see a lot of planes come out of Port
13 Alsworth, Iliamna. I mean, they -- if you're sitting
14 you can count 20 airplanes in a day easy. And that's
15 our problem there pretty regular.

16
17 Ptarmigan. I haven't seen any
18 ptarmigan yet, but rabbit population is outstanding. I
19 mean, there's rabbit trails like highways up there.
20 The lynx population also increased, people trapping has
21 got more lynx than they've ever done in many years. So
22 the population of rabbits is way up, I mean, they're
23 just all over the place.

24
25 Ptarmigan. I haven't seen any, but
26 maybe they're up there, but I don't have a snowmachine
27 and they're usually in the mountains of my country.

28
29 And that's it.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
32 Thanks, Billy. I appreciate that very much.

33
34 Norm.

35
36 MR. ANDERSON: Yes. I had the
37 opportunity to travel to Port Heiden and get a caribou.
38 Really proud of that. In the last couple days I got
39 nine gallons of smelts that are going back to Port
40 Heiden. And I'd like to in the customary and
41 traditional manner I have participated in subsistence
42 activities all my life, I learned from my father who
43 learned from his father in this area. We've always had
44 access to an abundance of animals around us. We as an
45 indigenous people are subsistence refugees, we followed
46 the last animals across the land bridge and we continue
47 to hunt and participate in that harvest today. My
48 mother called me the last nomadic Aleut because I
49 always travel down the Peninsula or up the Clam Lake
50

0031

1 area, Nushagak and hunted. I think it's crucially
2 important that we are -- all the residents have that
3 opportunity afforded to us.

4
5 I'd like to go way back in time,
6 probably before many of you were even born. Yes, I am
7 that old, Dan. When ANILCA was being devised I
8 participated in meetings in Fairbanks and I sat at a
9 table with some people, a nice lady and a gentleman
10 from the Bethel area and a young man who later became
11 the Governor of the State of Alaska, Tony Knowles. And
12 he impressed upon us at that time that we need to
13 participate in subsistence and keep it alive. And at
14 that time subsistence wasn't even really a term that we
15 used, it was just known that we hunted. We put food on
16 our table and in our freezers or smokehouses and
17 everything.

18
19 The one gentleman that I spoke of from
20 the Bethel area, his -- he titled everything empty fish
21 racks because it was so impacted up in their region,
22 not only by the commercial, but sport fisherman as
23 well. And they had dealings with the Department of
24 Fish and Game that would discontinue a subsistence
25 fishery in their area for the specific purpose of sport
26 fishermen going on. Much as what Billy was saying they
27 had the opportunity because they would spend \$3,000 a
28 day or whatever for access to airplanes and boats and
29 all these things.

30
31 And that was all -- by the way that
32 lady, her name was Katie John and I worked with her for
33 several years. And we all knew who Katie John was and
34 we kept getting hammered with various issues that would
35 try to sidetrack us. One was the urban -- that rural
36 split and we thought it -- no, we want subsistence, we
37 want to be able to participate because subsistence
38 being the meager take to sustain. You know, we see --
39 if we can get a caribou, I mean, we share that with
40 other family members, other people in the village who
41 don't have the capacity to go out and get whatever they
42 need. It's the same thing with fish, it's the same
43 thing with birds. And that is the way that we have --
44 that we were raised. As I was saying when I was in
45 Port Heiden it was nice because I'm related to all the
46 people down there and it was -- I was able to hunt with
47 the fourth generation of family members to go out and
48 hunt. And it was a great opportunity. And I have
49 enough of that caribou left to last me, but I shared a
50

0032

1 whole bunch of that with people in the Dillingham area,
2 the elders.

3
4 And I'm going on too long here, but
5 anyway thank you.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
8 Norm. And congratulations. Makes my mouth water
9 thinking about that caribou.

10
11 John, would you care to share?

12
13 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Hello, John
14 Christensen here. Our caribou population has been
15 really great. Early in the fall though they were up on
16 the mountain, they didn't come down until late winter,
17 but they've been two, 300 at a time, just running
18 through town.

19
20 Our ptarmigan have been doing good,
21 their population jumped back up, they were down for a
22 while. And I think that has to do with the fox
23 population declining because there's -- we've been
24 seeing less and less foxes. I think they ate all the
25 ptarmigan and so they died off.

26
27 And then so now we have -- we're
28 actually seeing a couple rabbits this year and lots of
29 bears. I think it has to do with part of the caribou
30 being right in town.

31
32 And salmon, we have plenty of salmon to
33 go around, we have silvers, kings and all the reds we
34 could eat and plenty of shorebirds and geese flying
35 over.

36
37 And that's all we have.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
40 John. Appreciate hearing that.

41
42 Rob.

43
44 MR. ROBERT HILL: Thanks, Nanci. I'll
45 try not to be too all over the map here, but from a
46 commercial fishing standpoint I'd like to reflect that
47 the kings are a concern. Waiting to see how the Nush
48 -- the early Nush will be managed. I like to fish over
49 there early on so that'll be something I'm keeping an
50

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1 eye on. There's a lower fish price predicted for this
2 season and, you know, the costs of everything, the
3 operating costs are higher than ever. But there's a
4 healthy return predicted, but I think it's going to be
5 a bit of a reality check for a lot of the new
6 fishermen. It's not going to be the bonanza that we've
7 been seeing for the last few years. So it'll be --
8 it'll -- I think it's going to be a different kind of
9 season this year.

10

11 On a local kind of a winter report,
12 we've got lots of snow between Naknek and Kokhanok.
13 It's been really good for the rodents the last few
14 winters for whatever reason. The voles are off the
15 charts, I see them all over the place. And the ground
16 squirrels are making a comeback. I haven't seen those
17 for a long time and I'm seeing them.

18

19 And that's -- also seeing ptarmigan,
20 spruce hen, that kind of reflects in -- I've seen a lot
21 more coyotes this winter than I have in quite a while.
22 Also a really good lynx population, I've seen a lot of
23 wolverine moving around, just tracks.

24

25 But I guess one thing that I am maybe
26 not noticing as much is the fox population doesn't seem
27 to be reflecting in the predators as much. And that's
28 just from a personal observation.

29

30 The caribou population up in the
31 Nonvianuk area seems in my view is fairly healthy, I
32 fly over it quite a bit and seems like I see a group of
33 animals pretty consistently up there.

34

35 And I guess that's -- those are my
36 personal observations I guess.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Perfect.
39 That's great. Thank you, Rob, I appreciate you giving
40 your time for that.

41

42 And then for my report yeah, I'll
43 probably also struggle with trying not to be all over
44 the board. I had some nice, neat notes that were much
45 more timelined and in order and they're still sitting
46 on my desk in -- back at the house. So yeah, but off
47 the cuff type stuff, the Nushagak kings are of great
48 concern. I have been on that Committee, Dan, and that
49 was us that came up with that group of -- that grouping

50

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1 of things to do now while it wasn't stock of concern
2 that will be removed afterwards. And obviously then
3 we've also made our recommendations for long term
4 changes to the plan itself, but we chose to take a look
5 at it that way so that we wouldn't have to come back
6 together again and open the plan back up. Once, you
7 know, thinking in the positive that once our stock of
8 concern was gone that we could -- yeah, exactly go back
9 to more business as normal. So I too will be
10 monitoring that very closely and hoping for wisdom for
11 our Board of Fish members that will be the ones that
12 end up having the final say on it. And I just hope
13 that they acknowledge all the long hours and huge,
14 massive amounts of work that those of us who have been
15 working on it for several years now have put in and
16 least give it some validity. But yeah, anxious to see
17 what that looks like.

18

19 Got a pretty good report from you guys
20 that are out here on observations. I would agree, I've
21 been seeing a whole lot more ptarmigan. The only thing
22 that I didn't hear anybody else say and it could just
23 be because they've relocated themselves, but I've seen
24 a whole more coyotes this winter than I have seen in --
25 ever I can remember. It's kind of weird, it's almost
26 like with the snow. And fewer wolves. So I don't know
27 if they just relocated towards me or whatnot, but it's
28 been unusual for me to observe them when I haven't seen
29 many in the past and this year there seems to be a
30 number if them.

31

32 Most of my report that I had made notes
33 on was about the Federal subsistence meeting. Dan
34 already touched on it. We did finally get our caribou
35 proposal approved to hunt snowmachines with the wording
36 that we had suggested. It was a bit of a touch and go,
37 there was some learning curves involved, but it --
38 bottom line is is that will be -- should be in the next
39 hunting book that comes out. Dan you were asking. So
40 it should go into our new regulations here next year I
41 believe. So.....

42

43 MS. HOLMAN: Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, go
46 ahead, Kendra. Yeah, go ahead if you want to give the
47 update now be my guest.

48

49 MS. HOLMAN: Madame Chair, members of

50

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1 the Council, my name is Kendra Holman for the record.
2 So I -- the proposal that you're speaking to that was
3 just adopted by the Board will go into affect with the
4 Federal coming out to start July 1st of this year. So
5 that will be in regulation and ready to go for people
6 at that point. So.....

7
8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
9 So -- yeah, just so everybody knows. Thank you all of
10 you guys too that have helped work on that over the
11 past few years. I personally just feel like we got it
12 right and that was the whole reason why we withdrew it
13 more than once. And I -- you know, I just appreciate
14 everybody's tolerance with that, but I'm glad that we
15 did it right and waited until we had it right so we
16 didn't have to revisit that one again.

17
18 The Board meeting was well attended,
19 lots of interesting things to hear from other areas of
20 the State. One of the major things that I was hearing
21 mostly from folks down southeast, a little bit from
22 those up on the Yukon, is continued struggles with
23 sport opportunities whether it was hunting or fishing
24 intermingling with subsistence and interfering with
25 subsistence opportunity. So I think it'll be important
26 for us to kind of keep our ear to the drum not only in
27 our own areas, but I think that enough of us have --
28 and granted I'm, you know, in the sport fishing
29 industry, that's how I make my living, but I do not
30 think sport fishing or hunting should ever take place
31 or interfere with subsistence for those of us that live
32 out here. And I think that we collectively as a group
33 will be able to come up with some solid solutions in
34 the future because it's not just us that are struggling
35 with it. I was surprised to hear it was one of the
36 major concerns that I heard during the meeting that
37 others are trying to figure out how to approach. Now
38 obviously it's a little easier to do that over Federal
39 lands when a person sits on this Board, but I'm sure
40 that over the course of time that people will start to
41 come up with some solutions as well on State land that
42 will help mitigate those problems that we're having.
43 So don't lose heart on it, it's being said other places
44 as well.

45
46 I appreciate the opportunity to go and
47 represent us on the Board, there were a lot of concerns
48 to listen to. Kings Statewide, there's a lot of
49 concern on king Statewide and again that's an area
50

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1 where a lot of actions are being taken on Federal
2 public land and hopefully we'll be about to get our
3 State lands in alignment as well so that everybody can
4 work together and head towards the same goal with all
5 of stocks of kings that are of concern for everybody.

6
7 And with that that's pretty much all I
8 had. I'm sure when I look at my notes I'll say dang,
9 but that's okay, we can -- we can go for that later.

10
11 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy, go
14 ahead.

15
16 MR. TREFON: Oh, I just have one
17 question for Robert. I didn't hear anything about that
18 resident herd or Kokhanok's been hunting them do you
19 know?

20
21 MR. ROBERT HILL: No, they're
22 considered part of the Mulchatna still. So we're not
23 hunting them, but I go up there and I fly over that
24 herd or the area that they're in quite a bit. And I'm
25 seeing animals, I mean, I don't have a head count
26 obviously, but I do see animals up there pretty
27 consistently. And compared to what I've seen in the
28 past it seems like -- it seems like I'm seeing more up
29 there, but like I said I'm not out there burning gas
30 trying to count them.

31
32 MR. TREFON: So what you're saying is
33 that herd actually looks like it's growing?

34
35 MR. ROBERT HILL: I'd say it's at least
36 health, I'd say it's pretty stable.

37
38 MR. TREFON: Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
41 you both, Rob and Billy. So Richard -- what Richard
42 was referring to too just to bring you guys up to speed
43 is we have pointed out that we believe as a Council
44 that that is a separate herd from the Mulchatna Herd
45 and we're trying to get it identified as such so that
46 we can get a hunt opened on it. And that's where -- we
47 are trying to head in that direction and that was what
48 Richard was alluding to earlier as well, trying to find
49 out where they are at with that investigation because
50

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1 that's something that was started what, year, year and
2 a half ago, Richard, something like that?

3

4 MR. WILSON: And we'll hear from it
5 later I'm sure.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah.

8

9 MR. TREFON: But it's just an action.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. Okay.
12 Very good. And so with that I'm going to go ahead and
13 offer a break with the caveat though this is -- we'll
14 do the break, but if everybody would please contact the
15 people that they know may be interested in calling in
16 or coming in for testimony first before you start
17 visiting I'll -- we'll call a 15 minute break and let
18 everybody stretch their legs, refill their coffee cups,
19 but first thing please get ahold of your people, I know
20 I'm going to make a call or two or a text or two as
21 well.

22

23 So thank you and 15 minutes.

24

25 (Off record)

26

27 (On record)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay,
30 everybody, please take your seats. Okay. Great.
31 Thanks, everybody. And with that I'd like to offer an
32 opportunity for public and tribal comments on nonagenda
33 items and I believe we have somebody on the phone. So
34 if you'd like to identify yourself and your
35 organization if any, please go ahead and speak up.

36

37 MR. GREENDA: Yeah, Nanci, this is Adam
38 Grenda on the phone, I'd like to give a public comment.
39 Can you hear me okay?

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We can hear
42 you loud and clear, Adam. And I really appreciate you
43 calling in. Thank you very much.

44

45 MR. GREENDA: Yeah, thanks. I'd be
46 there in person, I just have too many meetings and
47 errands and kids and stuff to run around.

48

49 I'm going to submit a proposal on the

50

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1 recent call for proposals that just came out. Still
2 kind of finalizing it, I just wanted to bring it up and
3 let it be known. It's for caribou on the subsistence
4 regs. There's been some confusion between caribou
5 hunting down the Peninsula, units 9 charlie, 9 echo,
6 I'll use those phonetically since they sound similar,
7 9C and 9E. And the State regs on the tier two TC505
8 permit and there wasn't the red star I believe in the
9 State books that says kind of as your wake up call hey,
10 you need to go reference the Federal regulations book.
11 Well, since then it's been put in there, people have
12 been made aware of that, but when you go to the Federal
13 subsistence book under caribou it says under 9 echo in
14 the italicized version, Federal public lands are closed
15 to the taking of caribou except by residents of 9 echo,
16 Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point.

17
18 I've done some research when Dave
19 Skally was here and it looked like historically when we
20 had a ton of caribou that people from Naknek, King
21 Salmon hunted 9 echo more than people from Nelson
22 Lagoon and Sand Point. I would -- my proposal is to
23 eliminate that verbiage for 9 echo so there is no
24 Federal public land closure or maybe have a second or
25 an amended proposal where all of Unit 9 can hunt those
26 Federal lands. The premise being strictly for the fact
27 that we have a growing caribou herd and then that's
28 increased numbers. When Dave Crowley was here I was
29 talking to him and following his presentation and the
30 caribou permits have been increased from 300 to 600
31 permits and minimal harvest unless we have enough snow
32 to go down there with a snow machine, the season opens
33 August 10th, the caribou are usually way up high in
34 Federal lands only accessible by airplane or maybe by
35 boat. And they're not necessarily down on State lands
36 where they're able to be hunted by us from King Salmon
37 and Naknek.

38
39 So that is the purpose of my proposal
40 and I'm happy to answer any questions that anyone may
41 have, but that's what I have going on.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great.
46 Thank you, Adam. Questions for Adam anybody.

47
48 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

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1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

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MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I have a little hard time keeping up with you on that. You're planning to add some communities to that regulation or were you proposing to remove like Sand Point and Nelson Lagoon? I'm trying to keep up. Okay.

MR. GREYDA: Yeah, I guess I'm still in the -- I would appreciate maybe some advice from Nanci or the Board what would be the most acceptable proposal to get passed. Obviously I want to be able to have King Salmon and Naknek and also South Naknek be able to hunt Federal lands in 9 echo. So maybe just adding those three communities would be the best route, but I'm open to suggestions as well.

MR. DUNAWAY: I'm not a Naknek resident, but I used to live in Sand Point. Adding a couple communities would be a lot more appealing to me than to try to remove Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point from that. When I lived down there people did hunt some, I would have to consult with Nelson Lagoon folks to be sure how much.

So yeah, it's good to make a proposal and it could get discussed. So appreciate the heads up.

Thank you.

MR. GREYDA: Yes. Thank you, Dan.
You.....

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Adam, Richard also has a question for you.

MR. GREYDA:clarified.....

MR. WILSON: Yeah, Richard Wilson.....

MR. GREYDA: Okay.

MR. WILSON:here, Naknek resident. Hey, good heads up. You know, I think you're going in the right direction there. You know, just personally just the other day I go well, conditions are good now, I guess we're going to go down and get a caribou and he went hey, they closed. Say

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1 what. It's already closed. Well, it's open down 9E.
2 So but we're not allowed -- so very good heads up. You
3 know, just weather a lot of time dictates how far we
4 go, when we go and to be included in that -- you know,
5 all the communities included in that hunt I think are
6 important because we all have access to it at some
7 point. So good heads up.

8
9 Thanks.

10
11 MR. GREENDA: Thank you.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
14 Anybody else have questions for Adam.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
19 Adam. Adam has been talking to me about this proposal
20 for a while. Adam, I'll look forward to seeing your
21 language on this proposal and it sounds like you will
22 potentially have the support of our Board as well. So
23 let us know, have you been getting the help that you
24 need and the support from OSM, the Subsistence
25 Coordinator as well that you need or did you need
26 additional assistance or leadership there?

27
28 Oh, and hang on just a second.

29
30 MR. GREENDA: Oh, yeah, Leigh and I.....

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Brent
33 Vickers -- well, I'll let him introduce himself, has a
34 question for you as well.

35
36 MR. VICKERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
37 Again this is Brent Vickers, I am the Anthropology
38 Division Supervisor for the Office of Subsistence
39 Management. And just to let you know, Adam, I really
40 appreciate what you -- your calling in and it sounds to
41 me like you are considering adding communities to a
42 customary and traditional use determination. If this
43 is something that -- the route that you would like to
44 take you should contact OSM Anthropologist Pippa Kenner
45 or myself. You can find out contact information on our
46 Office of Subsistence Management website. We are the
47 ones that handle -- the Anthropology Division is the
48 Division that handles customary and traditional use
49 determinations. So if you want help on how to word
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1 these things, again if this is the route that you want
2 to take and it sounds like it is, that you should
3 contacting us. And you can also contact Leigh Honig,
4 the Council Coordinator, if you have her information
5 and she'll just direct you right towards us.

6
7 I hope that helps you.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 MR. GRENDA: No, that -- that helps me
12 immensely. Thank you. And to answer Nanci's question,
13 yeah, I go way back with Leigh back when she was a
14 State employee, we've known each other for a while.
15 She's been awesome to work with and I'll continue
16 working with her and Mr. Vickers. And just to clarify
17 I do not or never intend to remove any communities, I
18 would only like to add King Salmon, Naknek and South
19 Naknek to that verbiage just to be clear.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, and
22 thank you. And just -- I'll just add for the record
23 since I've been here so long and I actually remember,
24 it should be a simple -- it should be a simple research
25 project as well for Pippa or Brent because we were
26 users of that herd back when it was flourishing and in
27 fact as I recall this Council, we bowed out, we
28 ourselves bowed out of being put on the permit system
29 because the numbers were so low and we knew that our
30 neighbors down south access and we had access to the
31 Mulchatna Herd. And so putting us back in there should
32 not be much of a task because as I recall we were the
33 ones who bowed out of the ownership of it originally.

34
35 Is that what you -- I'm seeing Richard
36 remembers the same.

37
38 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair. Yes,
39 Nanci, that was right. That was -- you know, as the
40 population was declining, you know, we were all trying
41 to do the best for our communities and that's what --
42 that's what came down. We just -- we backed off so
43 that others could still have the resource.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
46 thank you, Adam. I appreciate your persistence on that
47 and we'll look forward to seeing your proposal and see
48 if we can give it support as well.

49
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1 MR. ANDERSON: Madam Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norman.

4

5 MR. ANDERSON: Hello, Adam. I don't
6 know if I know you or not, but I just want to express
7 my appreciation to lawyers like you who stand up and
8 fight for your subsistence rights. The reason there
9 are caribou in that region is because you practiced
10 conservation over the years and that is the way it
11 always has been. So keep up the right, don't take no
12 for an answer unless it's from your wife.....

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. ANDERSON:and then you may.
17 We will look forward to any conversations or any
18 literature you want to share with us.

19

20 Thank you very much.

21

22 MR. GREENDA: Thank you, I appreciate
23 that. And yeah, I -- I'm just -- right, I think it's a
24 benefit for multiple user groups here and I think we
25 have a -- the population to sustain additional harvest
26 and I think it would benefit everyone.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

29

30 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

33

34 MR. DUNAWAY: Just one more thing,
35 Adam. I'm looking at State Subsistence folks here and
36 don't hesitate to ask them, they probably have some
37 community use data and other things that would probably
38 be helpful as well. So there's Bronwyn Jones and
39 Chance and I'm always forgetting his last name, I'm
40 finally learning his first one. But anyway there's a
41 resource as well. So good luck with it.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MR. GREENDA: Yeah, I didn't catch the
46 names. I'm writing that stuff down. Can you repeat
47 that please?

48

49 MR. DUNAWAY: Through the Chair. Yes,

50

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1 Sir. Bronwyn Jones, B-R-O-N-W-Y-N Jones, J-O-N-E-S.
2 And Chance, C-H-A-N-C-E. And let him -- I'll let him
3 speak for his last name.

4
5 MR. WILCOX: Through the Chair. Wilcox
6 is my last name.

7
8 MR. GREENDA: Thank you very much.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And you have
11 my number, Adam, I'm certainly available too as you
12 continue down the road.

13
14 Okay. Any other.....

15
16 MR. GREENDA: Thank you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:callers
19 online that would like to give testimony on nonagenda
20 items.

21
22 MS. CARTY: Good morning, Madame Chair.
23 Courtenay Carty, Curyung Tribal Council.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Courtenay,
26 always good to hear your voice. You have the floor.

27
28 MS. CARTY: Thank you kindly. I
29 appreciate the opportunity to participate
30 telephonically today. Someday I'll be in Naknek with
31 you all again. I just wanted to provide our brief
32 update on our caribou hunt that I had provided an
33 update to the RAC on there when we were there in our
34 offices in Dillingham in November.

35
36 We did have eight permits issued for
37 the Nushagak Peninsula caribou hunt is a point of
38 reference for others. And so the Curyung Tribal
39 Council, Dillingham received eight permits, we did
40 issue all eight of them out in the spirit or I guess
41 fashion of the traditional elders hunt. During a time
42 of shortage we feed our elders and that's what our
43 Tribal Council chose to do with these eight permits,
44 asking all of the hunters that entered the quote,
45 unquote, lottery to agree to donate the hunt -- the
46 meat back to the tribe so that we could get that out
47 for elders in the community via meat distribution at
48 the Senior Center and a meat distribution list that we
49 would maintain at Council and get that meat into homes
50

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1 of the elders in the community here in Dillingham.

2

3

4 Happy to report that we've had six
5 caribou harvested and returned to Council for that very
6 purpose. So thankful for the hunters who choose to
7 participate in this new hunt that we're trying to
8 develop or structure I guess in this way for the first
9 time. We do have one tag that has yet to be harvested,
10 we do have one tag that was harvested and that meat not
11 returned as originally hoped for, but we're very
12 thankful for the six who chose to harvest. We're
13 actually processing the last of that caribou today,
14 packaging it all up. And once we have a inventory --
15 right now we're at over five -- we have six full fish
16 boxes at 50 pounds so that's what, 300 pounds of meat
17 plus the other caribou that came in yesterday. So our
18 crew is working diligently to put that all away,
19 inventory it and then we will be distributing it out in
20 our community.

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I just want to thank the RAC for the time to be able to provide this update today. I do believe we may have at least one hunter on the line with us. I did invite a few of our hunters who are very happy with the way the hunt was designed and chose to participate. So I don't know if that's okay, Madame Chair, if we could see if any of those hunters might be available to share testimony with the RAC.

Thank you so much and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Courtenay. I'll ask for questions first then we'd love to hear from your hunters as well.

Any questions for Courtenay.

MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

MR. DUNAWAY: Courtenay, the Curyung had a unique way of sharing out those permits, it was pretty interesting. Maybe a quick outline for other people in the future on how you did that. It was kind of interesting.

0045

1 Thanks.

2

3

4 MS. CARTY: Sure. At the fall meeting,
5 Mr. Dunaway, through the Chair, we did announce in our
6 village report how we had designed that hunt. In
7 coordination with the Refuge, communicated everything
8 with the Manager there and they also participated in
9 our drawing as observation I guess to make sure that we
10 were following the rules that we had designed. But
11 basically our Tribal Council for those weren't there or
12 would appreciate what I'm talking about, our Tribal
13 Council took the eight permits -- each of the six
14 villages received eight permits and basically were as
15 we do every year those villages decide how those
16 permits are distributed in their community. And our
17 Tribal Council decided that those eight permits would
18 be offered for anyone in the community to hunt given
19 the caveat that the Council is designing the hunt to be
20 an elders' hunt. Traditionally in times of shortage
21 when there aren't enough resources to go throughout the
22 entire community we feed our elders. And that's what
23 our Council chose to do.

23

24

25 So we put out on public notice both on
26 our Facebook page and flyers around the community as
27 well as KDLG, a call for hunters who would be
28 interested in going out, receiving a permit to go down
29 to the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou -- down to the
30 Peninsula to harvest a caribou, bring that meat back
31 for distribution to the elders in the community of
32 Dillingham. Last year we had two tags, the year before
33 of course the hunt was closed. Last year when we only
34 had two tags we also did a elders' hunt, but we had one
35 designated hunter go down, tag out, bring that meat up.
36 That meat was kindly processed by N&N Markets and then
37 provided to the Senior Center and distributed
38 throughout the community through the elders' lunch
39 program.

39

40

41 This year we built upon that same theme
42 in wanting to continue to provide for our elders and we
43 did provide one caribou to the Senior Center who still
44 has three boxes of meat that they're working through
45 for their elder lunch program. And then the other
46 caribou we would be processing ourselves now that N&N
47 is closed and then just like you do with your fish at
48 the end of the summer, you add up what you have and you
49 have to ration out how it's going to go. And so then
50 we will distribute meat throughout the community, doing

50

0046

1 a -- again a public process where we'll do a call for
2 elders, if you'd like to be a recipient of the caribou
3 that were hunted for the elders in Dillingham please
4 let us know. And then we will inventory, ration and
5 distribute based on population.

6
7 I hope that answers the question, Mr.
8 Dunaway.

9
10 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, through the Chair.
11 Thank you, Courtenay. That's pretty unique, it seemed
12 to work pretty well and I thought it was kind of cool
13 to come up with a new idea.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any other
18 questions for Courtenay.

19
20 MR. ANDERSON: Madame Chair.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norman.

23
24 MR. ANDERSON: Courtenay, this is Norm.
25 And I am appeased to hear the way you and the tribe
26 distribute the meat, that is the initial definition of
27 subsistence that we share in the customary and
28 traditional manner. So keep up the good work and happy
29 hunting.

30
31 We'll talk to you later.

32
33 MS. CARTY: Thank you.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
36 Courtenay, I think that's it from the Board. Thank you
37 for your testimony and time and I love your unique
38 program, I hope you can keep it going.

39
40 And any hunters, anybody else that's on
41 the phone that would like to provide comments on
42 nonagenda items, I welcome you to speak up.

43
44 MS. PARLOS: Good morning, this is
45 Kelyn Parlos, I'm here to provide a public comment for
46 the hunt that we -- I did for the Curyung Tribe. I'm
47 originally a Kodiak Traditional Council shareholder,
48 I'm originally from Togiak. I live in Dillingham for
49 about six years now. My fiance is born and raised
50

0047

1 Curyung Tribal member and knows the area very well.
2 And when the Curyung Tribe reached out to any
3 interested hunters mainly because me, myself, and my
4 fiance are year round subsistence hunters. I was like
5 yeah, I'll go in for a hunt, why not. And so we had
6 like outlined all of the requirements for, you know,
7 what was necessary for the hunt, where to hunt, what we
8 do with the meat. I was like okay, let's go out and
9 hunt. So me and my fiance went out one day and we -- I
10 could swear we were traveling that whole cape and it's
11 so flat and all you could see is tundra or the -- you
12 know, the flat ground and the water out towards the
13 ocean, but we finally stumped into some fresh caribou
14 tracks, followed them and I was able to stop and kill
15 and shoot a nice -- fairly nice bull caribou.

16
17 And so I was -- I was raised by my
18 grandparents growing up in Togiak. A lot of the
19 things, you know, we learn growing up is, you know, to
20 always take care of our meat, our land, our people,
21 especially our elders so I was -- I felt very fortunate
22 to have been able to have drawn a tag. I do hunt year
23 round for all -- a majority of subsistence around both
24 lands, Kodiak and Dillingham. And I proudly brought
25 back the meat and I was really fortunate to have been
26 able to provide the meat because I don't -- I don't
27 need any meat, but I know that there's a lot of people
28 especially our elders in town that don't have the
29 opportunity or have the kids or the resources to be
30 able to go out and do that. So it just was a really
31 good hunt and I was really fortunate to be able to
32 harvest meat for the tribe here.

33
34 One of the things that I also did was
35 back in October when I knew about this same hunt, when
36 I was drawn a hunt here, I had emailed the Togiak
37 Traditional Council as well and, you know, kind of told
38 them, you know, I was drawn for a hunt here for, you
39 know, one tag and that I basically explained that I
40 have a reliable snowmachine, I've got an in-reach for
41 any emergency cases, I've got hunting equipment,
42 ammunition, gas, guns. I've got a great resource which
43 is my fiance who knows the land very well who'd be able
44 to bring us out to hunt and subsist and that the
45 Council would just distribute the meat to the elders of
46 the community, you know, evenly. And I didn't want
47 anything in return and I would bring the meat back to
48 Dillingham, bring it to an airline, I even had my dad
49 say who owns a airline to bring the meat back, you know
50

0048

1 -- you know, at half the cost of bringing, you know,
2 freight back to Togiak. I didn't receive a response.
3 I also sent another response back in December just kind
4 of like a follow-up hey, I'm going to go hunting soon,
5 if you guys want me to go hunt for you guys and again I
6 didn't receive another response. So I was a little bit
7 sad about that because I was, you know, more than
8 willing to do the same for my people too just as I did
9 for the Curyung Tribe.

10

11 So yeah, it was a good hunt. I'm
12 really thankful for the Curyung Tribe and this
13 opportunity to hunt. So and thank you for letting me
14 speak today.

15

16 Thanks.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
19 you, Kelyn. Are you open for questions if my Council
20 has any?

21

22 MS. PARLOS: Sure.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anybody have
25 any questions for Kelyn, comments.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. It
30 looks like we're all good. But thank you, thank you
31 for participating and I hope you have an opportunity to
32 do it again.

33

34 MS. PARLOS: Great. I hope you guys
35 have a good day. Thanks.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
38 Anybody else on the phone that would like to share
39 testimony or comments.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
44 Hearing none, I don't see any new faces in the audience
45 so I'm not going to ask it here. But I would encourage
46 everybody for your contacts if you know of anybody else
47 to encourage them to continue to call in throughout the
48 day and as soon as I get word if you slip me a note or
49 give me a word in the ear we'll be happy to hear them
50

0049

1 and jump off our items as we have them so that we can
2 make sure that everybody participates that wants to and
3 would like to.

4

5 Okay. With that so I also had a
6 question on -- during the break about places to eat
7 here in Naknek for lunch. So you're going to have
8 three options and there could be more since I live
9 actually in King Salmon believe it or not sometimes
10 we're in two different worlds, but I know of three that
11 should be available for you for lunch. Once would be
12 the Red Dog which is down here, D&D's will be open for
13 lunch from 11:30 to 1:30 and they'll also be open for
14 dinner tonight. I know most of you guys that's where
15 you're used to going and they weren't open last night,
16 but they're only open from Wednesday through Saturday
17 right now. So they will be open for lunch. And then
18 Rogelio's which is the old gas station right up by the
19 school road is also open for lunch and dinner. And
20 they'll do take out stuff too so if you want to order
21 something from them to go. And then we don't have to
22 worry about the options on the other side.

23

24 Richard, do you know something else
25 too.

26

27 MR. WILSON: Is Eddie's still available
28 too in the evenings?

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, yeah.
31 So then on the other end we've got Eddie's. Eddie's is
32 open and I think Sockeye's only open on the weekends.
33 So I think that's really your only option down in King
34 Salmon right now is Eddie's.

35

36 Thank you for reminding me of that.

37

38 Okay. So then let's move on with our
39 agenda on to old business. Leigh, you're going to do
40 the 805c report.

41

42 MS. HONIG: Thanks, Madame Chair. And
43 I should have spoken about this when we were adopting
44 the agenda. Sorry for that oversight. But we do not
45 have the 805C report ready at this time, just the --
46 between the Federal Subsistence Board and this meeting
47 there wasn't enough time to compile that. But later on
48 in the agenda under new business Pippa Kenner will
49 speak to all the changes that happened at the Federal
50

0050

1 Subsistence Board meeting.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Good. Then
6 will you plan on having that attitude of both reports
7 for the fall meeting on our agenda.

8

9 MS. HONIG: Yes, that is correct. So
10 the 805C report will be on your fall agenda.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Good.
13 Well, we'll look forward to that, we'll revisit that as
14 well as our minutes from last fall's meeting.

15

16 MR. ANDERSON: Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norm.

19

20 MR. ANDERSON: I have an elder on his
21 way down here. He's old so it's going to take time for
22 him to get here, but he'd like to make some comments.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Fantastic.
25 We'll look forward.....

26

27 MR. ANDERSON: So we can reserve the
28 time for him.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We will.

31

32 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

35

36 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep. And
39 then, Kendra, go ahead. I see you we headed this way.
40 Sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt you. Kendra's going
41 to give us the North American Caribou Workshop and
42 Arctic Ungulate Conference update.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning, Madame
47 Chair, members of the Council. My name is Kendra
48 Holman for the record and I'm a Wildlife Biologist with
49 the Office of Subsistence Management.

50

0051

1 During your fall, 2022 meeting you heard about the
2 caribou and ungulate conference taking place in
3 Anchorage this coming May. All Councils nominated one
4 member to attend the conference and provide input on an
5 Alaska Ungulate Management Symposium. I believe Mr.
6 Dan Dunaway was nominated for this Council to go to
7 that. An information flyer about this conference can
8 be found in your meeting book on Page 13. Before I
9 proceed would any Council members like an overview of
10 this conference again?

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Why don't
13 you give us a brief one since we have two new members.

14

15 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Madame Chair. So a
16 joint meeting of the North American Caribou Conference
17 and Caribou Workshop and Arctic Ungulate Conference
18 will be held in Anchorage May 8th through the 12th,
19 2023. This meeting will bring together an
20 international group of managers, researchers and
21 indigenous and local knowledge holders who want to
22 share their knowledge of caribou, muskox, dall sheep,
23 moose or reindeer.

24

25 The theme for this meeting is crossing
26 boundaries. Arctic ungulates regularly cross landscape
27 boundaries connecting ecological processes between
28 different systems. This necessitates collaboration
29 across geographical boundaries and also calls for
30 crossing boundaries between western science and the
31 local and indigenous knowledge. The conference will
32 include a planning session of comanagement, the status
33 of caribou globally, integrated western science and
34 indigenous knowledge and the affects of climate change
35 on caribou. Field trips, workshops, research talks,
36 symposiums and a poster session will all be part of the
37 conference. The conference web address can be found on
38 the flyer in your meeting book and I encourage you to
39 visit the website for more detailed information.

40

41 Do you have any questions about that?

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Looks like
44 we're good.

45

46 MS. HOLMAN: So on Page 14 of your
47 meeting books you'll find a summary of the potential
48 topics that were suggested by all of the Councils for
49 discussion during the State and Federal Ungulate
50

0052

1 Management in Alaska Symposium. This session is
2 intended to be a neutral forum for Council members,
3 State Fish and Game Advisory Committees, National Park
4 Service Subsistence Resource Commission members,
5 Federal and State agency Staff and other interested
6 parties to discuss ungulate management in Alaska
7 specifically regarding harvest regulations.

8
9 During the fall, 2022 meeting cycle all
10 Councils provided input on potential topics to discuss
11 during the symposium and several Councils asked to have
12 follow-up summaries list during the winter meetings.
13 Councils are now being asked to review this list and
14 provide additional feedback for that symposium such as
15 highlighting topics of particular interest or providing
16 clarification on topics. OSM Staff will then decide
17 which topics will be discussed during the symposium
18 based on feedback from all 10 Councils, prioritizing
19 the topics that are relevant Statewide and applicable
20 to all regions and all Councils.

21
22 Madame Chair, I'll now turn the
23 discussion over to you, any feedback will be very
24 helpful in helping finalize the discussion topics.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That seems
27 like a tall order considering there's 24 things on
28 here. I -- you know what I'm going to actually suggest
29 and I'm open if somebody's got a better idea, but what
30 jumped into my mind when I realized that's what --
31 exactly what she was going to have us try and do, I
32 just don't really see that these are effective debate
33 things, but I'm wondering if we shouldn't just all pick
34 our top five numbers off of here and put them on our
35 little yellow sticky pad that we've got and we can give
36 those to her and that's going to pretty much give her
37 -- you know, unless somebody has a burning desire that,
38 you know, we should have one.....

39
40 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard,
43 you.....

44
45 MR. WILSON: As I was listening to her,
46 Madame Chair, growing through, you know, we have that
47 -- just making sure we get the rep -- right
48 representation for the right herds, I would possibly
49 encourage our new Board member, Robert Hill, to maybe
50

0053

1 include himself in some of this because, you know,
2 you're talking about a resident herd now over there in
3 Kukaktlik and they need all the information they get
4 off of these different herds. And to have somebody
5 that's got a hands on on that herd up there or and he
6 is a new Council member here and that would be one of
7 my suggestions. I don't know if he'd be entitled to
8 it, but anyway that just popped up just as a first
9 base.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I think
12 that's a great suggestion because that's -- again
13 that's something we've been working on for over a year
14 to get that identified as a -- and, I mean, I would ask
15 that you would make a note of that, Kendra, because I
16 think it should also be pointed out. And I did not
17 burn these into my brain when I read through the list
18 when I was going over these notes, but I think it
19 should be noted that there are occasions when there are
20 resident herds and that is exactly what we've been
21 stating and those are not the migratory ones. And the
22 management of those resident herds versus the migratory
23 ones and possibly how that should be handled and that's
24 something that's not identified on here, but I think it
25 should be.

26

27 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

30

31 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, it is bullet
32 point seven.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, that's
35 perfect. So yeah, we definitely should have that one
36 circled.

37

38 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

41

42 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, that's one. I was
43 reading through my stuff last night and one that I
44 marked for that exact reason because my correspondence
45 with Gary Neilson especially has got me, you know,
46 kind of spun up on -- I always think of the Kokhanok
47 herd because Gary's in Kokhanok, but we have -- this
48 RAC has been very interested. But there's other ones
49 in the area. Of course now the Nushagak Peninsula Herd
50

0054

1 was a transplanted herd and they tend to stay down
2 there. There was a time, I haven't heard recently in
3 our Advisory Committees, but there was a time, there
4 was kind of a smallish herd behind Ekwok over there in
5 Nushagak then now John's mentioned, I've been aware
6 ever since I was down there with the university a long
7 time ago that there's kind of a small herd that hangs
8 there. And then I believe the Department is looking at
9 -- there's caribou that tend to hangout west of Togiak.
10 And I had a little discussion with John Landsiedel, the
11 State Biologist, about this question of do we manage
12 some of these little fragments or do we manage it as a
13 whole. And, you know, when I first came there was this
14 giant herd that was going everywhere, now we don't seem
15 to have that. But so I'm certainly interested in as
16 Richard said hands on or certainly eyes on that
17 Kokhanok herd I'm -- well, I'd welcome any information
18 that could come to me before I go up to this
19 conference. But yeah, and then the other regulations
20 where they used to be by game unit and they finally
21 said well, we got to do it by the range of the herd and
22 for a while the Mulchatna was coming down past here and
23 then going up around Bethel and over to Quinhagak and
24 once it made a big loop all the way down through Togiak
25 and went right through Dillingham and disappeared.

26

27 So yeah, that is a high one on my list
28 as well.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Maybe this
31 will work okay then. Let's keep going then. What are
32 some of the others that are popping out to people as
33 ones that we would really like to see discussed and
34 considered as this conference. Somebody else.....

35

36 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan, you
39 want to throw one out there.

40

41 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, there's a few, you
42 know, used to be a hot topic for us was predator
43 control. I think it's somewhat under control right
44 now, but it was a time where we were really pushing
45 some of the Federal land managers to allow more
46 predator control. I think we've answered that a little
47 bit with some of our recent regulations.

48

49 This funding wildlife surveys and

50

0055

1 receiving timely reports is always critical.

2

3 Harvest management strategies, you
4 know, I joked that we should have gone market hunting
5 when Mulchatna was getting too big because I used to
6 fly over the area, looked like they'd had a giant dirt
7 bike race out there and trashed the range.

8

9 And then one that I hear a lot from
10 some of the agencies more north of us, you know, blame
11 it on the other guy, but poor harvest reporting has
12 been a concern for the Mulchatna Herd especially in the
13 Kuskokwim were some of the things I marked.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great.
18 Anybody have comments on those or are there others.....

19

20 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah,
23 Richard, go ahead.

24

25 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
26 I'm just running down the list here. I mean, there's
27 -- you know, there's a lot of important stuff here.
28 But just one -- another one that stands out to me is
29 the -- is the funding, bullet 15. You know, the
30 importance, you know, to find funding for surveys. And
31 getting those -- you know, we can't as a Council sit
32 here and, you know, and do our due diligence without
33 good numbers, good observation. I mean, you know, we
34 as the public or, you know, observe things and that's
35 why we're here, that's why we do what we do. And the
36 agencies are here because that's what they do, they
37 bring us, you know, and they have the information. And
38 it's so important for us to, you know, collaborate
39 together to make these right decisions and so funding
40 is -- it's just a -- it's so necessary in this time and
41 age to be able to get out there and actually do this
42 stuff. So it's pretty important.

43

44 MR. DUNAWAY: Buy more ammo. That's
45 why we have money right now.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, I agree,
48 Richard. And the other point that I would make with
49 that is I think also if we would stay up better on top

50

0056

1 of our surveys that when we have, you know, diseases
2 and bad things starting to happen we could possibly
3 identify them sooner and take sooner action. It has
4 been frustrating for us out here because we've had a
5 real lack of information to work with, but anybody else
6 then.

7

8 MR. TREFON: Madam Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

11

12 MR. TREFON: Yeah, looking at this list
13 here and there's actually a couple of points that did
14 jump out at me like 1, 9, 13 and 14 -- I mean, 23 which
15 is really affecting my community. Because caribou once
16 upon a time used to be a big deal in my neck of the
17 woods. And whether -- I mean, I'm not a scientist and
18 I don't know why the caribou migration moved over to
19 Bethel, but I do have my theory and it has a lot to do
20 with Pebble and the amount of hunters that used to
21 cross between Iliamna and Ekwok, I mean, they were like
22 a blockade of sport hunters there and Pebble was going
23 up at the same time. And I don't hear anything more
24 from why they moved, they try to tell us it was because
25 of the lack of food, but there's enough reindeer moss
26 for it sustain it for another hundred years. And the
27 people are talking about caribou and I'm hearing about
28 their Mulchatna Herd is just continuously declining.
29 And my theory on that one is a sudden, drastic change
30 in food because they went from a freshwater side of the
31 country to a flat, stagnant water environment. And
32 that's a theory that works for me for them to start
33 suddenly mysteriously die off like they did. Because
34 that was a 300,000.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Right.

37

38 MR. TREFON:and then suddenly
39 you're down to 14,000 or less now.

40

41 And I don't know what that is and I was
42 looking at identification, viability and utilization of
43 residents. I mean, we don't even -- we see an
44 occasional bull here and there from what I'm hearing,
45 but we don't see them anymore and I don't even know if
46 Mulchatna Long Lake is still a spawning area because we
47 don't hear about the caribou going from Taylor across.
48 And that would be Park Service given that there.

49

50

0057

1 Population threshold. I'd like to see
2 more discussion on that because we'd like to eat
3 caribou again one day. I haven't had a caribou since
4 they closed it.

5
6 And sport hunting, that -- well, I just
7 got done covering that. I mean, that's my theory about
8 why the Mulchatna Herd pretty much disappeared. I
9 mean, I never was -- I've been given this so called
10 scientific lack of food and I don't follow -- I don't
11 believe that because at the time we were dealing with
12 so many crooked politicians and their spins at the time
13 you didn't know who to believe, but you had to come up
14 with your own theory that worked for you.

15
16 And moose -- oh, this is not moose,
17 this is all caribou.

18
19 Population. I'd like to know what all
20 the populations are on all our resident herds. And
21 that would be interesting because I'd like to see what
22 the population is on this resident herd that's here.
23 Talking to Robert it sounds like a pretty healthy herd.

24
25 I mean, that's all I have to say, just
26 to comment on migration and effective impact. Well,
27 it's actually got to do with Number 1, impact of sport
28 hunters and Pebble. Pebble was a -- when the caribou
29 used to come up my theory was when you have 10 drilling
30 rigs sitting on one mountain all drilling at the same
31 time and you got 100,000 caribou approaching you, 20
32 miles away they're going to start feeling the
33 vibrations on the ground and that's something that's
34 not natural. So they're naturally going to go around
35 what they don't understand. And that's why I think
36 they've continued moving until they got into Taylor.
37 When they got into Taylor they just went over the
38 mountain into the Bethel area. So I think Pebble had a
39 great deal to play with -- play that part. And that
40 herd used to be hunted like you wouldn't believe. I
41 mean, almost every lake between Igiugig and Iliamna,
42 there's probably three or four planes in them just
43 waiting for the caribou migration to come through.

44
45 But that's my comment. I'm.....

46
47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Okay.
48 Thank you, Billy.

49
50

0058

1 MR. ANDERSON: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norm.

4

5 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you for your
6 report. Years ago I was Co-Chair on the Circumpolar
7 Conference on Climate Change and we had people from
8 Russia and all over Alaska, Canada, Norway, all
9 reported. And it was like they were all talking from
10 right here because we saw an out migration of caribou,
11 some of it was feed, some of it was predation, but the
12 bottom line when we heard from so called professionals,
13 scientists or whatever, they were saying that it was
14 hoof and mouth disease and a very -- a variety of
15 things. And then locally we had an out migration of
16 caribou and the one Biologist here in King Salmon sent
17 a flyer out to all the residents stating -- it was
18 titled where have all the caribou gone. And I -- at
19 the time I was leading the charge against offshore oil
20 drilling, I was going to King Salmon to pick up some
21 scientists and there was caribou on the flat from
22 Savonoski across the river clear to -- there's one lobe
23 out of here called Sherlobe, there's caribou -- there
24 were 13,000 caribou in there Fish and Game said. They
25 wouldn't -- we had to get in touch with another
26 Biologist who would actually sit down and talk with us.
27 But it was -- the same conversations were everywhere
28 about where had the caribou gone.

29

30 We had a conference in Port Heiden
31 because there were a lot of user groups from Perryville
32 and Ivanof and around the surrounding area villages
33 that would come there to hunt. And there were caribou
34 there. And the one Biologist said caribou don't
35 migrate, they mill and we all kind of looked at each
36 other thinking where did this guy get his degree
37 because caribou as long as I have followed them have
38 gone all the way up to the Gwich'in territory who are
39 the caribou people and they know. Some of the
40 Mulchatna Herd some of the boys can attest are
41 significantly larger animals than the Peninsula Herd.
42 And they were happy to see them because they were so
43 big, they were like small moose, some of them.

44

45 So it would be interesting to hear
46 further on how your doing, keep the good work.

47

48 Thank you very much.

49

50

0059

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
2 Norm. John, did you have anything you'd like to --
3 that stood out to you?

4
5 MR. CHRISTENSEN: No.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
8 That's fine. Rob.

9
10 MR. ROBERT HILL: Yes, Number 17,
11 honoring and incorporating traditional ecological
12 knowledge into harvest management. I think, you know,
13 as far as -- it's come up a couple of times in this
14 discussion, the herd up around Kukaktlik. If we're
15 looking at that as a resident herd and opening a hunt,
16 I don't know, you know, putting kind of the horse
17 before the carriage here, but I really think that
18 there's a good opportunity there to involve the
19 community. And I guess that Curyung hunt where it was
20 for the elders is a great idea, I really like that
21 idea, but I also think you could take it a step farther
22 and do the hunt as a community where you're involving
23 the kids and teaching them how to process an animal,
24 not just sending hunters out. But I don't know, I
25 think there's a really good learning opportunity and
26 maybe a way to kind of solidify relationships in the
27 communities.

28
29 So I don't know, that's my comment.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That is a
32 fantastic idea. I agree, I think that there's lots of,
33 you know, other opportunities out there around this
34 too.

35
36 And then the one I would have that
37 stood out to me, Kendra, is -- has a lot to do with
38 some of the stuff Rob was just saying and I -- you
39 know, I'd even incorporate that into my comments, but
40 it would be Number 22 which is the caribou distribution
41 patterns in relation to village harvest needs. I just
42 feel like we've been struggling for several years now
43 in different villages with food. And whether it's, you
44 know, salmon down on the Chigniks or lack of moose and
45 caribou in our areas. And I think that, you know, it's
46 an opportunity to start identifying as well the
47 villages in need. And again, I mean, it's just like we
48 were saying with the North Alaska Peninsula Caribou
49 Herd when we bowed out of being a part of that harvest
50

0060

1 in order that our neighbors down south who needed it
2 worse than we did could take advantage because at the
3 time we had the Mulchatna Herd to work off of. Again I
4 -- it's just something that's common and this is
5 potentially Number 22, could acknowledge that that is
6 what subsistence people do and a way to potentially
7 easily identify that or give validity to that and
8 identify it in areas where there is opportunity I think
9 could be helpful.

10

11 Does this help you out?

12

13 MS. HOLMAN: Absolutely, Madame Chair.
14 This has been a great discussion. I have noted down
15 several here of the specific numbers. So I have Number
16 7, Number 15, Number 22, Numbers 1, 9, 13, 23, again
17 Number 17 came up. And I know, Mr. Dunaway, you had
18 mentioned a couple, but not the numbers. So if you
19 could provide me those numbers real quick I have all
20 these notes and I will take them back.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: They were 24
23 and -- you have the same ones as me. So I've got --
24 I'll go down the list for you because I -- his were
25 incorporated in there. I had 1, 6, 7, 9, 13, 15, 17,
26 19, 22 and 24.

27

28 MS. HOLMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair.

29

30 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. I wasn't even
31 sure.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Sure.

34

35 MR. LARY HILL: This is Lary.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
38 Lary.

39

40 MR. LARY HILL: Could you add Number 14
41 because that also depends on hunter education and the
42 way we harvest and manage our own -- our herds is why
43 there's very little wanton waste of meat. And that
44 would be a topic maybe having to do with hunter
45 education.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great, Lary.
48 Thank you. Anything else that you'd like to add to
49 that?

50

0061

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

4 Great.

5

6 MR. ANDERSON: Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norm.

9

10 MR. ANDERSON: Did you have 21 on your

11 list?

12

13 MS. HOLMAN: No, I can go ahead and add
14 that on my list.

15

16 MR. ANDERSON: Please, yeah. It's a
17 big impact.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MR. LARY HILL: And actually Number 20.
22 Actually all these items on the list all revolve around
23 Number 20, food security.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great. Yes.
26 Thank you, Lary. Yeah, they did -- they did a good job
27 of putting a good list together here I would agree.

28

29 Okay. Anything else we can do for you
30 then on this.

31

32 MS. HOLMAN: That's all I have for
33 this, Madame Chair. I'm the next presenter so
34 whenever.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

37

38 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

41

42 MR. WILSON: Just a comment here. And
43 for me it would be Number 25. Just as I was going down
44 the list of -- I mean, you were talking about
45 management tools here and what all these people getting
46 together might be able to come up with how to better
47 regulate and how to manage our -- you know, our
48 population out there. And years ago when I was at one
49 of the Board of Game meetings there was an elder from
50

0062

1 up in the Kuskokwim area that came and testified. And
2 he said, you know, we have -- we have lots of moose, he
3 was saying we got lots of moose. And he said the
4 reason why we have lots of moose is because when we go
5 hunt we don't go hunt for that big bull out there, he
6 said he's our breeder, that big bull is our breeder and
7 so we leave the breeders alone. He said we -- you
8 know, we hunt, you know, the lesser. He said it's very
9 important and really emphasized the need to keep those
10 breeders available for a strong and healthy herd. And
11 that's a lot times why the herds crash is because they
12 just -- you know, you take away all the good breeders
13 and all the healthy ones and then, you know, the
14 breeding gets -- you know, it gets watered down.

15

16 So that was just a comment. I thought
17 it was very interesting to me at the time and I still
18 think it is.

19

20 Thanks.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. No,
23 that would be a great addition, Richard. Thank you.

24

25 Anybody else have any other comments
26 or.....

27

28 MR. LARY HILL: This is Lary.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Please go
31 ahead, Lary.

32

33 MR. LARY HILL: Thank you. This is
34 about what Richard was talking about. I didn't get a
35 very good reception, I was at a Fish and Game meeting
36 in Anchorage several years ago. And I questioned the --
37 the sport hunters are always after the biggest animal,
38 moose and caribou. And the way that the regulations
39 are set that the hunt that sport hunters would go on is
40 during the rut. And that's when the biggest ones are
41 making themselves known and they (indiscernible -
42 distortion) voice call and they're a lot easier to
43 kill. So my question was how do you manage -- if you
44 were a farm and you had a bunch of cattle would you
45 kill off the biggest bull in the yard every year. And
46 the same thing with moose and caribou. How can you
47 manage a herd if you're killing off the biggest animals
48 every year and like which in fact are the breeders.
49 And that was my -- and I didn't get a very good
50

0063

1 reception to that. Well, Fish and Game are just
2 (indiscernible - distortion), you know, get a lot of
3 money from out of State licenses (indiscernible -
4 distortion). And that was my question, how can you
5 manage them if you just kill of the breeders first.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
10 Lary. Very good point. Very good point.

11
12 Anybody else.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
17 Great. Then, Kendra, you want to go ahead and
18 introduce our wildlife closure review.

19
20 MS. HOLMAN: Thank you, Madam Chair.
21 So I'm going to provide to you kind of an update on
22 this closure review process. We're making some changes
23 here so hopefully this will be better for all of those
24 involved. So again for the record my name is Kendra
25 Holman and I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the Office of
26 Subsistence Management. Before we get into the
27 analysis itself I'll provide this overview.

28
29 So in August of 2020 the Board approved
30 a revised closure policy that stipulated all closures
31 will be reviewed every four years. The policy also
32 specified the closures similar to regulatory proposals
33 will be presented to the Councils as recommendations
34 for recommendation and then the Board for a final
35 decision. Previously closure reviews were only
36 presented to the Councils who then decided whether to
37 maintain the closure or submit a regulatory proposal to
38 modify or eliminate the closure. However the
39 regulatory actions on closures are limited -- are
40 limited to retaining, rescinding or minor
41 modifications. Actions such as changing the season,
42 harvest limit, delegating authority to an in-season
43 Manager are outside of the scope of a closure review.
44 To this end the closure review analyses are being
45 presented to the Councils now during the call for
46 wildlife proposals to inform you decision and other
47 Councils on whether or not to submit a proposal
48 addressing the closure that would be outside the scope
49 of the closure review.

50

0064

1 This is not an action item, it is just
2 informal -- informational. However if the Council
3 decides to submit a proposal to address the closure a
4 motion would be needed. The Councils will make a
5 formal recommendation on the closure during their fall,
6 2023 meetings and the Federal Subsistence Board will
7 take action on these closures in April of 2024.

8

9 Before I provide with the summary of
10 analysis are there any questions?

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. And
13 so for Rob and John's benefit, so when we have these
14 closure reviews we take a look at them, hear the
15 recommendations hopefully with, you know, current
16 information on how herds and stuff are doing and we can
17 either say yes, we should remain closed or we should
18 open it up a little bit, you know, with tier hunts or
19 something like that, but we can't change limits and
20 stuff, we've got to do that through our proposal
21 process, it -- and that's -- correct me if I'm wrong,
22 but that's what you were reminding everybody, correct?

23

24 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Madame Chair. So
25 previously in order to make any changes it would have
26 had to have been a special action and potentially a
27 special action which have more regulations on how we
28 can get a special action through and the purposes for a
29 special action, so by providing this opportunity to the
30 Councils if there is something outside that limited
31 scope for a closure review it provides the Councils
32 that opportunity to make the proposal and actually get
33 that changed within a timely manner instead of having
34 to wait for the next regulatory cycle.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, and
37 remind us again when that -- when our proposals are due
38 by for this cycle.

39

40 MS. HOLMAN: So the proposal window is
41 open right now and they're due by April 12th. I will
42 cover that after the.....

43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, sorry,
45 didn't mean to jump ahead. I had seen that on the
46 agenda, but just so you know. So we will talk about it
47 and then if there's anything anybody wants to propose
48 we can -- we'll try and get that done before the end of
49 the meeting. So if you think of anything don't be

50

0065

1 afraid to put it out there on the table.

2

3 Okay. Then any questions for Kendra.

4

5 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

8

9 MR. DUNAWAY: This is more a comment.

10 Seems like we -- I'm trying to remember if this is an
11 action item or not, but sometimes we're asked to do
12 action items and then we hear the data and the reports
13 from the agencies. And it's kind of hard, you know, it
14 would be nice to have the data first and then with that
15 evaluate what actions we want to take. So it's more of
16 an observation.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. No,
21 and I've been known to call for that information first
22 and I would not be afraid to do so again. So if you
23 guys feel the need don't hesitate to say something and
24 I would see if we can get it.

25

26 Any other questions or comments.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

31 Please continue.

32

33 MS. HOLMAN: Okay. Again this is
34 Kendra Holman, a Wildlife Biologist with the Office of
35 Subsistence Management. So again this is -- this one
36 is not an action item, this is only for your
37 information to help decide if a proposal outside of the
38 closure scope is what this Council would prefer over
39 just the simple options that are available -- the
40 limited options that are available with the closure
41 review process.

42

43 So this proposal -- I'll be covering
44 Wildlife Closure Review 24-04 and 06 as one. This
45 proposal can be found on Page 15 of your meeting books
46 and a map can be found on Page 16 of your meeting
47 books. The closure location for this is Unit 9C
48 remainder. Federal public lands are closed to caribou
49 hunting except for residents of Unit 9C as in charlie
50

0066

1 and Igiugig, if I said that wrong please, please let me
2 know. Unit 9E, Federal public lands are closed to the
3 caribou hunting except by residents of 9E as in echo,
4 Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point.

5

6 So prior to 1990 four caribou was the
7 harvest limit in Unit 9C remainder and Unit 9E
8 remainder. In 1999 the Board considered proposals WP
9 99-32, 99-33 and 99-34. These were adopted by the
10 Board with modification resulting in the closure of
11 Federal public lands within Unit 9C remainder and all
12 of Unit 9E to caribou harvest except by residents of 9C
13 and 9E. The State established a tier two harvest
14 system at this time as well.

15

16 In 2020 the Board approved WP 00-33
17 allowing for the use of the designated hunter permits
18 in Unit 9C and 9E. In 2004 the Board rejected WP 04-43
19 requesting to allow the same day airborne hunters for
20 caribou hunting throughout units 9 and 17 except in
21 National Park Service managed lands. In 2005 the Board
22 considered WSA 05-02 and WSA 05-11. These two special
23 actions closed caribou hunting on Federal lands in Unit
24 9C remainder and 9E for the 2005/2006 regulatory year
25 following the rapid decline of the herd. The State
26 closed -- the State also closed the tier two season.
27 At this time the Board adopted proposal WP 06-22
28 eliminating the Federal season for caribou in these
29 units. In 2011 and 2015 the Council -- this Council
30 reviewed the Federal public lands closure and voted in
31 favor of maintaining the closure, however in 2015 it
32 was modified to provide a hunt on Federal public lands
33 for Federally-qualified subsistence users should the
34 State open the tier two hunt.

35

36 In 2016 the Board reviewed WP 16-21
37 establishing a may be announced season and delegating
38 authority to open and close the season, set quotas and
39 permit requirements and conditions, harvest limits and
40 set sex restrictions to the Alaska Peninsula/Becharof
41 National Wildlife Refuge Manager. The modification was
42 adopted by the Board, reduced the pool of eligible
43 subsistence users on Federal public lands in Unit 9C to
44 the residents of 9C and Igiugig and on Federal public
45 lands in Unit 9C to residents or excuse me, Federal
46 public lands in Unit 9E to residents of 9E, Nelson
47 Lagoon and Sand Point. In 2018 the Board approved WP
48 18-21 requesting the caribou season in 9C north of the
49 Naknek River be changed from August 1st to March 15th
50

1 season with a harvest limit of two caribou and the
2 modification was to create a new hunt area, removing
3 that portion of 9C that drains into the Naknek from the
4 north and Graveyard Creek and Coffee Creek from the
5 Unit 9C remainder. The Board's actions effectively
6 shifted the regulatory emphasis within the new hunt
7 area from the NAPCH to the MCH, specifically the two
8 different herds reflecting the current distribution
9 patterns of the two herds. The State also took similar
10 action, shifting the regulatory emphasis to the
11 Mulchatna Herd. In 2020 the Board reviewed this
12 closure in Unit 9C draining into the Naknek River from
13 the north and the Graveyard Creek and Coffee Creek,
14 Unit 9C remainder and 9E, retaining these closures in
15 Units 9C remainder and 9E because the caribou continue
16 to have a low population count with insufficient
17 recruitment.

18
19 Generally speaking the herd occupies
20 Unit 9C and 9E from the Naknek River in the north to
21 Port Moller in the south. It was varied -- it has
22 varied considerably in size in the last century ranging
23 from approximately 200 caribou during population --
24 2,000 caribou during population lows to approximately
25 20,000 during population highs. These fluctuations in
26 population size have accompanied -- been accompanied by
27 shifts in distribution and movement patterns likely due
28 to impacts of population size and habitat quality. In
29 recent years the population has shown a positive grow
30 trend and was estimated to be approximately 3,800
31 caribou in 2018 which is on Table 1 which can be found
32 on Page 21 of your meeting books, but remains well
33 below the State's population objective of 12,000 to
34 15,000 caribou. The bull/cow ratio has shown an
35 increase in trend. Local Biologists believe that the
36 current bull/cow ratio exceeds the management objective
37 of 35 bulls per hundred cows. Harvest of the herd
38 peaked in 1993 and has declined since. These changes
39 correspond with the population size and harvest
40 restrictions.

41
42 In 1999 following implementation of the
43 State tier two system more restrictive Federal
44 regulations and implementation of the Federal public
45 lands closure reported harvest declined dramatically
46 averaging just 96 caribou between 1999 and 2004. This
47 information can be found on Table 4 on Page 25 of your
48 meeting book. Legal harvest ceased in 2005 following
49 the closure of State and Federal hunting season.
50

0068

1 Federal and State seasons were reestablished in 2016.
2 Since then the State reported harvest has average 52
3 caribou annually. This information can be found on
4 Table 4 and 5 on Page 25 of your meeting book all of
5 which were taken by local users. An average -- on
6 average was 84 percent bulls, 60 percent of the
7 reporting hunters were successful. Nearly two-thirds
8 of the total harvest taken between December and April
9 with September and December being the most popular
10 months. On Table 2 -- in Table 2 on Page 23 of your
11 meeting book you can find the pre 2016 caribou harvest
12 for Unit 9C remainder and 9E. On Page 24 in Table 3
13 you can find the same information from 2016 to 2018.

14
15 So the herd remain a population of
16 concern in Unit 9C remainder and Unit 9E although this
17 population has shown recent improvement in population
18 size as well as bull/cow and calf/cow ratios it remains
19 well below the established population size objective.
20 The current management approach which includes the
21 State's tier two system limiting harvest to Federal
22 lands to those with recognized customary and
23 traditional use of the resource and direct dependent on
24 it. And the harvest quota managed by emergency actions
25 and special actions appears to be have been effective,
26 allowing harvest while supporting population growth.
27 Consequently retaining the Federal public lands closure
28 within units 9C remainder and 9E is appropriate and
29 likely offers the best opportunity for both
30 continuation of subsistence use and recovering of the
31 herd.

32
33 And so the OSM preliminary conclusion
34 is to retain the status quo.

35
36 So that is the end of my presentation.
37 I will address -- I did get some updated data, when
38 this was written the last updated data we had was from
39 2018. I know there was some other things going on so
40 before -- after this, excuse this, after this had had
41 to go to the printer for your meeting books I did
42 receive some updated information to the herd so that
43 information will be in the fall when you do review this
44 as an action item, but unfortunately it's not in there
45 and I don't have internet to get to it right now to
46 give it to you. I'm not sure -- I received it from one
47 of the State Biologists, I'd have to look up who it was
48 again and see if maybe they have that updated data.
49 But I just wanted to let you know we have received some
50

0069

1 updated data, it just was not able to make it into this
2 book and it will be in there in the fall when you
3 review this again.

4

5 Thank you, Madame Chair.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Amy, I hate
8 to put you on the spot, but do you know if you -- if
9 you guys might have that data and if you might be able
10 to provide it, just we won't hold your feet to the fire
11 because you probably don't have it in a table form yet,
12 but if you could give us just like population up,
13 population down, ratios good, whatever.

14

15 MS. VANDEVOORT: All right. Through
16 the Chair. My name is Amy Vandervoort for the record.
17 We do have the data and the trend is up. So with what
18 I've been able to see since I started calf ratios are
19 in the mid 30s which does show an increasing trend for
20 the population growth. It's not real quickly growing,
21 but it is growing.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Can I
24 offer questions, are you guys open for that, you might
25 want to stay up too, Amy, in case.

26

27 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Madame Chair, I'd be
28 happy to.....

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

31

32 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

33

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

36

37 MS. HOLMAN:address any questions
38 if we can.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Start us
41 off.

42

43 MR. TREFON: Hi, I was just looking at
44 what you were saying here about the population growth.
45 You were saying it was just calving because it --
46 looking at the -- from 1984 to 2018, actually to 2013,
47 it was a steady decline, I mean, it was steady decline
48 in the population. And I don't know if it's you guys'
49 management or what did you guys do to start getting the
50

0070

1 numbers to start coming back up?

2

3

MS. VANDEVOORT: Through the Chair. That's a good question. I can't say for certain what happened, I started in October so I'm -- I've been trying to catch up on everything. But from the composition surveys and the parturition surveys that have been done the calf numbers are improving, but I can't say for certain why that is.

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MR. TREFON: So there's really no scientific theory or nothing of why the growth population are climbing back up other than calving?

MS. VANDEVOORT: Correct. We get funding for monitoring, we haven't had any funding for any kind of research projects to actually determine what is happening, like why -- what is causing the increase in calving.

MR. TREFON: Yeah, because I was just concerned because of the Mulchatna went in such a steady decline and they were trying to say it was hoof rot and other diseases, but those same caribou mingle with the Peninsula and this herd here so if they've got the disease in Mulchatna Herd it should be spreading to the other herds you'd think.

MS. VANDEVOORT: Yes, we.....

MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

MS. VANDEVOORT:we don't know.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thanks. Yeah, Billy, we've -- I mean, it was geez, 15 years I think the closure period there on this herd. I mean, you know, it took, you know, both the State and Feds it took -- it took a while to really -- and we started downsizing the amount of caribou that you can get and then eventually we thought well, it's got to get closed because it was under management numbers. And in all of that then they -- the State took on predator control down on the South Peninsula Herd, you know, and they did some work down there with the -- you know, with the

0071

1 predators and that seemed to help. But I think it was
2 overall was just the big closure time and the little
3 bit of predator control and more lucrative bear seasons
4 and just a number of things that's helping this herd to
5 grow again, you know. And it was really interesting to
6 see once they opened up here a few years ago, you know,
7 just to residents that them bulls that were getting had
8 were some huge bulls because they had a chance to, you
9 know, really, you know, spend a lot of time and grow
10 big and strong. And I think that's another benefit of
11 having those older bulls around is just that you're
12 just going to have a, you know, herd continue growing
13 in strength.

14
15 MR. TREFON: Yep.

16
17 MR. WILSON: So that's kind of -- kind
18 of what I remember.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any other
21 questions.

22
23 MR. TREFON: I'm just going to comment
24 on Richard. Yeah, I was just asking because of
25 watching Mulchatna decline so rapidly in such a short
26 amount of time, I mean, that was a 300,000 down to
27 14,000 in less than 10 years is pretty dramatic.

28
29 MR. ANDERSON: Madame Chair.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Norman.

32
33 MR. ANDERSON: I don't have a question,
34 I have a comment on some of the things that I've
35 learned over the years. The organization I was
36 affiliated with a few years ago, we did a village
37 hopping thing. One of the -- and we talked about a
38 variety of topics, it was called the Bristol Bay
39 Regional Visions Project. One of the things that stood
40 out most that had most of the conversation was
41 subsistence. And one of the elders sitting in the
42 crowd was at one of the meeting I was and we came up
43 with the term or phrase persistence for subsistence.
44 And it was one of the things that we adhered ourselves
45 to was because of the fact that we had felt that the
46 creator provided animals for us. Unfortunately we
47 found that in some of the villages they don't do
48 accurate reporting because they don't have a hunt
49 license or a ticket or something. And I said do
50

0072

1 everything you possibly can to do so, whether you have
2 a ticket, whether you have a license or not otherwise
3 the day may come where your village may only be allowed
4 three caribou or nine caribou, whatever. And they just
5 kind of laughed about it. But I think they started
6 doing a little more reporting. And I don't remember,
7 Dan might know, if Department of Fish and Game used to
8 carry a license book with them, was that over in
9 Nushagak area?

10

11 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, through the Chair.
12 Yeah, the Biologist in Dillingham have a schedule to go
13 into the villages and issuing licenses.

14

15 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

16

17 MR. DUNAWAY: I don't know if Dick
18 Sellers did it over here because he had a lot longer
19 territory.

20

21 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah, I don't know if
22 they still do. But anyway now I lost my train of
23 thought. But anyway again keep up the good work.

24

25 Do you hunt?

26

27 MS. HOLMAN: I do.

28

29 MR. ANDERSON: Good. Now you know we
30 got empty seats.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you and.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,

37 Norm.

38

39 MR. ANDERSON:thank you, Dan.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary, did
42 you have any questions or comments.

43

44 MR. LARY HILL: I was trying to talk
45 and I had my phone on mute.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, sorry.

48 Go ahead.

49

50

0073

1 MR. LARY HILL: Oh, it's just some of
2 these numbers are -- and varies of course from year to
3 year depending on (indiscernible - distortion)
4 interesting I'd like to know the results of that Polar
5 Conference in Fairbanks several years ago and there was
6 people from Sweden, Finland and they're having the same
7 problems with (indiscernible - distortion) food source.
8 And they're having the same problems, and then trying
9 to manage the herd. It's a worldwide problem.

10

11 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Norman brought up
16 some comments that I thought of and that's why I take
17 interest in -- even though I don't live down in Sand
18 Point country anymore. When I was living there people
19 didn't always bother with hunting licenses or cards,
20 partly because there'd been a time when the season was
21 open year round down there and they didn't worry about
22 it. But that changed and I remember a couple guys I
23 knew were some of the more subsistence oriented people
24 in the village and I asked them about that and they go
25 I don't get all that stuff, then they send me letters
26 forever. But I worked with some of those guys and Dick
27 Sellers because they nearly lost their subsistence
28 opportunities up in Stepovak Bay which was kind of one
29 of the main spots when I first lived in Sand Point back
30 '78, '80. And that's why I was real interested in
31 somebody talking about whether they're subtracting or
32 adding villages. I have kind of lost my contacts down
33 there, but I believe there's still some hunting when
34 it's open in Stepovak. So yes, like Norman said I want
35 to thank him that those records are real important. I
36 think the same happened with Togiak and why we have so
37 many moose over there is it became -- the village
38 became a lot more cooperative on Number 1, not poaching
39 moose and Number 2, reporting what they did take.
40 Partly I was in a meeting where Robin Sanderson kind of
41 scolded Togiak for coming over close to Dillingham and
42 taking moose. Now they're enjoying a lot because we're
43 all cooperating more.

44

45 So anyway that's enough for now.

46

47 MR. ANDERSON: One last comment.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

50

0074

1 MR. ANDERSON: I didn't want to name
2 any villages, but Togiak was the one who suggested and
3 we're still fighting for comanagement. And I hope
4 that's the reason they got lots of moose over there.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And the one
9 question I had for you, Kendra, is to me this is 100
10 percent associated with Adam's call in earlier about
11 this herd. Is it going to take a proposal to increase
12 the user groups on it or is that something we could do
13 and not have his proposal. I thought I heard from the
14 Board that there was some real support for opening up
15 to us as residents again for potential subsistence use.

16
17 MS. HOLMAN: So, Madame Chair, again
18 for the record this is Kendra Holman. So yes, so his
19 proposal is very applicable to this and his proposal is
20 why we're presenting these today because the normal
21 closure review process we wouldn't see that until next
22 fall and that is not a change that would fall under the
23 closure review process. So his proposal that he has
24 right now is exactly why this is being presented to the
25 Council today so that you have that opportunity. I'll
26 do the call for proposals next then go over that
27 presentation. And that is something that the Council
28 itself could do or you could stick with his proposal,
29 but yes, that -- his proposal is directly applicable to
30 this closure review and exactly why this is being
31 presented to this Council today.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
34 but that was my question is as a Council are we
35 required to do this through proposal or as a Council.
36 I think I was reading here on Page 26 that we could
37 modify the closure too. And in my mind I'm getting a --
38 so.....

39
40 MS. HOLMAN: So, Madame Chair, the key
41 is there are very small limitations to what can be done
42 as part of that closure review process.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So then the
45 answer is yes, we would need a proposal to be safe.

46
47 MS. HOLMAN: So yes, to be safe.....

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

50

0075

1 MS. HOLMAN:you would need that
2 proposal just to make sure that it does fall within
3 what can be done.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Okay.
6 Thank you. That was my question.

7
8 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

11
12 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thanks. So
13 this is a -- this is an action item so can we -- can we
14 hold off on that action until we actually maybe include
15 the call for proposals and then -- is that possible,
16 and then get the language in there that we need and
17 then go from them as amended or.....

18
19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's where
20 I was headed. So, Kendra, please.....

21
22 MR. WILSON: Okay.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:answer
25 Richard's question.

26
27 MS. HOLMAN: Yes. So again this is
28 Kendra. So right now this is not an action item, it
29 was for your information. My next presentation is the
30 call for proposals and that itself will be an action
31 item. The Council will need to vote on each individual
32 proposal that they wish to submit so I can go over that
33 in my next proposal whenever the Council's ready.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
36 Any more questions on this in particular, members.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
41 Seeing none, Kendra, please proceed.

42
43 MS. HOLMAN: Again for the record,
44 Madame Chair, members of the Council, my name is Kendra
45 Holman and I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the Office of
46 Subsistence Management. So now is the call for
47 wildlife proposals and this Council's opportunity to
48 submit proposals to change Federal subsistence wildlife
49 harvest regulations. An informational flyer on how to
50

0076

1 submit a proposal can be found -- proposal to change
2 Federal subsistence regulations can be found on Page 31
3 of your meeting book. Proposals need to include the
4 regulations which you wish to change, the specific
5 changes you are proposing, an explanation of why the
6 regulation changes should be made and any additional
7 information that may help when evaluating the proposed
8 change. The window to submit proposals opened February
9 27th and will remain open until April 12th.

10

11 The Council can vote to submit a
12 proposal and your Council Coordinator can officially
13 submit that proposal. Also the opportunity for the
14 Council to submit proposals is available during the
15 entire meeting. If the Council members think of a
16 proposal later on in response to another agenda item
17 they're welcome to suggest since submitting this
18 proposal you have to treat it as another action item
19 and of course anyone can submit a proposal as an
20 individual during this open period.

21

22 Thank you, Madame Chair. I'll be happy
23 to address any questions about the proposal process and
24 standby while you discuss things.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
27 Kendra.

28

29 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

32

33 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thanks. So
34 can we suggest some revised language for WCR 24-04-06
35 and have OSM finalize the language to get the proper
36 language in there and that would help us as a Council
37 and also the proponent that we had earlier about the --
38 including these other communities, would that be
39 appropriate?

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, we have
42 to do it in the form of a proposal, but absolutely. I
43 mean, and that's exactly what I would envision too our
44 proposal would read that that language should be
45 modified to include -- I mean, I don't want to put
46 words in anybody's mouth, but to open up to additional
47 villages who have customary and traditional use.

48

49 MR. WILSON: So do they need to hear

50

0077

1 language from us now or can the conversations that
2 we've been having, everybody's kind of steering in the
3 same direction, can we -- can they formulate something
4 for us or do we got to formulate it and give it to
5 them?

6
7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We have to
8 formally agree basically on what direction we want them
9 to -- for that language to go by vote and then they can
10 do that for us.

11
12 MS. HOLMAN: So, Madame Chair, members
13 of the Council. So if -- as close as you can to the
14 exact language that you're going to want in there as
15 far as making sure that it meets all of our
16 requirements we'll go through and work with the Council
17 Coordinator as well, but if you're wishing to add
18 villages or things like that, change harvest limits,
19 anything like that, we will need those specifics now,
20 we can work through this process and ensure that we get
21 that added in there correctly. And then, you know,
22 some of the minor details of that proposal we can work
23 through with the Council Coordinator to make sure that
24 that gets submitted correctly. But like I said the
25 main details of what you -- this Council would like
26 need to be done today or.....

27
28 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, so I
29 guess.....

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

33
34 MR. WILSON: Oh, Kendra's got
35 something. Hold on.

36
37 MS. KENNER: Thank you. Yeah, hi. So
38 that's all correct and I just wanted to tell you what
39 we're dealing with and it is ANILCA section 804
40 determinations that limited who can participate in the
41 hunt. And that determination is made on three
42 criteria. The criteria are a dependency on those
43 caribou, the availability of alternative resources and
44 local residency, how close they are to the resource.
45 So you don't have to, but if you could talk about that
46 in your proposal justification. Additionally do you
47 have ideas of which villages and yeah, and then how
48 they -- maybe talk about them in terms of the three
49 criteria?
50

0078

1 Did that make sense?

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, it
4 does. And just we needed that direction so that we can
5 give you the information you need to formulate this
6 proposal for us. It sounds like we've got support on
7 the Board.

8

9 So go ahead, Richard, you want to take
10 first stab there.

11

12 MR. WILSON: I was trying to remember
13 what was the gentleman's name that brought his proposal
14 forward?

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: Adam.

17

18 MR. WILSON: Okay. So I couldn't
19 remember if he was -- if it was including all of 9,
20 Unit 9 in this proposal or was-- were we just adding --
21 were we just adding?

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, us
24 three villages that were left out, currently left out.

25

26 MR. WILSON: So Naknek, King Salmon and
27 South Naknek.....

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah.

30

31 MR. WILSON:to add that into the
32 proposal as user groups, qualified user groups, for
33 this WCR 24-04-06.

34

35 (Teleconference interference -
36 participants not muted).

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Cody, you're
39 not on mute anymore and we're hearing your booking
40 information at the RAC meeting.

41

42 Okay, Richard, go ahead.

43

44 MR. WILSON: I guess I'm not quite sure
45 how to proceed, just if we -- I guess I just in this
46 proposal form to just include Naknek, King Salmon and
47 South Naknek in this regulation, WCR 24-04-06 would be
48 my input.

49

50

0079

1 Thanks.

2

3

4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, and I
5 would add my support to that by stating that, you know,
6 we have many generations of traditional and customary
7 use on the herd. We did have other options available
8 to us when the Mulchatna Herd was healthy and visiting
9 us on a regular basis, that is no longer the case. As
10 this herd has grown and gotten a higher population and
11 better opportunities have arisen and our needs have
12 increased because of lack of ability to hunt on that
13 herd, it -- to me it makes sense that we would have
14 once again the opportunity to participate even if it
15 was in a tiered ticket setting that we should be
16 allowed to participate as well. How's that sound.

16

17 MR. WILSON: Great language, Nanci.
18 Thanks, I think that needed to be in there.

19

20 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

23

24 MR. DUNAWAY: To add to that I'm
25 thinking if we make this as a motion for a proposal to
26 ask -- request OSM draft it up with the intent and the
27 villages that have been discussed, you know,
28 immediately prior to this get us going on it I think.
29 So I'd like to move that.....

30

31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

32

33 MR. DUNAWAY: all of the above.

34

35 MR. WILSON: So.....

36

37 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Madame Chair.....

38

39 MR. WILSON: I will second
40 that.....

41

42 MS. GREDIAGIN: this is Lisa, if I
43 could provide a.....

44

45 MR. WILSON: if he has moved to
46 make a motion I second it.

47

48 MS. GREDIAGIN: clarification.

49

50

0080

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I do need a
2 second. Thank you. And then did -- go ahead, Kendra.

3
4 MS. HOLMAN: Madame Chair, I know the
5 -- Lisa Grediagin's on the line to clarify some
6 information, before you do this is you could just give
7 her a moment, please.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's fine,
10 we can go in discussion. We're -- we've got a motion
11 on the table though. So yes, please go ahead, Lee, was
12 it.

13
14 MS. HOLMAN: Lisa.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lisa.

17
18 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, hi, Madame Chair,
19 can you hear me?

20
21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We can.

22
23 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay. I just wanted to
24 clarify for the record that the only modifications for
25 closure reviews that are within the scope of a closure
26 review have to be directly related to the closure
27 itself. So in this case if you're modifying the
28 communities which would be affected by the closure that
29 technically is (indiscernible - distortion).....

30
31 (Teleconference interference -
32 participants not muted).

33
34 MS. GREDIAGIN:closure review.
35 But as Kendra and Pippa stated it would probably be
36 cleanest if you just -- could just go ahead and submit
37 a separate proposal to get explicitly what the
38 Council's seeking, you know, in proposal form so that
39 (indiscernible - distortion) can analyze. So I just
40 wanted to clarify that that technically is within the
41 scope of the closure review, but it certainly couldn't
42 hurt to get a proposal submitted asking exactly what
43 you're looking for.

44
45 Thanks.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Good.
48 So we've got a motion on the table. Discussion.

49
50

0081

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. WILSON: Question.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great.
6 Question's been called. All in favor of having the
7 motion as put forth for a proposal on the North Alaska
8 Caribou Herd as presented please signify by saying aye.

9

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11

12 (No opposing votes)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lary.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: I thought I heard
17 somebody on the phone say aye.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, did you.
20 Okay. Motion.....

21

22 MR. LARY HILL: The answer is aye. I
23 was on mute again.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
26 you. You were heard just not by me, Lary, my
27 apologies.

28

29 Okay. So that motion and then, Leigh,
30 you can be in touch with Dan, Richard or myself as you
31 progress on that proposal and, Pippa, do you have the
32 information you need from us with support.

33

34 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner.
35 Yes, thank you, Madame Chair.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any
38 other proposals that any of us would like to think
39 about and, Dan, I'm going to look at you because this
40 would be your bear opportunity you mentioned earlier.

41

42 MR. DUNAWAY: Oh.

43

44 MR. ALVAREZ: Madame Chair.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: One moment,
47 Dan has the floor.

48

49 MR. DUNAWAY: I probably at this point

50

0082

1 I think there -- to the bear hide sale issue that I was
2 looking at is I'm not real familiar with all the
3 Federal rules, but one of the problems is that like
4 State allows sale of bear hides, but it's one that --
5 you can only sell it one. So if a hunter sells the
6 hide to a taxidermist or somebody else that person
7 can't turn around and sell it again and that's one of
8 the hang-ups. So I guess I'd be willing to work with
9 the Feds and understand Sydees (ph) and all the other
10 rules about trying to fix that. I'm kind of hesitant
11 to dive into a whole proposal unless we say draft a
12 proposal to explore that and see if we can come up with
13 something by the end of the deadline. I'd be willing
14 to do that. So.....

15
16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I would --
17 you know, I would actually suggest exactly that because
18 we can -- we can at our fall meeting when we review it
19 and decide if we want to support it, we can support
20 with modification if additional elements come out about
21 it. So.....

22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. I don't think you
24 can make proposals I guess or that's a point of order.

25
26 MS. HONIG: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
27 Dunaway. So an option would -- another option would be
28 we could work with us and -- oh, myself and OSM and
29 submit that proposal as an individual if we don't have
30 time or whatever.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Right. And
33 that's what I meant. That's.....

34
35 MS. HONIG: Okay. Perfect.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:what I
38 -- that's -- I'm sorry. Yeah, I was not very clear
39 about that, but I was just thinking because that way it
40 could still be achieved and we could still get our
41 support on it this fall even though it's after the
42 closure time. And if it needed to be modified, even if
43 you decided it needed to be modified, we could do that
44 with our support as well.

45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead.

49
50

0083

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay, Madame Chair.
2 Well, then probably a motion to kind of direct me to
3 work on it so that, you know, I'm not just flying
4 alone. I could do that too, but do we want to do a
5 motion or just kind of ask me to work on it?

6
7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I think if
8 you do it as an individual a motion would not be
9 required and then we can review it this fall; is that
10 correct? Yeah, I'm getting lots of nods on that one.

11
12 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Okay. Hold my
13 feet to the fire, Leigh. I utterly forgot.....

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 MR. DUNAWAY:this winter, of
18 course like I say we've been buried in King Salmon
19 issues.

20
21 So thank you and I'll work on it.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. And
24 then my person on the phone, I'm happy to recognize you
25 now.

26
27 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay. Thank you. This
28 is Randy Alvarez. I.....

29
30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Hi, Randy.

31
32 MR. ALVAREZ:turned around, the
33 weather got bad down there so I'm back in Igiugig.
34 Anyway I just wanted to comment on that last proposal,
35 the caribou in 9C, the Kukaktlik. I -- probably what I
36 had to say anyway had already been said or you guys
37 know our feelings on that. So I just -- but I just
38 wanted to ask you since I was flying what -- can you
39 tell me briefly what the outcome of that or what you
40 plan on doing.....

41
42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
43 Randy. I was.....

44
45 MR. ALVAREZ:what the National
46 Parks are doing.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, and
49 I'm assuming that you're talking about the Kokhanok
50

0084

1 Herd. And we're in the process -- they're in the
2 process right now of gathering information to be able
3 to identify it as a resident herd versus a part of the
4 Mulchatna Herd. Once we accomplish that if indeed it
5 can be identified as such, then we can address harvest
6 opportunity on it. Am I getting nods on that too.

7

8 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay. All right. Thank
9 you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So and.....

12

13 MR. ALVAREZ: That -- that's the Park
14 Service that's doing the identifying them, right?

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That is
17 correct. And we're hoping to get an update on how that
18 progress has moved forward later on at this meeting.

19

20 Kendra, you're looking like you have
21 something to say.

22

23 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay. Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Hang on,
26 Randy.

27

28 MR. ALVAREZ: That's all I had.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We might
31 have a little more information.

32

33 MR. ALVAREZ: That's all -- I just was
34 -- I was planning on coming down there for that --
35 this, but I couldn't make it.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We're sorry
38 not to have you especially as past Chair. But I think
39 Kendra has one more thing to add to this too if you
40 want to hang on just one more second.

41

42 MS. HOLMAN: So, Madame Chair.....

43

44 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay.

45

46 MS. HOLMAN:again for the record
47 this is Kendra Holman. So with our -- the way the
48 subsistence -- you know, the regulatory process works
49 every two years, it is possible to still put in a
50

0085

1 proposal as it would not go before the Federal
2 Subsistence Board until April of 2024 for that resident
3 herd as the Federal subsistence side goes so we would
4 be working with the State as well as the National Park
5 Service or other agencies. So as long as that is on
6 Federal public lands it is possible to potentially put
7 forward a proposal for that herd at this time.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, so like
10 pending the outcome of the.....

11
12 MR. TREFON: Determination of which
13 herd it is.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. That
16 might not be a bad idea because then it would just kind
17 of dissipate if the findings couldn't be proven.

18
19 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

22
23 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thank you.
24 Yes, you know, we had -- earlier we had discussions,
25 you know, this last year and the year before and we're
26 trying to get enough information there and I was still
27 hoping to hear from, you know, the Katmai boys there
28 on, you know, where they're at with this and I'm sure
29 we will. But yeah, we were willing to formulate
30 something to get in the action, but didn't really want
31 to formulate it until we actually -- we actually heard
32 from the community members and from the Park so that we
33 could -- you know, whatever language we put in there
34 would be agreeable to everybody. So it was just -- I
35 know there's a need and right now we could probably
36 put, you know, that need out there as a working
37 proposal to get it in and then finalize it as time goes
38 on I suppose.

39
40 MR. ALVAREZ: Madame Chair, this is
41 Randy.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
44 Randy.

45
46 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay. Yeah, so we could
47 -- as speaking for the Igiugig Village Council we could
48 -- so there's nothing stopping the Village of Igiugig
49 from submitting a proposal to have a hunt for that herd
50

0086

1 then that would -- then because it's -- the Park
2 Service still has to do that assessment and by then
3 it'll be -- you know, hopefully by April of '24 they
4 should have that done so we wouldn't have to wait until
5 that was done to do a proposal otherwise it wouldn't
6 happen for two more years until after that. So that's
7 probably -- if we could -- if we could do -- if we
8 could -- if there's nothing stopping the village from
9 submitting a proposal we'll probably do that before the
10 deadline is over.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I'm getting
13 lots of nods around here, Randy, and I think that would
14 be a great idea. That would allow us as a Council to
15 review it in the fall and support it and/or support it
16 with modifications, you know, depending on what the
17 final findings might be. And I would also encourage
18 you to share it with Kokhanok and any of the
19 villages.....

20

21 MR. ALVAREZ: Yes.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:that
24 would be, you know, available or users of that herd.

25

26 MR. ALVAREZ: Yes, that's a good idea.
27 But I think we -- we probably -- since we probably
28 wouldn't contact them to make the proposal, they could
29 -- they could comment on it and ask to be included and
30 the -- you guys, the RAC, could also amend it if it was
31 going to -- if it was determined that we're separate
32 and can have a hunt on it then it can be amended to do
33 that.

34

35 So all right. Thank you.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, that
38 would be great, Randy, and I encourage you to do that
39 and I think would be a good start.

40

41

42 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

45

46 MR. WILSON: I'm just once again
47 looking for the deadline for this proposal.

48

49 MS. HOLMAN: For the record, Kendra

50

0087

1 Holman. The deadline for proposals is April 12th as
2 well as -- Randy, correct, if you have any questions my
3 information is on the OSM website and I'd be happy to
4 talk through any questions that you have regarding
5 submitting that proposal, please reach out to me.

6
7 MR. ALVAREZ: Can you -- can you give
8 me a telephone number too or email or something?

9
10 MS. HOLMAN: 907-786-3888 is our
11 general number and ask for me and I will have to call
12 you back at that point. Otherwise you can email
13 me.....

14
15 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay.

16
17 MS. HOLMAN:directly or you can
18 be in contact with our Council Coordinator here, Leigh
19 Honig, as well. She can help get you in contact with
20 me.

21
22 MR. ALVAREZ: All right. Thank you.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Pippa.

25
26 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
27 This is Pippa Kenner with OSM. I wanted to bring up
28 two quick items. First of all the proposal that the
29 Council is submitting to increase eligibility for the
30 Northern Peninsula Herd, that would be in 9E. The
31 three communities already are included and eligible in
32 9C. I didn't hear it on the record, I just want to get
33 that on there.

34
35 And the other thing is when we were
36 talking about sale of bear hides, any proposal that
37 comes from the Council would need to be submitted at
38 this meeting.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Right. But
41 that -- this is going to be an individual one.

42
43 MS. KENNER: It's going to be an
44 individual one. Thank you.

45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: By the deadline.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any
49 other proposal considerations that anybody has for
50

0088

1 wildlife.

2

3

MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,

6

Billy.

7

8

MR. TREFON: I did have one question about which communities would be eligible for this hunt of this resident herd because I would like to include some of 9B so those folks are getting the caribou again like Nondalton or Iliamna.

13

14

15

16

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22

23

24

25

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, I -- and so that'll be an individual one too with Randy. I would get ahold of Randy on it and if -- I mean, that's kind of in some ways -- that's kind of the beauty of having Randy and Dan submit these as individuals because when we review them in the fall we can -- we can -- I'm trying -- I'm looking for words here, we can support with modification meaning that if they weren't included we could say that okay, we would support this, but we also think it should be modified to include. But you could certainly talk to Randy while he's crafting this proposal and.....

26

27

Go ahead, Billy.

28

29

30

31

32

MR. TREFON: Yeah, and also, I mean, it's such a small herd it should be -- should be just exclusively for subsistence use, not sport.

33

34

35

36

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Absolutely. And I suspect that that's being taken into consideration as well.

37

38

39

Anybody else with proposal ideas or questions or comments.

40

41

MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

42

43

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

44

45

46

47

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49

50

MR. WILSON: I'm just anxious to hear from Staff on the remainder of the conversation I need to be had here on this herd. So and we'll hear about it later and then we'll -- I'm sure we'll have more discussion.

0089

1 Thanks.

2

3 MR. CHRISTENSEN: I have a question.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, John.

6

7 MR. CHRISTENSEN: John Christensen. So
8 if Naknek, South Nak and King Salmon want to harvest
9 from 9E would they be removed from 9C?

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, that's
12 not my understanding. In fact when we had that
13 conversation with Adam Grenda that was specifically
14 what Dan was saying is that we would not exclude
15 anybody currently in the loop, but instead we would
16 open the loop so that every thing would remain status
17 quo other than communities would be added to the hunt.

18

19 Does that make sense to you, nobody
20 would be stopped from.....

21

22 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Not really.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:it.

25

26 So.....

27

28 MR. CHRISTENSEN: It just -- it don't
29 make sense to me.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:
31basically what we're saying that we would support
32 earlier is that if all the communities that currently
33 hunt the herd, including your community -- your home
34 community as well as Naknek, South Nak and King Salmon
35 would be added to the list as traditional users.

36

37 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Would our -- the 9E
38 communities would they be able to hunt in 9C?

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, that's
41 going to depend probably on where the herd's located,
42 but I believe that they're -- that's crossed over
43 already, is it not, that's open on C and E. That's my
44 understanding.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, Ken
47 will check for sure, but.....

48

49 Pippa.

50

0090

1 MS. KENNER: I don't mean to slow the
2 meeting down, this is Pippa Kenner with OSM. So the 9C
3 remainder eligibility is King Salmon, Naknek, South
4 Naknek and Egegik.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Right. And
7 those would be the additional communities. Did we want
8 to put Egegik in there.

9
10 MS. KENNER: Madame Chair, this is
11 Pippa Kenner. It's already in there. So the.....

12
13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

14
15 MS. KENNER:eligible communities
16 in Unit 9C remainder.....

17
18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted).

20
21 MS. KENNER:are King Salmon,
22 Naknek, South Naknek and Egegik.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

25
26 MS. KENNER: So if you're not a
27 resident of one of the communities under.....

28
29 (Teleconference interference -
30 participants not muted).

31
32 MS. KENNER:under Federal
33 regulations you're not eligible to hunt in 9C.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
36 then that -- it would depend on how the proposal's
37 written which is what we can review this fall and
38 submit with -- we can support or add modification
39 recommendations at that time.

40
41 (Teleconference interference -
42 participants not muted).

43
44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Does that
45 make sense to you?

46
47 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Yes.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

50

0091

1 (Teleconference interference -
2 participants not muted).

3

4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

5

6 MR. WILSON: I think Randy's not on
7 mute.

8

9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participants not muted).

11

12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Randy,
13 you're not on mute. Okay. Any other questions.....

14

15 (Teleconference interference -
16 participants not muted).

17

18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:or
19 comments on proposals.

20

21 Thank you, Randy.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
24 Hearing none, I see that we have an elder from our
25 community present. And I'm wondering if that might be
26 the person you'd hoped would be recognized.

27

28 MR. ANDERSON: Yes. Thank you very
29 much.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Mr. Knutson,
32 would you like to come forward and give us comments.

33

34 MR. KNUTSON: Smiley.

35

36 MR. ANDERSON: Smiley (in Native).

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Come on up,
39 Smiley. Thank you for coming, we -- thank you for
40 coming and feel free to give us your comments, the
41 floor is yours, we'll turn the mic on for you.

42

43 MR. ANDERSON: Go ahead.

44

45 MR. KNUTSON: I am probably mistaken
46 about what the purpose of this meeting was for. I --
47 my understanding was you were increasing the size of
48 the Katmai National Park Monument?

49

50

0092

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No.

2

3 MR. KNUTSON: No, I -- well, I'm here
4 for that reason. I understand that there was boundary
5 problems but it -- that's not the case. I see that the
6 meeting is subsistence, Federal subsistence. So.....

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That is
9 correct.

10

11 MR. KNUTSON:I got -- I got my
12 wires crossed somewhere. So.....

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's okay.
15 The only -- but don't -- maybe you do and maybe you
16 don't, the only boundary discussions we've had was with
17 Pikes Ridge Trail.

18

19 MR. KNUTSON: Yes.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And that
22 could potentially change boundaries.....

23

24 MR. KNUTSON: Yes.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:in
27 order to put the trail back in use and off Park
28 property. So if you have comments on that please share
29 those with us.

30

31 MR. KNUTSON: It's not in use now?

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: It is, but
34 supposedly not.....

35

36 MR. KNUTSON: Does this speaker work?

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, it's
39 on.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Sorry,
44 Smiley. But it's not legal use right now.

45

46 MR. KNUTSON: And you're in the process
47 that sometime in the future of changing that or
48 discussing that?

49

50

0093

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, we are
2 in discussions on that.

3
4 MR. KNUTSON: And there will be notice
5 put out as to when or will you be discussing that today
6 or tomorrow?

7
8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We hope to
9 hear an update on that today, on where we're at with
10 the trail.

11
12 MR. KNUTSON: Okay. So thank you
13 though.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: But you're
16 welcome to share your thoughts on it, we'll be happy to
17 hear them.

18
19 MR. KNUTSON: Okay.

20
21 MR. ANDERSON: Wait, wait, wait.
22 Smiley. Smiley. (In Native). As you're aware in the
23 past the Parks Service closed the road and we -- when I
24 was on the Tribal Council we invited them in and we had
25 a discussion about and educated them to see the wisdom
26 of not barring residents from using the upper Pike
27 Ridge Trail from hunting and subsistence use.

28
29 MR. KNUTSON: Uh-huh.

30
31 MR. ANDERSON: As you're well aware
32 we've hunted up there time immemorial. We picked
33 berries and hunted and we tell our kids and I was
34 taught to hunt up there. And landowners have access to
35 their five acre parcels and Native allotments. And
36 according to ANILCA we will not be barred from access
37 to our traditional lands for cultural and traditional
38 use. And so I think you as a landowner up there and
39 subsistence hunter over the past it would be beneficial
40 for us to hear those things. So anything you have to
41 say on that now I think out of respect we will abide by
42 and listen to what you have to say.

43
44 Please.

45
46 MR. KNUTSON: Okay. Thank you.

47
48 MR. ANDERSON: You're welcome. It's
49 the Native way.

50

0094

1 MR. KNUTSON: What?

2

3 MR. ANDERSON: It's the Native way.

4

5 MR. KNUTSON: Okay.

6

7 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Then
10 I'm going to say it's almost 12:00 o'clock, let's go
11 ahead and take a lunch break. Is that agreeable for
12 everybody, it seems like we're at a logical stopping
13 point at this point. And I know that because we've
14 only got a few places available here I'll give you guys
15 what, an hour and a half. If people can get back
16 sooner then we'll convene earlier, but let's go until
17 1:30 and we'll reconvene then.

18

19 Okay. Thank you.

20

21 (Off record)

22

23 (On record)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I
26 hope everybody found some food for lunch and is --
27 didn't have too much to eat so you all fall asleep this
28 afternoon.

29

30 MR. DUNAWAY: If somebody's still
31 hungry I've got leftover pizza.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I'm going to
34 check really quick and see, Lary, if you're back
35 online. Lary had called and said he might be -- he
36 might not be able to get with us right away this
37 afternoon, he might be late in checking in.

38

39 So, Lary, are you online.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
44 hopefully Lary will be joining us in a little bit. I'm
45 going to call the meeting back to order at 1:30 sharp
46 and we will pick up where we left off, Item 12C, 2021
47 Council charter review.

48

49 Who is going to be -- Leigh.

50

1 MS. HONIG: Thanks, Madame Chair. And
2 for the record my name is Leigh Honig, I'm your Council
3 Coordinator. And your Council's 2021 charter can be
4 found on Page 87 in your Council meeting materials. So
5 all 10 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils were
6 chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.
7 And under the Act each Council Charter needs to be
8 renewed every two years. So approximately a year
9 before it is renewed each Council can have a discussion
10 to see if there's anything you want to change. Most of
11 the language currently in the charter is required by
12 the Federal Advisory Committee Act and its implementing
13 policies so you cannot request a change to this
14 language. But you can request to make minor
15 modifications to such things as the name of your
16 Council, the number of seats on your Council, the name
17 of the Advisory Committee, the estimated number or
18 frequency of meetings and adding the language on
19 desired geographic membership balance. Any type of
20 these request must be accompanied by a detailed
21 justification of the need to make these modifications.

22
23 Specifically speaking on the --
24 regarding the membership balance, that is a balance
25 that would allow the Council to achieve a more equal
26 representation of members across their region. But
27 even if you have this type of language added to your
28 charters in the end it will depend on the number and
29 diversity of the applications that the Board received
30 for your region.

31
32 We have made changes to the charters
33 over the last four years and some of those changes are
34 the language on carryover terms has been added which
35 allows the Council members to continue to serve on the
36 Councils if a new round of appointment have not been
37 made before the winter Council meetings. Another
38 language that was added was a clause on out of cycle
39 alternate appointments that allows us to fill a seat
40 out of cycle that was vacated due to a member moving
41 out of the region, resigning or passing away. These
42 two language additions allow us to have less vacant
43 seats on the Council during our meeting cycles.

44
45 If the Council is satisfied with all
46 the charter provisions as is and requests no changes,
47 then the Council can just simply vote to forward the
48 charter to the Board. If a Council makes a request for
49 modification and provides justification then your
50

0096

1 Council Coordinator can provide it to the InterAgency
2 Staff Committee for review that in turn will provide
3 this request to the Federal Subsistence Board that will
4 review it and decide -- and if decided will move it
5 forward to the Secretaries of the Interior and
6 Agriculture for their approval.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
11 you, Leigh. Any questions for Leigh and/or comments on
12 the charter.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And I would
17 just remind everybody too this is an action item so
18 we'll be voted either approve this charter as it's
19 presented or with changes or modifications. Is that
20 correct.

21

22 MS. HONIG: Correct, yes.

23

24 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

27

28 MR. WILSON: Then I will move to accept
29 the charter at this time.

30

31 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great. We
34 have a motion and a second. Any discussion.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MR. TREFON: Question.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
41 Question's been called. All in favor of accepting the
42 charger as presented at this time please signify by
43 saying aye.

44

45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47 (No opposing votes)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

50

0097

1 Motion passes.

2

3 Okay. Moving on to Item D, review and
4 approve the fiscal year 2022 annual report and that's
5 you, Leigh.

6

7 MR. DUNAWAY: Use your microphone.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, I'm
10 sorry. Sorry. We're moving on to 2022 annual report.

11

12 Leigh.

13

14 MS. HONIG: Thank you again. For the
15 record Leigh Honig. So your annual report can be found
16 on Page 36 of your meeting booklets. And as a reminder
17 the annual report provides the Councils an opportunity
18 to address the directors of each of the four Department
19 of Interior agencies and the Department of Agriculture,
20 Forest Service, in their capacity as members of the
21 Federal Subsistence Board. The Board is required to
22 discuss and reply to each issue in every annual report
23 and to take action when within the Board's authority.

24

25 So on Page 36 is the draft annual
26 report. And at the fall meeting there were three items
27 that you as a Council wanted to send on to the Board
28 and that was the recommendations that appointees to the
29 Board receive training of ANILCA mandates, issues on
30 bear predation and the need to fill vacant seats on the
31 Council.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That is
36 great. Thank you, Leigh. And I would also at this
37 time ask if anybody has items that they would like for
38 Leigh to place in our annual report. We can start --
39 so in the interest of you guys these will be things
40 that come up throughout the course of a meeting that we
41 have concerns about, that we want to bring before the
42 Board that are in -- maybe area specific could be
43 Statewide, however, you know, we view things going on.

44

45

46 So if anybody has anything at this time
47 too it would be a great time to bring them forward.

48

49 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

50

0098

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

2

3

4 MR. DUNAWAY: I feel like I talk too
5 much, but with the Board of Fish declaring the Nushagak
6 kings a stock of concern I think that's important. I
7 don't know how much the OSM can do about it, it's
8 mostly State land I think, but it's a big concern in
9 the area.

10 Let's see, chum abundance isn't maybe quite that close,
11 but I'm concerned about it. And then of course the
12 Mulchatna Caribou, nonrecovery is a concern to me. I'd
13 like to add those if we can.

13

14 Thanks.

15

16

17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great.
18 Thank you, Dan. Anybody else.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. This
23 is -- go ahead, Dan.

24

25 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I think maybe
26 broaden it. I heard several folks say that king
27 abundance throughout the bay is a real concern. I
28 think Naknek isn't doing real strong that I know of and
29 I don't know how the Alagnak is these days, but Egegik
30 is actually -- it's worrisome. But the official status
31 that the Board of Fish put on the Nushagak kings --
32 well, for that matter I think Togiak's very concerned
33 about their kings as well.

34

35 So thank you.

36

37 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

40

41 MR. WILSON: Yeah, Dan, it -- I guess
42 nowadays when I hear about, you know, the stock of
43 concern it just -- it doesn't just happen to one region
44 or one tributary, it's all of us. So I -- I'm glad you
45 brought that up, but it's just -- we just assume that
46 everybody's on the same boat in all these tributaries.
47 So just well noted.

48

49 Thanks.

50

0099

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

4

5 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Richard.

6 You know, come to think of it in a bunch of the
7 meetings I've been in I hear from pretty strong
8 frustration from some people that these -- Nushagak's
9 trying to count them and we don't do aerial surveys or
10 any sort of counts that I know of on any of the other
11 tributaries. There might be incidental count on Egegik
12 and possibly -- I don't know many kings get up to the
13 tower on Togiak. But I have heard that in some of the
14 public meetings that you're worried about those, but
15 you don't even bother to count our other rivers. So
16 maybe that getting noted would be nice.

17

18 MR. WILSON: I guess while we're on
19 that, you know, there is, you know, Federal tributaries
20 that the State maintain, but, you know, you have the
21 Alagnak, the Branch River and then we've got the upper
22 Big Creek, you know, and that could definitely fall
23 into those categories where, you know, for aerial, or,
24 you know, some sort of a -- some means of keeping track
25 of what's there or what's being used, we all would like
26 that, you know. And so, I mean, just maybe add that
27 into our concerns, you know, as we go along, it's --
28 you know, and try to find methods, better methods, more
29 methods on how to get this resource under control in
30 our own yards here and back yards. We know a lot of
31 it's happening out, you know, out beyond our control
32 here, but at least what we got here, if we can keep
33 track of what we got and how it's being used we got
34 more info.

35

36 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

39

40 MR. TREFON: Yeah, following up with
41 what Dan and Richard saying here. Up in my country
42 I've been hearing about more and more silvers coming up
43 the Kvichak, a lot more. They're catching more silvers
44 than ever before including more kings. Kings are rare,
45 but they're showing up and we're -- we don't know why
46 they're coming up, we think maybe their nose was dirty,
47 they didn't know which way they were going, but they're
48 there.

49

50

0100

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
2 you, Billy. Anybody else.

3
4 MR. ROBERT HILL: I can comment to the
5 silver population up the Gibraltar River has increased
6 a lot over the last 20 years. It seems like about 20
7 years ago we didn't see hardly anything up there, but
8 now there's actually a significant amount of silvers
9 going up that river.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Maybe to tag
12 onto that too, one of the things I know that in the
13 reports it shows that we are getting some -- a
14 numeration done at Big Creek. They're going to be
15 starting a weir project in conjunction with I think it
16 was Fish and Game and Fish and Wildlife, but I know
17 that resources are limited. You know, maybe the
18 Council would agree with this, but I feel like because
19 resources are so limited for all agencies I really like
20 it when they're combining and working together. And
21 they do it a lot more with the game than the fish it
22 seems to me, but I wish that would -- I guess I would
23 like us to consider that as a possible concern as well,
24 to start, you know, grouping your funds together
25 because these resources don't know the difference
26 between State and Federal lands and they're all
27 important to us and it's hard for us to make decisions
28 as Richard is always willing to point out on things
29 when we don't have good numbers to work with. And
30 agencies working together regardless of where their
31 origins are, whether it's Federal or State, could
32 benefit all of us. And the -- I would -- I just feel
33 like that's a concern that, you know, is something that
34 could be going -- ongoing for a long time too.

35

36 Anybody else.

37

38 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

41

42 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I agree on that,
43 combining the Feds and State because we got the
44 counting tower we'll call mile 22 which is funded by
45 the Park Service, but we don't hear any report on the
46 State counting towers out of Nushagak or the Kvichak.
47 So we only get information what the Park Service has
48 given us on the fish coming up the Newhalen River. So
49 more information would also help especially if they're
50

0101

1 coming into Newhalen on the Iliamna side.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

6

7 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Billy, I can give
8 you internet links to some of those reports. I don't
9 think Fish and Game gets up your way a whole lot, but
10 it's out there, they just might not deliver it directly
11 which is kind of a shame, I used to enjoy hugely going
12 to your village and other ones.

13

14 MR. TREFON: Yeah, because I work with
15 Federal and State a lot on fires and the relationship
16 is very thin. Excuse me. Yeah, I work with State and
17 Feds a lot and over the years as a wildland fire
18 fighter and my experience when you get State, Feds and
19 private in one room it's never -- you know, it's really
20 hard to come to a consensus especially if Feds got
21 their own set of rules and State got their own set of
22 rules and you find yourself bickering over ownership.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
25 Anything else. This is an action item too so we'll be
26 asking Leigh to include these other items if we chose
27 to approve this letter in addition to what she's
28 presented here.

29

30 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

33

34 MR. WILSON: I'll move to approve the
35 annual report with our additions.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great.
40 Thanks, guys. Anymore discussion.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MR. TREFON: Question.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: The
47 question's been called. All in favor of accepting the
48 report as presented with our additions added to it
49 which normally she sends to me for review, if I have
50

0102

1 questions on any of it I'll reach out to you guys, the --
2 those of you who commented on things to make sure that
3 she captured your intent, please signify by saying aye.

4

5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6

7 (No opposing votes)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
10 Motion carries. Thanks, Leigh.

11

12 MS. HONIG: Yeah.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And E,
15 Federal Subsistence Board updated draft Council
16 correspondence policy, 39 page.

17

18 MS. HONIG: And that should be Katya
19 Wessels.

20

21 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
24 Katya.

25

26 MS. WESSELS: Hello, Madame -- yeah,
27 hello, Madame Chair, members of the Council. For the
28 record my name is Katya Wessels and I'm Council
29 Coordination Division Supervisor with OSM. So today
30 I'm going to present to you the updated draft
31 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council correspondence
32 policy. I would need to ask Leigh where the -- if the
33 page -- document is in the book or is it in the
34 supplemental materials. Can you help me with that,
35 Leigh?

36

37 MS. HONIG: Most definitely. So we
38 kind of have a lot of information on this one. So the
39 -- let's see here, let me get to my page to make
40 sure.....

41

42 MR. VICKERS: The book Page 81 is the
43 original, the current that's up there.....

44

45 MS. HONIG: Okay.

46

47 MR. VICKERS:in the book. The
48 supplemental -- there's a page here that is the draft
49 of the changes made, the updates made. So you can put
50

0103

1 them together and see what's been changed.

2

3

4 MS. HONIG: Right. So I'll read that
5 into the record if you couldn't hear Brent. So on Page
6 39 of your meeting books is the changed version. And
7 then to try to make it easier on the Council, in your
8 blue, little supplemental material under Tab 2 is the
9 -- we have bolded the changes that were made. So
10 there's a few different versions out there, but yeah,
11 if you refer to maybe Tab 2 that might be the easiest
12 for this discussion

12

13

All right. Thanks, Katya.

14

15

16 MS. WESSELS: Yes, I -- thank you. I
17 agree with Leigh, you know, just open the Tab 2 of your
18 supplemental materials, that's the main document we
19 want the Council to look at. And we -- you know, you
20 already -- the Council's already operating under the
21 existing correspondence that policy that -- well, the
22 Board adopted in June of 2004. So it's been quite a
23 few years since the Board updated this policy. So they
24 thought it was the time to update the policy and OSM
25 together with the InterAgency Staff Committee developed
26 this draft that you see under Tab 2. And the main
27 changes are in bold font. And of course we are not
28 showing the language that we eliminating, but at least
29 this gives you a main idea, you know, what is being
30 changed. So we would like to hear your comments, if
31 you have any, you know, it's not really an action item,
32 we just thought if the Council has any feedback about
33 the proposed language changes we would like to bring
34 that back to the Board.

34

35

36 So in general this update of the policy
37 is meant to streamline and clarify. So the intent is
38 to eliminate any unnecessary language that's currently
39 in the policy and clarify the guidance on the official
40 scope of Council correspondence and to whom Councils
41 may or may not correspond directly and the process for
42 correspondence.

42 So I am just going to briefly touch upon the main
43 changes that are highlighted in bold font.

44

45

46 So in general the preamble, the
47 introductory paragraphs to the policy, was short --
48 were shortened, they summarize the intent of the policy
49 and the authority foundational to the Councils.
50 Because Councils are the main advisors to the Federal

50

0104

1 Subsistence Board and, you know, the Board encourages
2 Councils correspond directly with the Board. And, you
3 know, Council -- give deference to Council
4 recommendations most of the time.

5

6 So now I will move to element Number 1
7 and these elements uses clear language to define the
8 content and focus of Council correspondence.

9

10 Then moving on to paragraph Number 5,
11 that element combines elements that define the
12 correspondence process because before in the previous
13 policy they were like spread all over the place, now
14 you can see all the process at a glance under Item 5.

15

16 Then moving on to Number 7 which is
17 like completely the new paragraph, element 7 confirms
18 that Councils can submit comment on State regulatory
19 proposals directly to the Board of Fish and Board of
20 Game without review by OSM ARD which should help us
21 with any kind of delays of correspondence. Basically
22 the Council will prepare the comments with the help of
23 Coordinator and then maybe one or two people at OSM
24 review them just for grammatical purposes, not for the
25 content really and then they can be sent -- submitted
26 directly to Board of Fish and Board of Game. This
27 should expedite the process.

28

29 And then I move on to Number 9, element
30 9. Element 9 clarifies that Councils may not write
31 director to Federally elected or appointed officials
32 due to Hatch Act restrictions. Basically the Council
33 can actually write directly to the elected officials
34 like the governor or lieutenant governor or the State,
35 they can write to State or divisions directly. The
36 Councils cannot just write directly to the Secretaries
37 of Interior and Agriculture for example. If the
38 Council want their concerns elevated to the Secretarial
39 level then they will need to write to the Board which
40 in turn will elevate these concerns to the Secretarial
41 level.

42

43 So I'm going to pause you for a moment
44 and let you just take another look at this document or
45 if you prefer I can also read the new updated policy
46 into the record. Just let me know.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, that's
49 okay, Katya. Let's -- we'll take a look around the

50

0105

1 table and see if anybody has any questions or comments
2 on the new verbiage that is before us.

3

4

5 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, and, you know, we
6 would -- we would like if the Council has comments
7 please make your comments or questions or suggestions
8 and we will, you know, record them and we'll give those
9 to the Board. The Board is going to take action on
10 this draft policy during the summer work session and
11 you will be operating under the new, updated policy
12 during your fall meeting.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
15 you.

16

17 MS. WESSELS: You're welcome.

18

19 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

22

23 MR. WILSON: Yeah, this is bringing to
24 mind some of the conversations we've had in the past
25 and why it's in verbiage now. I know why it's here.
26 So I know there was a lot of discussion on some of
27 these topics. But it's good to see it's actually in
28 bold black now into the policy.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I'm glad I
31 wasn't the only one who noticed that. Anybody else.

32

33 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: I think this is helpful
38 too though at times and maybe why it needed improvement
39 is it's kind of unclear at times how to -- how this
40 process works. It's pretty tedious, but it's clear
41 now. So I'm in favor of this improved language.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MR. WILSON: Good to go. I'm fine.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep, anybody
48 else.

49

50 (No comments)

0106

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Sounds like
2 the new language is finding favor with us and nobody
3 really has comments for you to change anything, Katya.

4
5 MS. WESSELS: Great. Well, thank you
6 so very much, Madame Chair, members of the Council.
7 You know, that you for your great work and I'm sorry
8 I'm not with you there in person today, but, you know,
9 I will be listening on the phone for a little bit at
10 least.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank
15 you. Okay. And I'm going to deviate. Ann, I have no
16 idea if you came and would like to testify by any
17 means, but welcome, I'm glad you came to our meeting
18 and if you would have anything you'd like to comment on
19 I'd certainly welcome you to come up and comment.

20
21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Well, thank you,
22 but I don't at this time.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
25 Great. Well, thank you for joining us.

26
27 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Stopping by.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Good to see
30 you.

31
32 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You too.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Let's
35 move on to Item F then, our Fisheries Resource
36 Monitoring Program update. I'm assuming that might be
37 you, Pippa.

38
39 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
40 Good afternoon, members of the Council. My name is
41 Pippa Kenner and I'm an Anthropologist at the Office of
42 Subsistence Management in Anchorage. And Jarred Stone
43 is on the line and he is a Fisheries Biologist at OSM
44 to help me with this presentation I'm going to be
45 providing an update on three Fisheries Programs
46 including the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring, the
47 Fisheries Regulatory Cycle and the Fisheries Resource
48 Monitoring Program. And then I will provide an update
49 on proposal WP 22-40 which has to do with the taking of
50

0107

1 wolves and wolverines with a snowmachine. I'll put
2 that at the end. Again this is going to be brief, none
3 are action items, this is just to bring you up to date.

4

5 So first up is the update on our
6 Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program. This winter
7 the Office of Subsistence Management sought proposals
8 for the Partners for Fisheries Program to strengthen
9 Alaska Native and rural involvement in Federal
10 subsistence management. The Partners Program funds
11 salaries for a Biologist, Social Scientist or Educator
12 position in Alaska Native and rural nonprofit
13 organizations with the intent of increasing the
14 organization's ability to participate in Federal
15 subsistence management. The program also supports a
16 variety of opportunity for local rural students to
17 connect with subsistence resource monitoring and
18 management through science camps and paid internships.

19

20

21 For this funding cycle it's anticipated
22 that approximately a million dollars will be available
23 yearly. There are 15 proposals received for this
24 cycle. The Review Panel met in mid February to
25 determine which applicants will be funded. The Review
26 Panel -- more information about that will be provided
27 in the near future through a news release from OSM and
28 we'll update you at your next meeting.

29

30 Karen Hyer is the point person in our
31 office for this program. So currently just to let you
32 know there are seven funded Partners through 2023 and
33 one is BBNA who's been a long time partner.

34

35 That's the end of that presentation.
36 Are there any questions?

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MS. KENNER: Okay. We'll go.....

41

42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: You said
43 we'll find out this fall which -- what action.....

44

45 MS. KENNER: Yes.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

48

49 MS. KENNER: Yes. And it'll come out

50

0108

1 in a news release. I don't know if you guys get those
2 or not.

3

4

5 Okay. So next up is the Fisheries
6 Regulatory Cycle update. So this is an update on the
7 recently concluded Fisheries Regulatory Cycle. The
8 Federal Subsistence Board in January took action on all
9 of the fishery proposals and closure reviews and we
10 expect the new regulation should be published in the
11 Federal Register in late spring or early summer. There
12 were no proposals for this region received though. We
13 will begin our next fishery cycle during your winter,
14 2024 meeting, a couple years. At that meeting we will
15 provide the Councils with draft closure reviews if
16 there are any for your region and we'll also solicit
17 proposals to change the Federal fish and shellfish
18 regulations.

18

19 So that's the end of that update. Are
20 there any questions?

21

22

23

24

25

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50

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, but we
did have closures in there, we didn't have any new
proposals, but we did have.....

MS. KENNER: For the Bristol Bay
region?

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, for
down in Chigniks and.....

MS. KENNER: Oh, we did for Chigniks.
I'm sorry.....

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah.

MS. KENNER:I looked and I didn't
see that.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's okay.

MS. KENNER: Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, no
problem.

MS. KENNER: Okay.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Had to make

0109

1 sure that these guys knew that we still had those
2 closures in place and they were approved.

3

4 MS. KENNER: Oh. Okay. Thank you.

5 Next up is the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
6 This is an update and the funding -- for the funding
7 opportunity that closed on February 24th, just a couple
8 weeks ago. The mission of the Monitoring Program is to
9 identify and provide information needed to sustain
10 fisheries on Federal public lands. The Monitoring
11 Program also supports meaningful involvement in
12 fisheries management by Alaska Native and rural
13 organizations and promotes collaboration among Federal,
14 State, Alaska Native and local organizations. These
15 funding opportunities seek applications for projects
16 that address priority information needs that were
17 developed by your Council.

18

19 For the 2024 funding cycle it is
20 anticipated that approximately 2.25 million will be
21 available which is a normal sum and will be available
22 for first year of the new project. Applications will
23 be reviewed by the Technical Review Committee and
24 summaries of project proposals submitted for your
25 region will be presented to you at your next meeting
26 for your input.

27

28 So if there are any questions I'd be
29 happy to address them now. And that's the end of that
30 presentation.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So just for
33 the benefit of John and Rob, so we go through and
34 identify concerns in our region with our fisheries and
35 then we -- I mean, the easiest way for me to think
36 about it is then we kind of put those opportunities up
37 for bid for the OSM to approve first and then for --
38 then to go out to bid for somebody who wants -- who --
39 to gather information for us on our resources like the
40 Chignik fisheries as I'm sure both of you guys are
41 aware have been in a bad sort for a while. So we've
42 had several projects going on down there. But the
43 thing that can be frustrating for myself anyway on this
44 Council is that not all of the projects, even though we
45 identify them and sometimes multiple years get funded
46 or -- because somebody still has to step forward and
47 say oh, I'll take on that project and do the work to
48 get you your information. So it's -- but this -- we
49 come up with a list every two years, right, because

50

0110

1 it's a fishery so we do it every other year. And so
2 that's what she's talking about are these projects like
3 that.

4

5 If I missed anything please feel free
6 to add it.

7

8 MS. KENNER: That was wonderful. This
9 is Pippa Kenner with OSM. And one of the things that
10 is emphasized is partnerships with rural organizations
11 to do -- to do the research.

12

13 Okay. So now I will go to what
14 happened during our -- okay. So during -- oh, okay. A
15 little background. So during the April, 2020
16 regulatory Board meeting the Board adopted a regulation
17 for Unit 17 that was submitted by this Council to allow
18 the taking of caribou with a snowmachine. So that's
19 adopted in State and Federal regulations. I'll read it
20 to, but it's also in your regulatory book. So on the
21 State side it's on Page 5 and on the Federal side it's
22 on Page 82. And you will see this written there. In
23 Unit 17 a snowmachine may be used to assist in the
24 taking of a caribou and a caribou may be shot from a
25 stationary snow machine. Assist in the taking of a
26 caribou means the snowmachine may be used to approach
27 within 300 yards of a wolf or -- of a caribou at speeds
28 under 15 miles per hour in a manner that does not
29 involve repeated approaches or that causes the animal
30 to run. A snowmachine may not be used to contact an
31 animal or to pursue a fleeing animal.

32

33 But recently in 2023 the Board adopted
34 a deferred proposal for wolf and wolverine. And that
35 says -- this is what the Board adopted and it was a
36 proposal from this Council. In units 9B and 9C and in
37 Unit 17 a snowmachine may be used to approach and
38 pursue a wolf or wolverine provided the snowmachine the
39 snowmachine does not contact a live animal. So the
40 next time new wildlife regulations come out it will
41 have that language in it and it's almost -- it's
42 similar to what the State Board of Game adopted.

43

44 MR. WILSON: Ta da.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Finally.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50

0111

1 MS. KENNER: I want to commend -- we
2 all want to commend this Council for working on this
3 and the Working Group and all the input and the -- a
4 lot of input at the Board meeting and thank you again
5 from OSM.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. No, I
8 want to thank our neighbors from over on the other side
9 because I was glad they showed up in force for us at
10 the -- at the meeting there in town because it seemed
11 to be in question. And I don't know any -- if any of
12 us would have taken this on if we would have known what
13 a heck of a battle we were getting ourselves into, but
14 at least it's over and, you know, in my mind anyway we
15 won, we won the battle, we got it right.

16
17 Any questions for Pippa then, guys.

18
19 MR. ANDERSON: Madame Chair.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, Norm.

22
23 MR. ANDERSON: Pippa can you -- I read
24 that somewhere, but could you repeat what you just said
25 about hunting caribou from a snowmachine, how fast, how
26 many yards away?

27
28 MS. KENNER: Three hundred yards, 15
29 miles per hour.

30
31 MR. ANDERSON: Fifteen.

32
33 MS. KENNER: This Pippa Kenner with
34 OSM. Three hundred yards at 15 miles an hour.

35
36 MR. ANDERSON: Oh, 15. I though you
37 said 50, I was thinking oh.....

38
39 MS. KENNER: Thank you.

40
41 MR. ANDERSON:whoa.

42
43 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Norm. One
44 five.

45
46 MR. ANDERSON: I mean, I'm good,
47 but.....

48
49 (Laughter)

50

0112

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: You're the
2 best.

3
4 MR. ANDERSON:not that good.
5 Even 15 miles, but -- thank you, Pippa.

6
7 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

10
11 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thanks. I just
12 want to acknowledge a man from Manokotak, Kenneth
13 Nukwak, who I think was actually the spearhead on this.
14 And I -- he got pinched, I don't know the full story
15 there, but I think a lot of us go out hunting and go
16 are we are breaking the law, are we okay with the law.
17 And through a pretty torturous process the Board of
18 Game was in Dillingham, like I even heard recently
19 Karen Lanelle from the Glennallen area, Ahtna folks,
20 came out, was shown what our -- some of our country is
21 like and she had a better appreciation. But Kenneth
22 was not always calm and for a guy in a small village to
23 stand-up and slowly it grew to where we are today. So
24 he's now an alternate on our Advisory Committee and has
25 been a very reliable participant and it's been great to
26 have him.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anyone else.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I
35 would echo my agreement with Kenneth's help and
36 participation in this whole process and he stuck with
37 us through the whole thing and that was very much
38 appreciated.

39
40 Okay. Regulatory Cycle update. Is
41 that.....

42
43 MS. KENNER: I provided that.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, that was
46 part of it. Okay. Oh, you -- that was over the --
47 okay, that was the.....

48
49 Then let's move on to I, National Park
50

0113

1 Service input on proposed changes to 2020 hunting and
2 trapping regs on National Preserves in Alaska.

3

4 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: All right. Good
5 afternoon. For the record this is Susanne Fleek-Green
6 with Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. And I also
7 -- in case there's questions, I don't think there will
8 be, we've talked about this a couple of times now with
9 the RAC so I don't think I need to go through the
10 detail, but this is the change to the change to the
11 change. So going back there was a 2015 rule and there
12 was a 2020 rule and now we are going back mostly, but
13 not quite to the 2015 rule. And some of the -- well,
14 really the high point of the rule is that on Preserves
15 for sport hunting only it would make it so that you can
16 no longer use bear baiting on hunts. So does not
17 affect subsistence, only affects sport hunting on
18 Preserves in Alaska. And we are in the public comment
19 period for this rule, it ends on Friday. The Lake
20 Clark SRC did submit comments in support of this
21 current proposed rule that again will take us back to
22 2015. And I think Aniakchak did as well.

23

24 Is that right, Troy?

25

26 MR. HAMON: Ask Dillon about Aniakchak.

27

28 MR. PATTERSON: Yes.

29

30 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Okay. Dillon. Good
31 thing you were sitting at the table with me.

32

33 MR. PATTERSON: Through the Chair, this
34 is Dillon Patterson. That is correct. Aniakchak SRC
35 submitted formal comments on this proposed rule.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And they
38 were in support?

39

40 MR. PATTERSON: In support of the
41 proposed rule, yes.

42

43 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: So that is the latest
44 on this ongoing change back and forth. And I will say
45 the approach that the Park Service took this time is
46 because we understand for the public that it gets
47 confusing when you get whipsawed between different
48 administrations. And so the goal this time was really
49 to take a hard look and we did two rounds of tribal
50

0114

1 consultation, we're in the second round now. And to as
2 much as possible look for ways that we are closer to
3 and address some of the State's priority issues that
4 led to the 2020 change. So we hope that this one, if
5 it goes through, is more durable than the last two sets
6 of regulations. That's the goal.

7

8 Dillon, do you have anything you want
9 to add?

10

11 MR. PATTERSON: I do not.

12

13 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Okay.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Perfect.
16 Can I open it up for questions, are you guys open for
17 that?

18

19 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Sure.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
22 Question, any Council members.

23

24 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

27

28 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair. Thank
29 you for that update. When I got to those pages in our
30 booklet here I go well, where's the magnifying glass.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: The Federal Register
35 is small font.

36

37 MR. WILSON: Have you got a lack of
38 paper over there or what.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MR. WILSON: But very good. It was --
43 I think there was like three points there that I could
44 see that the proposed rule was looking to change. And
45 it kind of reflected I think the comments that we had
46 earlier. And understandable. I think the last thing
47 that she didn't mention about was the trapping part.
48 There was a -- kind of a -- I don't know if it was a
49 clarification error or something on trapping, the
50

0115

1 definition of trapping, but they included traps on that
2 one.

3

4

MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Uh-huh.

5

6

MR. WILSON: So it was something that
7 had been overlooked. But I didn't see anything in
8 there that raised my eyebrows in a wrong way. So very
9 thankful.

10

11

Thank you.

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MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

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MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

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MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

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MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

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MR. TREFON: Yeah, I appreciate what
you're saying about not creating a program to attract
more hunters, sport hunters that come to the Lake Clark
area. We already got enough as it is just on moose

0116

1 season alone. Bear season, we have Super Cubs that fly
2 in like a flock of birds.

3

4 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

7

8 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, over on the
9 Nushagak some of us would welcome a few more bears get
10 whacked. Some of the guides are already getting ready
11 over there I hear so they go out on snowmachines and
12 they've been getting some big bears. But I didn't
13 bother reading that fine print, I couldn't do it, but
14 Richard mentioned trapping. I would like an update on
15 where are we with the Federal agencies and the use of
16 body grip traps?

17

18 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: I am -- I do not
19 know. That is not an issue that comes up within Lake
20 Clark to be honest. Dillon doesn't either. So.....

21

22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I believe
23 that was Fish and Wildlife that had come up on. And
24 that was a Federal bill that was passing through
25 on.....

26

27 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Right.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:Fish
30 and Wildlife lands, not the Park Service.

31

32 MS.FLEEK-GREEN: Yeah, I think that's
33 still being debated -- not debated, possibly ignored
34 within Congress. That's what I know at this point.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And I will
37 add that I had -- I actually brought it up in a meeting
38 with Murkowski at -- last fall and she said that it
39 appeared that Alaska was going to be excluded from it
40 if it did go through. But again that was last fall so
41 I don't know where it's at now.

42

43 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. And to remove any
44 doubt I think that's the biggest foolishness ever to
45 ban body grips, I mean, in trapping. And I feel like
46 anti-trapping is anti-Bush Alaska and dang near
47 genocidal from -- people used to trap out of these
48 places and make money in the winter and that was the
49 reason they're there. Now they sit there twiddling
50

0117

1 their thumbs because of that anti-fur bunch. So anyway
2 I hope and now frankly I don't think it should just be
3 Alaska, I think a whole lot of other places should be
4 allowed to use body grips and frankly I think the
5 Secretary is wrong on that.

6

7

Thank you.

8

9

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

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11

MR. WILSON: No, I'm good.

12

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MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

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MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

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MR. TREFON: You're reflecting more on
the Lake Clark National Park. Susanne, you got --
you're getting your hands full because our lake up
there is starting to take a very serious reflection of
Lake Tahoe. We have three communities growing up in
that town and on that lake, they're huge. You got
Preston across from Port Alsworth and Keyes Point.

25

26

MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Uh-huh.

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MR. TREFON: And they are not getting
smaller, they are actually all growing. So that means
for us locals that live there and live off the land
it's going to get hard and harder to subsist because
our competition is going to increase and we're going to
compete again with airplanes and up to date
snowmachines and boats.

35

36

MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Uh-huh.

37

38

39

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41

42

MR. TREFON: So I'm -- it's just a
concern for me of Lake Clark turning into a Lake Tahoe.
I mean, now you don't even know who's on the lake
anymore. It really is -- it really has taken that
turn.

43

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MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Yep. I understand
and I appreciate that comment. I don't compare it to
Lake Tahoe, I sometimes worry that it's going to turn
into Big Lake and I worry about the amount of traffic
on the lake. You know, our jurisdiction right now on
the Lake itself is.....

0118

1 MR. TREFON: State.

2

3 MS. FLEEK-GREEN:State. I would

4 like to see more presence from the State to see whether
5 or not -- at least so that they are familiar with the
6 area. One thing we are looking to do is reach out to
7 the Coast Guard since they are one of the inland
8 waterway managers at least for boat safety and under
9 the Clean Water Act. But I do appreciate you comment,
10 I mean, just in my six years now with Lake Clark I've
11 seen the change in Port Alsworth. And that's something
12 that we think about in terms of how we approach
13 subsistence regulations. In particular an issue came
14 up recently about just the opening/closing time and how
15 we can potentially extend that to be a longer period so
16 that there is more opportunity. We think a lot about
17 access when the lake isn't freezing and where locals
18 have to go. So just in terms of subsistence use and
19 access that's very much on my mind. And then of course
20 as you mentioned earlier we hear a lot about
21 overflights which we don't have jurisdiction over, we
22 have to rely on just the cooperative spirit of either
23 other residents or, you know, air taxi guides. And it
24 works for folks that you've known for a long time, but
25 if it's people coming into the area that are new it
26 takes a lot more education.

27

28 So I really do appreciate that comment
29 and I have a shared concern.

30

31 MR. TREFON: Okay. It is really
32 getting.....

33

34 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair.

35

36 MR. TREFON:and like I say it
37 does reflect to me -- I've been to Tahoe several times
38 and that's that I'm seeing. And especially with some
39 folks moving in up there, they're buying up anything
40 and everything that's not nailed down. They're also
41 buying Gillum's Place. That's a very big growing, fast
42 growing church.

43

44 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Well, and one thing
45 to remember about Keyes Point is that that is not a
46 resident zone community and so subsistence use unless
47 you are a qualified Federal subsistence user for other
48 reasons you do not get that. Keyes Point is not one of
49 the resident zone communities. So that's something we
50

50

0119

1 have had a couple of requests for members from that
2 community and we have not approved those requests.

3

4 MR. TREFON: Okay. Thank you because
5 that's good information for me because I've seen nets
6 set in Keyes Point and I always thought they were
7 approved for subsistence so we never made it an issue.
8 But when you say that they're not.....

9

10 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Yeah

11

12 MR. TREFON:subsistence qualified
13 on Keyes Point then they're illegally fishing.

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: No.

16

17 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Well, Madame Chair, I
18 guess.....

19

20 MR. TREFON: I understood why.

21

22 MS. FLEEK-GREEN:we could go down
23 a long conversation about this point and then how again
24 the jurisdiction of Lake Clark proper is changing and
25 how the State implements any regulations there is still
26 a question. So you and I can certainly have a long
27 side conversation about that and concerns that I have.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, but it's
30 interesting to learn what's going on in the area so we
31 appreciate.....

32

33 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Yeah.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:hearing
36 you guys vent.

37

38 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Right.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And, I mean,
41 because enforcement has been an issue all across this
42 region for.....

43

44 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Right.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:for the
47 last several years. Don't feel alone, Billy.

48

49 Dan, did you have a comment.

50

0120

1 MR. DUNAWAY: No.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
4 Katya, you were on the phone, did you have a comment.

5

6 MS. WESSELS: Yes. Council members
7 were asking about this other Refuge from Cruel Trapping
8 Act so I quickly looked online at the Congress.gov
9 website. The only actions that were taken so it was
10 introduced in the House in '21, then it was referred to
11 the House Committee on Natural Resources, then it was
12 referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and
13 Wildlife. They have one hearing in January of 2024 and
14 that's it, all the actions that have been taken.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So thank you
17 for that.

18

19 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: So we still
22 better keep an eye on it.

23

24 Okay. Any other questions or comments
25 for Susanne or Dillon.

26

27 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, Billy.

30

31 MR. TREFON: One more for Susanne. You
32 said Keyes Point is not subsistence, what about
33 Preston?

34

35 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: What about.....

36

37 MR. TREFON: What about Preston's
38 development across from Port Alsworth, that place is
39 actually bigger than Keyes Point looking at it?

40

41 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: No, it -- that also
42 is not. So the resident zone communities are Port
43 Alsworth, Pedro Bay, Nondalton, Iliamna, Newhalen. So
44 no, unless you have an individual C&T permit, right,
45 where you have to show your connection to the land over
46 generations
47 you are -- if you're not in a resident zone community
48 you do not get that automatic Federally-qualified
49 subsistence status. But I would say though and again

50

0121

1 this could take us down a whole other path. The -- as
2 we move through the affects of the Sturgeon decision by
3 the Supreme Court and navigable waters these questions
4 are going to come up, what it means to be a Federally-
5 qualified subsistence user versus what it means to be
6 an Alaska resident subsistence user. So in Lake Clark
7 again right now that is deemed a navigable water so
8 technically it is under State jurisdiction which means
9 their regs apply. So as long as you stay below that
10 mean high water kind of bathroom ring around the lake.

11

12 MR. TREFON: Okay. So as long as they
13 keep their fish and their net from the high water mark
14 down to the water they're okay with the State?

15

16 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: That might be a whole
17 discussion that at some point the RAC might take up
18 because it's confusing and as we go through water by
19 water what's navigable and not navigable, it's going to
20 affect subsistence use because it could mean more
21 competition.

22

23 MR. TREFON: It already is.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, we saw
26 the affects of it out here too. I mean, I liken it to
27 the hunting, you know, regions, whether you're in 9C or
28 17, you know, there's an invisible boundary there.

29

30 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Uh-huh.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And it's the
33 same thing that happens.....

34

35 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Right.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:in the
38 waterways with State versus Federal.

39

40 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Right

41

42 MR. PATTERSON: Right.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay Any
45 other comments or questions.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

50

0122

1 Great. And then do you want to go ahead and do the SRC
2 appointment?

3

4 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Oh, sure. I would
5 love to do that.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's next
8 up anyway.

9

10 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: We -- how would you
11 like to handle that, I don't know procedurally.....

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well,
14 procedurally.....

15

16 MS. FLEEK-GREEN:don't know which
17 words I am supposed to say.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:you
20 bring us the name.....

21

22 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Okay.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:and
25 then we take that name and put it on the table for an
26 appointment to approve and.....

27

28 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Right.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:you can
31 take the good news home.

32

33 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: So Mr. William Trefon
34 has kindly agreed to serve on the Lake Clark National
35 Park SRC. And we would ask that this body approve that
36 appointment.

37

38 MR. WILSON: Should I.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MR. TREFON: I don't really want it,
43 but I'll take it.

44

45 MR. WILSON: Marty's sitting on the
46 Iliamna Lake.

47

48 MR. ANDERSON: Then I would ask that
49 William Trefon here be seated on the Lake Clark SRC.

50

0123

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Awesome. We
4 have a first and second for an appointment to the Lake
5 Clark SRC, William Trefon. Any discussion.

6

7 Dan.

8

9 MR. DUNAWAY: I can't remember when I
10 first -- well, I kind of remember the first meeting --
11 oh. Dan here, sorry. I can't remember exactly when I
12 first met him, but it was up at Nondalton. And he's
13 been eager and involved in the fish and wildlife
14 resource use for a long, long time. He talks to the
15 public, he's out and about so I think he'd make a good
16 one. And besides he deserves as much homework as I
17 get. So.....

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. DUNAWAY: I think that's cool,
22 Billy, because I know they struggled to have adequate
23 members. So hope you'll be able to do it.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MR. TREFON: I've been on it before.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any other
30 comments, discussion.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I'll
35 call for the question. All in favor of appointing
36 William Trefon to the SRC Lake Clark please signify by
37 saying aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 (No opposing votes)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Couldn't
44 have said it better myself. Okay. That appointment
45 passes and congratulations and thank you also, Billy.

46

47 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Thank you.

48

49 MR. TREFON: Thank you, Susanne.

50

0124

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Let's
2 take a 10 minutes break and we'll start on our agency
3 reports. Does that sound good.

4
5 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

8
9 (Off record)

10
11 (On record)

12
13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
14 you, everybody, we'll go back on the record here and
15 start on our agency reports. And I don't believe we
16 have any tribal government reports. If I'm wrong
17 somebody can correct me right now, but I believe that
18 one is vacant.

19
20 Native organizations, BBNA, did you
21 have anything for us if you're still online.

22
23 MR. LARSON: Good afternoon, Madame
24 Chair and Board members and everyone else in the room.
25 I -- sorry for the interruption this morning as I was
26 working out my travel logistics.

27
28 It's been a busy season here, it's --
29 as probably a lot of folks know the three year cycle on
30 the State side, Board of Fisheries, is happening -- has
31 been happening this winter. And with my Partners
32 Program I worked with about 30 to 40 Bristol Bay
33 constituents at the Bristol Bay Finfish Meeting
34 developing testimony and gathering information and
35 going and learning the State's process of that
36 regulatory process.

37
38 The Chignik Alaska Peninsula meeting
39 occurred a week or two ago and actually got extended by
40 a couple of days due to just an unprecedented amount of
41 testimony with regard to a proposal developed by the
42 Fairbanks Advisory Committee. And that was a very
43 interesting meeting, it went on a couple more days than
44 we thought, but we had between the Lake and Penn
45 Borough, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, BBNA, Chignik
46 InterTribal Coalition, we were able to travel in 38
47 participants from the Chignik region and provided some
48 great testimony. And I think was able to get some
49 actions taken by the Board of Fisheries that I think
50

0125

1 most folks in the region were in favor of infisheries --
2 like the Fisheries Management Plan, but also planning
3 a little more opportunity for subsistence needs with
4 allowing some pre-season, if you will, sockeye triggers
5 to occur to allow some additional fish to get up the
6 river for folks at Chignik Lake prior to commercial
7 fishing commencing.

8
9 So those were a couple of updates. Of
10 course this Friday we're going to be participating in
11 the Statewide meeting largely focused on the Nushagak
12 king stock of concern action plan and potentially
13 tweaks to the de facto management plan, so the old
14 management plan as well. There's a few proposals
15 looking at both of those.

16
17 And I guess I'll stop there before I go
18 into my summer internships and ask if anyone has any
19 questions about those.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you,
22 Cody. Any questions, guys.

23
24 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

27
28 MR. TREFON: I got a question, but it's
29 got nothing to do with the Bristol Bay. My question
30 for you, Cody, was if you were at the Board of Fish
31 meeting in Fairbanks, I would like a follow-up on why
32 all the subsistence users walked out on that meeting?

33
34 MR. LARSON: Certainly. Yeah, so the
35 meeting was in Anchorage, but there was a proposal
36 drafted by the Fairbanks Advisory Committee with most
37 concerns regarding chum salmon. And the proposal they
38 had put forward was to modify the Shumagin and Unimak
39 sections of the area M commercial fishery during the
40 month of June to sort of go back in time to a previous
41 management plan that was in place in 2004. As these
42 meetings go there was a lot of discussion and -- and
43 amendments and additional language taken in and -- or
44 taken out and put back in. And one of the requests by
45 that group of stakeholders was that the Board of
46 Fisheries take an action or take a discussion on the
47 proposal as it was written by the Advisory Committee
48 and not any amendments. And so just because that --
49 the proposal was publicly vetted as written for quite
50

0126

1 some time and the Board of Fisheries didn't take action
2 to support that proposal 140. And a lot of folks were
3 very dismayed with that and a large majority of that
4 testimony was in favor of that proposal. So I feel
5 those users didn't feel that the Board of Fisheries
6 took the action that they'd requested and weren't --
7 they weren't very happy and so they sort of voiced
8 their concern with silently leaving the room.

9

10 That was my observation, Billy.

11

12 MR. TREFON: Thank you, Cody.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any other
15 questions, comments.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Cody,
20 go ahead. Thank you.

21

22 MR. LARSON: Yep. I'm going to go to
23 the FRMP process that Pippa had discussed there. This
24 cycle I didn't apply to the FRMP proposals, either as
25 an investigator or coinvestigator. It's I think the
26 first cycle that BBNA haven't applied in quite some
27 time, but it was due in part to anticipating a
28 partnership with the Division of Subsistence on some
29 harvest surveys in five communities over the next two
30 years in addition to completing one FRMP project that's
31 already in motion for the community of Manokotak. And
32 so we're like how much can we put on our plates and I
33 chose not to -- not to apply for an additional one on
34 the FRMP funds this year. And I'm sure the Division of
35 Subsistence will update you on some of the other
36 projects that we're working on.

37

38 And then I guess finally the
39 Partnerships for our summer college internship. We've
40 got a good lineup this summer, I've got a partnership
41 with the Department of Fish and Game Sport Fish
42 Division on a Nushagak king salmon monitoring project
43 for interviews and krill surveys with that Sport Fish
44 Division crew. It should be a fun project.

45

46 Partnering again with the University of
47 Washington FRI Aleknagik Research Station up on Lake
48 Aleknagik.

49

50

0127

1 Got a partnership with the Bristol Bay
2 Salmon Research Institute or BBSRI on Nuyakuk River so
3 it's a tributary to the Nushagak and they're doing some
4 king tagging and tracking and sockeye counting tower.
5 I think they'll be tagging some resident species as
6 well. So that's a first year project and that should
7 be pretty fun.

8
9 Again partnering with the CommFish
10 Division on an intern position at the Chignik River
11 Weir Project and late in the season a position at the
12 FRI Station on Chignik Lake during the month of August
13 basically until school starts.

14
15 So I'm, you know, recruiting for those
16 intern positions and I think it's going to be a good
17 summer. And I'm looking forward to any word of mouth
18 or getting -- you know, getting that as well and I'll
19 have flyers and be presenting at the ANSEP program at
20 the University of Alaska here in the coming weeks.

21
22 And that's about the update I've got on
23 the Partners Program here at BBNA and I'm not sure if
24 my colleagues were able to call in or have anything
25 else to add. And I can take any questions, Madame
26 Chair.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
31 you, Cody. Any questions for Cody on any of the
32 projects he's working on.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. We're
37 looking good. Anybody else from BBNA have a
38 presentation.

39
40 MS. HOSETH: Madame Chair, this is
41 Gayla Hoseth. I'm just online, I don't have anything
42 else to add, but I'm available on the call if anything
43 comes up.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, great.
46 Thank you, Gayla. Always good to have you.

47
48 MS. HOSETH: Thank you.

49
50

0128

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Looks
2 good then. With that we'll move on to our North
3 Pacific Fishery Management Council and I believe we
4 have Dr. Diana Stram on the phone.

5
6 Diana, I'll give you the floor.

7
8 DR. STRAM: Thank you. Can you hear me
9 okay?

10
11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, we can.

12
13 DR. STRAM: Okay. Great. Thank you
14 for having us. With me is Dr. Kate Haapala, she's our
15 Rural Community and Tribal Liaison. And we're both
16 online and available for questions as well. I have a
17 short presentation that I provided to Leigh that I
18 believe she has projected and so I will walk through
19 that and I'm happy to answer questions at any time.
20 Again my name's Diana Stram and I work for the North
21 Pacific Fishery Management Council.

22
23 So on Slide 2 just a quick overview of
24 who we are and what our jurisdiction is. The Magnuson-
25 Stevens Act that was adopted in 1976 is the guiding law
26 for U.S. marine fisheries. In addition to establishing
27 the 200 mile limit so we manage the three to 200 mile
28 nautical mile limit. We also -- it also established 10
29 national standards and requirements for conservation
30 and management of resources as well as eight Regional
31 Fishery Management Councils. And so to the right on
32 your graph shows you the regions of the different eight
33 regions and again we are the North Pacific so we manage
34 the waters of Alaska, the Bering Sea. And I have a map
35 and a couple of slides to show you our jurisdiction.

36
37 Next Slide 3, who is the Council.
38 Again the Council is established by the Magnuson-
39 Stevens Act and together the Council and the National
40 Marine Fisheries Service managed the Federal waters of
41 the fisheries off Alaska. The Council's authorized to
42 prepare and submit recommendations and those -- the
43 comanagement measures and those go to the Secretary of
44 Commerce. The Secretary of Commerce then through NMFS
45 approves, implements and enforces them. And our
46 management is coordinated with them, we have cases
47 jointly with the State of Alaska specifically as it
48 relates to crab species in the Bering Sea and scallop
49 species across the entire Gulf of Alaska and the Bering
50

1 Sea.

2

3

4 Slide 4 then, our Council meetings. We
5 have five Council meetings annually and the location of
6 those meetings is also under Magnuson in terms of what
7 -- how many are in Alaska and how many are outside
8 because we give representation from the States of
9 Washington and Oregon. Our meetings are five annually,
10 three of them are in Anchorage, one is in a local
11 fishing community in the State of Alaska and then every
12 other year we switch between having a meeting in
13 Seattle or in Portland, Oregon. We might be changing
14 where in those States, but they have to be in
15 Washington or Oregon once every year on a three year
16 cycle. All of our meetings are open to the public. We
17 have advisory bodies that provide standing advice to
18 the Councils, specifically our Science and Statistical
19 Committee, our SSC Vettors and our Advisory Panel which
20 is the AP. So they are meeting concurrently with the
21 council at every meeting. We also have sometimes
22 standing, sometimes issue based committees which I'll
23 get into later with respect to our Salmon Bycatch
24 Committee. We do provide public testimony at every
25 meeting in both the Council forum as well as at the
26 Advisory Panel and the SSC. And our meeting agenda and
27 schedules are posted on our website and we also since
28 covid have been providing for either an audio access,
29 we always have one-way audio access, but now we've
30 provided hybrid access in terms of public testimony at
31 our meetings as well.

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49

50

Slide 5 then. This just shows you the
regions that are managed by the Council. Again we
manage the Gulf of Alaska, the Aleutian Islands region,
the Bering Sea and the Arctic.

Slide 6. Moving now into what we're
specifically talking about today in terms of bycatch.
Bycatch has a legal definition under the Magnuson-
Stevens Act meaning the fish that are harvested in a
fishery that are not sold or kept for personal use.
That includes economic and regulatory discards. So
basically bycatch are discarded fish. Economic
discards are fish that can be legally retained, but are
of insufficient value. Regulatory discards are fish
that are harvested, but required by regulation to be
discarded. And then prohibited species catch which is
what we're talking about today which we call PSC. This
is a special type of regulatory discard so it's

0130

1 something that must be returned to sea with a minimum
2 of injury, cannot be kept or sold. And that includes
3 halibut, herring and all the salmon species, king crab,
4 bairdi, and opilio crab.

5
6 Slide 7, why do we focus on chinook and
7 chum bycatch. So the Bering Sea Pollock Fishery which
8 is the fishery that we're talking about today
9 encounters both chinook and chum salmon as bycatch.
10 The Bering Sea Pollock Fishery takes the majority of
11 the chinook and chum as bycatch, about 95 percent over
12 all the other groundfish fisheries in the Bering Sea.
13 And then specifically what this table is showing you
14 below, the way that we manage bycatch, we manage it in
15 two different categories, chinook bycatch and then non-
16 chinook, but when we talk about non-chinook we're
17 really talking about chum bycatch and this graph just
18 shows you -- the table shows you from 2016 through 2022
19 all the salmon that are counted in the bycatch in terms
20 of all the other species. So we really only catch --
21 the pollock fishery only catches chum. So over 99
22 percent in any year of the species that are caught in
23 the non-chinook category are chum. So we -- the
24 pollock fishery does not encounter pinks, coho or
25 sockeye in any really amount at all. So in general we
26 tend to just refer to it as chum because that's really
27 what we're talking about.

28
29 Slide 8. This just shows you the trend
30 then from '91 to 2022 of the chinook and chum salmon
31 bycatch that's caught in the pollock fishery. Chinook
32 is in red and chum is in blue. And I'll go through
33 this a little bit as -- by way of explaining our
34 historical measures on how bycatch has been managed.

35
36 Slide 9. Slide 9 then just shows you
37 that what happens in the pollock fishery is they don't
38 encounter chums. The top panel shows you chum over all
39 the statistical weeks of the year. So starting in
40 January and going through to the end of October, that's
41 what the X axis on the statistical week tells you. And
42 the division between those two arrows is the division
43 between the A season which is the winter season which
44 begins January 20th and wraps up around the middle of
45 April even though it technically goes until June. And
46 then the B season which begins June 10 and goes until
47 the end of October. So chum salmon on the top is only
48 encountered by the fleet in the B season. So when you
49 look at -- when we look at measures for chum salmon
50

0131

1 bycatch in the pollock fishery we're only looking at
2 summer measures because the fleet does not encounter
3 chum during winter. Chinook however is different and
4 what you see on the bottom graph then, this is over a
5 10 year time frame and what those bars are showing you
6 is just the variability. But this is meant to just
7 show you the general trend. So a lot of the bycatch
8 occurs in the A season which is that first bump that
9 you see in blue and then peters off around the end of
10 March, early April and then the fleet tends to
11 encounter chinook bycatch as the B season pushes into
12 August, September and October. September and October
13 have always been months in which the fleet has
14 encountered higher chinook bycatch rates and so a lot
15 of the bycatch management measures have been tailored
16 recently to address constraining the fleet more in
17 September and October with respect to chinook bycatch.

18

19 Slide 10. I'll just talk you through a
20 little bit of how we've managed salmon bycatch over the
21 years since the early '90s. This slide just shows you
22 that within the early '90s and into the beginning of
23 2000 the salmon bycatch is measured by time and area
24 closures in the Bering Sea. So these were very, very
25 large scale closures in the middle of the Bering Sea
26 targeted at historical bycatch rates of where the fleet
27 used to encounter chinook and chum. And so when those
28 areas were triggered the fleet was pushed out of those
29 areas.

30

31 Slide 11. Then what happened is
32 throughout the early 2000s we had evidence indicating
33 that those salmon savings areas seem to be exacerbating
34 the bycatch so the fleet that could fish inside of
35 those areas was fishing cleaner than the fleet that was
36 fishing outside of them. So the Council took measures
37 to try to mitigate that situation and originally took
38 an action, amendment 94, as an interim measure to
39 exempt the fleet from those closures as long as they
40 had a rolling hotspot program in place which they still
41 have in place today that allows them to provide three
42 to seven day short term closures when they run into
43 hotspots of bycatch. During that time the Council was
44 developing additional chum bycatch mitigation measures
45 given the year 2005 where the fleet encountered over
46 700,000 chum as bycatch.

47

48 Next Slide.

49

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0132

1 While the Council was developing chum
2 bycatch management measures the -- we ran into 2007.
3 And so the fleet had run into over 120,000 chinook and
4 so then the entire policy focus shifted to looking at
5 better management measures for chinook. Over that time
6 frame then for many years we had multiple bycatch
7 workshops, the Council instituted a Bycatch Committee
8 and the Council began developing cap levels for the
9 pollock fishery. So hard caps which means that when
10 the fleet runs into those numbers, the PSC limit, it
11 closes the fleet down.

12

13 Next Slide.

14

15 That was what led to the development of
16 what we call amendment 91 and I'll walk through what
17 the provisions of that are. And the Council began
18 developing extensive outreach to western Alaska
19 communities. Specifically we started participating in
20 the RAC meetings so that we would bring out Council
21 members as well as Staff to provide presentations to
22 help -- to help have a two way conversation about how
23 the Council was addressing bycatch in the pollock
24 fishery. The Council took final action on amendment 91
25 in 2009.

26

27 Next Slide.

28

29 That program was implemented in 2011
30 and in conjunction with implementing a system of hard
31 caps that I'll lecture in a minute. Part of the
32 requirements in order to do that then, we also -- the
33 agency also instituted what's called systematic genetic
34 sampling. So before we had opportunistic sampling of
35 salmon species that were caught in bycatch to determine
36 their stock of origin with the implementation in 2011
37 of amendment 91 the agency instituted systematic
38 genetic sampling so that every 10th chinook that is
39 brought onboard and every 30th chum that is brought
40 onboard are sampled for genetics to determine their
41 stock of origin. They also put into place a
42 requirement for a census for salmon accounting so every
43 single salmon that's brought onboard is accounted for,
44 is counted. We have observers on all the fleet, 100
45 percent, but also cameras in place to ensure compliance
46 and observers shoreside.....

47

48 (Teleconference interference -
49 participants not muted).

50

0133

1 DR. STRAM:for salmon. After the
2 implementation of amendment 91 then the Council.....

3
4 (Teleconference interference -
5 participants not muted).

6
7 DR. STRAM:developing chum
8 measures. We looked at different cap levels and area
9 closures for chum bycatch, but in 2012 after the first
10 year of implementation of amendment 91 the Council
11 tabled that action due to concerns with any chum action
12 overlaid on amendment 91 might undermine their recent
13 actions to prioritizing to conserve chinook.

14
15 Next slide, please.

16
17 We then in response to different
18 measures after the implementation of amendment 91 the
19 Council developed amendment 110 in response to both low
20 returns to chinook, continued low western Alaska
21 returns to chinook and the observed need for stronger
22 vessel level incentives. The intent of amendment 91
23 was that every vessel was trying to avoid salmon in all
24 the boats of encounter. We found that across the fleet
25 there was a disproportionate response in vessel
26 incentives and so we developed amendment 110 which
27 provided for additional stronger vessel level
28 incentives and also moved the chum measures into the
29 incentive program agreement so that they were avoiding
30 chum as part of their incentive program agreements.

31
32 Next Slide.

33
34 So just as an overall the way salmon is
35 managed right now as bycatch in the pollock fishery is
36 the combination of amendments 91 and 110. So under
37 those amendments then to the program the Bycatch Fish
38 and the Bycatch Management Program is a series of cap
39 levels that are divided by sector and by season for
40 chinook to the fleet. And then also in conjunction
41 with amendment 110 a system is in placed called a three
42 river system index where if the three river system
43 index which is the combined postseason run strength for
44 the Kuskokwim, Unalakleet and the upper Yukon. So
45 those the ADF&G provides the Council on an annual basis
46 in the fall the sum of those three rivers as their run
47 reconstruction postseason. If that -- if the sum of
48 those three rivers is less than 250,000 then the
49 pollock fishery kicks into a lower cap level for the
50

0134

1 subsequent year. And I'll show in a minute the pollock
2 fishery has been under that lower cap for the last
3 several years and remains under it in 2023. There are
4 also incentive plan agreements that are requirements in
5 regulation for the pollock fishery. And so they have
6 plans by sector that they -- they're required in
7 regulation with their pollock fishery cooperatives
8 promoting various levels of incentives for captains to
9 avoid chinook and chum under conditions of pollock.....

10

11 (Teleconference interference -
12 participants not muted).

13

14 DR. STRAM:as well as rewards and
15 penalties for avoiding chinook and.....

16

17 (Teleconference interference -
18 participants not muted).

19

20 DR. STRAM:for their failure to
21 avoid. They also have hotspot closures so short term
22 closures that that graph to the lower right shows you,
23 salmon escape panels and then the air fleet is donating
24 as possible the bycatch to an organization called
25 SeaShare which provides food bank opportunities for
26 redistributing that fish back within the State of
27 Alaska.

28

29 Next Slide, please.

30

31 Salmon excluders then. This is
32 something that is mandated for use, something the
33 pollock industry itself has developed. It's now
34 mandated for use by all vessels at all times. And the
35 way that this works if you see the two diagrams down to
36 the left it's a hole in the net basically, a flap.
37 It's got various designs and that's what the right-hand
38 graph is meant to show you the various designs of that
39 flap. But the main point of that is that with that
40 flap in the net and that portion of the net it provides
41 a slower area, a lee in the current and so chinook
42 because they're better swimmers than pollock, the
43 pollock drop back in the net and the chinook are able
44 to find the lee in the current and they're able to move
45 out of the net. So they've been testing these for
46 various years, they are now in various designs and used
47 by all vessels in the fleet. And the most recent test
48 that they were doing indicate that from a range of a
49 low of about 9 percent, but a high of about 39 percent

50

0135

1 of the chinook can escape with a minimum of pollock
2 loss. And those tests are variable by vessel and by
3 horsepower. And I proved the email address for Mr.
4 John Gruver if you want more information on those
5 different designs.

6

7

Next Slide, please.

8

9

10 This slide then shows you the seasonal
11 and area catch patterns for the pollock fishery, that's
12 what the graph to the left shows you. That's the catch
13 in the pollock fishery over time. And it shows you the
14 proportion, it's divided again by the A season and the
15 B season and it shows you what the A season and the B
16 season catch as well as east and west of 170 west. But
17 the graphs then to the right then show you where the
18 catch occurs in the A season. So this just shows you
19 for a three year snap, 2019 to 2021, where that catch
20 occurs. And so of course in the A season with the ice
21 constraint the whole fishery is constrained south of
22 the Pribilofs. There are rules on which vessels, which
23 sectors can fish where. And so a lot of the catch can
24 be concentrated just north of Umiak Island as well as
25 in the area of the mushroom around the Pribilofs.

25

26

Next.

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Next Slide, please.

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Next Slide.

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0136

1 So this first slide then talks about
2 chinook, again gives you the trend in bycatch that's
3 what the blue line is, number of chinook salmon in the
4 bycatch from 2003 through 2022. And the green and the
5 red lines then show you what the PSC limit are in those
6 years and the reason why that varies is because in
7 those lower years that's when the cap has been under
8 the lower cap because of the continued low returns to
9 western Alaska. The pie graph then shows you 2020 is
10 the most recent stock composition estimate. We get
11 them every year, they've been light by year for
12 chinook, but we will be receiving the 2021 update next
13 month at our Council meeting. But the chinook tends to
14 be fairly consistent along the coast of west Alaska.
15 That's the best resolution that we have in genetics so
16 it's a very large aggregate group. The only way to
17 breakout the groups in Alaska by stock composition in
18 the genetics it breaks out into the upper Yukon, they
19 can resolve that separately, but then the entire
20 remainder of western Alaska, the Yukon, the Kuskokwim,
21 the Nushagak, all the rivers in western Alaska are
22 aggregated into that coastal west Alaska grouping. But
23 what we do know about the stock composition of the
24 bycatch for chinook is that it is fairly consistently
25 the majority of it is of western Alaska origin between
26 the coastal west Alaska where we show the 54 percent
27 for and the.....

28
29 (Teleconference interference -
30 participants not muted).

31
32 DR. STRAM: 2.3 percent. In
33 addition to that the North Alaska Peninsula can be
34 broken out separately at 13 percent and this leaves
35 other.....

36
37 (Teleconference interference -
38 participants not muted).

39
40 DR. STRAM: Next Slide, please.

41
42 The next slide then shows you the same
43 information for chum. Chum is very different in terms
44 of its stock of origin. It tends to be.....

45
46 (Teleconference interference -
47 participants not muted).

48
49 DR. STRAM: age and hatchery
50

0137

1 composition over 68 percent in 2021. In general the
2 western Alaska contribution is much smaller. What we
3 saw for 2021.....

4
5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted).

7
8 DR. STRAM:but the western
9 Alaska.....

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

13
14 DR. STRAM:about 9 percent.
15 Again here the upper Yukon can be broken out, but that
16 tends to be a very small proportion at about .5
17 percent. And hearing.....

18
19 (Teleconference interference -
20 participants not muted).

21
22 DR. STRAM:there was a high
23 contribution to the bycatch in 2021 of over 500,000
24 fish, that just dropped to about 42,000 fish in bycatch
25 in 2022. And again we.....

26
27 (Teleconference interference -
28 participants not muted).

29
30 DR. STRAM:in the -- on the
31 winter season.

32
33 Next Slide, please.

34
35 Just to provide you a quick overview of
36 where the Council is at with respect to salmon bycatch
37 then.

38
39 (Teleconference interference -
40 participants not muted).

41
42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Can you give
43 me just one second, Diana, we're getting -- we're
44 getting some feedback in here.

45
46 DR. STRAM: Sure.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: If somebody
49 doesn't have their phone on mute I would encourage you
50

0138

1 to put it on mute, star, six. It sounds like
2 somebody's digging a hole, I hope it's not for me.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: But I'd just
7 as soon not hear it if it is. So thank you.

8

9 Please continue, Diana.

10

11 DR. STRAM: So again in 2022 normally
12 we take up salmon bycatch reports, the genetic reports,
13 in April. Last year we took them up in June. We will
14 be taking them up in April as per our normal schedule
15 this year and therefore we did it in June last year
16 only because we were looking to get the stock
17 composition estimates from the most recent year for
18 chum. But in June in conjunction with that then the
19 Council created a Salmon Bycatch Committee. They had a
20 open nomination system over the summer and nominated
21 that committee in the fall. That committee was
22 specifically tasked with reviewing State of Alaska
23 Bycatch Task Force recommendations including the
24 Western Alaska Subcommittee recommendations as well as
25 reviewing the Staff discussion paper on chum salmon
26 bycatch that was provided to the Council at their
27 December meeting. And then also tasked to review
28 current information including local, traditional and
29 subsistence knowledge and any needed research to
30 determine what's driving western Alaska salmon decline.
31 In December then the Council took up the Staff
32 discussion paper on chum salmon bycatch providing and
33 overview of how measures have been managed in the past,
34 what the most updated bycatch numbers and salmon
35 genetics were. Following that the Council tasked the
36 committee to provide recommendations to the Council on
37 a range of management measures, both regulatory
38 measures which would be PSC limits as well as within
39 the existing IPA structure for chum salmon bycatch.
40 The task for that committee then is to report back to
41 the Council in April with their recommendations.

42

43 Next Slide.

44

45 So what's next. We are now preparing
46 for our Salmon Bycatch Committee March 20th and 21st.
47 I've provided the flyer here, it is on our website and
48 on our spotlight. That is an open meeting, it is a
49 public meeting, you can participate in person, it's at
50

0139

1 UAA and we've provided the address here and you can
2 email me for more information, if you would like there
3 is also hybrid access to that meeting. That committee
4 will meet for two days and the purpose of that
5 committee meeting is to develop what we call purpose
6 and need. That is the way the Council initiates an
7 analysis by developing a problem statement, what are
8 they trying to solve with these management measures and
9 then developing alternatives that would address that
10 problem statement. So the committee's been tasked with
11 providing the Council with some recommendations on
12 conceptual alternatives and again that would include
13 potentially caps, PSC limits on chum bycatch in the
14 pollock fishery as well as regulatory changes and IPA
15 changes within the pollock incentive plan agreements.
16 The Council then will be meeting in April here in
17 Anchorage and they will review the Salmon Bycatch
18 Committee's recommendations and the Council may adopt a
19 purpose and need and alternative to initiate an
20 analysis.

21

22 Next Slide, please.

23

24 This is to provide you the way our
25 process works, I know it's different from the Board of
26 Fish in terms of processes and the Federal Subsistence
27 Board. Usually how our process works is starting with
28 the top left we receive a proposal either from the
29 public, from the Council, from stakeholders. The
30 Council then reviews this, develops a problem statement
31 and alternative. Sometimes that takes iterate of
32 discussion papers that are brought back to the Council
33 before an actual analysis, so an initial review
34 analysis where the Council may refine those
35 alternatives. And then a final analysis which is the
36 public review analysis where the Council selects
37 preferred alternatives. There is then an aspect to
38 this that is required by the National Marine Fishery
39 Service. Once the Council takes final action the
40 National Marine Fishery Service issues a proposed rule,
41 they have a mandatory public comment period on that
42 proposed rule and then they issue a final rule. And
43 then the action is finally referred to the Secretary of
44 Commerce prior to implementation. So it's important to
45 understand that we're a little bit of a cumbersome
46 process and at best from proposal to implementation
47 that process takes about two years.

48

49 Next Slide, please.

50

0140

1 And so this red circle just shows you
2 where we are in this process right now. We are very
3 squarely in the -- we are in a committee process right
4 now in March, anticipating that that committee will
5 provide recommendations to the Council and at our April
6 meeting in Anchorage again the Council will consider
7 developing a problem statement and alternative to
8 address that problem statement and initiate an analysis
9 of chum salmon bycatch mitigation measures.

10

11 Next Slide, please.

12

13 This is my final slide. I just want to
14 provide you some additional resources. Again our
15 websites, additional information and websites for
16 related agencies. And both Dr. Haapala and I are here
17 to answer any questions that you might have.

18

19 Thank you very much for your time.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. No,
22 thank you, Diana. I appreciate that very much.

23

24 Council members, any questions for
25 Diana.

26

27 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

30

31 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair. Yes,
32 thank you for that update, it was very informational.
33 First question, temperatures in water as opposed to the
34 outer waters and, you know, the -- in the A season and
35 the B season, different areas there. Have you guys --
36 you got any graphs also to show water temperatures in
37 those areas?

38

39 DR. STRAM: Yeah, thank you for the
40 question. We've actually just been talking about this
41 and we will have some information that's posted to our
42 -- I'll make sure that Leigh has the -- I should have
43 included here the website for our E agenda for our
44 committee meeting that's upcoming. We have been
45 looking into different temperature, we obviously have
46 excellent survey data in the Bering Sea on an annual
47 basis so we have really excellent data on both sea
48 surface temperature as well as bottom water
49 temperature. We -- the National Marine Fishery Service

50

0141

1 provides that information on an annual basis and it's
2 utilized in the stock assessment for all of the fish
3 species that are managed as well as crab in the Bering
4 Sea. We begin -- we've been beginning to look into
5 different examination and we did this before for
6 chinook as to the relationship between temperature and
7 bycatch. Right now what we do know as relates to chum
8 is that the fleet tends to run into more chum when the
9 temperatures are warmer. A lot of the species in the
10 Bering Sea are much more affected and tend to be more
11 productive most of them when there's a larger cold
12 pool. So that like two degree bottom water temperature
13 that the tongue that sticks out in the Bering Sea in
14 colder years obviously we've been in a giant sluff in
15 the Bering Sea under the warming conditions in recent
16 years. It does look like we might be returning to
17 somewhat more normal or at least average conditions in
18 the next several years, but we're clearly in a period
19 of rapidly changing environmental conditions. So we're
20 adjusting all of our considerations in relation to
21 that.

22

23 I hope that gets at your question. I'm
24 assuming you're trying to ask about that in terms of
25 how that's affecting how the fleet behaves as well as
26 how the bycatch rates and distributions occur.

27

28 MR. WILSON: Thank you for that. And
29 the second question kind of along with that is I -- you
30 know, is there any correlation between the water
31 temperature because, you know, the chinook and the
32 chum, you know, they're all -- you know, we have
33 specific depths of water or temperature that they
34 generally thrive in. And I see in the -- on the --
35 almost every graph that you showed us there was always
36 big spikes from one year to the next. And I'm
37 wondering what those spikes mean, is it the location or
38 is it more -- is there any correlation between that and
39 the way these fish are migrating?

40

41 DR. STRAM: Thanks for that, that's a
42 great question. So we're looking into all of those
43 things. So I would say if you're looking at -- I don't
44 know if Leigh could go back to maybe slide 21 that just
45 shows you both the genetics as well as the spikes as it
46 relates to chinook at least. Now we're just looking
47 into this for chum because again we're just looking
48 into management measures for chum. We've done a lot of
49 explorations on chinook prior to the institution of the
50

1 cap levels. A lot of those spikes in earlier years,
2 those management measures while originally effective
3 became less effective over time. And so the spikes
4 that you see in the earlier years particularly in 2007
5 was a direct result of the Council then taking an
6 action to institute a cap. And so I think that what
7 you see from 2008 on at least as it relates to chinook
8 is the fact that those have leveled off because the
9 fleet is under a very, very stringent cap and that
10 they're responsive to. The variation that you see year
11 to year then, for the first one I guess if I can look
12 at them byyear, in 2011 that was what caused us that --
13 while that was well under the official cap level, the
14 fact that the bycatch went up in the first year of
15 implementation was a cause for alarm for the Council.
16 And I think a lot of that was less encounter and more
17 behavior. And so that's why we put into place vessel
18 incentives that crank down on that. There is a lot of--
19 they call them lightening strikes, there is a lot of
20 unforeseen encounters as it relates to chinook and
21 chums by the fleet and that's why the hotspot closures
22 that are much shorter in duration are important in the
23 management by the fleet because when they run into
24 these congregations of salmon they can't predict them
25 and so then they need to get out of the way as quickly
26 as possible.

27
28 So we are looking into how temperature
29 affects that. We looked into it a lot for chinook
30 previously, we looked into day and night differences,
31 we looked into temperature differences. What we found
32 at least then is that all those things had a little bit
33 of a factor, but none of them were a lightening rod for
34 what was happening. So we're starting to look into
35 that for chum, we've just been having discussions among
36 Staff recently in terms of how to look at it for chum,
37 should we be looking at more surface temperatures
38 because they tend to be more surface located as opposed
39 to chinook that are a little deeper or bottom
40 temperature. So I just -- my answer would be that
41 we're trying to look at that. I don't know that we can
42 correlate those. If you look at slide 22, the next
43 slide, I don't know that we can correlate those spikes
44 in chum bycatch to anything at this rate other than
45 that we're trying to figure out how best to look at
46 management measures for the fleet. It's complicated
47 for chum because one, because there's less western
48 Alaska contribution; two, because they've already got a
49 cap for chinook, it's moving them around and we don't
50

0143

1 want to try to put something in place for chum that
2 would cause the fleet to run into chinook, but we are
3 trying to figure out what's the best situation. We've
4 been looking at warm and cool situations and warm and
5 cool closures based on, but that's not on a short time
6 period, that's looking at it over the whole season.

7

8 I hope I'm trying to answer your
9 question.

10

11 MR. WILSON: Thanks for that. Yeah, I
12 just -- it's pretty obvious looking at the graphs for
13 myself that, you know, in our fishery here in Bristol
14 Bay and as you look at a cycle or, you know, the graphs
15 that come up in our area and it's pretty gradual. What
16 we're looking and what you've -- information you've
17 given us is that these graphs are -- they spike from
18 year to year, it's like up and down, up and down, major
19 graph differences. And it's just amazing that we don't
20 see more gradual inclines and declines and it just -- I
21 don't know, it -- that's what interests me here is that
22 it just don't seem like they've gotten it right for 20
23 years, the graphic goes way up and spikes way down.
24 It's like, you know, something's happening there that --
25 you know, that seem like they ought to be able to get
26 a better handle on. So that's just a comment.

27

28 Thanks for your info.

29

30 DR. STRAM: Thank you. I don't know,
31 Leigh, if you can go to slide 9 that just shows the
32 overall by week variability. So I know this is a graph
33 to show the spikes. This graph that shows the A season
34 and B season for chum and chinook is showing you in
35 general so that's over all those -- all those years,
36 but it shows you by week. And this is where we're
37 trying to tailor our management measures. And I do
38 agree with you, I'm not sure that we can get it right
39 and that's why we keep changing our management measures
40 so that we can refine them. I think the point is to
41 refine them because something works for a while like
42 time area closures and then it doesn't work anymore.
43 And the situation changes and the salmon are no longer
44 congregated in those areas so those closures are making
45 things worse so then we switch to a different measure,
46 then we switch to a cap. And so what we're trying to
47 do is look at those weekly, like some of those seem
48 very consistent which is what this graph is trying to
49 show you. So chum, the fleet runs into it, they tend
50

0144

1 to be on the grounds more in August. So but the
2 majority of the bycatch that they run into in August
3 also tends to be Asian hatchery origin. So we're
4 trying to tailor measures that would look more at
5 western Alaska chum, but it's really difficult, those
6 fish are co-located all the time, you can't just find
7 an area that's only western Alaska chum and stay away
8 from it, but the bycatch is always a mixed grouping.

9
10 Hopefully that helps. It's
11 complicated, but I -- the Council is constantly
12 switching measures trying to address exactly what
13 you're talking about, we have these spikes and then
14 things seem fine for a while and then they're not
15 anymore.

16
17 MR. WILSON: Thank you. It -- to me
18 it's obvious, you know, after the last 2021, 2020, the
19 down trend of all your figures are -- it just really
20 goes along with what's been happening in our region,
21 that there's less and less. It's not that you're
22 missing them and they're getting by, it's just that
23 there isn't much left to be had.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 DR. STRAM: Thank you.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Any
30 other questions, comments.

31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

35
36 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Madame Chair, I've
37 got a couple three here. First would this slide show
38 be available online. From where I'm sitting I can see
39 some of it, but some -- a few of the pie charts I'd
40 like to look at a whole lot closer, is it available?

41
42 DR. STRAM: Sure.

43
44 MS. HONIG: Dr. Stram, I can.....

45
46 DR. STRAM: Leigh at the Office of
47 Subsistence Management can make a link for it so that
48 you can just download it.

49
50

0145

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Great. Because
2 I'd like to do that. I get into debates sometimes on
3 the internet with folks and some folks expect to just
4 totally shut the trawl fishery down and poof, problem
5 solved. I think that's a little simplistic.

6
7 Did I miss or do you have size
8 composition year to year or overall on this bycatch?
9 Okay.

10

11 DR. STRAM: Yes, thank you for the
12 question. We do. I should have gone into that a
13 little bit more. So I didn't talk about how we analyze
14 this, but we have periodically and most recently in
15 June we update what's called an adult equivalency
16 analysis. So because of the observer program and the
17 census of salmon we have lengths on every fish -- every
18 10th chinook, every 30th chum and an age length key.
19 So we know the ages very well of those fish. In
20 general the chum that's caught in the bycatch tends to
21 be three and four year olds. For chinook it ranges
22 across all ages, but they tend to be about three to
23 five year olds. Again there's a size -- there's an age
24 distribution across that and we can make that
25 information available as well. But that tends to
26 consistently be the ages that are caught in the
27 bycatch. And we use that information when we're
28 looking at the adult equivalency as well as the -- so
29 we look at the ages of the fish caught in the bycatch,
30 the years those fish would have -- you know, in general
31 what proportion of those fish in each of those years
32 would have returned to the river and then we try to
33 combine that with the genetics understanding of the
34 growth level for coastal west Alaska to try to get a
35 sense of how many of those fish would have been
36 returning in any one year to aggregate river systems
37 across western Alaska to try to get a sense of the
38 impact.

39

40 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. That's real
41 interesting. That's a little bit bigger, older fish
42 than I might have expected. And my thought was the
43 smaller, younger fish would be a lot more confounding
44 to try guesstimate what really might come back. But
45 that's still -- I'm glad you're doing that. If there's
46 a link to some of that information I'd be curious to
47 see it.

48

49 And then I see a lot of discussions of
50

0146

1 observer coverage. What does a 100 percent observer
2 coverage mean, is that an observer on every boat for
3 every trip for the entire fishery or is it every boat
4 has an observer for some period of time, but -- well,
5 if you could explain what that means? Okay.

6
7 DR. STRAM: Sure. I will and I'll also
8 ask Dr Haapala if she wants to provide additional
9 information. So in the pollock fishery in particular
10 we say 100 percent, well, (indiscernible - distortion)
11 on these catcher vessels is actually 200 percent. And
12 part of that requirement was that all of the -- all of
13 the hauls are observed 100 percent because of the
14 ability to institute a cap that could shut down the
15 fishery. So we always had high observer coverage on
16 these fleets. We had to authorize the observer
17 coverage particularly on the shoreside catcher vessel
18 fleet in order to implement in 2011 in order make sure
19 that all of the hauls are observed and all the salmon
20 is censused on those vessels in order to manage a cap
21 system such as this that could shut down fleets for the
22 rest of the season.

23
24 I don't know if Dr. Haapala wants to
25 add anything to that in terms of observer coverage.

26
27 DR. HAAPALA: Thanks, Diana. Can you
28 hear me okay?

29
30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We hear you
31 loud and clear.

32
33 DR. HAAPALA: Okay. Yeah, great.
34 Thanks. So the only thing that I would add is that in
35 addition to observers being on trawl vessels in the
36 Bering Sea there's also electronic monitoring or camera
37 equipment on both catcher vessels and the
38 catcher/processors and the mother ship. And so for
39 those catcher/processors and mother ships there's
40 cameras that are monitoring the sorting lines and the
41 bins. And that is just to ensure that all salmon are
42 sorted and stored according to regulatory requirements
43 and that the observer program isn't missing any of
44 those fish.

45
46 So I hope that helps.

47
48 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, it does. Thank
49 you. I appreciate that.

50

0147

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

3

4 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
7 Billy.

8

9 MR. TREFON: Hi, this is Billy Trefon
10 from Nondalton. My question is is there any mitigation
11 to the bycatch and what is being done about that and
12 the numbers that are being caught because I hear people
13 on the Kusko and the Yukon, they're blaming area M and
14 high sea fishing for their lack of fish?

15

16 DR. STRAM: Thanks for the question.
17 So in terms of mitigation measures those are the
18 measures that we're talking about that we're trying to--
19 the management measures that we have in place for the
20 pollock fishery are directly at mitigating the bycatch
21 and trying to manage it to minimize to the extent
22 possible. We -- the fleet also participates in for
23 caught -- for fish that are caught because of course
24 they cannot be retained or sold. So the salmon that is
25 caught, the fish voluntarily -- the process -- sorry,
26 the fleet voluntarily processes that fish and donates
27 it to SeaShare which is a hunger relief organization
28 that then distributes the bycaught fish. So it doesn't
29 mitigate the fact that the fish has already been
30 caught, but when the fish are already caught when
31 possible and to a great degree the fleet processes that
32 fish voluntarily and donates it to SeaShare. But in
33 terms of mitigation that is exactly what we're looking
34 at, we're looking at constantly refining management
35 measures in the pollock fleet. We only manage the
36 pollock fleet, the State of Alaska of course manages
37 area M so we don't have any process or involvement in
38 the area and fishery.

39

40 Hopefully that helps answer your
41 question.

42

43 MR. TREFON: Not really, but thank you.
44 I mean, because I'm sure like you said there's really
45 no way to actually monitor area M and bycatch because I
46 don't think those fish are labeled, Yukon, Kusko,
47 Bristol Bay.

48

49 Thank you.

50

0148

1 DR. STRAM: Sure. And I -- my
2 understanding as well is that the genetic breakouts are
3 the genetic breakouts. So whether it's looking at fish
4 in area M or it's looking at bycaught fish in the
5 pollock fishery, the stock of origin, they are
6 restricted to that coastal west Alaska grouping, they
7 can't refine it further. So we can't tell you of that
8 coastal west Alaska grouping what proportion would have
9 gone to the Yukon, the Kuskokwim, the Nushagak, they're
10 all aggregated together. So what we do look at is how
11 many of those fish would have come back to the coastal
12 west Alaska grouping and that's something that we
13 report back to the Council on an annual basis. And I
14 can make sure that Leigh has links to the most recent
15 updates on that in terms of the adult equivalence and
16 what the relative impact rate to those river systems
17 is. It is low, but it is -- I think it's about 2.7
18 percent in the most recent update that we did to the
19 overall aggregate so it doesn't mean to any one river
20 system, it means in aggregate over that entire area,
21 about 2 and a half to 2.7 percent. More would have
22 come back in general without any bycatch in the pollock
23 fishery.

24
25 MR. TREFON: Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great.
28 Anybody else.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, thank
33 you very much, ladies, for your time. That was a great
34 presentation, we certainly appreciate it. And I'm sure
35 if possible I'd like to see if would put you on our
36 agenda again for the fall meeting so we can get our
37 updated numbers.

38
39 DR. STRAM: Sure. We'd be happy to.
40 Thanks a lot. Thanks for your time.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

43
44 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan, did you
47 have something else.

48
49 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, one last thing. We
50

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1 had some concerns expressed here at our meeting for --
2 that maybe we're not getting the word out quite as well
3 to the public that this RAC meeting is occurring. I'm
4 thinking that if that meeting in Anchorage, this -- was
5 it March 20 and 21, could I encourage you to -- I'll
6 scrape the bottom of the barrel getting the word out, I
7 have imagination that the folks that Billy talked about
8 that walked out of the Board of Fish meeting if they
9 could reassemble at this meeting and get educated as
10 well as make their concerns known may be helpful. It's
11 a sticky problem to fix, but really appreciate the
12 thorough report we got today.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 DR. STRAM: Sure. You're welcome. And
17 we're really trying our best, that's why we have a
18 flyer on our website, we've been trying to provide more
19 outreach to make our -- these kind of Salmon Bycatch
20 Committee meetings known so that we get more attendance
21 and participation from the public. So we are trying to
22 do a broader job of that and will continue to do so.

23

24 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

25

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

28

29 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, maybe you could get
30 a list of tribal agencies from the Federal subsistence
31 group and send some flyers out to tribal offices
32 because there's a lot of folks in the Bush that can't
33 just plop down at a computer and get -- go off to a
34 website, the internet's pretty shaky in a lot of
35 places.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 DR. STRAM: Sure. I'm just going to
40 turn that over to Dr. Haapala, she's our Tribal Liaison
41 and we have been trying to do that and then more
42 efforts recently.

43

44 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy, go
47 ahead.

48

49 DR. HAAPALA: Thank you. Oh, go ahead.

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MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead --
go ahead and answer.

DR. HAAPALA: Yeah, thanks so much. We
have been trying to -- we have not mailed out that
flyer in -- I guess it would be in partnership with
NOAA Fishery. So just the Council's jurisdiction, the
Council's not a Federal agency and so they're not
responsible for engaging in consultation so we're
working really closely with the National Marine Fishery
Service, their Regional Office, and they've got a new
Tribal Liaison who's been working to facilitate better
outreach and lists for tribal governments across the
State, but particularly for western Alaska. And so
that's a great suggestion and we can certainly consider
that. I have some concerns about whether or not that
flyer will get there in time, but we can definitely
look into that and we do appreciate the suggestion.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
Billy.

MR. TREFON: Yeah, going back to what
Dan was saying about getting the information out. All
the corporations have consortiums with the Ted Stevens
forum many years ago which is all basically made of the
tribal villages in each region. Like for example
Bristol Bay, we have BBNA. We have 32 villages that
get together twice a year and that would be a great
place to get out information to all the villages at one
time. And you know it's going to get to the village
because that's the representatives that are there
because the corporation and consortium are not the
same. Corporation are just what they are, corporation--
consortium is the tribes.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you
for pointing that out too, really appreciate that.

Okay. Anything else anyone.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank
you again, ladies, for your time and we'll look forward
to hearing from you in the future as well.

0151

1 And.....

2

3 DR. STRAM: Thank you very much, have a
4 nice.....

5

6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: You bet.
7 Thank you. Come on up, Togiak.

8

9 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair,
10 Council members. My name's Andy Aderman, I'm a
11 Wildlife Biologist with the Togiak National Wildlife
12 Refuge. And with me is.....

13

14 MR. MOOS: Good afternoon, Madame Chair
15 and Council members. My name is Kenton Moos, Refuge
16 Manager. And I'm here to support Andy even though he
17 doesn't need any support.

18

19 Thanks.

20

21 MR. ADERMAN: Just for the benefit of
22 John and Robert, the Togiak Refuge is diagonally
23 divided between two different Regional Councils, the
24 Bristol Bay on the east side and then the Yukon-
25 Kuskokwim Delta RAC over on the west side. And at the
26 top of my report you're -- the report begins on Page
27 49. I just want to call to the phone number up on the
28 top and then there's a name after each little paragraph
29 or study. If you're interested in a particular aspect
30 that's somebody you can get ahold of and hopefully
31 they'll provide the information you need. But most of
32 this information in my report is similar to what I gave
33 you last October. I'm going to touch on a couple
34 highlights beginning at the bottom of Page 49, that
35 last paragraph.

36

37 We've got a group of caribou out on the
38 west coast that's kind of -- it roams between 17A and
39 southern Unit 18, from Cape Newenham up to almost
40 Quinhagak and then from Cape Newenham or Cape Pierce
41 area going northeast towards the Arolik River. And
42 we've noticed over the years these caribou are
43 consistently out there. So Fish and Game deployed 12
44 collars last April and these caribou that were collared
45 have stayed pretty much in the general area where they
46 were collared. And that towards the bottom there we
47 indicated we were going to deploy more collars and we
48 did get six more collars out this last Friday and I'm
49 slated to help get the other 10 collars out beginning
50

0152

1 tomorrow if that works out.

2

3 Moving to the next page under Nushagak
4 Peninsula Caribou and it's right at the end of the --
5 near the end of the second paragraph starting with as
6 of January 5th, 2023 hunters reported taking three
7 caribou. You heard the update from Courtenay earlier.
8 Seven of those caribou were taken from Dillingham
9 residents, one was taken from Manokotak.

10

11 Moving down to the second paragraph
12 from the bottom, we conducted a moose survey in game
13 management Unit 17A and also in the Goodnews area.
14 Looking at the 17A population estimate was just under
15 2,000 caribou and that was about a 7 and a half percent
16 drop from three years earlier. We've been trying to
17 reduce the number of moose in that unit, we think about
18 1,200 would be the optimal number. And so regulations
19 are pretty liberal over there right now. There's a
20 fall bull and cow hunt and a winter bull and cow hunt.
21 And people can get two moose. So you heard some of the
22 reports about -- I think Dan mentioned it, travel
23 conditions. That affected the hunt I think quite a bit
24 this year. I don't have the exact number of moose
25 reported, but it was tough getting around.

26

27 We also just more recently helped Fish
28 and Game on the same type of survey in 17C. I know
29 they're on the agenda to give a report and provide a
30 little more information about that.

31

32 And I think the last one I'll touch on
33 is over on Page 51, second one from the bottom. This
34 deals with invasive aquatic plant surveys, more
35 specifically elodia. We've been looking in area lakes
36 in Bristol Bay mainly on the Refuge, but also in the
37 Wood-Tikchik State Park. And bottom line, the last
38 sentence there, no elodia or other invasive aquatic
39 plants have been found, but we'll probably continue
40 doing this monitoring effort, funding -- you know, if
41 funding provides.

42

43 So I kind of skipped over a lot of
44 stuff here so if you have questions on walrus, sea
45 birds or whatever, I'll try to answer them.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, that's
48 great. Your report, I enjoyed reading it when I was
49 going through the meeting minutes. It's always very
50

0153

1 thorough.

2

3

Any questions for Andy, guys.

4

5

MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

6

7

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

8

9

MR. TREFON: Yeah, mine is about the population of Mulchatna Herd. Looking at the records of this herd, it's just constant, steady decline. It doesn't show us any reports of spike of that herd growing, yet they still continue to be hunted.

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MR. ADERMAN: It has continued to decline. And hunting has been prohibited for most of the last three years. But we know that there's still some people that don't follow the rule and take caribou from the area that's closed. So I don't know how many, but it happens.

MR. TREFON: Yeah, I got a friend up in Iliamna Lake that when the caribou first went up into the Bethel area the poaching was extreme, way beyond control, people were traveling 500 miles to get their caribou. And he said it was crazy and people were just loading up these long tundra toboggan, they'd carry out this 20 foot, 30 foot toboggan they have, you see on the coast, but there was -- they said there was a lot of poaching. And there's no numbers tracking any of those kills.

MS. MOOS: I'll maybe address that. Again Kenton Moos, Refuge Manager. We have been tracking any illegal harvest as close as we can. We've been cooperating with the State of Alaska, Alaska Wildlife Troopers and well as our law enforcement as well. We have made a concerted effort to look at that and to patrol the areas especially in Unit 18. And there has been some illegal take. If -- I don't know if you pay attention to the news, there was I believe four or five cases that were adjudicated and individuals were cited and paid fines this past winter, but I wouldn't say that they're loading up with sleds, but there is some. And but we are making a very concerted effort through the State law enforcement as well as Federal law enforcement to ensure that people are abiding by the rules. And because the reality is is what all of us want is that herd to grow so that we

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1 can provide opportunity again absolutely.

2

3 MR. TREFON: Yeah, that large taking of
4 caribou was when the caribou first -- when the
5 Mulchatna Herd first had ended up in Bethel. They
6 never saw so much caribou up there, they were just
7 taking them by -- getting any they can. And there's a
8 lot of people living in Bethel. There are what, a
9 thousand plus villages right about Bethel alone with
10 300 population at a minimum. So there was a lot of
11 people taking a lot of caribou up there.

12

13 But, I mean, I really want to see that
14 caribou make a comeback of any kind. I mean, that's
15 what we used to depend on, now I haven't had a caribou
16 since they moved up there.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Amen, Billy.
19 Amen. Okay. Any other questions or comments for the
20 Togiak guys.

21

22 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

25

26 MR. WILSON: Always good to hear you,
27 Andy, and crew, great crew. Good job, guys.

28

29 Thanks.

30

31 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep, thanks
34 for taking the time to come over, we always appreciate
35 it.

36

37 Okay. Good enough then. Let's move on
38 to Alaska Peninsula and Becharof.

39

40 MS. ALEXANDER: Good afternoon. Susan
41 Alexander, Refuge Manager, Alaska Peninsula and
42 Becharof National Wildlife Refuges. And I wanted to
43 highlight one thing real quickly and then I'm going to
44 turn it over to Bill and Bryce to go over a number of
45 things in our report directly from the Biology Program.

46

47

48 But I wanted to mention one thing
49 outside of that first. And I know several people

50

0155

1 noticed this morning that there are a lot of us here
2 today. I'm really happy that we have three of our
3 temporary folks with us, this is Ken Yee, Alona Tansky
4 and Bo Jensen. And I'm Number 1 really happy that we
5 have temporary folks who are interested enough in this
6 place and in Alaska to come listen and learn at what is
7 a uniquely and quintessentially Alaskan thing, a RAC
8 meeting. And also there's a nexus between a project
9 that Bo is the primary person working on that is Alona
10 is helping with it. The RAC members who've been around
11 for a while have heard this, but I wanted to just give
12 you an update and provide a little background for the
13 new members.

14
15 We're developing a plan for doing
16 better monitoring of visitor use. And primarily -- I
17 mean, obviously we're concerned about impacts to the
18 resource, but, you know, along what these guys do keeps
19 an eye on that, but we don't right now have a really
20 good way of getting potential or developing user group
21 conflicts. Obviously this is a huge issue relating to
22 subsistence. Subsistence as a priority use is the
23 purpose of the Refuge. So what Bo is lead on and Alona
24 helping with is getting just a basic plan in place so
25 that we're monitoring -- you know, we have limited
26 resources so it needs to be effective and it needs to
27 be targeted at getting data that will actually tell us
28 something and help us head off any conflicts that might
29 be developing.

30
31 And so we're looking at like what thing
32 -- what data do we already have, we get client data
33 from all the commercial users who have permits on the
34 Refuge, the sport fish guides and the big game guides
35 and the air taxis or transporters, but that's mostly
36 what we have now and that's not sufficient. So we're
37 looking at the different user groups, how to get some
38 better information and especially how to get
39 information from subsistence users about --
40 quantitative, but also qualitative information just
41 like where are people running into problems. And it's
42 not that we don't get any of that information now, if I
43 go visit a village and I talk to people they generally
44 tell me useful things, but I know one of the things
45 that we've all talked about is that Managers leave.
46 And so, you know, when I retire if I haven't recorded
47 that information in some consistent place where the
48 next Manager can look back over previous years then I
49 take it with me and I know this is a problem everybody
50

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1 thinks about. And so this is in part an effort to get
2 around that problem. And to get some more data in
3 terms of quantitative numbers, but also get some
4 qualitative information that's just recorded
5 consistently somewhere that someone can go back and
6 look at it over time and look for trends and look for
7 emerging problems.

8
9 So Bo is actively working on this right
10 now. It's not in our report because this effort is
11 kind of just now getting legs. And we are I'm happy to
12 say a couple weeks from now at the end of the month
13 going to be going down to visit the Chignik villages
14 and we'll be talking with folks down there about how
15 can we best talk with you, work with you to find out
16 where you're seeing issues or problems. Because we can
17 come up with plans all day long and if it doesn't work
18 for the folks who are the users then we're not going to
19 get any -- we're not going to get any -- we'll just
20 annoy people and not get any good information. So we
21 really want to have a conversation about all right,
22 here's what we're trying to do, what do you think, how
23 would you like to get information to us, how can we
24 best do this. So that'll be a nice sort of opening
25 conversation. We're hoping to go to all three
26 villages, I'm not -- I think we're only scheduled with
27 two right now, but we're working on it.

28
29 So that's the main thing I wanted to
30 touch on. Does anybody have any questions for me
31 before I retire and let Bryce come up?

32
33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Looks good,
34 but I think that's a great start, you know, and I think
35 a lot of people could benefit from the answers to those
36 questions too if -- you know, and I can certainly see a
37 chronological value as well if they can be recorded
38 somewhere.

39
40 MS. ALEXANDER: Thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep.

43
44 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon. Bill
45 Smith, I'm the Supervisory Biologist for
46 Peninsula/Becharof Refuge here in King Salmon. Before
47 I turn it over to Bryce to give an update on some of
48 the big game and small game monitoring we're doing I'll
49 give a brief update on some of the fishery and habitat
50

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1 stuff we're doing.

2

3

4 Last time we were together I presented
5 to the Council our interest in trying to get some
6 chinook data here on the east side, particularly
7 reopening or getting the money to establish the weir on
8 Big Creek and then have some comparable information
9 hopefully on the information from 20 years ago on
10 chinook return and abundance on the Big Creek area off
11 of Naknek. We've worked with our Fisheries Biologist
12 out of Soldotna and do have funding request in play
13 right now. We have no decisions yet on where the
14 funding is at with those yet so we're still waiting for
15 that. The hope is to be able to implement that in --
16 starting 2024 and get five years of salmon abundance
17 data on Big Creek on the Naknek.

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Along the lines of what the Council was talking about a little earlier on cooperative surveys, I have set aside some funding this year. There's little -- as I believe Dan was talking about, there's little or no aerial abundance information here on chinook and chum on this side of the bay. And I've set a little bit of money aside to be able to possibly do that this year. I -- it's in process, it's going to take a lot of collaboration with the Sport Fish and the CommFish guys with ADF&G, making sure we have the methodology down and stuff like that. And there will be limits to it, we can't fly as extensively as ADF&G has flown historically, but considering I think we're on over 10 years with almost aerial information on chinook escapement, right now I -- it's my hope to at least provide some of that information in the future if we can get the methodology ironed out here in the next couple months.

We are starting to work a little bit more on -- you're going to receive a report today from NOAA, a pretty extensive report on some of the climate trends here in the area. One of the areas we've noticed there's little or no data here on is snow and ice extent. There's almost no snow monitoring here in the Bristol Bay area. So we have looked at establishing a few area, initiating some long term snow monitoring information and we'll be moving forward with that this spring.

And then the last thing I'll bring up, I'm -- maybe talk about it shortly here with the ADF&G

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1 report. We had some initial conversations, Bryce and I
2 and our pilot, Dan, with Amy about their interest in an
3 extensive five year bear population monitoring project
4 here that's going to be coming up. It'll be ADF&G's
5 project of course, but we'll -- we've agreed to try to
6 help them with some degree of pilot and observer
7 estimates once they get some bears collared and start
8 doing some tracking on cub survival and stuff like that
9 they're interested in determining with us through this
10 study.

11

12 And with that I'll turn it over to
13 Bryce to give updates on moose and Alaska hare if
14 nobody has any questions for me.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank
17 you, Bill.

18

19 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, go
22 ahead, Richard.

23

24 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Just one
25 observation there. You said you're still -- the
26 monitoring stuff going on for the chinook up in like
27 Big Creek and that. Are you guys going to -- you got a
28 weir or something that's going in, are you still
29 looking for funding to.....

30

31 MR. SMITH: Yeah.

32

33 MR. WILSON:finalize that?

34

35 MR. SMITH: Well, Richard, the weir was
36 operated in -- for about three years in the early
37 2000s, 2000 to 2003, hasn't been operated since. So
38 there's -- and to my knowledge ADF&G has tower counts
39 on the Naknek, but they don't pick up chinook. So
40 there's almost -- and no aerial surveys now. So almost
41 no information on the Naknek right now on chinook
42 escapement or in river estimates. So the weir, if we
43 reoperated that weir in approximately the same location
44 we would be able to compare the current chinook
45 escapement on Big Creek which is about from estimates --
46 prior estimates, that's about one-third of the total
47 run on the Naknek, to that 20 year information of when
48 it was last operated.

49

50

0159

1 MR. WILSON: Thank you. I was just
2 going to suggest if you're still looking for funding I
3 know our 1 percent from the commercial side of things
4 goes, you know, to BBRSDA, you know, and this is just
5 right up their alley, you know, to, you know, be able
6 help out with monitoring or something in this. You
7 might want to -- you might want to take a look at
8 picking on them for some bucks.

9
10 MR. SMITH: I appreciate it. We're
11 always looking for where the soft dollars are because
12 we don't have the funding to do this one ourselves.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great.
15 Thank you for that, Richard. Anybody else.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I for one,
20 you know, just -- yeah, it's been making my heart cry
21 because we had so many years worth of information and
22 then it just -- the door literally closed especially on
23 -- in particular on our chinook numbers and just seemed
24 like such a waste because it would be nice to see at
25 least where we're at now, if we can get a few more
26 years in.

27
28 Okay. Thank you. Bryce, go ahead.

29
30 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, members of
31 the Council, this is Bryce Woodruff, Mammal Biologist
32 for Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife
33 Refuge. If you haven't found it already our report is
34 on Page 55 in your meeting materials. I've included
35 the Refuge survey for the Refuge efforts on the moose
36 composition survey last fall and you can see that in
37 the tables. Amy will give you a fuller report in a
38 little bit on the total efforts. But Refuge Staff
39 counted eight trend areas over 46 hours and 43 minutes
40 and counted a total of 510 moose. We had an average
41 calf/cow ratio of 24 to a hundred and a bull/cow ratio
42 of 70 bulls per 100 cows.

43 And if you have any other questions on
44 the moose data there I'd be happy to answer them.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anybody got
47 questions.

48
49 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

50

0160

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

2

3 MR. WILSON: I didn't see where --
4 maybe I missed it, on what's the sustainable number
5 that you can harvest out of these -- out of your
6 percentage totals?

7

8 MR. WOODRUFF: To clarify you're
9 looking at a number for harvest that people can take
10 out of that?

11

12 MR. WILSON: Yes.

13

14 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. We -- these trend
15 areas don't provide us with a population estimate or
16 anything like that, mainly just looking at big changes
17 in the composition ratios. We did notice a fairly high
18 bull/cow ratio especially in comparison with other
19 places in the State. I previously worked in the
20 Eastern Interior and their bull/cow ratio is usually
21 around 40 was the target. And we have a much higher
22 average ratio than that at least in the areas that we
23 surveyed. And I forgot to mention earlier that Refuge
24 Staff surveyed from King Salmon down to Port Moller.
25 So this table is just that area whereas Amy in a little
26 bit will do a report on the area to the north as well.

27

28 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Yes, I was
29 just -- you know, there's -- there's always a number
30 that you're able to give up on the population then and,
31 you know, 510 moose going from here all the way down to
32 the coast isn't a very big number. I -- you know,
33 realizing this is just mostly on, you know, uplands,
34 you know, the Federal lands, but that's where a lot of
35 the moose hangout. So I'd be very curious to see what --
36 how that's holding up again you guys' findings here?

37

38 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, and we certainly
39 don't count all of the moose, it's a lot time in a Cub
40 to get down to Black Lake and such so that limits our
41 survey efforts, but we are able to map the trends. So
42 this -- they've been doing these surveys for a long
43 time and we have that data going back to many years.

44

45 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, thanks. I
46 just find it interesting still and I've said this many
47 times sitting on this Council that, you know, when
48 we're looking for numbers, I mean, I realize
49 composition is very important, you know, your ratio
50

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1 between cow and -- you know, bull/cow and calf, but
2 total numbers are also important. And, you know, in
3 other areas here we have total count and it's just -- I
4 mean, how does one manage a resource just looking at
5 composition surveys. To me if you're, you know -- you
6 know, you're just looking at areas where they're
7 congregated and you're -- you know, you're opening and
8 closing seasons according to that. That doesn't seem
9 like a very complete way of doing it I guess. And so I
10 -- this is -- and I've, you know, said this time and
11 time again that looking for total numbers along with
12 total numbers along with the composition surveys is
13 what we used to get here and we don't seem to get it
14 anymore and I don't really know how you would, you
15 know, help -- how are we supposed to do our job right
16 if we don't have all the numbers. It's just -- it
17 makes it complicated.

18

19 So just throwing that out there, guys.

20

21 MR. SMITH: It is -- Bill Smith again.
22 It is a noticeable deficiency here on this in this
23 area. It -- and I think they were moving towards
24 doing, you know, GSTs and (indiscernible - distortion)
25 here for some time. The survey data for getting the
26 population estimate here through multiple ADF&G
27 Biologists was always not great data because of snow
28 cover issues and the sightability correction issues.
29 We would very much like to be where Dillingham ended up
30 with Andy's hard work over there in getting
31 sightability correction factors worked in and the
32 population estimator models, it is a much labor
33 intensive survey effort that requires quite a bit more
34 time and money to do. And it's something that we've
35 identified as a need here, but it just hasn't been a
36 front burner issue yet for us on the funding level. So
37 it's something we identified we'd like to be moving
38 towards, we just don't have the funding to do it yet.

39

40 MS. ALEXANDER: Thanks, Madame Chair,
41 Council. Susan Alexander. Just to add one context
42 note to what Bill said and I know I've said this to the
43 Council before. I know you hear us talk about money,
44 money, money. I've been here for nine years now and
45 our budget is now two-thirds of what it was when I got
46 here. So believe me we wish we could, but we're
47 constantly prioritizing and doing triage and I get what
48 you're saying completely, Richard, that those total
49 population numbers are important and we would love to

50

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1 be getting them, but we can't do all of it.

2

3 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Susan. Thanks,
4 guys. Yeah, I just -- it just -- it's a very important
5 factor I think in maintaining a good population. And
6 it's always been part of the makeup of how we do our
7 regulations. And for that portion to be missing it
8 just -- you know, it makes it more difficult. And I
9 realize, you know, it is a funding issue and there is
10 time involved, but I just want to keep it like, you
11 know, on a hot plate. You know, don't -- keep it on
12 that hot plate.

13

14 Thanks.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: The black
17 hole. I agree, yep.

18

19 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

22

23 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I'm just looking at
24 your chart here. I really -- I really like the way
25 it's broken down into areas. I did have a question
26 about the calves and a clarification on calves and
27 yearlings because I saw -- I would think of a yearling
28 as just a newborn calf. So how do you clarify the
29 difference between a yearling and a calf?

30

31 MR. WOODRUFF: So the yearling bulls in
32 that that's broken out in there would be the next year
33 when they start to grow antlers that we can see.

34

35 MR. TREFON: Well, they're already like
36 second year young adults?

37

38 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.

39

40 MR. TREFON: Okay. Like adolescent
41 kids?

42

43 MR. WOODRUFF: Right.

44

45 MR. TREFON: Copy that.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

50

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1 MR. ROBERT HILL: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes, Rob.

4

5 MR. ROBERT HILL: I was just wondering
6 if you could elaborate a little bit on the bull/cow
7 ratio difference that you seen here as compared to the
8 interior and I don't know if you have any speculation
9 on what the difference is in the habitat or predation
10 or what's going on with that?

11

12 MR. WOODRUFF: I can't say much about
13 it being fairly new here, I started in October. So
14 dove into this right away, but yeah, you can see in
15 that table that the bull/cow ratio specific to each
16 trend area that we surveyed, some of them like Black
17 Lake and Kvichak especially were extremely high with
18 more bulls than cows. And then others like Meshik,
19 Mother Goose and Flats B were greater than 80 which is
20 significant. And then in the areas like the Park
21 Border unit, Big Creek Corridor and King Salmon River,
22 it's a little bit lower which those areas get a lot
23 more hunting pressure I would assume being more
24 accessible which could make a dent in the number of
25 bulls.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Good. Thank
28 you. Any other questions.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Have
33 you got more for us or is that it.

34

35 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, we have also
36 started this winter to look for areas of Alaska hare
37 abundance to create some standardized survey routes so
38 that we can run these potentially snowmachine routes
39 every winter and collect pellets and note tracks and
40 sign and come up with some sort of population estimate
41 for those.

42

43 MR. WILSON: Sign me up.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 MR. WOODRUFF: All right. We have a
48 volunteer. But yeah, hopefully we will have that all
49 set up by next winter.

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any
2 questions on that, anybody.

3

4 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

7

8 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I think they were
9 trying to radio collar some over near Dillingham. Are
10 you part of that, and I -- these hares are kind of
11 fascinating to me, but that -- they're also a little
12 bit delicate, you can't be rough housing like a bear or
13 moose. So I think it's pretty clear you're doing it,
14 but are you in part of that program?

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: So I believe that was
17 Department of Fish and Game that was doing that. I
18 have been in contact with those guys and trying to
19 glean some information from them and learn from their
20 mistakes on what worked and what didn't. So we are
21 emulating their techniques of running a route,
22 collecting pellets and then doing that again to use the
23 pellets for a genetic sample. And then you can a mark
24 recapture study from that. So yeah, that's what we'll
25 be aiming towards.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Well, that's great
28 and listening here we've got two new game Biologists
29 that just started in October. And so we're probably
30 getting Staff back, both Federal and State, so maybe
31 everything -- you know, once they know where the front
32 door is and the back door is may get on with more
33 information like we're feeling desperate to need.

34

35 So welcome and thank you for the
36 information.

37

38 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, thank you, Dan.

39

40 MR. TREFON: I was just looking at your
41 chart again here and I noticed that the area he's
42 looking at, each area is -- I believe it square miles,
43 but I'm looking at your survey hours. Is that for the
44 full year or is that just one time, 3.7 like for
45 example in
46 Port Boundary or 4.4 hours?

47

48 MR. WOODRUFF: That's just for this
49 year. That's the.....

50

0165

1 MR. TREFON: The total year for each
2 other?

3
4 MR. WOODRUFF: That's the -- that's how
5 many hours we spent on that one survey usually in one
6 day or potentially two days.

7
8 MR. TREFON: Oh, so each survey just
9 that 3.7 would be a one day survey?

10
11 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, that's correct.

12
13 MR. TREFON: Okay. So the total number
14 would be 25.4 for the whole year?

15
16 MR. WOODRUFF: Where's the -- where are
17 you getting the 25.4?

18
19 MR. TREFON: Survey hours.

20
21 MR. WOODRUFF: Oh, yeah. That was the
22 total for our fall composition surveys. So we surveyed
23 from -- I believe our first survey was October 28 and
24 our last was November 25th. And the total for that
25 time was the 25.4.

26
27 MR. TREFON: Oh, okay. Thank you.

28
29 MR. WOODRUFF: Yep.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anybody else
32 on the hares.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

37
38 MR. WOODRUFF: All right. Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Park
41 Service is up next. They don't have it defined between
42 Katmai and Lake Clark. Are you guys both reporting or
43 rock, paper, scissors?

44
45 MR. HAMON: Madame Chairman, members of
46 the Council, Troy Hamon with the National Park Service
47 in King Salmon. We manage Katmai National Park and
48 Preserve, the Alagnak Wild River and Aniakchak National
49 Monument and Preserve. We're going to go ahead and
50

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1 start by letting Dillon Patterson talk about the recent
2 SRC meeting and his work and then I'll cover what
3 appear to be the most -- topics of most interest to the
4 Council based on conversations earlier today and we'll
5 see where that leads us timewise, but I don't want to
6 overrun things.

7

8 MR. PATTERSON: Madame Chair, members
9 of the Council. For the record my name is Dillon
10 Patterson. So the Aniakchak SRC met on March 1st. I
11 wanted to give a brief report on what occurred during
12 that meeting and I'm very happy to see or was happy to
13 see that John was appointed to the RAC. Also, John, if
14 I miss anything or get anything wrong please correct
15 me.

16

17 But we had a short, efficient meeting
18 on March 1st. The Commission set dates which may be
19 relevant to you all as you consider your own date for
20 the fall. And so the primary date for the next SRC
21 meeting will be October 19th from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. and
22 the alternate is October 23rd.

23

24 There are still a couple of RAC
25 appointments that are vacant and when I spoke to you at
26 your previous meeting we discussed the possibility of
27 getting some names identified that may be eligible for
28 appointment -- eligible and interested for appointment.
29 I don't have any names for you today, but I am working
30 on it. I've been in contact with Terran who is the AC
31 Coordinator for Lower Bristol Bay AC as well as the
32 Chignik ACs and I hope to get in touch -- at least with
33 the Chairs of the ACs if not where we're trying to get
34 on their agendas so hopefully we can identify some of
35 those members who may be interested. And hopefully at
36 your fall meeting I'll have a couple names for you.

37

38 The SRC also elected to send the Chair,
39 John Christensen, to the Arctic Ungulate Conference on
40 May 8th and 12th and Scott Anderson will serve as an
41 alternate.

42

43 And as we discussed earlier the
44 Aniakchak SRC did submit comments in support of the NPS
45 proposed wildlife rule.

46

47 And so that's all I have regarding the
48 SRC. Thanks.

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: John, do you
2 have anything to add or questions?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any comments
7 or questions from anybody.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thanks for
12 that. Appreciate it. And hopefully we'll have those
13 other names. It would nice to get these communities
14 repopulated again.

15
16 Troy.

17
18 MR. HAMON: Next actually we'll have
19 Dillon talk about the work he's involved in right now
20 and recently with the villages.

21
22 MR. PATTERSON: Thank you, Madame Chair
23 and member of the Council. Again my name is Dillon
24 Patterson for the record. So I wanted to give a couple
25 of brief updates on work that we're doing out in Katmai
26 Preserve communities, primarily Kokhanok and Igiugig.
27 And also maybe discuss a little bit how they might
28 pertain to the topics that were discussed earlier
29 regarding caribou around Kukaktlik Lake and Nonvianuk
30 Lake area.

31
32 We -- sort of adjacent to that project
33 I did want to mention and I apologize from stealing
34 thunder from my Fish and Game colleagues, they can
35 speak in more detail to this, but we are going out to --
36 partnering with Fish and Game to do harvest surveys in
37 Kokhanok in Igiugig. Right after this meeting we're
38 headed out to Igiugig actually so those will both occur
39 in March.

40
41 But sort of adjacent to that we have
42 conducted traditional knowledge interviews in both
43 Kokhanok and Igiugig, partnered with Kokhanok and
44 Igiugig Village Councils to do those. And I have
45 brought a couple of themes that came from that research
46 and I thought I would discuss those, but I also wanted
47 to mention I'm not extremely familiar with how the OSM
48 analysis process takes places and how those analyses
49 occur, but I wanted to mention particularly to
50

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1 colleagues at OSM that if a proposal is submitted by
2 Igiugig Village Council, Kokhanok Village Council or
3 the RAC, whoever it might be, that when that time comes
4 to produce the analysis for that proposal I would be
5 more than happy to write and provide a detailed summary
6 of our findings from that traditional knowledge
7 project.

8

9 So anyway themes from that project.
10 Their traditional knowledge does suggest that there's a
11 small resident population primarily along the Kukaktlik
12 Ridge area and that population being a resident
13 population doesn't appear to migrate much out of that
14 area. Locals seems to think that the aerial survey
15 estimates that Troy and Leslie Spora came up with
16 around 300 animals, most folks seem to think that was
17 probably about accurate. And another theme is that
18 this caribou have traditionally been there for quite
19 some time, been hunted primarily by Kokhanok and
20 Igiugig residents and therefore if a hunt were opened
21 it would make sense that those two communities would
22 have access. Also many agree that the population
23 appears to be stable and has been relatively stable for
24 the past few decades.

25

26 And then finally Mulchatna Herd doesn't
27 appear to cross much over the Kvichak as we all know as
28 it used to in the past, but it something that was
29 discussed was when the Mulchatna Herd was much larger.
30 It came into that area, but the population around the
31 Kukaktlik Ridge preexisted that expansion so it was
32 sort of there before Mulchatna expanded into the area
33 then Mulchatna retracted and the population remained.

34

35 So that's all I have. Thanks.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any
38 questions.

39

40 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

43

44 MR. TREFON: I got one, got nothing to
45 do with caribou or moose. It's about -- I never heard
46 the exact number of the brown bear population in
47 Katmai?

48

49 MR. HAMON: Like many things we don't

50

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1 have an exact number, but the best single estimate we
2 have for that was from a survey in 2003 and 2004 and
3 2005 and the best number we had was about 2,300. But
4 that was from then, that's a snapshot in time and we
5 haven't got a equivalent single number for any time
6 period since then. So we're working on having an
7 ongoing understanding of what that number is, but it
8 costs a lot of money and a lot of airplanes and a lot
9 of time to get that one number. We're trying to figure
10 out how to do it in a more sustainable manner for the
11 agency for reasons like you've already heard from
12 Susan.

13

14 MR. TREFON: Oh, okay. That sounds
15 good. I was just wondering because I never heard any
16 count. My next question was do you know if it's a
17 steady growth or is it a population growth?

18

19 MR. HAMON: It's been both up and down
20 during the time since then visibly on the landscape.
21 So I would say at the moment it's probably similar to
22 that.

23

24 MR. TREFON: Okay. Thank you. I just
25 wanted -- I was just wondering because I never heard
26 nothing about the brown bear since Timothy Tredwell.

27

28 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

31

32 MR. WILSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
33 Yeah, thanks for the report. Have we gotten to the
34 point where we identified this herd as a resident herd?
35 That is my first question.

36

37 MR. HAMON: So I guess maybe before we
38 move on if there's questions about what Dillon talked
39 about you guys should think about that. Meanwhile this
40 is Troy again with the Park Service. And what I'll
41 cover a little bit is the sort of biological side of
42 what we've done and where we're headed with this
43 Kukaktlik Herd. And then I'll plan to talk about Pike
44 Ridge, those seem to be the two things that came up the
45 most.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That is
48 perfect. So let's keep with the caribou for now.

49

50

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1 MR. HAMON: Okay. So as far as that
2 goes, Richard, member Wilson, the -- in the kind of
3 decline of the Mulchatna Herd to the point where it was
4 closed as many of you already know, but just so that
5 everybody that's new is familiar, the locals started to
6 ask us specifically about authorization for harvest on
7 those animals because even though they're managed as
8 part of the Mulchatna Herd they don't appear to behave
9 like it. That coincided with our impressions as people
10 flying over the landscape, but we didn't have data,
11 like we see these animals, we -- they're predictably
12 visible at all seasons of the year up in that same
13 general area and I've heard them called the Iliamna
14 Hills Caribou, I've generally called them the Kokhanok
15 Bench Caribou because they're always within -- not very
16 of Kukaktlik Lake, every side of it, but that's where
17 they are.

18
19 And so we went ahead and looked for
20 funding for a special effort to just make sure we could
21 afford to count them, we didn't know how much effort we
22 were getting into. And we did counts last year and the
23 year before and both years our single best count was --
24 I think it was 312 one year and 306 the other. Now
25 that's a minimum because we don't know that we counted
26 them all, but it felt fairly comprehensive, you run out
27 of tracks in the snow to chase and things like that.
28 So we felt like we were at least in the ballpark.

29
30 But at the same time I was in
31 conversation with the Department of Fish and Game and
32 Dave Crowley was supportive of trying to get a handle
33 on it. There's always the two questions when we deal
34 with something like this. One is can we learn enough
35 to manage a hunt, but also is it -- is it worth the
36 effort because of the kind of implications of trying to
37 manage the hunt. And so Dave was supportive, we didn't
38 want to put him in a situation where he was going to
39 feel forced to try to support or do something that he
40 felt was a bad idea on a small number of animals. He
41 was supportive of us trying to get a basic handle on
42 it. And at the same time he was working with his State
43 counterparts to try to figure out how to add them to
44 the collaring program so that they would have a much
45 extensive, what we have is a very crude piece of
46 information. And so last spring the State reached a
47 point where they were ready to put collars on, but our
48 coordination wasn't timely enough between the State and
49 the Feds for us to get that in place, but they've
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1 provided us with everything we needed and we got them a
2 permit in a timely fashion. And so they now have
3 collars on the animals and I haven't had a chance to
4 catch up with Amy in detail so she'll have more
5 information about that.

6
7 We haven't flown additional surveys
8 this year and partly that's because of my own
9 availability not coinciding with the very few days of
10 good weather until like this week. I have to say I
11 love this week. But we still could and there's time
12 and we're within the window of time when we were
13 surveying last year. So we could add that, but I would
14 also add that now that the State has engaged in
15 collaring activity we'll be coordinating anything we do
16 with them to make sure that we're not duplicating
17 efforts that aren't helpful.

18
19 But from the standpoint of the National
20 Park Service I guess there's a couple of different
21 things, Mr. Wilson, as far as whether or not it's a
22 distinct herd. So they -- there's a genetic question
23 that's implied in that and then there's a behavioral
24 question. And it could be that they're not genetically
25 different, but they might be behaviorally distinct
26 enough and operating separately enough that they can be
27 considered separate. And we would need to talk with
28 our counterparts at Fish and Game to make sure that we
29 agree on how we carry forward. But I just want to be
30 clear that we don't -- from the standpoint of the Park
31 Service we don't need to prove that they're distinct in
32 order to manage them distinctly if they behave
33 distinctly. If that -- if that follows.

34
35 We're not going into it with the
36 intention of doing or not doing something, but what we
37 would like to do is to facilitate legal harvest so that
38 we can assist the villagers with opportunity to provide
39 for their families, but we can also make sure that we
40 have enough information to make sure that the herd is
41 managed adequately. And whether that happens through
42 us or through Fish and Game depending on the nature of
43 the hunt regulation is not something that we are
44 particularly concerned about, we're more concerned that
45 it happens in the right way for the villagers. So I
46 kind of defer to the State and to OSM as far as like
47 ways that the hunt might be authorized. We're just
48 looking at what we can do to make sure whether or not
49 there's enough animals to do that.

50

1 MR. WILSON: Thanks. I guess you kind
2 of answered one of the questions was it sounds like you
3 guys want to take responsibility for the herd and
4 manage it, but you're not real sure yet?

5
6 MR. HAMON: Well, we don't want to be
7 inefficient. And so we want to make sure that we're
8 working with our partners in the best way that we can
9 to make it -- to make it work for everybody.

10
11 MR. WILSON: Thank you. And I ask
12 these questions because right now we have a herd that
13 is healthy. We all know they're there and yet, you
14 know, and the rest of the Mulchatna Herd is in dire
15 straits. And so now it's a management thing, it's the--
16 you know, whether the State takes it over, does the
17 State still have jurisdiction over that herd right at
18 this moment or does, you know, the Park have
19 jurisdiction over this herd and who's going to
20 implement, you know, either new regulations or stay
21 with what the State has and just -- you know, and
22 section it off as a resident herd and figure out how
23 many you can take out of that herd in a year. That's
24 kind of where I'm at because they -- you know,
25 understanding that you need -- you need the info, you
26 know, to create a different program, you got to have
27 the, you know, information there, I understand all
28 that, you know, but trying to push the idea that hey,
29 there's no reason for that herd at this moment to be
30 closed because it's in good standing and it always has
31 been.

32
33 But yet because of the two agencies,
34 you know, the Mulchatna Herd being -- you know, not in
35 such good shape and we're really -- we all know that
36 this herd is separate from the Mulchatna Herd even
37 though at one point it could have been Mulchatna just
38 like we planted the Nushagak Caribou over there, it
39 came from this side, but it's over there. So it's not--
40 you know, you don't have the DNA to be there and just
41 like you said, you know, you know, that it's a resident
42 herd, pretty much they're there all the time. So I'm
43 just -- I'm continually saying this because I don't
44 want to wait until 2024, you know, so that the
45 residents of those areas and us who have used, you
46 know, that herd up until, you know, two years ago, you
47 know, just I hope you see where I'm going, I just want
48 to keep it open-minded enough to where if there is a
49 way while you're trying to gather your information,
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1 whether you want it to be under your umbrella or the
2 State's, that somehow you guys get together and make
3 this herd available for these communities that really
4 need it.

5

6 MR. HAMON: And, Madame Chair and Mr.
7 Wilson, I appreciate the comments. A couple of things
8 that I think are worth just adding. And so one of
9 those is that not as a representative, but as just an
10 observer of the process I anticipate that there's
11 probably little more flexibility in the Federal system,
12 that could be wrong. But I -- and we're not opposed to
13 trying to be the ones that manage the harvest, but at
14 the same time I'll also say I expect these animals are
15 separate from the Mulchatna Herd. I know a number of
16 people that I've spoken with feel the same way, but
17 we'll count 300 animals up on the Kukaktlik Bench and
18 we'll drop down by Igiugig and there'll be a thousand.
19 We know those are probably from the Mulchatna Herd, we
20 know they're different, but I think everybody would
21 have an easier time with the decision to authorize
22 harvest if we had at least a cycle of -- following
23 collars that just got put on so that we know that we're
24 not actually seeing crossover that we're not aware of.
25 And so I understand what you're saying about 2024 being
26 less good than 2023, but it might be better from our
27 standpoint for that reason because it gives us a chance
28 to actually make sure of this data. I mean, we --
29 they've spent a lot of time and energy putting on
30 collars and it would be valuable if we could plan to
31 make use of that before we go too far if that makes
32 sense.

33

34 MR. WILSON: Thanks, Troy. I just
35 wanted to get a -- I asked at the last meeting if there
36 was a way to EO a procedure or something so that while
37 you're gathering your information knowing that this
38 herd is in good standing, if you can EO 20 caribou out
39 of the herd, you know, until you get all your
40 information and then set up a permanent program instead
41 of have a temporary one in place while you're waiting
42 for -- just like they had over in the Nushagak there,
43 they had, you know, the villages sign up for eight
44 caribou, something so that people can have access to
45 that resource while you're trying to get your new data.

46

47 MR. HAMON: I appreciate the comment.
48 That's -- thank you.

49

50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Richard. There's a
2 little bit of difference I think with that transplant
3 over to Nushagak Peninsula. I think they kind of set
4 up and I forget the exact term, caribou committee and
5 the number of villages. And so as the -- soon as they
6 had the animals over there and they watched the herd
7 grow they kind of had that framework in place. And
8 then those eight -- I've been sitting in on these
9 committees for the last several years as a RAC member,
10 I just -- I can't vote or anything, but I like to
11 listen to it and have the background. But what, a year
12 ago they only had enough to spare I think it was two
13 animals per village. And so then that was handed out.
14 Then this year it was eight because there was a
15 surprising growth.

16
17 It does occur to me I wonder if part of
18 the process of getting to a hunt on these animals if
19 you could kind of have kind of a similar committee,
20 Park, State and the two villages or something to kind
21 of talk about it. But yeah, I hear from both of those
22 villages that, you know, five caribou in town -- you
23 know, shared around the village would be pretty darn
24 nice even. Five -- you know, you mentioned 10 per
25 village and we've been kind of pushing this for a few
26 years. Yeah, I feel we're a little stuck in the
27 bureaucratic slog. But anyway I thought I'd bring that
28 part of up and maybe even some sort of a committee to
29 discuss it because it's pretty cool to sit around. And
30 then I'm proud to say that one year, I think the sense
31 was that Aleknagik was not -- could use more help than
32 Dillingham and I think Dillingham donated a couple of
33 their permits to Aleknagik so that they could have some
34 caribou. And I was like wow, this is pretty cool, you
35 know, instead of fighting for every scrap you could get
36 there was again a sharing thing.

37
38 So anyway, my two cents that I'm
39 tickled to hear there's callers. I'm looking forward
40 to Amy, what she has to tell us and I've, you know,
41 even talked to the folks there in Dillingham who I
42 think these all folks work together all the way across
43 the bay trying to coordinate. That's a healthy thing.

44
45 So anyway thanks.

46
47 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I just -- I guess I
48 was looking for an answer from Troy, but doesn't sound
49 like I'm going to get it. But I just wanted to, you
50

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1 know, put it out there that if there is a way let's
2 find it. If there is a way to open this up prior to
3 you guys getting your -- all your composition and
4 everything set up in the next few years, is there a way
5 that we can do this up until then.

6
7 MR. HAMON: And, Madame Chair, Mr.
8 Wilson through the -- through the Chair. I understand
9 and I appreciate the comments, help me to understand
10 it. I'll definitely visit with Amy and with my boss,
11 Mark, that's going to be really on him, and I'm happy
12 to support anything that we can work out.

13
14 MR. TREFON: Yeah, mine is -- I got
15 nothing, it's just a question about surveys and costs.
16 I -- well, I work in forest wildfires and we're
17 starting really getting heavy into drone uses. Is that
18 happening in the Park Service do you know because that --
19 you can cut cost big time on flying time?

20
21 MR. HAMON: Madame Chair, Mr. Trefon,
22 we have done some work with drones, unmanned aerial
23 vehicles. At this point the limitations on what we can
24 do are fairly significant because the scope and scale
25 of this wildlife that we survey and the population are
26 beyond the kind of distance that we can operate the
27 vehicles that we are allowed to have. The military has
28 unmanned vehicles that can operate at other scales,
29 we're not -- we're not playing in that realm yet.

30
31 One of the problems with the transition
32 to doing that kind of work, it's really outstanding for
33 mapping and so especially for fire type work it's
34 really good. The use of a unmanned platform for
35 wildlife sighting is a little less clearly an
36 improvement. A lot of time the ability of the human
37 eye of an observer to catch motion or the change of
38 shade as you -- as you pass by something that's in the
39 brush, but not of the brush is hard to match from just
40 the images. And so you end up with a lot more time
41 required to go through the footage than it takes to
42 actually do the flying. So while you might save time
43 on the airplane and assuming that the unmanned aerial
44 vehicle is less expensive, you might save time there,
45 but you might incur a lot more Staff time on the
46 backside of it is one of the things. So there's
47 solutions to all of these kinds of things and you can
48 try to fly at night, we don't do much of that, but if
49 you fly at night you can use certain kinds of infrared.

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So there's like -- you know, technology is getting there, but I don't see us able to transition in the next five years, maybe not in the next 10, but I -- we all know that as time passes things that we don't think we can do, we do. So I would anticipate we're headed there at some point, but it's not obviously going to show up in the next couple years.

MR. TREFON: Yeah, I just brought it up because I see it as a stable platform where you can get up to a thousand feet and if you got the herd in one specific place you could take multiple pictures on one area without changing the shade or anything like that.

MR. HAMON: And yes, it is true that if you have a point location to survey you can do an outstanding job with them. And so for things where that is effective we do use them now, but that doesn't usually correspond to the work that we've been doing. So.....

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Anybody else. Kendra.

MS. HOLMAN: So, Madame Chair, members of the Council, this is Kendra Holman. Just to address Mr. Wilson's questions a little bit. As far as on the Federal side we can potentially so of course we're in the regulatory cycle doing the proposals for -- the call for proposals right now which that wouldn't -- not go into effect until that 2024 like you had said. There is also a potential option for special action request to be put in. Those do not have to go with our normal regulatory cycles and that could potentially give that opportunity sooner than waiting for that 2024 or 2025 cycle to be on the books and ready to go. So and there's several different options of ways a proposal could be written for this resident herd that seems to be appearing and those are conversations that could be had as well if the Council had any questions about that.

MR. WILSON: Thank you. Yes, it's a -- you know, if that's an option that we have and agencies are willing to work with that option then it's something that we probably, you know, ought to pursue. I don't know if we do it as an individual or you do it

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1 was a village or if you do it as a Council. What
2 direction would we want there?

3

4 MS. HOLMAN: You could -- through the
5 Chair. You could do it any of the above as far as
6 options. You could do it as an individual, the Council
7 could submit for that or any of the villages could as
8 well.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I would just
11 offer, Richard, I would think we would be most
12 effective by doing it with all three of those options
13 working together.

14

15 MR. WILSON: Very true. In talking
16 with Randy Alvarez in Igiugig earlier, youknow, he's --
17 you know, he's also willing, you know, to do it on a
18 village level, you know, set -- get in proposals. So I
19 can see that as a -- you know, as a very good
20 possibility getting the communities together and then
21 running it through the Council here and if it's all --
22 and with the agencies and if we're all okay with it we
23 should -- if that's a possible avenue then, Rob, what
24 do you think?

25

26 MR. ROBERT HILL: You know, I -- I just
27 know what I see and I would really like to get second
28 opinion, good information, the radio collars, the
29 aerial surveys and stuff. What I see it seems like a
30 pretty stable population, but that's not -- you know, I
31 couldn't base a hunt off of what I'm seeing personally.
32 And I don't know, to me a healthy caribou population in
33 a unstable caribou environment, we're talking, you
34 know, southwest Alaska, I'd just be really careful with
35 it.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Those are
38 very good points too.

39

40 MS. HOLMAN: So this is Kendra. I did
41 want to bring up, so special a little -- there's some
42 requirements that they have to meet for them to be
43 approved. It is a little harder, the call for
44 proposal. It is not as difficult to get through things
45 like an emergency food and security, things like that
46 really needs to be -- it needs to be an emergency type
47 kind of situation typically so I can't guarantee a
48 special action would be approved or validated. But
49 just know that it is a more stringent process to get a
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1 special action through, to get that regulation in
2 before the regulatory cycle. So I would definitely
3 pursue the different avenues for a proposal for the
4 regulatory cycle. That would also provide that -- that
5 time frame for the two other agencies to get the
6 information that was needed. And then again you guys
7 as a RAC would see what analysis comes out of that
8 proposal again in the fall and be able to decide if
9 that's still how you want to proceed.

10

11 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Just one final
12 comment here. And thanks, Rob, for bringing that up
13 because it put me back in my seat again to where, you
14 know, I'm just one member here. And what I've been
15 trying to portray out there hopefully has been the
16 wishes of the communities that are involved in this
17 herd and if it's not then I need to know that. So and
18 that's why when we first had this conversation I was
19 going well, and discussed earlier that I'd rather have
20 the input of the communities, get their information and
21 the Parks information, anybody -- everybody's
22 information before we move forward on this because you
23 don't want it to like, you know, a Richard Wilson
24 thing, you know. You want it to be something that --
25 you know, it's something that these communities really,
26 really need. And it's -- and so I'll leave it there.
27 It's got to go back to the communities, if -- you know,
28 you got to get their blessing, you know, is this
29 something that they need and, you know, have that
30 conversation. And I know you guys are going to be
31 there so I'm just the guy pushing it, okay.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Rob.

36

37 MR. ROBERT HILL: If I can respond to
38 that. Richard, you know, I know the community -- the
39 majority of Kokhanok would love to see a caribou hunt.
40 They -- it's a really important thing to them. It
41 directly affects the cost of living and it goes way
42 beyond that, it's mental health and so forth and so
43 forth. I'm just -- I'm just saying we should be
44 cautious. But I'm sure the majority of the people in
45 Kokhanok would definitely be for the hunt.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And I would
48 just say, Richard, you know, that's our job here. I
49 think you're doing your job and you're doing it well.

50

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1 I really like the path that we're on, I feel like it's
2 been drug out a bit too. I do think now we got collars
3 on, I love the fact that I'm hoping to see a proposal
4 from Randy that's submitted in time for us to debate
5 this fall. So we're still going to be on track for
6 that '24 season and if something comes up and
7 discoveries are made from these collars that makes us
8 realize that the reality is there we can try for a
9 special action especially if the needs in the villages
10 grows unforeseen for whatever reason that might be.
11 But I like at least now that we've got forward movement
12 on it, I feel like more so than we had before. Again I
13 -- that is making the assumption that Randy will get
14 the village proposal put together for us in time.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

19

20 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, that's good. I
21 don't have any doubt that those folks want this, you
22 know, I've heard it. And I think you're doing good
23 pushing it. And I was kind of wondering, Richard, we
24 have good travel conditions, a sense of urgency, go
25 now. I think the Dillingham office is getting pressure
26 from New Stuyhok about -- I think there's some caribou
27 nearby and that's a different situation, those are
28 definitely Mulchatna animals and they wander from
29 Bethel to King Salmon, but I -- it's also been my
30 experience to deal with the Park Service that nothing
31 moves fast. I remember the ORV, off road vehicle trail
32 things that went on and on. But yeah, I kind of like
33 the idea of if we could get this proposal like Randy
34 and maybe you guys could influence somebody out of
35 Kokhanok. I mostly talk to Gary and I encourage well,
36 stir some folks up, write a proposal, but as far as I
37 know nothing happens. So if you know somebody that'll
38 sit down and write one, I mean, you've got all those
39 activists in Igiugig that do stuff a lot.

40

41 But also I was going to kind of ask
42 even special action requests are pretty slow moving and
43 what's the fastest one can move? Okay. If Kendra or
44 Troy or somebody could answer.

45

46 MS. HOLMAN: For the record this is
47 Kendra Holman. So there is -- so the emergency special
48 actions are more difficult to get through of course,
49 you do have to prove that emergency situation. They --

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1 depending on how long they're written, they don't go
2 through Council -- don't always go through Council
3 review if the Council's not having a meeting when that
4 comes in, this Council may not see that.

5

6 Brent has a little bit more information
7 here as well.

8

9 MR. VICKERS: Thank you. Let me --
10 there's two different special actions. Sorry, this is
11 Brent Vickers, Office of Subsistence Management. And
12 there are two different special actions, the emergency
13 special action which Kendra just brought up and a
14 temporary special action. The quicker of the two is
15 the emergency special action and really it's called
16 emergency special action because these are usually
17 circumstances typically in the reverse, that there's a
18 threat to the conservation of the herd or something
19 like that and which it needs to be -- action needs to
20 be taken very quickly. The -- as Kendra said it does
21 not need to go through a public hearing process, the
22 Board does act on it, it doesn't need to go through a
23 Council action process, it's typically moving as
24 quickly as possible, the Board actson it and it has a--
25 it lasts only up to 60 days. So whatever the action
26 is it only can last 60 days.

27

28 Temporary special actions need on the
29 -- in comparison do need to go through a public hearing
30 process. The Council can act on it if time permits,
31 usually that means there's already a Council meeting in
32 that time. There needs to be time for this process to
33 go through and if the Board approves the action it
34 lasts the entire regulatory cycle. So the idea would
35 be you put in a special action request, if there's
36 something -- immediate action needs to be taken in the
37 opening season that's going to open this fall and the
38 proposal to go into regulation for the following season
39 and thereafter.

40

41 So those are the two types of special
42 actions. Really what you're looking at is one lasting
43 up to 60 days, the other lasting for the rest of the
44 regulatory cycle.

45

46 Any questions on that?

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, I just
49 -- to me it still supports the road plan we're now on

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1 as long as we've got the proposal coming in on -- from
2 Randy's end.

3

4 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, Billy.

7

8 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I know what he's
9 telling us there. I was just wondering is there a
10 deadline or a time frame that you have to send this
11 information in, it's whenever you.....

12

13 MR. VICKERS: No.

14

15 MR. TREFON:want it?

16

17 MR. VICKERS: Thank you for that
18 question, that's a good -- great question. Council
19 member, is it Trefon?

20

21 MR. TREFON: Trefon.

22

23 MR. VICKERS: Trefon. Thank you.
24 That's a good question. But special actions are
25 outside regulatory cycles meaning they can be submitted
26 at any point. Typically the emergency special action
27 is something that needs to be addressed immediately, it
28 may not be valid if it's -- there is enough time to
29 really put in a full analysis and go through a proper
30 process and so it may be suggested that this actually
31 needs to go through a temporary special action request
32 and give it more time for a public process and
33 everything like that. But timing wise they can be
34 submitted at any point in the year.

35

36 MR. TREFON: Okay. Andy's prob -- I
37 mean, Randy's probably still on, I mean, they could
38 start this process tomorrow.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: No, no. No,
41 Randy's talking about putting in a proposal that will
42 go into the cycle and that needs to be in by the 12th.

43

44 MR. TREFON: Okay. Yeah, then what
45 Richard's saying, they could start this tomorrow, this
46 process.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

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1 MR. VICKERS: Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, that's
4 okay. I think this one's -- have we talked this one
5 out enough, I think we're on a decent path and I think
6 that.....

7

8 MR. WILSON: Billy's got a little more.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Just
11 a second, Billy, then. Troy, you got something to add?

12

13 MR. HAMON: Madame Chair, members of
14 the Council. Just one additional piece of this that I
15 know is a little bit relevant and that is that we
16 visited with a few folks at the Village of Kokhanok
17 last spring when Dillon and I went out to introduce the
18 project he's been working on. And we committed to
19 getting the Superintendent out there to have an in
20 person conversation. And a lot of that was around the
21 long stalled questions about ORV use that have been
22 referenced here and there. And we haven't managed to
23 make that happen, that's one of the things that's on
24 our agenda. We've been trying to get on their Village
25 Council agenda and it's between their schedules and our
26 schedules it's become apparent that we're probably just
27 going to have to plan a meeting for the purpose of
28 having this conversation hopefully this spring because
29 it's been a long time and we just haven't quite managed
30 to make the schedules mesh. So while I hear -- I
31 understand totally and I expect the same thing that
32 Richard does as far as what we expect to hear from
33 them, but I also understand Mr. Hill's cautions because
34 there are cases where similar situations have been
35 brought up and the villages are in fact not ready to go
36 there. And it can be for a number of reasons, but we
37 just -- I just -- I don't want to speak for them until
38 we have a conversation with them.

39

40 MR. TREFON: Yeah, just one more
41 question, it would be for you guys here on that
42 emergency action there. Once the -- once the 60 days
43 is up could they extend, could they request an
44 extension?

45

46 MS. HOLMAN: This is Kendra Holman for
47 the record. We'll have to double check on that just to
48 make sure we can give you the correct answer on that
49 one. We have a -- I believe what the answer is, but I

50

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1 don't want to give you incorrect information right
2 here. So we will get back with you on that one.

3

4

5 And I will just to kind of close this
6 out and address Mr. Hill's kind of concerns is with the
7 request to establish a season on this herd, there are
8 different options as far as how the regulation can be
9 written, but it does not have to be a set number, it
10 does not have to be a, you know, set harvest limit, it
11 does not necessarily have to have a set season. There
12 -- there's some things in there that can account for
13 the possibility of not having information, a may be
14 announced season, there's some different things like
15 that that can be written into this request to help
16 address those.

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50

So I just wanted to make sure that
information's out there.

MS. GREDIAGIN: Madame Chair, this is
Lisa, if I could clarify some things.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Very briefly
yeah, because I feel like right now we're putting the
cart ahead of the horse. We're still looking for more
information, we know that these actions are available
to us once we have the information gathered and I think
at that point we can evaluate which one of these
options will best work for us rather than trying to
define the options fully right now.

So go ahead if you've got some
information you can add.

MS. GREDIAGIN: Oh, just in response to
the question about if a emergency special action could
be extended or not. It would take an additional
temporary special action to extend it. So what --
depending on the time, you know, the request if you do
submit a special action and it's time sensitive
emergency you could submit two at once, one to be an
emergency special action and kind of take effect right
away and be a stopgap measure and then that kind of
parallel companion temporary special action that would
extend for longer than 60 days, require the public
hearing and more process involved.

So yeah, I just wanted to answer that
question. And like Kendra said yeah, there's a lot of

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1 different options. I could submit a proposal, there's
2 going to be a lot of things that come on that analysis,
3 but that you certainly could consider at your fall
4 meeting, you know, various modifications.

5

6 So thank you, Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. No,
9 great. Thanks, that was helpful.

10

11 Did that help you too, Billy?

12

13 MR. TREFON: Yes.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Good.
16 Okay. Anybody else then on this?

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I think
21 that, you know, we can -- yeah, I think first we need
22 the rest of our information and I think we're lined up
23 well and I would -- I would say that we should plan on
24 putting some time in on this on our fall meeting when
25 we have more of the information that we need.

26

27 Okay. Great. Okay. Go ahead, Troy.

28

29 MR. HAMON: Okay, Madame Chair and
30 members of the Council. The other topic I wanted to
31 give you an update on, it came up earlier, was the Pike
32 Ridge. So for new Council members I'll give just a
33 brief overview and then kind of a status.

34

35 So when Katmai was expanded in 1980 the
36 stairstep boundary at the very western end of the Park
37 starting basically at the road to Lake Camp and going
38 north and east from there swallowed up a trail, Pike
39 Ridge Trail, that had been historically used by locals
40 here for a long time. And when I arrived, that was
41 1998, there was already some sort of a gentleman's
42 handshake type agreement that if people used that trail
43 and hunted off the left when you're going out so that
44 would be the north and west, then that would be okay
45 and hunting the other direction would not. Susan
46 Alexander already talked about the problem with those
47 kinds of conversations, I don't know if she realized
48 she was talking about it, but Federal Managers don't
49 stick around. So you have got Chief Rangers' law
50

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1 enforcement responsibilities, and you've got
2 Superintendents who supervise those law enforcement
3 responsibilities and as they turnover and there's no
4 written defensible record of that agreement and what's
5 in law is in opposition to it, it creates trouble
6 instead of helping.

7

8 So having talked over the situation up
9 there for a number of years, we started trying to
10 outline what are all the options, every single option
11 that would make the trail legal and what would make
12 harvest legal, at least, you know, whether it's from
13 the one side. And we covered everything from land
14 exchanges to what sort of rights of way permits might
15 exist or might exist. And after extensive discussion
16 with locals here we got out maps, we let them draw on
17 the maps and help us identify what would be helpful
18 where. What ended up seeming like the two most
19 workable solutions were one, to change the boundary of
20 the preserve so that the area in question became
21 Preserve instead of Park, that would allow us to
22 authorize harvest or to change the designation of that
23 area of the Park to include subsistence authorization.
24 Katmai as a Park was not authorized for subsistence by
25 ANILCA. And the problem with changing the Park
26 designation for an area of the Park to authorize
27 subsistence is that that is a Congressional action, it
28 has to go through Congress. The benefit is that it is
29 a subsistence authorization, not a general harvest
30 authorization in the way that a Preserve designation
31 is. And so the problem with the other one is that as a
32 -- it opens the possibility that you could come out
33 from Anchorage with your five best friend and go swamp
34 people locally have been traditionally using as their --
35 as their most locally accessible harvest opportunity.
36 And so I don't know that that's likely, but it would be
37 theoretically feasible. The benefit of that is that
38 ANILCA gave the Park Service and maybe other Federal
39 agencies, I don't remember, but at least the Park
40 Service the ability to make boundary adjustments and
41 that was viewed as a way to use that authorization. So
42 that doesn't require Congress so in that way it would
43 be simple.

44

45 In conversation with a bunch of people
46 locally including at the village -- well, at least
47 public meetings and other open public meetings, the
48 general consensus was that they preferred to try to do
49 it the right way which involved Congress. So the
50

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1 Superintendent recommended to Congress that they take
2 action. We are requested periodically at the beginning
3 of each new Congress for like legislative action items,
4 this one went in and it never got acted on. So I in
5 conversation with the Superintendent this winter, he
6 was talking over how to get a little more foothold on
7 it. He wants to try one more time. I think as before
8 he's sensitive to the feelings of locals, whether they
9 want to continue to wait for that road or take the
10 maybe less satisfying, but more efficient, in house
11 solution. But he's hoping to be able to have a
12 conversation with some of our Alaska Legislators to get
13 a little bit more of their understanding of it so they
14 might be more of a proponent instead of just having it
15 not make -- get any traction.

16

17 But that's where we're at. We're
18 trying to make it so that trail and the use of the
19 trail and the value of that area corresponds to the
20 kind of local historic use, but at this point it's just
21 gone in, it's a new Congress and if you are satisfied
22 with that approach that's fine, you can let me or the
23 Superintendent know. And if you feel like we ought do
24 an about face it would also be a good time to let him
25 know.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: And I would
28 probably add or -- and/or probably would behoove us if
29 we're interested enough in contacting our delegation
30 and asking them for that support as well to support the
31 Park and the efforts they're going through, is that not
32 correct?

33

34 MR. HAMON: Well, Madame Chair, I am
35 not an expert on your charter, but it says something
36 about correspondence policy. So I think if you do
37 that.....

38

39 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: But not as
40 individuals.

41

42 MR. HAMON:I think if you do that
43 it needs to be as an individual, but I'm not -- I don't
44 want to speak for the OSM folks that -- but I do think
45 that if there were local people that were proponents of
46 this and had conversations with those Legislators it
47 would be a huge help.

48

49 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I think the
4 democrats probably want to make Mary Peltola look as
5 good as possible. She might be an avenue to contact
6 whether through your various tribal councils or city
7 councils or, I mean, there's a lot of different angles
8 and she might be able to make something happen.

9

10 But, you know, one of the first issues
11 I was introduced to when I first got here in fall of
12 1989 and came over here to a meeting and people were
13 banging the table about blankety-blank Park Service and
14 Pike Ridge and that was '89 and here we are. So if
15 there was a -- do a two prong approach and push both
16 angles at the same time I'm all for it.

17

18 Thanks.

19

20 MR. WILSON: Through the Chair.
21 Thanks, Troy, I appreciate the upgrade there. It's
22 always good to hear you and what you have to say, your
23 entity there. Appreciate the effort you guys are
24 putting in on that.

25

26 Thanks.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Troy, do you
29 have anything else for us?

30

31 MR. HAMON: I think that's more than
32 enough.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Bellyful.
35 Okay. Now I'm not sure, do we have anybody from BLM
36 that wanted to present on anything.

37

38 MR. TREFON: Susanne's here from Lake
39 Clark Park.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, I'm
42 sorry. Well, I didn't know because we had Dillon up
43 here too.

44

45 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: For the record this
46 is Susanne Fleek-Green with Lake Clark National Park
47 and Preserve. So I'm just going to highlight a couple
48 of the things in this report and then add a few other
49 updates as well.

50

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1 First again to steal the thunder of
2 Department of Fish and Game, but we have a great
3 partnership with them to do the harvest studies in Port
4 Alsworth and Nondalton. And the late breaking news
5 that I heard was that they will be there to do
6 additional work in April and early May. So we're very
7 excited to see more results from that. This is
8 something that our SRC asked for three years ago and
9 they're not easy to fund or to get going so I'm very
10 pleased with how this is going and it will provide the
11 Park with a lot of really interesting information.

12
13 Also we will be conducting another
14 moose survey next week if the weather cooperates
15 actually I think it's going to be. So this will be
16 following up on efforts completed in 2019 and 2020 on
17 the Lake Clark coast. We're going to spend some more
18 time over on the coast and then if we have weather and
19 time cooperating try and come back into the interior
20 part of the Park.

21
22 Dall sheep. In July we will conduct an
23 aerial dall sheep survey of habitat between the
24 Tlikakila and Telaquana Lake. This area contains the
25 largest number of sheep within Lake Clark. The most
26 recent survey was done back in 2019 and we think that
27 this is particularly important given declining trends
28 that this body has talked about in the past in sheep in
29 much of Alaska. We like to think that the high alpine
30 areas and more consistent weather of Lake Clark has
31 protected us from some of those other declines in the
32 State.

33
34 Mulchatna. We've talked about the
35 caribou herd quite a bit, but we will be assisting
36 ADF&G and the Fish and Wildlife Service with a
37 photocensus of the Mulchatna Herd in June of this year.

38
39
40 And then of course we will be running
41 both the Newhalen River and the Telaquana River weir
42 for the 20 plus year in a row on the Newhalen. So you
43 might recall last year while the rest of Bristol Bay
44 was really booming our watershed was not doing so well
45 and we actually had the second lowest sockeye run that
46 we have recorded. So it'll be really interesting to
47 see what happens this coming summer.

48
49 Those are my highlights. A couple of
50

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1 other things I wanted to mention. There is a Southwest
2 Alaska Elodia Task Force being launched and many of the
3 agencies in this room are participating in that. Dan
4 Young, our Fisheries Biologist is the lead on it for
5 Lake Clark. And it's a really impressive to do lake
6 surveys all over the region for elodia and working with
7 both lodges and air taxi services to ensure that we do
8 some more education and outreach about the potential
9 hazards of elodia getting into our lakes in this
10 region. So it's great to see such a multi agency
11 effort there.

12

13 Also I wanted to mention on the summer
14 hiring front we really, really would love some youth to
15 come work in our Park and so I'm going to pass out this
16 flyer. We are looking to hire two fish techs to work
17 on the Newhalen and the Telaquana River weirs. This is
18 a great summer opportunity. I did it when I was 20ish
19 and it's a fun job, it pays fairly well, you have
20 housing provided, you get to spend quite a bit of time
21 right around Nondalton, but we would love to have
22 locals. And this is a newish program that the Park
23 Service in Alaska has launched called Alaskans in Parks
24 and really trying to get youth from in state and
25 preferably in region to come take these positions. So
26 if you know any young people and by young I mean anyone
27 18 to 30 years old, we would love to have them apply.
28 If they're young they probably know how to focus in on
29 the QR code on that flyer and go right to the website,
30 otherwise this is through the Student Conservation
31 Association where they can apply.

32

33 We also are hiring a trail crew. This
34 again is in partnership with BBNC to hire a two week
35 this year trail crew of really teens 16 to 19 year olds
36 to spend time right outside of Port Alsworth working on
37 trails there. So that would be great.

38

39 And then we have two permanent hires
40 that we are advertising as local hires, both in Port
41 Alsworth. One is our utility repairs operator position
42 and then the other is a maintenance supervisor
43 position. So again we really like to hire from within
44 the region. If you know anyone interested both of
45 those positions are now advertised on USA Jobs.

46

47 And that's it for my quick report this
48 time.

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That was
2 quick. Thank you. Questions, comments, anybody.

3
4 MR. TREFON: Yeah.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

7
8 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I just got two.
9 It's good to see you again, it's been a while.
10 But.....

11
12 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Now that you're on
13 the SRC, Billy, you get to see me even more.

14
15 MR. TREFON: Yeah. My question is is
16 the Twin Lake -- Twin Hill, Twin Lakes area still being
17 used as a calving ground for the caribou or do you even
18 see them anymore? That's the first question.

19
20 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: I don't know about
21 calving ground. We do see caribou there, certainly not
22 anything like we used to, but we do see caribou there,
23 but I don't know if it's a calving area.

24
25 MR. TREFON: Yeah, because I'm -- the
26 locals say yeah, they see an occasional bull here, an
27 occasional bull here.....

28
29 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Yeah.

30
31 MR. TREFON:but nothing
32 substantial to even.....

33
34 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: No.

35
36 MR. TREFON:talk about
37 because.....

38
39 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: No.

40
41 MR. TREFON:the Twin Lakes was
42 their.....

43
44 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Yeah.

45
46 MR. TREFON:calving grounds.

47
48 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Yeah.

49
50

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1 MR. TREFON: And -- well, I guess you
2 answered that already because I was just going to ask
3 if there was any caribou coming into 9B which is
4 already answered.

5
6 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Yeah.

7
8 MR. TREFON: Thank you.

9
10 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Uh-huh.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
13 Anybody else.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great.
18 Well, thank you.

19
20 MS. FLEEK-GREEN: Okay. Thank you.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep. Sorry
23 and I didn't mean to cut you off I just thought that --
24 okay. And then BLM, do we have anybody to present from
25 BLM on the phone perhaps.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Going once,
30 going twice and we will move on to our NOAA
31 presentation.

32
33 MS. HONIG: So unfortunately Brian had
34 to go for the evening so but his spring climate outlook
35 that he was going to present is in your meeting book on
36 Page 59 if you're interested in reading it.

37
38 And so the next person, sorry if I'm
39 stepping on your toes, is Mike Cameron from NOAA with
40 fisheries on ice associated seals. And he's online and
41 if you give me just a second I'll run over there and
42 plug in my computer and do the PowerPoint.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: One thousand
45 one.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MR. CAMERON: No problem. I'm here,

50

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1 can you hear me?

2

3

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We can hear you, give us just one second we're going to have the Powerpoint up and going and either myself or Leigh will let you know when she's ready for you to start.

7

8 MR. CAMERON: Great.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Oh, not sure you heard that, but we are looking good, we've got our initial slide up if you want to go ahead.

13

14

MR. CAMERON: Excellent. Thank you. I'd like to thank the Council for the opportunity to present today about our program of research. I know that the -- that these Regional Advisory Councils don't always include marine mammals, but the Alaska Native Ice Seal Committee recommended that we give a presentation to spread the word about the work that we do. One thing to be aware of while we're doing -- while I'm giving my presentation is that when I use the term subsistence I'm specifically referring to Alaska Native subsistence hunting and use of marine mammals which I know is a slightly different context than the use of subsistence that I've been hearing throughout the rest of these discussions.

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I work for the Polar Ecosystems Program which is part of NOAA Fishery, a section of the marine mammal laboratory based out of Seattle, Washington. Some of you might know Peter Boving, he was the leader of the PET for many years. He stepped down and so I've assumed those duties.

So I wanted to thank you again for letting me have the opportunity to talk to you a little bit about the work that we do on marine mammals.

You can skip slide 2 and move to slide 3, that's the one with five seals on it.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Gotcha.

MR. CAMERON: The Polar Ecosystem Program

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Just telling you we were updated with you.

0193

1 MR. CAMERON: Oh, great. The PET
2 monitors and studies bearded, ringed, spotted and
3 ribbon seals. Collectively those are known as ice
4 associated seals or ice seals and also harbor seals in
5 Alaska. So we study all five sosits (ph) or all five
6 of the true seals in Alaska waters.

7
8 Slide 4. We have evidence that all
9 seals are responding to changes in the Bering Sea.
10 Specifically we have measured a decline in body
11 condition, measured as the ratio of length to weight so
12 it's more important than ever to be monitoring these
13 animals. There's a lot of things that are important to
14 monitor and mostly it's useful to do that in the spring
15 which is also when local residents hunt mammals and we
16 do our best and believe that we can do this without
17 impacting hunting success of any of the subsistence
18 hunters. We have mandates under the Marine Mammal
19 Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act to manage
20 and conserve marine mammals as part of those
21 ecosystems. And part of that also allows us to
22 establish comanagement groups with indigenous people
23 and tribal nations.

24
25 Next slide, slide 5. Specifically NOAA
26 has a comanagement agreement with the Alaska Native Ice
27 Seal Committee. It contains representatives from five
28 regions that take subsistence -- that take ice
29 associated seals for subsistence use. In the Bristol
30 Bay region Renee Roke and Sam Gossik are the two
31 representatives from Bristol Bay. All of the work that
32 I'm going to be describing were discussed with before --
33 the Alaska Native Ice Seal Committee and were included
34 as part of this annual research plan that's produced as
35 part of those meetings.

36
37 Slide 6. The Alaska Fisheries Science
38 Center's Polar Ecosystems Program, our program, as a
39 mission we study all five species of sosits in Alaska
40 to support management and comanagement. Primarily that
41 we do then is combinations of vessel based and village
42 based tracking and sampling studies. We've conducted
43 more than 30 of these sorts of studies in the past
44 decades since 2000 and we've also conducted quite a few
45 aerial surveys for these seals starting in the 1990s.
46 We also have a very active program of statistical
47 methodology to improve how we come about estimating
48 these numbers of seals over incredibly large geographic
49 locations.

50

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1 Next slide, slide 7. I guess this is
2 just a pretty picture of the work that -- some of the
3 work that we capturing seals on sea ice usually based
4 off of the NOAA ship Oscar Dyson.

5
6 Slide 8. When we are working off of
7 the NOAA ship Oscar Dyson in the Bering Sea we tend to
8 work at the southern edge of the Bering Sea pack ice.
9 In the beginning of this type of work we would be con --
10 we would be doing this work in May and June, that was
11 2005 to 2010. Since then we've been going every year
12 except for 2020 for covid reasons. We've been going
13 every other year in April. Our reason for switching to
14 an April survey is so that allows us to better study
15 the relationships of mothers and their pups. This is a
16 time when moms are stressed the most and we have the
17 ability to detect specific changes in body condition.
18 We do expect to be conducting air -- vessel based
19 surveys again in April of 2024. So effectively we use
20 the NOAA ship Oscar Dyson to gain access to the ice
21 edge. We launch small boats, we quietly move through
22 the pack until we can jump out onto an ice flow and
23 effectively them in what are more or less sanding
24 landing nets. At this time of year and at this
25 location we're mostly capturing ribbon and spotted
26 seals although we do also capture bearded and ringed
27 seals.

28
29 Slide 9. Once captured we instrument
30 the animals with satellite link tags. This basically
31 gives us information on their seasonal movement and
32 also their diving and foraging behavior. That's useful
33 for habit -- for understanding habitat use. Also
34 critically we get a record of the timing of their
35 pattern of hauling out. When we conduct our aerial
36 surveys we can only count the number of seals that are
37 hauled out on top of the ice so we need to have a
38 correction factor to account for the proportion of the
39 population that's in the water at the time. So these
40 satellite tags give us the data that we need to
41 calculate correction factors. We also collect
42 information body and health and condition, everything
43 from measurements, general physical as well as
44 collecting blood and various tissue samples again to
45 assess health and condition. In the last 10 years
46 there have been two UMEs otherwise known as unusual
47 mortality event. This is when a significant number of
48 ice associated seals have shown up dead on the shores.
49 Generally these tend to be associated with large scale
50

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1 changes in the ecosystem, most notably in the 2018,
2 2019, those incredibly warm years, there were large
3 number of seals that were hauling up on shore. We
4 expect that mostly that was due to nutritional aspects
5 that was impacting the population. And finally we have
6 a small UAF or uncrewed aerial system project that
7 we're using to also help estimate body condition.

8

9 Slide 10. This just shows a map of the
10 area where we tend to do most of our work west of St.
11 Matthew. The areas that you see fringed in pink are
12 areas that through agreements with the Ice Seal
13 Committee and others we just -- we will not be entering
14 into those locations in April so that we don't have any
15 impact on Alaska Native subsistence hunts at the time.

16

17 Slide 11. This last year we also were
18 able to partner with Alaska Native communities within
19 the Bering Sea specifically in 2022 we partnered with
20 Kawerak on the Bering Strait region where we were able
21 to work with Austin Ahmasuk as a partner on this
22 project. We plan to be working with other regions in
23 the future and we will be reaching out through the Ice
24 Seal Committee to identify additional partners for the
25 Bethel based work we'll be doing in 2024.

26

27 Slide 12. As I mentioned we have
28 basically what we call buffers around the coast areas
29 that we've got agreements that we won't be going into
30 or while we're conducting our work. We also have
31 agreements to avoid any large numbers of walrus, any
32 whale and if we ever see a hunter we leave the area.
33 Similarly we also send out emails daily whenever we're
34 conducting operations, over 200 different emails that
35 we have letting folks know exactly where we are and
36 what we're doing at anytime so that we can again avoid
37 any conflicts. The main thing that we need to remember
38 though is that like subsistence hunting we don't want
39 to disturb the animals. Our aerial surveys and our
40 capture efforts are hampered if we're disturbing the
41 animals so we have similar goals.

42

43 Moving to slide 13. Moving on now to
44 the aerial surveys that we conduct. Our primary goal
45 then is to determine the abundance and distribution of
46 seals and to also contribute data about polar bears to
47 Fish and Wildlife Service. These surveys have been
48 largely international collaboration, the first were in
49 the Bering Sea in 2012 and 2013 where we conduct
50

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1 synoptic surveys with Russian scientists doing
2 identical -- using identical methods on their side of
3 the international date line. Similar with the Chukchi
4 Sea we also conducted surveys there in 2016 again
5 cooperatively with the Russians. And in 2021 we
6 conducted research in the Beaufort Sea in partnership
7 with Canada although covid restrictions prevented us
8 from being able to cooperate as much as we hoped, we
9 had to restrict our airport usage all through the
10 United States airports. We survey, we conduct these
11 aerial surveys in the spring when seals are using their
12 ice -- using the ice to give birth, nurse and to molt.
13 And these surveys are instrument based which I'll go
14 over in the next slide. Finally as I mentioned all of
15 these surveys are discussed with -- there are many
16 different organizations and groups prior to their
17 development and basically we have a lot of
18 consultation.

19

20 Slide 14. This is just showing you
21 what our set up looked like in 2021 for our surveys of
22 the Beaufort, but it's effectively the same for all of
23 our surveys. We used a NOAA aircraft called a Twin
24 Otter, we were flying between a thousand and 1,200 feet
25 at about 120 knots. We have a suite of linked cameras,
26 three visual cameras there in the middle, color cameras
27 paired with three thermal or infrared camera, also
28 paired with three ultraviolet cameras. The idea then
29 being is because these are all linked data that we get
30 from a hot spot in the thermal camera can tell us
31 exactly what image and what pixels to look at in the
32 visual color images so that we then can identify the
33 seal species. The ultraviolet sensor is one way to
34 help us get a better idea and recognize polar bears
35 which don't always show up as well in thermal imaging.

36

37 Next slide. This slide just gives you
38 an example of the sort of imagery that we're
39 collecting. On the left-hand side is a thermal image
40 where the color white is considered hot color or high
41 temperature, those are then paired directly with the
42 color image that you seen on the right-hand side which
43 are then blown up and you can actually see that there
44 are two bearded seals there.

45

46 Slide 16. I'm not going to be going
47 through all of this, these data, all of this
48 information you'll be getting in a report that I
49 understand is going to be made available on your
50

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1 website so you can download it and look at all the
2 numbers together. My main point in showing you this is
3 that we have abundance estimates for the seals in these
4 waters and confidence limits. What you're seeing here
5 are one of the challenges that we have though and
6 that's that during the month or so that we're
7 conducting our surveys the sea ice on which the seals
8 are hanging out is changing, it's reducing for the most
9 part. And so we expect that that is going to be
10 changing our abundance estimate or at least the number
11 of fields or the density of fields on the ice and so we
12 have complicated statistics to help us to tease that
13 out. I'm happy to go into detail on that later if
14 folks are interested.

15
16 Slide 17. This is a similar slide to
17 the one you saw before, this is just for information.
18 In the Bering Sea there are ribbon seals and spotted
19 seals in the Bering and that's why we have more species
20 in this. Again the estimates are there along with
21 confidence limits.

22
23 Slide 18. This slide then just -- this
24 kind of puts all the data together, combining it also
25 with similar estimates that you would get from the
26 Russian side of things. I'm not going to be going into
27 it again, I just wanted to make sure you all had the
28 estimates if you were interested.

29
30 Slide 19 now, this is the one titled
31 Ideas for Bering Sea 2024. As I mentioned we're
32 planning our surveys to be happening in 2024. What we
33 see are just sort of a generalized map of where we're
34 hoping to be able to fly. We presented this map to the
35 Ice Seal Committee last week and they've already
36 suggested some changes. Most notably for the Bristol
37 Bay region is representatives there suggested that we
38 increase the density of our lines specifically closer
39 to the coast. So we're going to be doing -- you might
40 be able to see a sawtooth pattern there around Nunivak
41 Island, we're going to be continuing that sawtooth
42 pattern all the way around into Bristol Bay or at least
43 that's our -- that's our current plan. In 2024 we're
44 also going to be using a different aircraft instead of
45 the Twin Otter which is slower we'll be flying a King
46 Air which is considerably faster. So instead of
47 needing two aircraft and five to seven weeks, we can
48 conduct the entire survey we believe in just three
49 weeks with one aircraft. So we're excited about that,
50

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1 not only does it allow us to spend less time surveying,
2 that minimizes the impact of the challenge of dealing
3 with changing ice fields, it also just the amount of
4 time that we're out and has the potential to be
5 impacting animals.

6
7 Slide 20. As I mentioned we also study
8 harbor seals. We have a long term project using Twin
9 Otters where we cover the entire range of harbor seals
10 in Alaska, you can see there in the sort of gray
11 border. We use a sampling approach for this area, we
12 try to cover the entire region in a five year period
13 and we have statistical methods for helping us to
14 combine those data into single estimates. Most
15 importantly we're trying to identify changes in trends.
16 We've identified the Bristol Bay stock there that you
17 can see. These surveys are conducted a little bit
18 differently, they're lower in altitude at 750 feet,
19 they're conducted in August and September when the
20 animals are hauling out molting. And instead of the
21 suite of cameras that you saw for our aerial surveys
22 for ice seals we have observers looking out through
23 bubble windows with cameras taking pictures of any
24 seals that they see. Those are geo referenced, we have
25 -- to make sure we're not double counting from those
26 images we have multiple people looking at them for that
27 and that's how we're able to conduct those surveys.

28
29 Slide 21. I wanted to give a special
30 notice then because this is the Bristol Bay Regional
31 RAC about Iliamna Lake harbor seals. In 2012 the
32 National Marine Fishery Service was petitioned to list
33 them under the Endangered Species Act. The Endangered
34 Species Act identifies status based on stock or what's
35 called a distinct population segment. At that time the
36 Iliamna Lake harbor seal population which is an
37 isolated population of harbor seals was decided that it
38 wasn't warranted to identify them as a distinct
39 population segment because there is potentially
40 connections along the Kvichak River. We received
41 another petition in 2020, there was no new information
42 and so that decision to review was declined. We
43 continued to conduct aerial abundance surveys in the
44 area, most recently in 2022 and we'll be surveying them
45 again in '23. We're also looking deeper into the
46 question of whether or not the population is a distinct
47 population segment by collecting more and more genetic
48 samples. The way we're doing that is working with
49 Alaska Natives and other folks in the area to collect
50

0199

1 scat from which we can gather DNA to identify their
2 genetic distinctiveness. Anyone who has information
3 that thinks would be useful in helping us to study
4 these animals in Iliamna -- in Lake Iliamna or would
5 like more information, please feel free to reach out.

6
7 And the last slide 22. This is a page
8 from another document that I think will be made
9 available to you. This is a flyer that our program --
10 excuse me, that our laboratory puts out once a year
11 identifying all of the fieldwork -- marine mammal
12 related fieldwork that happens in Alaska. In other
13 pages in this flyer they give brief descriptions of the
14 work, the timing of when the work happens, what's being
15 done, why it's being done and also contact information
16 if you'd like any more information on how that works.

17
18 I believe that's all that I have. I
19 tried to keep it quick, but I'm happy to answer any
20 questions if you have any.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Fantastic.
23 Thank you very much. That was an excellent
24 presentation, truly enjoyed it. Does anybody have any
25 questions.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Do you have
30 an estimate of the population of the seals in Bristol
31 Bay?

32
33 MR. CAMERON: I knew that was going to
34 come up and I've been told by my statistician that
35 because it's so eminent that they want me to hold off
36 on that. So I will -- I will get you that as soon as
37 it come out -- comes out, I promise. This is a report
38 that we tend to give at the Bristol Bay Marine Mammal
39 Commission meetings.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

42
43 MR. CAMERON: And I think the next one
44 of those will be in May.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Fair
47 enough. Got another question here.

48
49 Billy.

50

0200

1 MR. TREFON: Yeah, Billy Trefon here
2 from Nondalton. My question is about the Iliamna Lake
3 seals. Are they still -- you still can hunt them or
4 have there been a restriction put on that, do anybody
5 know?

6
7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Still open.

8
9 MR. TREFON: Oh, it's still open.

10
11 MR. CAMERON: There's no restriction on
12 Alaska Native hunting of ice associated seals or harbor
13 seals in Alaska.

14
15 MR. TREFON: Thank you.

16
17 MR. CAMERON: Yeah.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anybody
20 else.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, great.
25 Thank you very much for taking the time to get this
26 presentation to us. It's something new and great
27 information for us to have. I hope to hear from you
28 again in the future.

29
30 MR. CAMERON: I look forward to it.
31 And now that we're a little more familiar I can start
32 giving a little more result oriented presentations in
33 the future.

34
35 Thanks very much.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That would
38 be perfect. Thank you.

39
40 Okay. And you said that that
41 information is going to be on the website or he said
42 that; is that correct?

43
44 MS. HONIG: Yes, I will get that
45 presentation and he also sent along two flyers and I'll
46 get that posted on the website and I'll mail it to
47 Council members who don't have access to good internet.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.

50

0201

1 I appreciate those efforts. And then, Amy, you want to
2 do the ADF&G report before anybody steals any more of
3 your thunder.

4

5 MS. VANDEVOORT: All right. Through
6 the Chair. For the record my name is Amy Vandevort
7 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I do believe
8 my supervisor is on the phone as well so if he wants to
9 speak up -- if you want him to go first or.....

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I'll leave
12 that up to you guys.

13

14 MS. VANDEVOORT: Okay. All right. So
15 I've been typing notes all day, everyone keeps saying
16 Alaska Fish and Game's going to cover it so
17 hopefully.....

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MS. VANDEVOORT:I cover it. We
22 conducted moose composition surveys in cooperation with
23 Becharof and Katmai this fall. We were able to survey
24 previously established trend areas in Unit 9B, C and E.
25 Data from the surveys showed a stable population at low
26 overall moose density which is similar to previous
27 surveys. The moose density came out to be
28 approximately .4 moose per square mile which is similar
29 to previous surveys. As Bryce mentioned earlier bull
30 ratios were higher south of King Salmon and we believe
31 this is likely due to snow cover. The surveys flown
32 south of King Salmon were mostly no snow or mottled
33 snow which makes sightability of moose very difficult
34 and makes bull moose easier to see than cows or calves.
35 The bull ratios to the north of King Salmon were in the
36 30 to 40 range which is typical and we did have better
37 snow coverage to the north when we flew those which
38 does make a huge difference in sightability.

39

40 And then to address previous comments
41 about getting a population estimate in the future.
42 Future survey design may change, but it is based on
43 funding availability and weather patterns need to align
44 the same year we have the funding. In order to change
45 survey design we would need better snow conditions
46 which is difficult to get in this area.

47

48 Any questions for moose before I
49 switch?

50

0202

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anybody.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Going,

6 going, gone.

7

8 MS. VANDEVOORT: All right. The hot
9 topic for today, I'm going to switch to caribou. So we
10 finished a collaring effort the end of February on the
11 Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd in 9E. This was just to
12 increase collar numbers to aid in finding the caribou
13 in future surveys. We also collared eight caribou on
14 the -- around the Kukaktlik and Nonvianuk Lakes. These
15 collars will be used in the photocensus that Lake Clark
16 mentioned previously. We're going to -- we're planning
17 on doing that in June to get a population estimate for
18 that herd.

19

20 Any questions about that?

21

22 MR. WILSON: Great news.

23

24 MS. VANDEVOORT: Okay.

25

26 MR. WILSON: We've been waiting for
27 that for a while.

28

29 MS. VANDEVOORT: As far as caribou
30 surveys for the Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd and the
31 Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd we weren't able to do
32 any fall composition surveys due to weather, we weren't
33 able to get flights out of here. So the last surveys
34 that were done were -- we did parturition surveys last
35 spring on the Northern Alaska Peninsula and we're
36 hoping to do parturition surveys beginning in June this
37 year for the Northern and Southern Peninsula Herds so
38 we can get some calf ratios and get a better idea on
39 how quickly the populations may grow. They are both
40 showing upward trends in population numbers which is
41 good news. The Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd is above
42 objective and we're trying to find ways of increasing
43 harvest down there because there's not a lot of harvest
44 down there, mostly just due to issues with
45 transportation.

46

47 Any caribou questions?

48

49 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

50

0203

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I'm curious about
4 rough numbers of the South Peninsula Herd because
5 actually my -- I have more caribou hunting experience
6 out of Cold Bay than anywhere else?

7

8 MS. VANDEVOORT: Sure. So the current
9 estimate for the Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd puts it
10 between 4,700 and 4,900. The objective for that herd
11 is three to 4,000. So we're roughly 800 over
12 objective.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: That's good
15 news. I remember when that herd was under a thousand.
16 Sorry about that.

17

18 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Richard.

21

22 MR. WILSON: I guess I was looking for
23 some numbers for the -- for the North Peninsula Herd,
24 but you probably don't have those, huh, or do you?

25

26 MS. VANDEVOORT: Yep. Yep. Sorry,
27 just didn't throw those in right away. So the
28 objective for the Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd is 12
29 to 15,000. The current estimate puts it roughly
30 between 4,000 to 4,700. I'm still playing with the
31 models to figure out exactly if I can narrow it down a
32 little bit. But it is showing an increasing trend with
33 calf numbers.

34

35 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

38

39 MR. TREFON: Yeah, my question would be
40 about the residential herd. When they -- when they --
41 are you going to be working -- do you have to be
42 working with the Park Service cooperatively because to
43 track that herd, they're all over in Pokanoy area and
44 right around Kokhanok Village which is not on the Park
45 anymore so I was wondering if the State will be
46 involved in the research survey?

47

48 MS. VANDEVOORT: Yes. Yes, so we will
49 be working cooperatively with the Federal agencies to
50

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1 do a -- to continue with surveys in the future. The
2 radio collars that we have -- that we put out will
3 definitely help in finding the caribou and determining
4 where or if they're moving anywhere and it'll help get
5 us some calf numbers to see -- and get us some ratios
6 so we can actually see if there -- if it does go the
7 route of being able to be harvested we need to have
8 ratios to determine what could be harvested without
9 decreasing that population.

10

11 MR. TREFON: One more got to do with
12 fisheries and we had the Park Service in my area
13 Federal, pretty much Federal. And I've heard FRI being
14 mentioned. FRI used to be around in my area a lot, I
15 don't know if they still are, back in the '70s and then
16 when the Park Service came in we never saw FRI anymore
17 so we never get a whole lot of State information up
18 until the Park got involved?

19

20 MS. VANDEVOORT: So for fisheries I'm
21 going to say there's -- I have no information for
22 fisheries right now. So yeah, you'd have to ask one of
23 our Fisheries Biologists.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Fair enough.
26 Anybody else.

27

28 MR. ROBERT HILL: Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Rob.

31

32 MR. ROBERT HILL: I was just wondering
33 what number of animals you were able to collar up
34 around the Kokhanok area?

35

36 MS. VANDEVOORT: So we were able to
37 collar eight cows which should give us hopefully enough
38 coverage in June to be able to find the majority of the
39 animals to count them and get ratios.

40

41 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

44

45 MR. TREFON: Oh, I was just going to
46 mention you need to collar the bulls because they
47 follow -- that's what the caribou follow is that bull.

48

49 MS. VANDEVOORT: Yeah, unfortunately

50

0205

1 collaring a bull is a little bit more difficult with
2 their neck sizes, but.....

3

4 MR. TREFON: That is true because the
5 cows will surround that bull and you can't get at it.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MR. TREFON: Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Looks like
12 we're questioned out for now on that.....

13

14 MS. VANDEVOORT: Okay.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON:so go
17 ahead.

18

19 MS. VANDEVOORT: One more topic to
20 touch on. As Bill mentioned earlier from Becharof we
21 are looking at doing a brown bear project over the next
22 five years to get some sort of bear density estimate
23 for Unit 9. We're still working out the details as far
24 as where and how we're going to do that. Hopefully we
25 can get some survival estimates as well to give us a
26 little bit more than just a one time density estimate,
27 but we're still trying to work through that process.

28

29 And that's all I have unless my
30 supervisor on the phone wants to mention anything.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any
33 questions on the bears.

34

35 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

38

39 MR. TREFON: Yeah, I just sort of had a
40 comment. Is that going to be just on State land or
41 does that include the Park Service and the Federal
42 lands?

43

44 MS. VANDEVOORT: For the bear?

45

46 MR. TREFON: Yeah.

47

48 MS. VANDEVOORT: We're still
49 determining that. It most likely won't be on Park
50

0206

1 Service land, we're more interested on the bear
2 densities where you can hunt them. So most likely
3 it'll be -- we're looking at Unit 9E just because
4 that's one of the more utilized populations of brown
5 bears in the area.

6

7 MR. TREFON: On the Preserve?

8

9 MS. VANDEVOORT: Yeah.

10

11 MR. TREFON: Thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
14 Great. Dan, did you have something?

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: This is kind of a little
17 late one, but I really appreciate your comment on that
18 the bull moose are easier to see in that one area
19 because I was wondering, I kept looking at those
20 numbers and wondering if that was the case. So that
21 helps a lot.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MS. VANDEVOORT: You're welcome.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: All right.
28 Okay. Boss man. You have the floor.

29

30 MR. RINALDI: I like that title. Can
31 you guys hear me okay?

32

33 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We can.

34

35 MR. RINALDI: Great. Madame Chair,
36 members of the Council. For the record my name is Todd
37 Rinaldi, I'm the Regional Management Coordinator for
38 the central southwest region of Division of Wildlife
39 Conservation, Fish and Game there. So John Landsiedel
40 though, the Area Biologist for Dillingham, is actually
41 up in the air flying currently so he's asked that I
42 give you an update on a couple of things that are
43 pretty relevant and some -- also some information that
44 you guys have specifically requested. I'll give an
45 update real quick on the recent moose GSPE which is a
46 geospacial population estimator. We were able to
47 accomplish this, it did occur in late winter or
48 actually in February so we didn't have the ability to
49 get a lot of calf to cow ratio information or bull to
50

0207

1 cow ratio information just because of antler drop and
2 the difficulties in sexing animals this time of year.
3 That being said it was actually a very precise survey
4 and it was a very positive survey. So in 17C which is
5 the area that we were focusing on this past February,
6 the management objective for moose is 2,800 to 3,500
7 and we've expected to be under that for a number of
8 years and in fact we limited some hunting opportunities
9 in late winter because of achieving the objectives
10 early on and conservation concerns that we've had.
11 However this GSPE resulted in documenting 3,600 animals
12 give or take 350 which is pretty precise. And if we
13 add a sightability correction factor to this population
14 estimate it actually puts the population at about
15 4,000. So potentially the population is at its upper
16 element of the objective which is really good news for
17 opportunities in the area. We expect to increase
18 opportunities in 17C for moose next year providing
19 nothing dramatic happens this -- in this late winter
20 period.

21
22 We've had some concerns about bear
23 predation in the area and document a high effect of
24 predation on calves particularly in the early weeks of
25 survival. And the Department is currently preparing to
26 do a bear removal project in an area north of 17C
27 during this spring in the Mulchatna calving area, the
28 western Mulchatna calving area. We're hoping that
29 that'll actually have an additional effect of
30 potentially reducing the affects of bear predation on
31 neonate calves, but also neonate moose calves.

32
33 So this past fall we did shut down the
34 fall moose hunting opportunity -- the winter moose
35 hunting opportunity, a to be announced registration
36 hunt in the month of December. We haven't offered that
37 for a number of years in 17C because of where we
38 understood the population to be and the documentation
39 of those low cow to calf ratios. But this fall for the
40 first time in six years we actually achieved that moose
41 harvest objective just in that fall portion of the
42 hunt. And in addition to the subsistence harvest there
43 was a ceremonial harvest and some cultural education
44 harvest included in that fall opportunity. So this is
45 good news for the area. We understand that there isn't
46 going to be any Mulchatna opportunity in the near
47 future, but this is another additional opportunity for
48 moose and we're excited about it.

49
50

0208

1 And that's what I have to report for
2 Dillingham.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lots of good
5 stuff, huh.

6
7 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

10
11 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you very
12 much, Todd, that's really, really relieving. I was
13 expecting bad news. But what was the confidence
14 interval on your estimate there?

15
16 MR. RINALDI: So with the basic G --
17 the basic results were plus or minus 350 on that when
18 it was -- the calculation was 33 -- the specific
19 calculation was 3,629 plus or minus 347. That's pretty
20 tight. And then confidence interval not so -- not as
21 tight. I mean, I'm sorry, the correction factor not as
22 tight. It yielded an abundance of 4,100 -- 4,191 plus
23 or minus 671.

24
25 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you. I am
26 really relieved. I was worried. I know -- it seems
27 like some people have had pretty good luck the last two
28 seasons, I haven't even been able to get in the field
29 either season. And that was just -- you know, I've
30 heard other people think Fish and Game was being too
31 cautious, that there were moose. And I'm kind of glad
32 to hear there are moose, that we aren't doing some sort
33 of overharvest.

34
35 So thank you. And I'm thrilled to
36 death we've got all our Biologists in place. And I
37 think we got some good folks to carry on and thank you
38 very much.

39
40 MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Billy.

43
44 MR. TREFON: Yes, we've got some
45 excellent Staff out there. We got high confidence in
46 all of them.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
49 Billy.

50

0209

1 MR. TREFON: Okay. Billy Trefon here.
2 My question is about your bear relocation program
3 because I got a great story about McGrath as a bear
4 relocation program. Many years ago they tried that, I
5 mean, they tried the predator control with the wolves,
6 the hunting of wolves and they tried the bear
7 relocation and you had this giant grizzly that they
8 took 300 miles up the Denali and they dropped him on a
9 hill, he was all groggy. And when he snapped out of it
10 he sat -- they watched that bear, he came out of it and
11 he just sat there for three days with his nose straight
12 up in the air. And he must have got of whiff of where
13 he was coming from because on cue he just beelined
14 right back toward McGrath.

15
16 MR. RINALDI: Yeah, I have -- I have
17 heard that -- I have heard that story and that story's
18 actually not rare when it comes to wolves and bear and
19 a lot of critters on the landscape. They make these
20 incredible forays and their sense of navigation and
21 home is incredible.

22
23 The project that the Board of Game has
24 tasked us with from this past winter is not to relocate
25 these bears and in part that's part of the reason why.
26 But they've asked us to remove bears and they've asked
27 us to remove bears specifically on the calving grounds
28 and the intent is or the anticipation is that by
29 removing bears during the very critical periods of
30 calving, the first two, three weeks of life when
31 survival is the most critical, that we can give a boost
32 to a couple more cohorts and help with over -- over
33 summer and over winter survival. We don't expect to be
34 removing too many bears, the area that we're focusing
35 on is in the western calving area which is in the 17
36 side of the Wood-Tikchiks.

37
38 And yeah, so I guess I'll make the
39 offer again. There is the availability of bear meat if
40 communities would like bear meat to please reach out to
41 John in Dillingham or Amy in King Salmon and let them
42 know because there's the potential for meat this
43 spring.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Great.
46 Thank you for that.

47
48 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

49
50

0210

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Dan.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, one more thing,
4 Todd. I just realized I've heard a couple of the
5 guides are starting to show up in Dillingham, kind of
6 in prep for, you know, their snowmachine hunts and
7 stuff. When you do the removal program will that be
8 kind of after those guys are doing their hunting?
9 Okay.

10

11 MR. RINALDI: Thanks, Dan. Yeah, the
12 period that we're going to be targeting is basically
13 like the peak of calving so we're looking at starting
14 operations probably around May 10th. You know, we're
15 going to be putting some collars on calves as well to
16 help us keep track of survival, help keep track of --
17 keep track of the groups of calving animals. So it'll
18 probably run mid May to maybe very early June, but
19 we're thinking it'll be done by end of May.

20

21 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yep, thank
24 you much. Anybody else.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. I
29 think that does it, but really appreciate your time,
30 Todd, and thanks for hanging in there with us.

31

32 MR. RINALDI: Thank you. Have a good
33 night.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: You as well.
36 And who is our lucky presenter from OSM.

37

38 MR. VICKERS: Good afternoon, Madame
39 Chair, members of the Council, I am the lucky one. I
40 am Brent Vickers, Division Supervisor of Anthropology
41 and Office of Subsistence Management. First off I just
42 really want to thank all the Council members for
43 exceptional work on behalf of your communities. And in
44 fact this is a -- this Council here just the amount
45 you're thinking about your communities is just amazing
46 to me. So I really appreciate all your input today and
47 just thinking ahead, thinking forward for your
48 communities and thinking about subsistence.

49

50

0211

1 So thank you very much. We bow to your
2 expertise and contribution of your knowledge and
3 experience in this regulatory process and as we
4 discussed also nonregulatory processes.

5
6 Let me give you a quick and dirty
7 version of the OSM notes right now. First off last
8 fall as you may know we -- all the Councils were able
9 to meet in person for the first time since covid three
10 years ago. I loved it, it was my first opportunity to
11 start seeing Council members, agency members, public
12 members face to face since I started during covid. And
13 we were able to do it all again this found of winter
14 meetings and I see no reason why we can't continue to
15 do it, it's been great. I -- it's so much better to
16 see everyone faces as we all know.

17
18 So thank you for making the efforts to
19 get out here, not only Council members, but all agency
20 Staff, public members who came in, that's -- seeing you
21 guys in person makes such a big difference. Thank you.

22
23 Real ID. Beginning May 7th, 2025
24 everyone's going to need a Real ID compliant driver's
25 license. You need it to fly anywhere including Bush
26 planes here in Alaska. So with that -- as far as we're
27 concerned by your fall, 2025 Council meeting at which I
28 expect to see you all at, you're going to need those
29 Real IDs. Please check with the Alaska DMV website for
30 more information on if you have a Real ID and if you
31 don't how you acquire one.

32
33 The Federal Subsistence Board fisheries
34 regulatory meeting. You guys heard updates on that.
35 That was Jan -- started on January 31st, 2023. Your
36 Chair was an excellent contribution as you probably
37 expected. You heard some of the outcomes, I wanted to
38 make a note of the -- there was an ovation, there was
39 the greatest of joy in the meeting by far was when WP
40 20-40, the snowmachine to pursue wolves and wolverines
41 passed, people just stood up and clapped in joy. So I
42 wanted -- I know you a Council members worked very
43 hard. The public -- and I want to also thank, maybe
44 they're not here or listening, but the public who came
45 and testified at the Board meeting. That was amazing
46 to see these people just beating the weather or
47 whatever they had to do to the weather to get in and
48 testify there and it was just such a great moment to
49 see that pass through because it's a great thing to
50

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1 happen and everyone was really happy to see it go
2 through. So thank you for that.

3

4

5 Changes in OSM Staffing. We have no
6 additions to report since the last meeting. We do have
7 an -- Office of Subsistence Management is advertising
8 for a cartography position. All you cartographers out
9 there please help with our mapping needs. We don't
10 have a cartography position, we want it. The closing
11 date for this application is February 24th. Please
12 reach out to us or USA Jobs for the application. Reach
13 out to us for any questions. This will really help our
14 office with our analyses.

14

15

16 While there's no new additions to
17 report there has been one very, very large subtraction.
18 The great Tom Kron retired early February after more
19 than 22 years with the program. Tom was an OSM
20 institution, his generosity and wealth of knowledge
21 will be greatly missed. And I can't understate that.

21

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I'd be happy to answer any additional
questions.

Thank you, Madame Chair, members of the
Council, Staff, public and everyone else.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Anything.

MR. TREFON: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Go ahead,
Billy.

MR. TREFON: I got one, but I'm just --
I've been curious about this guy from Boston. Is he a
volunteer for OSM because I like to hear a Boston
opinion about our meetings.

(Laughter)

MR. VICKERS: He -- Ken is not
unfortunately a volunteer for OSM. We would love to
have volunteers to begin with at OSM, but if you'd like
to hear his opinion I'll allow him to come to the mic.

Thank you.

0213

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
2 away from microphone).....

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Definitely I can
7 say that.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Thank you.
10 That's -- I'm sure that's all he really wanted to hear
11 anyway.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Good
16 enough. I think our last action item will be our
17 future meeting dates if I am not mistaken.

18
19 MS. HONIG: That is correct.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Lead us
22 through that, Leigh.

23
24 MS. HONIG: Yes, thank you, Madame
25 Chair. So we're going to be picking the fall -- or
26 confirming and if we need to change the fall of 2023
27 meeting dates and then winter, 2024 is going to be our
28 all Council meeting and we're going to hold that in
29 Anchorage. So we're just trying to narrow down about
30 five days of this open period that will work for the
31 Council. And after all of these RAC meetings have
32 completed for the season we'll try to pick a date that
33 works best for all of the Councils. And then we'll go
34 pick dates for the fall of 2024.

35
36 Let's see here. And if you look in
37 your blue little extra packet is going to be the most
38 up to date ones. So Tab 3 at the back of your meeting
39 books. And so -- well, I can -- I can speak to it when
40 we get to the fall of 2024.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Let's
43 -- is everybody still good with our 2023 date,
44 especially Rob and John, have you had a chance -- right
45 now we're scheduled to do October 24 and 25 and we
46 typically hold that meeting in Dillingham. Do you guys
47 have any conflicts that you're currently aware of for
48 those days?

49
50

0214

1 MR. TREFON: I've got a question. I
2 don't know what time AFN dates are because -- but I do
3 know it's always in October and it's been changing
4 lately. That's the only thing.....

5
6 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Can anybody
7 help us with that.

8
9 MR. TREFON:that's the only thing
10 that would conflict that I see for on my part.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I know that
13 it's usually before that, it's usually within the first
14 two week, but if they have been changing it then I
15 certainly wouldn't speak to it.

16
17 MR. TREFON: Last year it was -- it was
18 the middle of the week -- middle of the month. But
19 that would be something to look into because that would
20 affect most of us that goes to AFN especially for the
21 Council.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
24 that'll before the week before then. So this date will
25 work for you?

26
27 MR. TREFON: Yeah.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
30 Richard, looking good for you? Dan?

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MR. TREFON: I'm not sure.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well,
37 perhaps you can let us know. I mean, we just -- I do
38 my best to try and get everybody there knowing that we
39 can have some illness or last minute dropouts. So if
40 you -- if we definitely need to change it we can
41 because now's the time that we can do it, this is kind
42 of our last opportunity, and then we'll pick dates for
43 the future.

44
45 Feel comfortable with it?

46
47 MR. TREFON: Yeah.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

50

0215

1 Thanks.

2

3 MR. TREFON: Yeah.....

4

5 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.
6 That's fine. So we'll leave that one on the books for
7 now then.

8

9 Leigh.

10

11 MS. HONIG: Perfect. I have that down.
12 And so for the winter 2024 all Council meeting.
13 Northwest Arctic just concluded their meeting and they
14 chose two dates and ranked them. First choice was the
15 week of March 11th, March 11th through March 15th. And
16 their second choice was March 25th through 29th.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: I know I
19 have a conflict. I know that I will not be able to do
20 a meeting probably anytime after March 20th I'm going
21 to say roughly because I've got -- the lodge is usually
22 full by then. So everything kind of has to happen
23 before March 20th for me.

24

25 Richard.

26

27 MR. WILSON: This time of year right
28 now seemed to work for me. You know, we just -- I know
29 it's -- there are some carnivals happening, but, you
30 know, if it's during the week like that, you know,
31 middle of the week like we're doing now, you know, this
32 March 6th and 7th or even March 5th and 6th or
33 something like that would definitely work for me.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Any idea for
36 you.....

37

38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Earlier.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Earlier.
41 Okay. So it sounds like then sometime during that
42 earlier time frame would work best for most of us on
43 that.

44

45 Is that all you needed is just kind of
46 some direction for that one?

47

48 MS. HONIG: Yes, thank you.

49

50

0216

1 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay.

2

3 MS. HONIG: Then for the fall, 2024 so
4 that -- yeah, this is the most up to date calendar
5 except for Northwest Arctic which chose October 28th
6 through the 29th.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: We could
9 still chose those dates, right, because nobody else is
10 on there, we don't conflict with them, correct?

11

12 MS. HONIG: You can choose those dates.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah. Yeah,
15 I know and I'm always the stickler on this one too, but
16 anytime for me probably after the 22nd of October I
17 would be fine. I'm always having to be the later one,
18 but.....

19

20 MR. TREFON: Yeah, but for me anything
21 before that.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Well, I'm
24 going to throw out there then the 29th and 30th because
25 I know the crew likes traveling on Mondays and having
26 meetings on Tuesdays and Wednesday. So how does the
27 29th and 30th of October look for next fall or a year
28 from next fall's meeting for now. This will be in --
29 now this one we'll revisit again to reestablish
30 schedules one more time, but we -- it's good if we have
31 it on the books so that we can have somebody else
32 there.

33

34 Work for everybody?

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. So
39 let's go with that then, 29 and 30.

40

41 MS. HONIG: Okay. Did you want that in
42 Dillingham?

43

44 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah.

45

46 MS. HONIG: Usually in fall.....

47

48 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yes,
49 absolutely. Yes.

50

0217

1 MS. HONIG: Okay.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Okay. Is
4 that it for us?

5

6 MS. HONIG: That is it, Madame Chair.\

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Wonderful.
11 Okay. And with that I appreciate everybody -- it just
12 didn't make any sense for me to try and convene us
13 again for another 20, 30 minutes in the morning.

14

15 So closing comments from anybody,
16 Council members.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

19

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

22

23 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, thanks for
24 everybody's hard work and sticking it out. And thanks
25 that we got new members that think they're going to be
26 good and yeah, good job.

27

28 Thank you, Chair, and safe travels
29 home.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR MORRIS LYON: Yeah, again
32 I welcome you guys. I hope -- I look forward to
33 working with you guys in the future and I hope that we
34 can at least offer you a little bit for the time that
35 you serve here and look forward to having the input
36 that you'll be able to offer us for your areas.

37

38 So thank you very much for that.

39

40 Okay. Seeing none other then I will go
41 ahead and call this meeting adjourned at -- it looks
42 like about 6:14 p.m.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 (Off record)

47

48 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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0218

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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 8th day of March 2023;

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 23rd day of March 2023.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/26